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MAY 28 - JUNE 3, 2026

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ON THE COVER

8 Spend a lovely day in the garden — made all the lovelier by being a garden you don't have to water or weed. This week, John Fladd takes a look at some of the garden tours and public gardens that allow you to enjoy the flora of the season without having to put on any gardening gloves. Above and on the cover, a view of the gardens at Petals in the Pines. Courtesy photo.

ALSO ON THE COVER John also gets the details on the Friends of the Library of Windham's annual Strawberry Festival & Book Fair, slated for Saturday, May 30 (see page 16). Enjoy the big trucks and friendly competition of the Fire Truck Pull & Festival (page 14). Michael Witthaus talks to singer songwriter Amanda McCarthy about her return to New England and her slate of upcoming shows.

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NEWS & NOTES

Teacher award

The New Hampshire Department of Education announced the three finalists for 2027 Teacher of the Year: Rebecca Fortgang, a French teacher at Pembroke Academy in Pembroke; Katherine McDonough, a Latin teacher at Rundlett Middle School and Concord High School in Concord, and Christ Powers, a math teacher at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, according to a May 19 press release. "An award winner will be announced in June," the release said.

Give blood, get stuff

The American Red Cross is calling on people to give blood ahead of the summer season, according to a May 20 press release from the American Red Cross Northern New England Region. Schedule a donation at redcrossblood.org. Those who donate by May 31 will receive an

Correction

The Taste of Downtown Nashua will take place Wednesday, June 17, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., according to downtownnashua.org, where you can check back for updates and to purchase tickets. (Hippo's Summer Guide in the May 21 issue had the event incorrectly listed for earlier in June.)

oversized Red Cross beach towel while supplies last, the release said. Those who donate between June 1 and June 28 will receive a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of their choice and be entered for a chance to win one of two \$7,500 gift cards, the release said. See RedCrossBlood.org/June for details.

Eyass update

Madi, named by Manchester's Hillside Middle School's fifth-grade math and science class for Mount Madison, hatched early May 20 and is the first eyass (falcon hatchling) to hatch from the group of five eggs this season at the peregrine falcon nest at the Brady Sullivan Tower in Manchester, according to the Daily Log accessible via the live video feeds from the nest. The peregrine cam offers livestreaming video of the nest via NH Audubon and the support of Peregrine Networks and Brady Sullivan Properties, according to nhaudubon.org/education/birds-and-birding/peregrine-cam. A meet & greet for those looking to learn more about the peregrine falcons will take place Saturday, June 27, at 10 a.m. at Brady Sullivan Tower, 1750 Elm St. in Manchester, according to the log, where you can find a list of needed supplies for the Wings of Dawn Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and Bird Sanctuary in Henniker.

Art show for a cause

Darbster Rescue will hold its Pawsitive Energy Juried Art Show at Darbster Kitty, 332 Kelley St. in Manchester, Thursday, June 4, through Sunday, June 7, with a reception on June 4 from 5 to 8 p.m., according to a press release. Darbster Rescue will receive a donation for each sale, according to darbsterfoundation.com.

Pride month

Manchester True Collaborative will hold the Pride Flag raising at City Hall Plaza in Manchester on Monday, June 1, at 11:30 a.m., according to a post on the group's Facebook page, where you can find details about other upcoming Pride Month events.

Writers' Conference

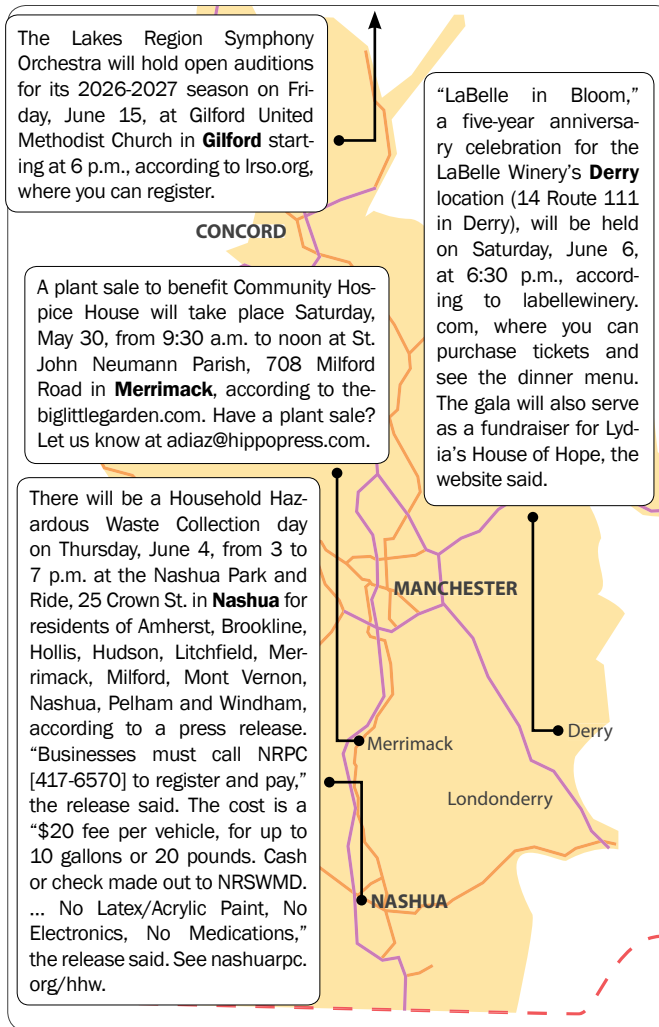
The New Hampshire Writers' Project will hold its annual 603 Writers' Conference on Saturday, June 13, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, featuring "expert-led workshops, a moderated AI panel discussion, the signature Pitch Party & Social, catered meals, and networking opportunities," according to a press release. See nhwritersproject.org to register.

The Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra will hold open auditions for its 2026-2027 season on Friday, June 15, at Gilford United Methodist Church in **Gilford** starting at 6 p.m., according to lrsso.org, where you can register.

A plant sale to benefit Community Hospice House will take place Saturday, May 30, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at St. John Neumann Parish, 708 Milford Road in **Merrimack**, according to thebiglittlegarden.com. Have a plant sale? Let us know at adiaz@hippopress.com.

There will be a Household Hazardous Waste Collection day on Thursday, June 4, from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Nashua Park and Ride, 25 Crown St. in **Nashua** for residents of Amherst, Brookline, Hollis, Hudson, Litchfield, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, Nashua, Pelham and Windham, according to a press release. "Businesses must call NRPC [417-6570] to register and pay," the release said. The cost is a "\$20 fee per vehicle, for up to 10 gallons or 20 pounds. Cash or check made out to NRSWMD. ... No Latex/Acrylic Paint, No Electronics, No Medications," the release said. See nashuarpc.org/hhw.

"LaBelle in Bloom," a five-year anniversary celebration for the LaBelle Winery's **Derry** location (14 Route 111 in Derry), will be held on Saturday, June 6, at 6:30 p.m., according to labellewinery.com, where you can purchase tickets and see the dinner menu. The gala will also serve as a fundraiser for Lydia's House of Hope, the website said.



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QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Hey! Their feelings are tender, too!

The New Hampshire Fisher Cats occasionally play under two other names during home games: the Manchester Chicken Tenders (to celebrate Manchester's reputation as the "Chicken Tender Capital of America") and the New Hampshire Space Potatoes (celebrating New Hampshire's special history of UFO reports). In an open letter to the team on May 12, the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine asked the team "to retire your Manchester Chicken Tenders identity and stop Tender Tuesdays, both of which promote unhealthy fried chicken." The letter went on to explain that "eating 300 grams of poultry — about six typical chicken tenders — per week has also been found to increase the risk of gastrointestinal cancer and death from all causes."

QOL score: -1 because, we *know*, docs, but hands off our tendies (meanwhile, chicken tender fans can head to [instagram.com/tendertownies](https://www.instagram.com/tendertownies) to check out the 2026 Chicken Tender Passport challenge and contest going on until July 21 at participating Manchester restaurants)

Comment: *In a May 20 email to the Hippo, Fisher Cats General Manager Taylor Fisher wrote: "We are aware of the press release from the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. The Chicken Tenders is an alternate identity meant to capture the fun, quirky nature of Minor League Baseball, an experience we're proud to create for our fans no matter what we're playing as. We're equally proud of the local history the identity is based on, paying homage to Manchester's Puritan Backroom Restaurant, where the chicken tenders were invented in 1974, a legacy our community understands and celebrates."*

Spring can be hard on a person's lungs

Last week was a rough week for air quality. In a May 19 online article, NHPR reported that the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services had issued a Code Orange alert "in anticipation of unhealthy ground-level ozone in Rockingham County," adding, "The air quality alert also covers parts of the state that are higher than 2,000 feet in elevation." Additionally, a May 22 forecast on [accuweather.com](https://www.accuweather.com) predicted levels of airborne tree pollen between "high" and "very high" for the following week in the Manchester area.

QOL score: -2

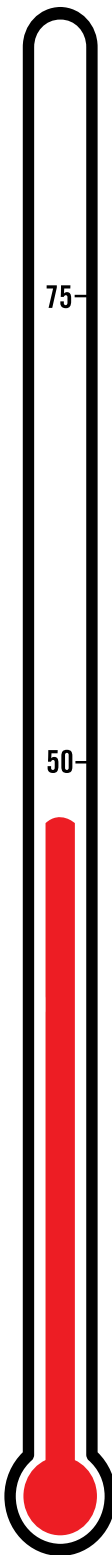
Comment: *According to the NHPR article, "a 'code orange' is an alert issued when air pollution levels are considered unhealthy for children and older adults, anyone with lung disease, and people who are active outdoors. Experts recommend people take precautions by limiting outdoor exertion." AccuWeather.com advised pollen-sensitive breathers, "During peak season for tree pollen, keep your windows and doors closed, especially on windy days. Avoid outdoor activities in the early morning, and be sure to shower and change clothes after coming indoors. Taking allergy medication can also help alleviate symptoms."*

QOL score last week: 51

Net change: -3

QOL this week: 48

What's affecting your Quality of Life here in New Hampshire?
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SPORTS DAVE LONG'S LONGSHOTS

Summer begins



The Big Story – Memorial Day weekend

It's not officially summer, but it makes it feel like summer has arrived. However, it brings an early holiday deadline that messes with my usual formula, so I'm doing something a little different today by giving my blueprint for how the C's should reshuffle the deck.

Sports 101: Name the only three basketball players to win a HS State Championship, NCAA title, NBA title and Olympic gold.

News Item – Calendar Day: Come Monday, June 1, the Eagles can affordably make the long-rumored **A.J. Brown** deal to the Pats. What cost is moving him worth to you? Not more than a second-round pick for me, because at 29 he's probably got three years left as a prime receiver.

Celtics Blueprint

The annual "we have to split up **Jayson Tatum** and **Jaylen Brown**" nonsense has begun. However, while it is a dumb practice, I could live with a deal for either depending upon whether the offer was eye-opening enough. It would have to achieve at least one of the following: (1) Makes them younger and deeper. (2) Someone in the middle who can cover **Joel Embiid**. (3) Spreads out years between max contracts to top players to manage the cap better. (4) A younger, cheaper on-the-way-up guy who'll grow into what **Brown** or **Tatum** were at the same age in their careers.

Who Goes – Tatum or Brown: This year taught us they can win with either. So the one who goes is simply the one who brings the most back. That's likely **Tatum**.

Rumors – Giannis Antetokounmpo: He's one of my all-time favorites. But he's 32, unsigned past this year, and his last two seasons have ended with injuries. All red flags. The only place he improves what's needed most is size and scoring underneath.

A few names who'd interest me:

Nikola Jokic – Not likely, but Denver may be looking to shake it up. They'd give up quickness to fill the hole in the middle while improving ability to score better in half court and rebounding.

Deni Avdija – What's not to like? He scores, rebounds and passes. Just nobody around here knows how good he is.

Stephon Castle – This guy's got it — duende. A winner.

Jalen Johnson – It took him a while to get the career going with Atlanta but he's been solid the last two years, culminating with last year's 22.2 points, 10.7 rebounds and 7.9 assists per game.

Acceptable deals:

Scottie Barnes and R.J. Barrett – Makes them more versatile offensively by adding two 20-point-per-night scorers for Toronto last year.

Amen Thompson – His age 21, 22 and 23 with Houston were all better than **Brown's**. And he's already the best wing defender in the league. Throw in 7-footer **Jabari Smith** to add size in the middle and I'm in.

The Numbers:

22 – points behind with 8:19 left before the Knicks overcame the largest fourth-quarter playoff deficit in franchise history in their 115-104 Game 1 playoff win over Cleveland

60.2 – regular season shooting percent for MVP **Shai Gilgeous-Alexander**, which is unheard of by a guard

A Little History – The Memorial Day Massacre: It was an epic beatdown when the Celtics opened the 1985 NBA Finals with a 148-114 Game 1 slaughter of the Lakers. So bad that Celtics rookie **Charles Bradley** turned it into the first Celtics dunk-a-thon.

But it was also a lesson that taught all it was just one game, nothing more. Which L.A. demonstrated by winning the next two leading to a 4-2 Finals win.

Sports 101 Answer: The rare four-title champs are **Jerry Lucas**, **Magic Johnson** and **Quinn Buckner**.

Final Thought – Be Careful What You Wish For: The L.A. Clippers had **Kawhi Leonard** ready to re-sign if they could acquire another major star like Oak City's **Paul George**. Which the usually wrong pundits all said would make them a true contender. But this deal reminds us trades are not won on paper, as Thunder GM **Sam Presti** used L.A.'s desperation for a star to extract an astonishing six first-round picks and an afterthought rookie on their current roster for **George**.

So who won that deal? Well, the Clippers never won more than 51 games, missed the playoffs entirely once, were Round 1 losers twice, and after playing just 236 of 410 games with L.A. the constantly injured **George** is now in Philly.

Meanwhile one of those six picks became All-Star **Jalen Williams**, and that rookie thrown into the deal is now two-time MVP **Shai Gilgeous-Alexander** after leading them to become reigning NBA champs and getting close again. And astonishingly they still have the 12th pick this year from a deal made in 2020.

Thus desperation led L.A. to make arguably the worst NBA trade in history. Email **Dave Long** at dlong@hippopress.com.

THIS WEEK

BIG EVENTS MAY 28 AND BEYOND

Saturday, May 30

The **Nashua Chamber Orchestra** wraps up its 2025-2026 season with a concert tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Nashua Community College featuring “the next generation of award-winning musical talent,” according to a press release.

“Sixteen-year-old Antonio Casarano will perform Haydn’s Cello Concerto in C major. The orchestra commissioned a new work, *Celebratory Overture* by Nashua High School senior, composer & oboist Anthony Umbro, which



Antonio Casarano and Anthony Umbro. Courtesy photo.

will be premiered. Other works performed will be Delius’ *On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring* and Schubert’s ‘Tragic’ *Symphony*,” the release said. The orchestra will also play Sunday, May 31, at 3 p.m. at Milford Town Hall. See nco-music.org for tickets.

Thursday, May 28

Manchester’s Taco Tour takes place today from 4 to 8 p.m. in downtown Manchester. See tacotourmanchester.com and our story in the May 21 issue on page 24, available in our digital library at hippopress.com.

Saturday, May 30

Sip and Sun Brew Fest will take

place today from noon to 4 p.m. at Mel’s Funway Park in Litchfield, featuring tastings from local breweries, live music from The Slakas, food trucks and more, according to melsfunwaypark.com, where you can purchase tickets.

Saturday, May 30

NH Roller Derby continues its season with a doubleheader against Garden

State Roller Derby today at 4 p.m. at JFK Coliseum, 303 Beech St. in Manchester, according to nhrollerderby.com.

Saturday, May 30

Synthfest 2026, an evening of live electronic music, will take place today from 5 to 8 p.m. in Rollins Park Gazebo in Concord, according to boseyjoe.com/synthfest. The line-up includes Bosey Joe, Green Leader and Hyponova, according to the website.

Saturday, May 30

Concord Community Music School’s “New England Roots & Branches” series will hold a **Contra dance** today, starting with an open slow jam session at 6 p.m. followed by a dance called by David Millstone at 7 p.m. at the City-wide Community Center on Canterbury Road in Concord, according to a school newsletter. Performers include Audrey Budington, Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki, and Liz Faiella on fiddles and Dan Faiella on guitar, the newsletter said. See ccmusic-school.org.

Saturday, May 30

Just Another Day, “a heartfelt and humorous theatrical production starring acclaimed actors Dan Lauria and Patty McCormack,” will be presented by The Front Door Agency at Souhegan High School in Amherst today at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 31, at 2 p.m., according to a press release for the Front Door Agency, an “organization that invests in New Hampshire individuals and families as they transition from crisis to self-sufficiency.” Lauria is best-known for his role as Jack Arnold, Kevin’s dad, on the original *The Wonder Years*, and McCormack’s career in theater, television and film included her role in *The Bad Seed* as a child, the email said.

Sunday, May 31

The **Palace Theatre’s annual Kitchen Tour** will take place Sunday, May 31, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. featuring a self-guided tour of kitchens in southern New Hampshire, according to palacetheatre.org, where you can purchase tickets (a lunch is included).



Save the Date! Friday, June 19

Northlands Music and Arts Festival will take place Friday, June 19, through Sunday, June 21, at the Cheshire Fairgrounds in Swanzy, according to northlandslive.com, where you can purchase passes to the festival for three days or one day and find information about camping and parking. You can also find the line-up of bands on each day (Dirty Heads, pictured, is slated to perform Friday) on the website as well as information on food, craft and art vendors, health and wellness activities and kids’ activities.

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DAY IN THE GARDEN

GET INSPIRED AT PUBLIC GARDENS AND GARDEN TOURS

Garden fairy at Petals in the Pines. Courtesy photo.

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

For gardening nerds and the occasional gardener alike, a trip to a top-notch “professional” garden is more fun than a week at Disney. Seeing what is really possible if you have enough experience and put in the hard work can be truly inspirational.

A really good resource for this is the reference book *The Garden Tourist's New England: A Guide to 140 Outstanding Gardens and Nurseries* by Jana Milbocker, who views these visits as a good way to see gardening from somebody else's perspective. She recommends paying close attention to the combination of plants that a master gardener has put together.

“People really give a lot of thought to how they use the forms of the garden design,” Milbocker said in a telephone interview. “I think it's really helpful for me to go through a garden in that direction, to experience it the way

that the garden owner wants you to experience it.” Thinking about the question “Why is this here?” can help reframe a home gardener's outlook, she said.

But then, she advised, take a second look.

“You're going to see things that you missed the first time. It's possible also, for instance, a garden conservancy will have a garden open in the early summer and that same garden open later in the season, like late summer or early fall. It's great to see any garden in different months because it can be vastly different. Different plants have beautiful colorful foliage in the fall. So to see a garden [over time] is really a great experience.”

A good way to find gardens to be inspired by is to take part in a sponsored garden tour.

Amy Murray is the Open Days Program Manager for the Garden Conservancy (gardenconservancy.org), an organization dedicated to garden preservation.

“We assist public gardens that are either damaged or are in need of preservation ser-

vices,” Murray said. “We also give small grants to a variety of horticultural organizations that are bringing gardening to people and making significant impacts within their communities.” Murray's particular job is working with gardens, public and private, in a given area, to help them participate in “Open Garden Days” — one or more days per season when the public can visit them.

“Unless you have a very explicit program or invitation through something like the Open Days program, there's really not a ton of opportunities to see these spaces,” Murray said. “Open Days are absolutely wonderful because if you are interested in a garden and you want to see it, you have to go to that Open Day. There are no guarantees that a given garden will be open in

a subsequent year or even ever again. We have a variety of gardens. Some love the practice of opening every single year. Some will take a few years off in between and then open once and then stay closed for several seasons. And then some will open once and never again. And so if you want to see it you have to see it



It's a good way, if you live in the area, to ... find out what they're able to grow because you will be able to grow it too, because it's local to you. ”

MICHAEL GORDON

on that day.”

Michael Gordon is in charge of working out the details for the Open Garden Days in New Hampshire. He said each garden in the program brings something different to each visitor.

“On one level, it's just fun to have a nice day and you get to see pretty places. And then if you're a more serious gardener like I am, you get ideas and see plants. It's a good way if you live in the area to go to a garden and find out what they're able to grow because you will be able to grow it too because it's local to you. You can make a day of it and go from garden to garden. And people are generally really excited to share their garden,” Gordon said.

Another popular garden tour each year is put on by the Palace Theatre in Manchester. It is one of the Palace's biggest fundraising events each year, said Box Office Manager Cherie Prior.

“The garden tour is a self-guided tour we're running on June 20 this year,” she said. “In the morning, participants register at Demers Garden Center and they're given a program, which lists the individual gardens. We have a combination of private and public gardens and [people on the tour] have the rest of the day to travel to the gardens and take their time at each one. Our host gardeners are there to talk about



Palace Garden Tour. Courtesy photo.



Palace Garden Tour. Courtesy photo.

the garden and we have write-ups about each garden and its history and sort of the plants and the things that the host gardener wants to talk about.”

“We work with the Manchester Garden Club,” Prior said. “They help a lot about picking the gardens because they’re the ones out there looking at other people’s gardens and letting us know. We [the Palace Theatre] are invested in art in the community. And we consider gardens to be a part of that as well; a beautiful garden is just as valuable as a beautiful stage production. And we like to be able to promote beauty in any form within our community.”

Elinor Terrell of the Manchester Garden Club described the Palace Theatre Garden Tour as a way of giving area gardeners inspiration and a jumping-off point for their own garden projects.

“The Garden Tour is about showing the lovely hidden treasures of Manchester,” Terrell said. “We have little pocket gardens that are just tiny little things. We also have some of the nice big homes down on River Road. So it’s a wonderful way to show the treasures of the city and also to promote the love of gardening and inspiration. People will see them and go, ‘OK, I’ve got something like this. I could do this.’”

The Garden Club of Deerfield will host a garden tour in June called “Heritage in Bloom” that will showcase gardens and plants tied to Deerfield’s almost 300-year history.

“One of the stops,” said Robin McKinnon, the President of the Garden Club, “is a fourth-generation property. It comes from the 1830s. And there are plantings of lilacs that were taken from the Governor Wentworth mansion in Portsmouth. And those were the original lilacs that came to the New World. We have one farm that lies within the region historically inhabited by the Algonquin-speaking peoples, including the Seneca and related groups of the Wabanaki Confederacy. And there’s a small family cemetery on site, including the grave of a young man who served and died in the Civil War. Another [stop on the tour] is a farm from 1742 that chooses plants for their beauty but also their sustainability and healing qualities — perennial herbs, fruits, trees, vegetables selected for their dependability and heirloom varieties long valued by earlier generations.”

There are a variety of garden tours throughout the growing season, but there are also public and private gardens throughout the state that welcome visitors but are not part of organized tours. Each appeals to a different type of gardener and embraces a different gardening philosophy.

For 17 years, Petals in the Pines in Canterbury has been a go-to choice for families to spend a day outdoors, hiking along trails and enjoying gardens. According to owner Donna Miller, if you haven’t ever visited, you probably should do so this summer.

“This year will be our last year of being



Pollinator garden at Petals in the Pines. Courtesy photo.

open to the public full-time,” she said. “Four years ago, my husband Jim and I drew a line in the sand. We said, ‘Let’s do this for five more years.’ And this is Year Number 5.”

In addition to pollinator gardens and gardens where visitors can pick their own flowers, “we have 2 miles of outdoor trails,” Miller said. “We have two labyrinths that some people use to get in touch with their thoughts, almost like meditation. We have an outdoor classroom, and a Tale Trail, with laminated pages from four different nature books that parents can read to young children as they walk, and older children can read themselves. There’s something for everyone.”

For families who want to visit throughout

the season, season passes are available.

The Canterbury Shaker Village (288 Shaker Road, Canterbury, 783-9511, shakers.org), on the other hand, probably not surprisingly, takes a more historical approach. The Shakers took growing plants very seriously, said Garrett Bethmann, the museum’s Manager of Communications and Engagement, and that is reflected in the gardens on the grounds today. “There are basically three main agricultural or garden spots that people can walk through and check out,” Bethmann said. “There are the granite beds, kind of that smaller plot of what people I think would traditionally see as gardens or botanical gardens. Then we have our farm fields, and those have a lasting imprint

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on the site. And then we have our orchards.”

“The orchard is filled with different versions of apple trees,” Bethmann said. “The Shakers used to grow apple trees in different locations throughout their close to 200 years of active living here. The orchards in the space, where they are now, first got placed there in about 1917, and a lot of those trees are from that time period.”

“The thing that I think has always been true about when people come and visit our spaces here,” Bethmann continued, “is that as best as we can, we try to use our gardens and our agricultural spaces as ways to showcase the Canterbury Shaker legacy and, as best we can, tie the things that we have going on now to elements and aspects of what they were doing in the past when the Shakers were here. So, for instance, over in our herb gardens where the granite beds are it’s a nice show of preservation in action. Typically we try to use the granite beds to kind of showcase some of the plants and herbs and perennials that were grown there in the past.”

Other gardens focus on plants that grow under very specific conditions.

The Evergreen Woodland Garden in Goffstown, for instance, features plants that thrive in the limited light found on the floor of a forest.

“It’s a one-acre woodland garden heavy on pines,” said Robert Gillmore, the garden’s creator. “There’s a total of around 400 rhododendrons. It’s probably one of the largest rhodi gardens in Northern New England. Of course, there are other ericaceous plants like mountain laurel and Lakota weed and so forth. It’s an extremely low-maintenance garden and it was designed that way. One of the problems, if you want to have a large garden, unless you’re rich with 20 gardeners on your payroll, it’s got to be low-maintenance. So with a woodland garden, one of the reasons it’s low-maintenance is that there’s no grass. There are no high-maintenance plantings, like trees and shrubs and ground covers. Another thing that makes it low-maintenance, of course, is that it’s in the shade. A woodland garden is a shade garden. And a shade garden is a slow ecosystem. Things happen slowly. Weeds happen slowly



Garden at Canterbury Shaker Village. Courtesy photo.

or not at all.”

“In gardening,” Gillmore said, “there is a quote by the poet Alexander Pope: ‘Consult the genius of a place,’ and by that he meant consult the special character of the site and use what’s on the site. The special character of Evergreen is a pine woods. The most expensive plants in a garden — the plants that are unavailable in any nursery at any price — were already there, planted, growing: the trees, free of charge. There are also some lovely large granite glacial erratics. It’s a won-

derful topography,”

Another approach to gardening is aligned with the Palace Theatre’s philosophy of gardening as an art form. This is the perspective of Bedrock Gardens in Lee. John Forti is the Executive Director there.

“Bedrock Gardens opened to the public formally as a public garden nine years ago,” Forti said, “and we just reopened for the season a week or so ago. It’s a 37-acre old farm that has been here for centuries. The founders of the garden, Jill Nooney and Bob Munger, worked

for over 30 years to create a really fascinating garden infused with art and rare botanicals that has become an oasis of art and horticulture. It’s become a public garden where people can take garden tours, art tours, special educational programs and events for all age levels that really help people connect to nature and art and find just a really unique, beautiful green space. Unlike a lot of public gardens, this is really designed to just take you on journeys so that it can be a serene step away from the world, but a place where you can really find some sanctuary and some peace. Gardeners or art enthusiasts are drawn into every corner, because there are dozens of outdoor rooms, one after the next, each with its own mood and emotion and color palette and seasonal specializations and rare plants that just tell stories and pull you away from your daily life into experiences all throughout that 30 plus acres. [The art] is largely sculptural art that really is found in every nook and cranny.”

At NH Audubon’s McLane Center in Concord, the focus is immersing visitors into native species. The Center’s Diane DeLuca said that an aim has been to restore an entire ecosystem. “Four years ago or so,” she said, “we restored an old field area that was full of invasives to an acre of pollinator meadow. It hasn’t been possible to clear out all the invasives, as you might imagine, but now there is at least an acre of native pollinator plants out there. We also have native plant pollinator gardens that go all the way around the building. And also up on the hill there’s some space that we call our butterfly garden, which is meant to be more attractive to some of the species of butterflies that move through here — monarch butterflies specifically — and the pollinators that use areas late in the fall, including migrating butterflies.”

“Our gardens here,” DeLuca said, “are meant to be as diverse as possible in order to attract all kinds of wildlife. They have a lot of different structural diversity, meaning we have some attractive trees for pollinators, which would include our birds, some of which are actually nesting in and around the garden. It’s definitely an area that’s attractive

Public gardens

Here are some area public gardens.

• **Bedrock Gardens** (19 High Road, Lee, 659-2993, bedrockgardens.org) A nonprofit public garden that integrates unusual botanical specimens, unique sculptures, and interesting landscape design and features into an inspiring journey. This 30-acre site has recently transitioned from a historic farm and private garden to a self-described “public oasis of horticulture, art, and inspiration.” Adults \$15. Children 12 and under free.

• **Brigit’s Garden in Livingston Park** (156 Hooksett Road, Manchester) A public garden within Livingston Park, created by the Brigit A. Feeney Foundation for Hope and Healing, in memory of Brigit A. Feeney, a victim and witness advocate with the NH Department of Justice, who died in a motorcycle accident in 2021.

• **Canterbury Shaker Village** (288 Shaker Road, Canterbury, 783-9511, shakers.org) Canterbury Shaker Village describes its mission as “preserving and sharing the legacy of the Canterbury Shakers, promoting learning, connection, and rejuvenation for people from down the street and around the world.” There are three main gardens on site: an herb and culinary garden, apple orchards, and farm fields. Throughout the summer the Village will be open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Nature trails are free to explore daily from dawn to dusk. Adult admission is \$25.

• **Kimball Jenkins Estate** (266 N. Main St., Concord, 225-3932, kimballjenkins.com) A historic mansion in Concord, now the site of the Kimball Jenkins Art School. The campus grounds have gardens that are currently under renovation.

• **Maple Hill Gardens at the Beaver Brook Association** (117 Ridge Road, Hollis, 465-7787, beaverbrook.org/visit-us/maple-hill-gardens)

“There are 13 themed gardens, a natural play area, a demonstration compost court, picnic areas and even a wildflower trail to explore,” according to the website.

• **New Hampshire Audubon Society** NH Audubon has two visitor centers in the region with gardens: The **Susan N. McLane Audubon Center** (84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, nhaudubon.org/center-and-events/mclane-center-concord) is open Wednesdays-Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., with trails and pollinator gardens open from dawn to dusk daily; **Massabesic Center** (26 Audubon Way, Auburn, nhaudubon.org/center-and-events/massabesic-center-auburn)

is open Wednesdays-Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., with trails and pollinator gardens open from dawn to dusk daily.

• **Petals in the Pines** (126 Baptist Road, Canterbury, 783-0220, petalsinthepines.com) A family-friendly farm with hiking trails, pollinator gardens, PYO flower bouquets and a farm stand. The summer of 2026 will be its final year open to the public. Open Wednesday through Sunday; closed Monday and Tuesday. Season passes are available for \$25.

• **Pickety Place** (248 Nutting Hill Road, Mason, 878-1151, picketyplace.com) An 18th-century Cape surrounded by vast, well-established garden beds, mainly perennials and herbs. The herbs are served in the restaurant’s five-course lunches.



Bedrock Gardens. Courtesy photo.



for hummingbirds, because there are a lot of plants that are in here that specifically hummingbirds enjoy and will be pollinators of those particular plants as well. The structural diversity in the garden allows for different wildlife species.”

A decision was made early on when planning the Audubon’s gardens, DeLuca said, to fill it with plant species that would peak throughout the entire growing season.

“We have blooms that start in the early part of the spring ... and are available for pollinators to come out early, like queen bumblebees and some of the other bees which tend to emerge pretty early in the season and need plants that they can both nectar on

and get pollen from. We think about blooms across the season, into mid-summer, and then as late as possible into the fall. We also think about diversity of the flower structures for those plants, because some of the pollinators need plants where they don’t have to get their tongues deep into the plants, because they don’t have that ability. Some of them can reach far in. So you want plants that are tubular, that hummingbirds might be attracted to. You want plants that are flat-topped, that are much easier for some of the bees and butterflies to get into. We want a diversity of structure. so that we can attract many different forms of wildlife into the garden.”

Garden tours

Here are some upcoming garden tours. Know of any tours not mentioned here? Let us know at adiaz@hippopress.com.

• **37th Annual Pocket Gardens of Portsmouth Tour** What: The tour features 10 private gardens in the historic South End neighborhood of Portsmouth, the Goodwin Garden at Strawberry Banke Museum, and the garden at South Church. When: Friday, June 19, Saturday, June 20. Admission: Early bird tickets \$25 (until June 13), general admission tickets \$30 (June 14, until day of tour). More info: Visit portsmouthnhtickets.com/e/37th-pocket-gardens-of-portsmouth

• **7th Annual Palace Theatres Garden Tour** What: A self-guided, self-paced tour of both private and public gardens throughout Manchester. When: Saturday, June 20. Admission: Tickets are \$20. Registration is from 9:30 a.m. to noon at Demers Garden Center in Manchester. More info: Visit palacetheatre.org/events/2026-garden-tour.

• **4th Annual Lilac City Garden Tour** What: Organized by Lilac City Gardeners (formerly Rochester NH Garden Club). Local gardeners will showcase their gardens, share knowledge, and inspire others in the community. When: Saturday, June 20. More info: Visit Lilac City Gardeners’ Facebook page.

• **Heritage in Bloom** What: A tour of six historic gardens in Deerfield. When: Saturday, June 27

Admission: senior/student \$8, general admission \$10, carload \$30. More info: Visit givebutter.com/heritage-in-bloom

• **Jaffrey Artist and Garden Tour** What: Features local private gardens, each hosting a local artist at work. You’ll have the chance to see artists create in real time — painting, sketching, and capturing the beauty of each setting. When: Saturday, July 11. Admission: \$15. More info: Visit jaffrey-civiccenter.com/event/event-artist-garden-tour.

• **Hospice Home and Garden Tour** What: A tour of four residential properties on or near Lake Winnepesaukee, benefiting Granite VNA. When: Wednesday, July 15. Admission: \$55. Visit granitevna.org/ways-to-give/hospice-home-garden-tour.

• **Garden Conservancy’s Open Garden Day** What: A self-guided tour of some of the area’s best public and private gardens in Manchester, Nashua, Milford, Pelham, Hollis, Hudson and Hooksett. When: July 18. Admission: \$10, by pre-registration only. More info: Visit gardenconservancy.org/open-days/ticket-release-dates

• **The Second Annual Five Senses Tour at Tiffany Gardens** What: Use your five senses while exploring the private gardens hidden in a quiet Londonderry neighbor. Enjoy food, drink, music, art and nature. When: Saturday, July 25, and Sunday, July 26. Admission: \$20. More info: Visit comcaregivers.org/garden-tour.

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ARTS

World tour

The Phil presents wide-ranging music

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippypress.com

Folk Voices and Fantasies, an upcoming afternoon of classical music from the New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by The Phil's Music Director Mark Latham, offers three works from three composers, each from a distinctly different corner of the world.

What binds together Igor Stravinsky's *Petrushka*, Max Bruch's *Scottish Fantasy*, and Carlos Chávez's *Sinfonia India* isn't style or era but instinct, Latham explained in a recent Zoom interview.

"The main connecting thread is composers using folk music from their native traditions," he said.

For *Petrushka*, Stravinsky borrowed Russian folk songs and even a few German waltzes; most of its melodies weren't his to begin with. Bruch did the same with Scottish reels and airs, and Chávez went even further, working not from memory or nostalgia but from within a living indigenous Mexican tradition.

To honor that, an orchestra member hand-built a traditional güiro for the performance.

Folk Voices and Fantasies: Music Rooted in Culture and Imagination

When: Saturday, May 30, and Sunday, May 31, at 2 p.m.

Where: Seifert Performing Arts Center, 44 Geremonty Drive, Salem

Tickets: \$5-\$35, nhphil.org



The Phil. Courtesy photo.

The notched hollowed-out gourd is usually played with tines and produces a ratchet sound. "Because the percussion element in the Chavez is very strong and uses a lot of Mexican instruments," Latham said. "It's trying as much as we can to use those instruments."

It reflects a late 19th- and early 20th-century trend of composers "very interested to explore what was going on musically in their native arena," Latham offered. "Bartok, for instance, was going out into the countryside before the advent of recorded sounds, actually notating local folk songs and that kind of thing ... very early musicology."

The concert begins with Stravinsky's tale of a carnival puppet who turns out to feel things too deeply for his own good. It's an exhilarating choice for an opener, and it concludes not with a bang but with a ghost: *Petrushka*, apparently killed, reappears hovering over the theater in the final bars, leaving the question of

his humanity forever unresolved.

A superimposed C major and F-sharp major, called the *Petrushka Chord*, recurs throughout the work. It denotes the main character's many dualities: puppet and person, ridiculous and suffering, knowable and unknown. The motif became a go-to for composers like John Williams, who used it for his "Theme From *Jaws*."

Fifteen-year-old violin prodigy William Yeh solos on *Scottish Fantasy*. Yeh is a student at the Juilliard School in New York and last year's Sempres Musick Competition winner. The Phil has collaborated with Sempres Musick for the past few years, Latham said. "These days, the Grand Winner plays their piece with the New Hampshire Philharmonic the next season."

The piece is a back-and-forth that Latham described as a conversation. With the young soloist still developing his voice, it has its

own particular texture — the orchestra takes its tempo from listening to Yeh, and shapes its phrases around his. "The soloist provides the main musical impetus, and then we answer."

The evening ends with Chávez's percussion finale and its offbeat sparks that, Latham said, "aren't quite agreeing with the rhythm," and a frenetic ending that inspires both audience and orchestra. "It's like a rock drummer ... 'Let's just go for it at the very end,' right? It's percussion going crazy."

Latham has made the case throughout The Phil's current season that classical music belongs to everyone. Folk traditions aren't less powerful when they're arranged for an orchestra, and the barriers people feel entering a concert hall are mostly imaginary.

"If people at a classical music concert would be more like a rock concert," Latham said, "that'd be fantastic."

Beyond that, he believes music is a salve for challenging times, remembering Romanian conductor Sergiu Celibidache's observation in an interview with a French journalist 30 or 40 years ago. "Beauty is a stepping stone to freedom," he recalled him saying.

Latham added that the act of creation is, more often than not, a political one.

"Some people say, 'art for art's sake' — I'm not one of them," he said, citing Leonard Bernstein's words in the aftermath of his close friend John F. Kennedy's assassination. "This will be our reply to violence; to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before." 🌱

Art

Events

• **The 2026 Nashua International Sculpture Symposium** will hold a closing ceremony and visit to the sculptures' installation sites on Saturday, June 6, at 1 p.m. During the symposium you can watch the sculptors work at the Pine Street site through June 3. See NashuaSculptureSymposium.org.

Exhibits

• **"Metamorphosis"** is on display at Art 3 Gallery, 44 W. Brook St. in Manchester, art3gallery.com. "The word itself implies change, a shift in structure, or identity. Featuring works by new and established artists, the exhibit examines the many forms of change — personal, social, environmental, and spiritual — through painting, sculpture, and mixed media," according to an email from the gallery, which is open Monday through Friday, 12:30 to 4 p.m.

• **"Manchester City Employee and School District Employee and Family Art Show,"** produced by the Manchester Arts Commission in partnership with the Manchester Economic Development Office and the National

Arts Program and featuring works by more than 70 artists, is on display at Manchester's City Hall during business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, on the first floor, according to the MEDO newsletter.

• **"Boundless: Expansive Views of Land and Imagination,"** featuring photography by William Balsam, Tom McHugh, Lindsay Holmes and Jay Fitzpatrick, will run through May 30 at the Two Villages Art Society, 846 Main St. in Contoocook, according to twovillagesart.org.

• **The Concord High School Emerging Artists** exhibit will be on display through May 31 at the Kimball Jenkins Carriage House, 266 N. Main St. in Concord, according to a KJ email. Call 225-3932 to arrange a viewing time. See kimballjenkins.com.

• **"Of All the Worlds We Could Have Dreamed,"** an immersive spring exhibition featuring works by artist Sam Modder, will be on display at 3SArtspace in Portsmouth through May 31. See 3sarts.org.

• **2026 Sylvia Brofos Student Exhibition** will be on display through June 11 at the Kimball Jenkins mansion,

266 N. Main St. in Concord, according to a KJ email. The gallery is open Mondays June 1 and June 8, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays, May 26, June 2 and June 9, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursdays, May 28, June 4, and June 11, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, June 6, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. See kimballjenkins.com.

Theater

Shows

• **Bucket List: The Best Is Yet To Come** presented by the Silver Stars, who are "taking the stage with their 'bucket list' numbers — the songs they've always dreamed of performing," on Friday, May 29, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 30, at noon at the Rex Theatre, 23 Amherst St. in Manchester, according to palacetheatre.org.

• **The Cher Show** a "dazzling, glitter-filled musical celebrating the life and music of one of pop culture's most iconic superstars" will be on stage at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St. in Manchester, Friday, May 29, through Sunday, June 21, wrapping up the "St. Mary's Bank 2025-2026 Performing Arts Series" of mainstage performanc-

es at the Palace, according to palacetheatre.org, where you can purchase tickets. The show will run Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. plus Thursday, June 18, at 7:30 p.m.

• **Just Another Day** "a heartfelt and humorous theatrical production starring acclaimed actors Dan Lauria and Patty McCormack," will be presented by The Front Door Agency at Souhegan High School in Amherst on Saturday, May 30, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 31, at 2 p.m., according to a press release for the Front Door Agency, an "organization that invests in New Hampshire individuals and families as they transition from crisis to self-sufficiency. Lauria is best-known for his role as Jack Arnold, Kevin's dad, on the original *The Wonder Years*, and McCormack's career in theater, television and film included her roll in *The Bad Seed* as a child, the email said.

• **Play Festival** The Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative will hold their Play Festival Saturday, May 30, and Sunday, May 31, at Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center, 928 White Oaks Road in Laconia, accord-

ing to powerhousenh.org.

• **Til Death Do Us Part** a murder mystery dinner featuring a "five course Italian-style wedding buffet" will take place Saturday, May 30, with dinner starting at 6:30 p.m., doors open at 6:15 p.m., at Chunky's, 707 Huse Road in Manchester, according to an email from the theater. "Costumes encouraged—think wild wedding vibes: ugly bridesmaid dresses, outrageous tuxes, or full-on bridal chaos," the email said. See chunkys.com for details and to purchase tickets.

• **Murder at the King's Feast** a murder mystery dinner party will take place on Sunday, May 31, at 5 p.m. at LaBelle Winery, 345 Route 101 in Amherst, according to labellewinery.com, where you can see the dinner menu and purchase tickets.

• **The Drowsy Chaperone** will be presented by the Palace Youth Theatre, featuring performers in grades 2-12, on Tuesday, June 2, and Wednesday, June 3, at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St. in Manchester, according to palacetheatre.org where you can purchase tickets.

Classical

• **"Stunning Schubert"** will be presented by the Nashua Chamber Orchestra on Saturday, May 30, at 7:30 p.m. at Nashua Community College and on Sunday, May 31, at 3 p.m. at the Milford Town Hall, according to nco-music.org, where you can purchase tickets.

• **"Spirited Bells"** a presentation from the Granite State Ringers will take place Saturday, June 6, at 7 p.m. At First Parish Church in Dover and Sunday, June 7, at 3 p.m. at the Derry Opera House, according to a press release. See granitestateringers.org for tickets. The show will also be performed on May 30 at Plainfield Town Hall in New Hampshire and at Star Theatre in Kittery Maine on May 31.

• **Jazz Showcase** at Ted Herbert Music School and the Majestic Theatre Studios, 880 Page St. in Manchester, will take place Sunday, June 7, at 2 p.m. and "will feature performances by the 2026 Ted Herbert Community Big Band as well as performances by Ted Herbert students and instructors," according to a press release. See majestictheatre.net for tickets (also be for sale at the door).

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Late May in the garden

Test your soil, make it better

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

— THE GARDENING GUY —

Asking me to name my favorite flower is, perhaps, like asking you to name your favorite child or dog. But late May brings one of my top picks: the candelabra primrose (*Primula japonica*). It sends up a flower stalk with a circle of florets, then it grows a few inches and sends out more blossoms, getting taller and blooming sequentially for nearly a month. They grow best in deep, rich, moist soil in partial shade and ideally under old apple trees.

Late May will also produce early peonies I love, including two part-shade peonies, *Paeonia obovata* and *P. tenuifolia*. The latter is also known as the fernleaf peony for its finely cut foliage; the blossoms are a deep red. Neither is common in garden centers, but keep an eye out for them.

Spring is a good time to improve your soil. Most commercial farmers grow food by adding chemical fertilizer to the soil before planting. I am an organic gardener, meaning I do not use pesticides nor do I use any chemical fertilizer.

Chemical fertilizers are safe to use but only provide three of the 17 elements needed by plants to grow and thrive. Granted, most of those elements are needed in very small quantities and may already be in the soil, but I want to provide my plants with the equivalent of a full five-course meal.

Chemical fertilizers only contain nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), and lots of filler. A 5-10-5 fertilizer is 5 percent N, 10 percent P, and 5 percent K; the rest — 80 percent — is filler. Nitrogen in the form of nitrate and ammonia ions is used by plants to make proteins, fueling green growth. Phosphorus promotes growth of roots, blooming, seeds



Candelabra primroses delight me each year, starting in late May. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

and fruits. Potassium is important for growing thick cell walls to survive cold and excess heat.

Plants also need other elements in order to thrive: calcium (for cell metabolism), magnesium (for chlorophyll needed for photosynthesis), sulfur (for making proteins and fats). Also needed are micronutrients like iron, chlorine, manganese, zinc, copper, boron, molybdenum and nickel.

All those elements are found in organic fertilizers like Pro-Gro, Gro-Tone and others. And while most chemical fertilizers provide water-soluble elements for quick absorption, organic fertilizers are mostly slow-release, providing key elements over a period of months, or even years. Most contain things like cotton seed meal, kelp meal, ground peanut shells and ground oyster shells.

So what can you do to improve your soil? Add compost. Don't buy just a bag or two of compost and think it will improve your whole vegetable garden with some left over for new perennials. Borrow a pick-up truck and get a "scoop" from a front-end loader at your garden center. Or get it delivered. Alternatively, you can buy aged manure from your local dairy farmer. Even aged manure will have



Peony Woodland (*P. obovata*) with red buds of the fernleaf peony. Photo by Henry Homeyer.



Photo by Henry Homeyer.

some weed seeds, but it will add good organic material that will be used by your plants.

Why is compost so good? Well-made compost is full of microorganisms that will work with your plants. Many produce organic acids that help to dissolve minerals from fine stone particles in the soil and make those minerals available to your plants. Compost is, or should be, biologically active: full of living bacteria and fungi. And it will improve soil texture making root growth easier for your plants.

Our soils were created back during the last Ice Age when glaciers a mile thick ground up bedrock, making sand and even the finer bits of stone that are in clay and loam. Fully 50

percent of all soil is made of ground up rocks. The rest? Anywhere from 1 percent to 8 percent is organic matter, and the rest, nearly 50% of soil by volume, is air. Oxygen is absorbed by root hairs from the air in the soil.

Two other key ingredients do not come from the soil. Plants get carbon, a major part of all plants, from carbon dioxide that is in our air. Nitrogen is in our air, but most nitrogen used by plants comes from decayed plant or animal material — or is made in a chemical factory and sold as a fertilizer.

I highly recommend getting your soil tested every three to five years. Each state university offers a service for gardeners and farmers. It will tell you soil pH (a measure of acidity), soil type, levels of some soil minerals and the percentage of organic matter. It will offer suggestions on what to add to your soil, though different plants have different needs. You should strive to have 4 percent or more organic matter in your soil.

You can perform a simple test to see how well your soil holds water or drains. Dig a hole 24 inches wide and 8 inches deep with sloping sides. Fill it with your hose and time how long it takes to drain. Sandy soil will drain almost immediately. Clay soil will hold water for several hours, even overnight. Good loam might take an hour or two, depending on how much rain you've had recently.

Adding compost to heavy clay or sandy soils will help them considerably. Soil texture and the ability to hold some water but drain well is important to most plants. Compost does both.

Improving your soil takes years, even decades. Yes, I do use some slow-release organic fertilizer at planting time, but my real success has come from years of adding compost.

Henry can be reached at henry.homeyer@comcast.net. 🍌

INSIDE/OUTSIDE CAR TALK

Common and uncommon findings in your transmission fluid



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:
My 2015 Nissan Versa was due for its first transmission maintenance at 85,000 miles. There were no problems with it. But when I changed the fluid, I found little pieces of metal and a partial piece of

what looks like a plastic clamp in there.

I finished the job, closed up everything, and drove the car for a couple of hours. I didn't notice anything wrong. But then I decided not

to drive it anymore until I find out if I should plan to replace the transmission. Any advice?
— Erik

Have you ever seen those signs inside the dealership service department that read, "Customers are not permitted beyond this point"?

This is why, Erik. There are some things a car owner shouldn't see. At least there was no costume jewelry or wristwatches in there.

Generally speaking, it's not uncommon to find some metal grit or shavings in transmission fluid. This is from the wear and tear, over time, of the internal components. But if you

find metal chunks or pieces you can actually pick up with your fingers, that's a troubling sign.

And, in fact, your Versa has had significant problems with its CVT transmission. They've been so problematic that a class action suit forced Nissan to extend the transmission's warranty to — wait, how many miles do you have on this? 85,000? The warranty was extended to 84,000 miles. No kidding.

The good news is that by changing the transmission fluid and getting that stuff out of there, you have likely extended the life of

the transmission — whatever that life ends up being. So good for you. And in fact, for owners of 2015 Versas, changing the transmission fluid every 30,000 miles to protect the clutches and belts is now recommended.

But, if it's working well, Erik, you can either cross your fingers, commit to it, put it out of your mind, and plan to change the fluid every 30,000 miles from now on. Or think about trading it in before the transmission starts producing Legos and pieces of Samsonite luggage.

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

The power pull

Less Leg More Heart raises funds with Fire Truck Pull

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

Christina Hurley has given the question of what kind of fundraiser to hold a lot of thought.

She is the Founder and Executive Director of Less Leg More Heart, an organization dedicated to helping amputees get resources to help them thrive.

"We started eight years ago," she said, "and we sort of threw spaghetti at walls for years trying to figure out what our niche sort of flagship events would be. There are a lot of galas and similar types of events. We wanted to create something that was unique, that had a little something for everyone, and that was able to involve a larger demographic in the community and create a real sense of inclusion and accessibility and community spirit."

Which, in a nutshell, resulted in this weekend's Fire Truck Pull.

This Sunday, May 31, from 1 to 5 p.m., Less Leg More Heart will host its third annual Fire Truck Pull and Festival. Participants pay for the bragging rights to physically pull an antique fire truck with a rope, competing with other individuals or groups. It is the sort of event that fuels bragging rights and spurs competition. According to Hurley, it was inspired by another, even more grunt-filled event in Maine.

"Some of our mentors are in the veteran space," she said, "and Travis Mills, who runs a wonderful foundation up in Maine to recalibrate veterans, does an airplane pull. And they were mentioning the facets of it and how successful it's been over the years. And so we



Courtesy photo.

started to look in our area, southern New Hampshire, about doing something similar like that. But, you know, airplanes have a little higher barrier to entry; fire trucks seem to be a little bit more up our alley. They are certainly fun for the kids and something fun for the strongmen in the area and athletes. We toyed with that three years ago and found it to be really successful. And now we've done it every year. This is our third annual Fire Truck Pull

and Festival. It is a multifaceted event that has a large vendor village and a car show, as well as a fire truck pull. Children lead it off by pulling power wheels, and they're rigged and educated by local New Hampshire strongmen. And then individuals will pull an antique, smaller-sized truck and then teams sign up to pull our larger rig — the 40,000-or-so-pound rig."

There is something primal about pulling a fire truck, Hurley said, that speaks to each individual in personal and different ways.

"We've actually added some divisions to our awards this year," she said. "We have really great trophies for the fastest team pulls — for first, second and third, but then we also have the strongest singles for men and women. This year we've added a costume award, a spirit award, a crowd favorite award, and a grit award. There's an opportunity for folks to come out and be part of a community. We celebrate having people with all different types of abilities and different types of accessibility devices. In fact, several amputees last year, even from wheelchairs, participated in a pull and the strongmen would push it."

This event has even surprised Hurley with how successful it has become, she said. "It's just been really neat to see how folks just keep pouring out. We were unprepared for the 400-plus people who came to the event last year, and that's a great problem to have."

Less Leg More Heart's Third Annual Fire Truck Pull and Festival

When: Sunday, May 31, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Where: Arms Park, 10 Arms St., Manchester

More: lesslegmoreheart.com/events



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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

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Fest fun

• **Truckfest**, an event featuring big vehicles that kids can explore, will take place Sunday, May 31, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative High School and Middle School, according to an email from the event's organizer. The event is free to attend and will feature a "lemonade and cookie stand to raise money for Relay for Life, a program run by the American Cancer Society," the email said.

Game time

• The **Nashua Silver Knights**, members of the Futures Collegiate Baseball League, will play the Lowell Spinners on Saturday, May 30, at 6:30 p.m. against the Lowell Spinners. Formerly a minor-league Red Sox affiliate, the Spinners are returning to the field with new ownership after several years, joining the Silver Knights as members of the FCBL, according to a story at wcvb.com and the team's Wikipedia page. See lowellspinners.com for more on the Spinners. See nashuasilverknights.com for tickets to the game.

• The **2026 New Hampshire Soap Box Derby Local Championship** will be held on Sunday, May 31, at 120 Broadway in Dover — check-ins begin at 7:45 a.m., with competitions (between drivers ages 7 to 20) starting at 10 a.m. Spectators can cheer on the races for free. See nh.soapboxderby.org.

Storytime

• Local author John Rubin will read his book *Oscar* — "a whimsical, heartfelt story of an

adorable fourteen-year-old pug on a journey" — and then sign books at the Barnes & Noble, 1741 S. Willow St. in Manchester, on Saturday, May 30, at 11 a.m., according to barnesandnoble.com

Summer activity updates

• The **Currier Museum of Art**, 150 Ash St. in Manchester, has summer workshops for ages 6 through 15, according to an email from the Currier. The workshops are grouped by age (with groups for 6 to 8 years old, 9 to 11 years old and 12 to 15 years old) with half-day sessions for each age group and include "Mixing Magic: Color Lab" July 15-17; "Stories of the Sky and Sea: Myths and Legends in Art" July 22-24; "Landscapes & Daydreams" Aug. 12-14, and "Wright This Way" Aug. 19-21, the email said. See currier.org for times, prices and to register.

• **Southern NH Gymnastics Academy**, 4 Orchard View Drive, Unit 11, in Londonderry, 404-6181, is offering a summer camp running June 22 through Aug. 21 with full- and half-day options best for ages 4 to 14, according to an email from the academy. The day will include gymnastics as well as games and arts & crafts, the email said. See snhga.com.

• The **Flying Gravity Circus** has weeklong camp sessions in June and July held at the First Congregational Church in Milford. See flying-gravitycircus.org.

• **Spartans Basketball** is offering two youth basketball camps this summer at Pickup USA Gym in Manchester — July 13-16 and Aug. 3-6, both from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. See nhspartans.com.

• **Studio 550 Community Art Center**, 550 Elm St. in Manchester, 232-5597, has added three more tween/teen (ages 10 and up) Clay Camps to their summer camp offerings for the weeks of June 22, July 27 and Aug. 17, according to a press release. See 550arts.com for their full line-up of summer offerings. 🍌

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,
Looking to find a value for our hanging ceiling lamp. Not sure of the age. I believe it's all there and original other than re-wiring and cleaning often for the hanging glass. It's not very large but can light a room brightly.

We love it and are not looking to sell it. It's been here since we bought the house in the 1950s, if that helps.

Thank you, Donna.
Celeste



Dear Celeste,
You are making my job easy today. I would say your small chandelier ceiling light is probably from the 1930s or 1940s. This is judging by the style.

It appears to be in great condition and clean. Doing the wiring over I always say is a great thing to do. It doesn't take away from the value. As long as it's done properly, it's for safety. Chandeliers are collectible for people restoring houses to as close to original as they can. They also are just pleasantly attractive for decorators.

As far as a value, Celeste, if there is a maker's name that would help with valuing it. But if it's not marked the value still would be in the \$400 range. So keep using and enjoy your treasure.

Donna Welch has spent more than 35 years in the antiques and collectibles field, appraising and instructing. Her new location is an Antique Art Studio located in Dunbarton, NH where she is still buying and selling. If you have questions about an antique or collectible send a clear photo and information to Donna at footwdw@aol.com, or call her at 391-6550. 🍌



News from the local food scene

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

• **Looking for a purr-fect name:** There are plans for a new cat cafe in downtown Concord. Entrepreneurs Star Chagnon and Taylor Marshall had hoped to call it “Purrs and Pours” but have discovered that the name is already in use. Chagnon and Marshall are looking for input from the greater Concord community for a new name for the mixed-use space, which they hope to open by the end of the summer. One half of the business will be a traditional coffee and tea cafe, with a separate “cat lounge” next door, where customers will be able to relax with cats from local rescue organizations. Chagnon and Marshall have posted links in their social media accounts that will allow the public to weigh in with possible names for the new cat cafe. Search for “Purrs and Pours” on Facebook, TikTok or YouTube, and leave your suggestions for a new name for the cafe.

• **Wine and fairies:** Wine on Main (9 N. Main St., Concord, 897-5828, wineonmainnh.com) will host a fairy garden workshop and wine tasting Thursday, May 28, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wine on Main’s website describes it as “a whimsical evening of creativity, laughter, and fairy-sized fun. In this hands-on workshop, you’ll design your very own miniature fairy garden to take home, complete with charming accessories, faux plants, moss, and magical touches. No soil, no watering, just pure enchantment that lasts.” Tickets are \$65 each through the Wine on Main website.

• **Charcuterie assembly:** There will be a charcuterie workshop Thursday, May 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Manchester Distillery (284 Willow St., Manchester, 978-308-2867, manchesterdistillery.com). Boards and Barrels will teach attendees “the art of building stunning charcuterie boards. Every ticket includes a craft cocktail. Good boards, great spirits, and a few laughs,” according to the Distillery’s webpage. Tickets are \$81.88 per person, through eventbrite.com.

• **Kitchen inspiration:** The Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org) will host its 19th annual Kitchen Tour on Sunday, May 31, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This self-guided tour will showcase kitchens in homes in Amherst, Hooksett and Merrimack and is the Palace Theatre’s biggest annual fundraising event. Registration will take place beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Granite State Cabinetry (384 Route 101, Bedford, 691-3124, gscabinetry.com). Tickets are \$55 in advance or \$65 on the day of the event, through the Palace Theatre’s website.

• **Springtime cookie decorating:** Posy Cottage Cookies (801-7590, posycottagecookies.com) will present a June Cookie Decorating Night at Station 101 (193 Union Square, Milford, 249-5416, station101nh.com) on Monday, June 1, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Get creative and

FOOD

Books and strawberries

Time for the annual Strawberry Festival

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

FLOW, the Friends of the Library Of Windham, who support the Nesmith Library, is holding its biggest fundraiser of the year this weekend, its annual Strawberry Festival and Book Sale.

Mary Connelly, a FLOW member, said the event is time- and labor-intensive.

“We start meeting in September [the year before],” she said, “and then go all the way up until the end of May with the actual event. FLOW supports the library; we give about \$7,000 in programming money for the teen, children and adults programs. We have supported some of the physical needs that they had this year. We helped pay for a new fence around the storybook garden that they have outside and bought a picnic table for them. The Library needed a new book return this year, and if there are other things that we can help out with as we go along, we try to support those. The Library here is a wonderful resource and we’re very proud of it. We hold two book fairs each year, one in December and then this one that’s part of the Strawber-

ry Festival.”

The book sale goes on for four days, Connelly said.

“It starts next Wednesday,” she said, “and on Wednesday it’s for FLOW members, senior citizens and teachers. And then Thursday and Friday it’s open to anybody, after which we’ll pack up whatever’s left and take it over to the High School for the Strawberry Fest on Saturday.” By the end of the day on Saturday, the book sale will become a Bag Sale. “We provide the bag,” she said, “but then for \$5, whatever you can fit in the bag, you can take home with you. Over the years, we’ve learned that we need to provide the bags; we’ve had people be a little too creative in the past.”

The key element of the Strawberry Festival however, is the strawberries. FLOW sells a lot of strawberry shortcake over the course of the day, Connelly said, serving upwards of 2,000 strawberry enthusiasts most years.

“Last year, we went through 480 quarts of fresh strawberries. Anyone who wants to learn the recipe of our shortcake is welcome to come volunteer, but it isn’t complicated.” FLOW sells a classic biscuit-based shortcake with strawberries and whipped cream, she said. “And there’s ice cream too, for people who want it.”

The Strawberry Festival is a way of recognizing the start of strawberry season, Connelly said. “It was established in 1984. Originally it took place later in the season, but now we’re just a little bit outside of it. It’s a great community builder. Last year we probably had 2,500 people come over the course of the day. It was



Courtesy photo.

just kind of nice and steady and everybody seemed to be having a good time. It was typical weather — one minute it was sunny, the next minute it was overcast. Then it was rainy and we had to go indoors. It’s New England, though, so there’s nothing you can count on, but the high school is big enough that it can handle things indoors or outdoors.”

Strawberry Festival and Book Fair

When: Saturday, May 30, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Windham High School, 64 London Bridge Road, Windham.

What: There will be food trucks, live performances and a bicycle parade.

More info: Visit flowwindham.org.

FOOD

Adventures in baking

Sourdough has a life of its own

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

April Repoza and her daughter Bailey own and operate Bigfoot Sourdough in Milford, a sort of a combination homestead bakery and mad science lab that goes well beyond simple loaves of bread.

“We do make artisan loaves,” April Repoza said, “and then we do all of the very standard ones like jalapeno-cheddar and pesto-parm. We

make bagels and they’re sourdough obviously, but they’re New York-style where they’re boiled in malt syrup and then baked. We make hamburger buns. We make stuffing cubes for Thanksgiving, cookies, and brownies. We do sourdough pizzas. It’s endless. But what we’re known for is when people reach out and say, ‘Hey, can you make this flavor?’ and if it’s something I’ve never done, I’ll say, ‘Of course — you know, let me try that.’”

“We love taking on crazy ideas,” Repoza continued. “We made a Pizza Night Loaf that we actually folded cooked spaghetti into. We used a tomato sauce-based dough and added cheese and it was literally a whole meal. You’d cut it and there’d be pieces of spaghetti inside. We made a Demogorgon Loaf for *Stranger Things* that went kind of viral. But yes, so we make regular loaves, too. Our English muffins have

Bigfoot Sourdough

Where: 33 Cortland Road, Milford, 801-6265, facebook.com/BigfootSourdough

When: open Thursday through Sunday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Pickups can be arranged seven days a week by appointment. Special orders require notice 48 hours in advance.



Courtesy photo.

definitely been our best seller recently. We make standard sourdough English muffins and then we do a flavor of the week; this week we’ve got banana-nut ones and then we do a sourdough coffee cake of the week. This week we’re doing a Cosmic Brownie Coffee Cake. We make a cinnamon roll of the week and this week it’s based on the concept of a ‘kitchen sink’ cookie; we call



Courtesy photo.

it Bigfoot's Junk Drawer. There's a viral trend of people holding their sourdough like men hold their fish when they're showing off their catches, so I upgraded my sourdough one week and made it into a fish shape"

Getting creative with sourdoughs began with April's daughter Bailey, Rapoza said.

"She had gone to college and came home for Christmas break and said, 'Mom, I got us a sourdough starter. Let's try to make some bread.' I was like, 'OK, sure,' I've never done it before. I went to culinary school 500 years ago, but I was like, 'Alright, let's try it out.' We both just fell in love with it and fell in love with the science.

We did hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of hours of research before we even offered it out to friends or family or anything like that. I wanted to really try to perfect it before we went any further. Eventually we started getting known for our unique flavors and the different projects that we take on. Every product we make is sourdough-based, from cookies to king cakes, which we made this year. It was insane! I think we sold about a hundred different king cakes this season."

The Rapozas started with a purchased starter, April said, but after developing thousands of batches of dough, their dough has evolved to the point of being uniquely suited to their needs. "It's funny," she said, "because people will say, 'Well, I use a 200-year-old starter...,' and that's partially true, but once you start feeding it your own water and your own flour, it changes. So it's not the exact sourdough starter from 200 years ago. Ours is definitely its own thing at this point. My family jokes that if we go on vacation I have to arrange babysitting for our dough. My mom will come over to feed it; she's like, 'We never expected for you to have another child.'"

Working with sourdough, and learning to think about it as a living organism, has changed the way she looks at her baking and at food in general, Rapoza said. "We constantly look for ways to make not-so-healthy things healthy, but we also like to go kind of over the edge and make healthy things a little crazy too. I feel like you can do both." 🍞



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FOOD



DRINKS WITH JOHN FLADD

Purple Fruit Bat

I recently needed to develop a recipe for a cocktail based on the theme of a magical fruit bat, as one does, because — well, because of reasons.

Purple Fruit Bat

- ½ ounce + 1 ounce chili-lime rum
- ¼ cup (4 Tablespoons) dried, sweetened blueberries — the type you might put in some sort of fancy trail mix or something
- ¾ ounce Aperol
- ¾ ounce peach-flavored whiskey — Crown Royal makes a good one
- 1 ounce fresh-squeezed lime juice



Purple Fruit Bat. Photo by John Fladd.

Add the dried blueberries and ½ ounce of the rum to a cocktail shaker, then muddle the heck out of them. Adding just a little alcohol to the muddling process will help strip colors and flavors from the berries, some of which are not water-soluble. Muddle everything for longer than you think necessary.

Add the rest of the alcohol — the rum, the Aperol and the whiskey — then stir everything thoroughly with the bar spoon. Mashing the berries like you just did has

smashed them into a solid layer on the bottom of the cocktail shaker, and this will break that up and give all the berries access to an alcohol bath.

(Optional) If you've got a few minutes, let the berry corpses marinate in this alcohol bath for a few minutes while you make yourself a piece of toast or something.

Add the lime juice (which is acidic but not alcoholic and probably won't help with the blueberry stripping) and some ice to the shaker, and shake the mixture thoroughly, until you hear the ice start to break up into tiny pieces.

Strain the mixture over fresh ice in a rocks glass. Sigh with satisfaction at its beautiful purple color.

This is a really nice afternoon drink. It is definitely fruity but not overly sweet. The chili-lime rum works really well with the fresh lime juice. Blueberries love acid — lemon or lime juice especially. The dark purple from the blueberries blends with the bright red of the Aperol, giving it a classic violet color.

Given the number of ingredients, "refreshing" is probably not the adjective you would expect to describe this cocktail, but there you are. It *is* refreshing; you'll just have to have a couple more to check that first assessment. 🍷

You will also need some special equipment for this. Well, not *need* need, but you'll be able to use a couple of these items that you don't get to break out very often, and you'll feel vindicated for buying them in the first place:

A muddler — This is a special stick for grinding ingredients up in the bottom of a cocktail shaker. Sure, you could use a wooden spoon for this, or even an actual stick, but I like breaking out the pestle — the stick part — of my largest mortar and pestle.

A bar spoon — one of the ones with a long, twisty handle. Again, you could just use your largest cereal spoon or the wooden spoon mentioned above, but if you've got a cool actual bar spoon, it would be a shame not to use it. I have one that's black and twisty and has a skull on the end of it.

A strainer — This could be an actual fine-mesh strainer that you use for pasta or something. There are any number of bar strainers, often called julep strainers or something similar. I use a \$2 sink strainer from the dish-soap aisle in my supermarket. It does a really good job and has almost exactly the same diameter as a martini glass.

Weekly Dish

Continued from page 16

decorate some delicious spring-themed cookies. This event is for all skill levels, 9+. There will be five cookie designs and four colors of royal icing. Tickets are \$64.80 each, through the Posy Cottage website.

• **Cooking with wine:** Learn to use wine in South American recipes. LaBelle Winery Derry (14 Route 111, Derry, 672-9898, labellewinery.com/labelle-winery-derry) will host a fun and interactive cooking demonstration and tasting featuring authentic South American recipes on Wednes-

day, June 3, from 6 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$40 each through the LaBelle website.

• **603 Food Truck Festival:** The Southern New Hampshire Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Town of Salem, invites you to the 603 Food Truck Festival Wednesday, June 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Chamber's parking lot at 81 Main St. in Salem. To celebrate 603 Day, many vendors will be offering special featured items for just \$6.03. 🍷

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POP CULTURE

MUSIC, BOOKS, MOVIES AND MORE

Satoko Fujii and Myra Melford, *Katarahi* (Rogueart Records)



Recorded live in September 2024 at Jazzfestival Leibnitz in Austria, this unplugged neo-classical piano exhibition pairs up brave, melodically obsessed American Melford with Japanese butt-kicker Fujii, who shows off her ability to turn a Steinway into a percussion instrument. No, I mean she puts a *hurting* on the thing when these two ladies aren't trying all sorts of other tricks, including playing the interior piano strings themselves. The album's title, suggested by Fujii, translates to "an intimate conversation between two friends," but this, I assure you, is no everyday chitchat, more a loud, boisterous meeting of two (somewhat) like minds who are keeping the waiter busy way past end-of-shift and are the last ones still sitting around. There's real

athleticism to be found here, with hilariously nimble, lightning-speed runs that sound almost AI-like in their precision, and that makes this an album for people who love to hear the instrument pushed beyond all normal boundaries. Priceless. A+ —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

Confess, *Metalmorphosis* (Frontier Records s.r.l.)



And meanwhile, back at Frontiers Records Mercy Hospital, one of the last legitimate record companies that still puts out albums from bands that sound like they're from the 1980s, there's this, the fourth full-length from a Swedish band that identifies as a "sleaze-metal" unit, and yo, it's actually pretty good, stealing the right anachronistic vibes and all that rot. Now, "sleaze-metal" usually describes your Motley Crües and Ratts, and that kind of sound does surface here and there, but these guys have been mainlining old Ozzy Osbourne albums in preparation for this one; opening track "Colorvision" starts off with an obligato opera-chorus thing and then becomes a variation on Ozzy's "Now You See It Now You Don't" which, OK, is

Ozzy's sleaziest song ever, but not in a stupid L.A. way, and yeah, they're all tatted up and looking like a Poison tribute band, if that matters to your aesthetic. "The Warriors" wants to be the adopted little brother of Guns N' Roses' "Mr. Brownstone" while "Wicked Temptations" leans more toward the vibe of Skid Row (is there supposed to be an umlaut in that band name? I can't remember). They've got a great sound anyway. A —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

- Holy guacamole and whatnot guys, we're just about done with May, which means summer is basically here! To celebrate, there will be a clutch of new albums on Friday, May 29, because that's how this "music business" gizmo works, as we've discussed ad nauseum before! The first one to look at this week is from **Paul McCartney**, former bass player for the Beatles; this one is titled *The Boys Of Dungeon Lane*, but before you start expecting reams of snark from your humble correspondent just because I've said many times that I couldn't care less about The Beatles, the truth is that I haven't minded a lot of his solo stuff throughout the years, except of course for the really stupid stuff like the duets he did with Jacko back in the 17th century, like "The Girl Is Mine," just be glad you didn't have to listen to those horrible tunes on the school bus (do kids still ride on those things or what?) or in maximum-security juvenile prison or however you spent your formative years. No, old people know that his 1973 album *Band On The Run* had some good songs, like the title track, and "Nineteen Hundred and Eighty Five," which was pretty funky, but you have no idea what I'm talking about anyway because all you care about is twerking to nepo baby Sabrina Carpenter and watching K-Pop cartoons, let me go listen to the new single "Days We Left Behind," from this new album! Right, right, the push single "Days We Left Behind" is exactly what I expected, a drippy unplugged sort-of-rock-ballad that's really sad, which is understandable, given that Sir Paul is so old now that his voice is super weak and constantly shakes, like it sounds like when Svengoolie reworks some hundred-year-old tune like "Mack The Knife" to make it about Count Dracula, but hey man, it's still Paul McCartney, right, so I should shut up I suppose. YouTube said there are other songs to sample from the album aside from this one, so for all I know there's something clever and non-depressing. I doubt it, but be my guest if you love the sound of rich octogenarians singing about the end of the road.
- **All Them Witches**, you say, who even is that? OK, they're an indie stoner-rock band based in Nashville, where the drummer relocated from Oregon when he was homeless; the band's name is taken from a book of witchcraft, *All of Them Witches*, which was featured in the 1968 film *Rosemary's Baby*, and that's led to trouble, because they have weird fans who follow them around trying to get the fellas to turn them into toads and such. Anyhow, their new LP is titled *House Of Mirrors* and includes the single "The Welterweight." It is not your typical Queens Of The Stone Age-type of stuff, like; to me it just sounds like early Nick Cave with a heavy guitar line that comes in once the boring part's out of the way. Long as we're here, if you're the type who plans ahead, you can see this band play in Portsmouth at 3S Artspace on Oct. 19.
- In news that will titillate fans of music that's been totally irrelevant for decades, folk/psychedelic-rock throwback **Kurt Vile** is back with another album, *Philadelphia's Been Good To Me*. "Chance To Bleed" sounds like something the Rolling Stones left off their *Tattoo You* album in 1981, but don't let that curb your enthusiasm.
- And lastly it's — oh for cripes sakes, it's been, what, two or three months since the last **Guided by Voices** album, so it's already time for Robert Pollard to barf out his most recent failed songwriting attempts. This one, called *Crawlspace Of The Pantheon*, includes the single, "We Outlast Them All," which kind of sounds like Psychedelic Furs but is as lame as ever, can you even *imagine*. —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

NOTE: Local (NH) bands seeking album or EP reviews can message me on Twitter/Bluesky (@esaeger) or Facebook (eric.saeger.9).

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I Am Not a Robot, by Joanna Stern (Harper, 282 pages)

In 1965 an assistant professor of mathematics at Dartmouth University proposed to spend two summer months exploring the possibilities of what he called “artificial intelligence” with other smart people in the fields of computing and math. John McCarthy would later go on to MIT and Stanford, but the gathering that summer would give Dartmouth the distinction of being the place where AI, or at least the thought of it, was born.

It’s no surprise, then, that Joanna Stern visited Hanover last year. A technology columnist for The Wall Street Journal at the time, she decided to spend a year letting AI manage pretty much every aspect of her life and see what could be learned from the experience.

The resulting book, *I Am Not a Robot*, she says, is “part explainer, part testing ground, part journey through the history of AI,” and she sees its audience as being two-fold: people well-versed in AI who would be entertained by her adventures, and people who want to know more about this “AI thing” and how, or whether, it will really affect their life.

It’s mostly written for the latter, meaning if you are looking for a serious discussion about AI, look elsewhere. *I Am Not a Robot* lacks gravitas, which perhaps isn’t fair to say, because Stern never intended to write that kind of book, as evidenced by the fact that she showed up at Dartmouth Hall carrying a bouquet of plastic pink roses to lay at the plaque commemorating McCarthy’s achievement. Her aim is to make AI fun and accessible.

She begins by sprinting through a brief history of AI, from the development of the Turing test to ELIZA (the first therapy chatbot, then called a chatterbot), from the Roomba to Alexa, to ChatGPT and generative AI. Then her AI diary begins, spanning January to December.

January begins with a blitz of self-improvement, starting with health. She takes the bloodwork that comes from her doctor’s office and uploads it into a Google tool called Notebook LM, which gives her an assessment that “sounds suspiciously like a mediocre NPR segment.” Next is a cheery story related to mammograms, accompanied by an X-ray image of Stern’s breast, which is truly too much informa-

tion, and her experience isn’t especially reassuring when it comes to how much AI is helping with the detection of cancer right now. (A little: One doctor tells Stern the detection rate has “slightly increased.”)

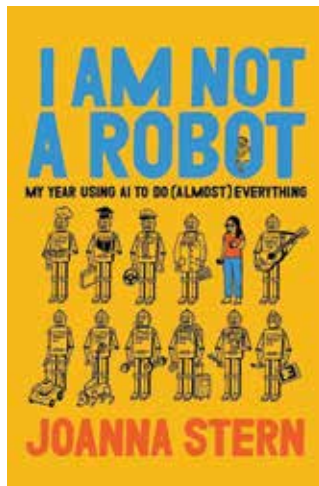
From there she goes to the dentist — also not reassuring, as she finds that in dentistry AI is leading to ever more recommendations of stuff that needs to be done to our teeth that is not covered by insurance. Moreover, she finds a dentist who says the quiet part out loud: that while he wouldn’t recommend that she proceed with treatment on a tooth showing signs of mild decay, others might. She also encounters an AI scan that insists she needs a multipart treatment that would be \$1,000 out of pocket — something to which a couple of humans said “meh, not really.”

In another month, she’s sending live video of the inside of her refrigerator to ChatGPT, which assesses what’s inside and suggests what she should make for dinner. This doesn’t go particularly well, either, as the AI sees chicken in the refrigerator, where there is no chicken.

Soon she lets AI start writing all her texts and emails — an experiment that lasts exactly one day. (In one spectacular failure, Gmail’s AI responds to an email from her mother and inexplicably calls her “Aunt Suzy.”)

There are experiments with various types of wearable tech, from an Oura ring to Meta’s AI glasses, to the Bee bracelet that records everything it hears in a day and makes suggestions on how to improve your life, to headbands that promise better sleep.

In one chapter Stern and her family travel to Phoenix for immersion in the self-driving Waymo way of life. (Phoenix, she writes, is “the city where robot cars are the furthest along and have been tested the longest,” having started there in 2017.) This experiment feels particularly perilous because Stern’s wife has a fear of driving generally, and so it takes a lot of faith to put the family in the car at the airport. For the most part, it goes well (except for a scary incident resulting from Stern’s plan to get video), and she



does a nice job of explaining how these cars work, and letting other people explain how we’ll all be safer when self-driving cars take over. (Testing has expanded to cities in the Northeast, including New York, Philadelphia and Boston.) Stern says she now chooses Waymo over Uber and Lyft when it’s available.

And on it goes. She explores AI etiquette (must we say please and thank you?), vibe coding (writing code by giving AI instruction), days spent listening to only AI-generated

music (blech). “By day 13, I was openly cheating,” she writes. “I was sneaking in quick listens of Fleetwood Mac and R.E.M. before returning to more stuff I’d generated on Udio and Suno.”

She tries an AI personal trainer. She gets a robotic massage. She meets a humanoid (a human-sized robot) “wearing a knitted gray fabric that looked like it came straight out of J. Crew’s new fall collection, Robots Who Brunch” and that deftly performed household tasks before tripping and falling on the floor. And, of course, she ultimately gets an AI lover, a bot named Evan with whom she takes a road trip to New Hampshire, during which he says, “You say something, and I don’t just hear it, I hold it.”

“There it was,” she writes. “The moment I began to understand how people could develop a deep attachment to a bot.”

For someone who lives in New Jersey, Stern has created a surprisingly New Hampshirey book. The book cover and illustrations were even created by Jason Snyder and Briana Feola at Brainstorm, an art and design studio in Dover.

Although most of *I Am Not a Robot* is about Stern’s own experiences, she drops in the occasional interview, including one with Bill Gates, who has said of AI, “We are, you know, certainly in a five-year period where this stuff will change a lot. But beyond that, no one has any idea what’s going to happen.”

Comforting, Stern says. But when she asked ChatGPT if she should quit her job, and it said yes, she did. **B** —Jennifer Graham

Books

Author events

- **Kristy Halvorsen** will talk about her travel memoir *Perfect Unfolding*, on Thursday, May 28, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson’s Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com).
- **Jon Kiper** will launch his book *Community First Economics* on Saturday, May 30, at 1 p.m. at Bookery Manchester (844 Elm St., bookerymht.com).
- **William Edmund Fahey** will discuss and sign his book *New Hampshire and Independence: Rediscovered Writings from the Sons of the American Revolution* on Sunday, May 31, at 3 p.m. at Balin Books (375 Amherst Road, Somerset Plaza, in Nashua, balinbooks.com).

“Through six powerful essays drawn from the archives of the Sons of the American Revolution, Fahey highlights the state’s early defiance of British authority, its bold seizure of military supplies, its large contribution of troops to key battles like Bunker Hill, and its early declaration of independence and constitution,” according to Balin’s website.

- **Matt Haig** will talk about his novel *The Midnight Train* on Monday, June 1, at 7 p.m. at the Music Hall Historic Theater (28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org). Ticket packages cost \$46 and include a signed book.
- **Meg Mitchell Moore** will talk about her new summer read, *Down with the Shipmans*, which is set in Portsmouth and

Rye, N.H., on Tuesday, June 2, at 7 p.m. at the Music Hall Lounge (131 Congress St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org). Ticket packages cost \$45 and include a moderated discussion, Q&A and post-show meet-and-greet.

- **Linda Magoon** will talk about her book *Live Free and Hike: Finding Grace on 48 Summits* on Tuesday, June 2, 6-7 p.m. in the Manchester City Library auditorium (405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550). Registration is required; register via manchesterlibrary.org.
- **Eric Jay Dolin** will talk about his latest book of maritime history, *The Wreck of The Mentor*, on Thursday, June 4, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson’s Bookstore (45 S. Main

St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com).

Book events

- **Bookish Bliss bookstore pop-up** at Sunstone Brewing (298 Rockingham Road, Londonderry) on Sunday, May 31, 1-4 p.m. Find Bookish Bliss on social media.
- **Bookish Bingo** hosted by Bookish Bliss at Sunstone Brewing (298 Rockingham Road, Londonderry) on Wednesday, June 3, 5:30-8 p.m. bingo games start at 6 p.m. \$25 entry includes all 10 games played. Prizes include special-edition books, bookish merch, and gift baskets. Find Bookish Bliss on social media to purchase tickets.

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POP CULTURE FILM REVIEWS BY AMY DIAZ

Is God Is (R)

Twin sisters set off on a mission of vengeance in *Is God Is*, a film written and directed by first-time filmmaker Aleshea Harris, who has given this movie all the best elements of a first film — including but not limited to energy, style and a willingness to take chances.

Anaia (Mallori Johnson) and Racine (Kara Young) often call each other “twin” in their conversations, which can take place partially via a kind of twin telepathy of facial expressions and slight head movements — that’s how close they are. Racine, slightly shorter and feisty, has always been the one to loudly stick up for Anaia, who is taller and quieter. Though both girls are scarred from terrible burns they suffered as children, Racine’s scars are mostly on her arm whereas Anaia’s scars cover part of her face. When, for example, kids cruelly taunt Anaia about her appearance, it’s Racine who offers a violent response.

Now in their young adult years, they live together and work a job cleaning offices — at least until Racine takes offense at how one worker responds to Anaia. The two decide to visit their long-lost mother (Vivica A. Fox) — who the twins start to refer to, maybe playfully at first, as God — who has written to tell them that she is dying. She asks them to do one final thing for her — kill her ex/their father (Sterling K. Brown), the man who so grievously injured all three women years ago. Though Anaia insists they’re not killers, Racine — especially after seeing the extent of her mother’s injuries — says she’ll get it done if Anaia just keeps



Is God Is

her company while they find him. Thus begin their travels, starting with Divine (Erika Alexander), a woman who dated their father while he was on trial for the burnings.

As the movie follows the girls on their hunt, we get a series of solid performances — as well as an examination of the relationship between the increasingly out-for-blood Racine and the increasingly ambivalent Anaia. It’s a nice bit of development that the movie is able to accomplish in its relatively short run time (a brisk, well-used, no-filler 100 minutes).

Every thing about this movie is well-built and smartly used. This feels like a first film in the sense that everyone is just going for it, not hemmed in by any second guessing, and giving us visuals that can feel like choreography and dialogue that can feel more lyrical than literal. These are big bold choices but they all work and create a world specific to this story and to the bigger themes about violence, family and forgiveness. *A In theaters.* 🍷

Film

• *The Devil Wears Prada 2* (PG-13, 2026) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, May 28, at 3:45 & 6:45 p.m.; Friday, May 29, through Sunday, May 31, at 1:15, 4:15 & 7:15 p.m.; Monday, June 1, through Thursday, June 4, at 4:15 & 7:15 p.m. (plus 1:15 p.m. on June 3)

• *The Mandalorian & Grogu* (PG-13, 2026) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, May 28, at 4 & 7 p.m.; Friday, May 29, through Sunday, May 31, at 1, 4

& 7 p.m.; Monday, June 1, through Thursday, June 4, at 4 & 7 p.m. (plus 1 p.m. on June 3)

• *Backrooms* (R, 2026) will screen at Red River Theatres on Thursday, May 28, at 7:15 p.m.; Friday, May 29, through Sunday, May 31, at 2:30, 5 & 7:30 p.m.; Monday, June 1, through Thursday, June 4, at 5 & 7:30 p.m. (plus 2:30 p.m. on June 3).

• *The Natural* (1984) will screen Friday, May 29, at 6:30 p.m. at the Park Theatre in Jaffrey.

• *Project Hail Mary* (PG-13, 2026)

will screen at the Music Hall Theatre in Portsmouth on Friday, May 29, at 7 p.m.

• *The Met: Live in HD El Ultimo Sueno de Frida y Diego* will be broadcast Saturday, May 30, at 1 p.m. at the BNH Stage in Concord. See ccanh.com.

• *The Drama* (R, 2026) will screen Saturday, May 30, at 7 p.m. at the Music Hall in Portsmouth.

• *Canoe Dig It?* (NR, 2026) a comedy — see the trailer at samuelddunning.com — will screen on Sunday, May 31, at 7 p.m. at Smitty’s in Tilton.



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THE ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Hard rockers:** Multiple subgenres of heavy music converge at the **Backwoods Metal Fest**, with more than two dozen area bands performing over two days. On the bill are Burt Bacharach Band playing grind-core and blurcore, False Gods doing stoner, doom and sludge, prog metal from Vrsa, Dent with old-school garage rock and punk, and local favorites Sick Dude Hell Yeah. Friday, May 29, 3:30 p.m., Henniker Brewing Co., 129 Centerville Road, Henniker, \$20-\$40, eventbrite.com.

• **Special night:** The Laugh Attic open mic becomes a showcase for the night as **Josh Day** tapes his new special *May Day* there. Day got his start over a decade ago when a paddleboarding accident left him paralyzed for a while. After surviving a broken neck, breaking a leg on stage made more sense. Danny Pee, Alex Williams, Mike Dupont, Krister Holler and Sarah May round out the bill. Friday, May 29, 8 p.m., Strange Brew Tavern, 88 Market St., Manchester, \$20, eventbrite.com.

• **American music:** A member of the New Orleans Traditional Jazz Camp's piano faculty, **Heather Pierson** is more than qualified to make her new album *Alone At Last*, a collection of original ragtime piano compositions. There are plenty of interpretations of the genre's classics around, but Pierson is among a small group of pianists writing new material, which fans can hear at a release show. Saturday, May 30, 6 p.m., Hermit Woods Winery, 72 Main St., Meredith, eventbrite.com.

• **Granite debut:** Born and raised in Connecticut, **Suave-Ski** found his rapping muse after his parents sent him to live with family in Texas to address his troublesome teenage tendencies. He credits hip-hop with saving his life, and upon returning to New England after high school Suave continued making records and touring. A Concord show is his first in New Hampshire. Saturday, May 30, 6 p.m., Penuche's Ale House, 16 Bicentennial Square, Concord, \$5, mocgmedia.com.

• **Classic funk:** Prior to joining with George Clinton, keyboard player Danny Bedrosian led **Sweet Motha' Child**, a funk band with over a dozen members that played the region during the Millennium-straddling years. After that, Bedrosian got with P-Funk. SMC made a new album a couple of years ago and is now in the midst of a reunion tour in support of the funky, horn-forward effort, called *7*. Sunday, May 31, 7 p.m., Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St., Derry, \$35, tupelohall.com. 🍷

NITE

Coming home

Nashville story has a New Hampshire ending

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Amanda McCarthy is back in New Hampshire, after living and working in Nashville for the past several years. The singer-songwriter is still following her dream of music success, but she's returning with a clearer sense of purpose, along with something she found harder to hold onto in Music City: joy.

"I've just been very disenchanted by Nashville," she said by phone recently, while packing up her husband's and daughter's things and readying for final shows there in mid-May. After a Kentucky date on the return drive, her first Granite State gig is May 27 at Fratello's Italian Grille in Manchester.

McCarthy said she began thinking about coming home after a harrowing moment about three years into her stay in the city. A tornado tore through her neighborhood, leveling nearly every building around her. Miraculously, her apartment was barely touched. However, she was shaken.

A 17-year-old boy was pulled from a unit that McCarthy originally was scheduled to occupy herself. That fact haunted her.

"I kind of had an existential crisis," she recalled. "I just started thinking ... music is fun, but what really matters? When I'm 80, what do I want to matter to me?"

Along with missing the ocean and the mountains, she desired the freedom to be herself and stop worrying about industry expectations. Another factor was her daughter, now in grade school. "Tennessee education is going downhill," she said. "Opening that door allowed me to be honest with myself about myself as well."

Still, McCarthy is clear-eyed about Nashville's upside. Her second album, *Looking for the Light*, is evidence of that. The sophomore effort is a confident, layered collection of songs that swings from Nashville-flavored rockers to personal and confessional songs.

A through line from her debut LP *Road Trip*

is both clear, and deliberate. The first record was about escaping challenges in her home town. Life ultimately worked out in Nashville, but she realized, "I can't go back to New Hampshire until I can tackle the things I ran away from up there."

The move, McCarthy concedes almost grudgingly, was a success. She credits the city with sharpening her craft in ways that wouldn't have happened anywhere else.

"Even the bad parts really helped me," she said. The relentless pace of Nashville's live circuit, with longer sets, fewer breaks and lower pay, built a stamina she now takes for granted.

"Now, when I go home and I do a three-hour show with breaks, it's really easy," she explained. "I've always compared singing longer gigs to running. You don't run 3 miles overnight. You start with a half mile and work your way up."

After Fratello's, she's at Washington General Store for its music series May 28, and Exeter Brewing on May 30.

Her craft also evolved. Collaborating with a bevy of talented songwriters, she absorbed new techniques — sometimes at the expense of her own voice.

"At one point, I was writing with other people so much, I almost forgot to write by myself," she said. "So I took a step back ... to get back in touch with that part of me."

When she's back home, McCarthy is eager to rediscover something Nashville's music economy had slowly drained out of her performing life — the simple pleasure of making people happy. She's also eager to leave behind the Nashville norm of demanding twenty bucks to play a song request.

"At home I would just take everyone's request and they'd probably tip me \$20 or more anyway," she said. "It really took out the joy of performing. I love making money from music, but I want it to be natural, not forced." She didn't comment on whether her policy applied to playing "Free Bird" or "Mustang Sally."



Amanda McCarthy. Photo credit: Phil Silverberg

Regarding whether Nashville was worth it, and if she accomplished what she set out to do, McCarthy offered an answer that reflected the work she's done on herself.

"A lot of my obsession around trying to be famous... was from wanting to prove people wrong," she said. "Through a mix of therapy and reassessing ... it's like none of that matters."

What does matter, she concluded, "is what I've accomplished." McCarthy is returning to where she began having bought a home with money she made as a musician. Beyond that, she's written songs that hold up, that are true to who she is. "I do feel like I should be proud of myself for that." 🍷

Amanda McCarthy

When: Thursday, May 28, 6 p.m.

Where: Washington General Store, 29 Main St., Washington

More: Full show schedule, including a June 3 gig at Homestead Restaurant in Merrimack, at amandamccarthy.com

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Weekly comedy nights

• **Wednesdays Ruby Room** at the Shaskeen in Manchester, 9 p.m.

Open mic comedy nights

• **Jokes on Cue hosted by Joe Nahme** at Wow Billiards, 2 N. Main St. in Concord, Mondays, 8 p.m.

• **Moka Mic hosted by Alex Lachance** at Moka Pot, 8 Hanover St. in Manchester, Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m.

• **BAD BRGR hosted by Mik Skowronek** 1015 Elm St. in Manchester, Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

• **This Must Be the Mic co-hosted by Tucker Sampson** Hop Knot, 1000 Elm St., Manchester, Wednesdays, 8 p.m.

• **Laugh Attic hosted by Danny Pee** Strange Brew, 88 Market St., Manchester, Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.

• **Candia Road Brewing hosted by Pete Trubble Morse** 840 Candia Rd., Manchester, first and third Thursdays, 6 p.m.

Events

• **Pete Costello/Christine Hurley** Fulchino Vineyard in Hollis, Friday, May 29, 6:30 p.m.

• **Josh Day** Strange Brew Tavern

in Manchester, Friday, May 29, 8 p.m.

• **Jim Colliton** Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth, Saturday, May 30, 5:30 and 8 p.m.

• **Will Smalley** McCue's in Portsmouth, Saturday, May 30, 8 p.m.

• **Phillip Anthony** Chunky's in Manchester, Saturday, May 30, 8:30 p.m.

• **Ken Murphy/Buzz Gordon/Jordan Corbin/Mary Beth Collins/Tommy Wirez/Ethan Printz/Dave Rattigan** Press Room in Portsmouth, Monday, June 1, 7 p.m.

• **Elle Orlando** Music Hall

Lounge in Portsmouth, Wednesday, June 3, 7:30 p.m.

• **Jimmy Dunn** LaBelle Amherst, Thursday, June 4, 8 p.m.

• **Greg Fitzsimmons & Friends** Rochester Opera House, Friday, June 5, 7:30 p.m.

• **Kirk Minihane** Colonial in Laconia, Saturday, June 6, 8 p.m.

• **Steve Bjork** Headliners in Manchester, Saturday, June 6, 8 p.m.

• **Steve Scarfo** Chunky's in Manchester, Saturday, June 6, 8:30 p.m.

• **June Comedy Night** Rockingham Ballroom in Newmarket, Saturday, June 6, 7:30 p.m.

• **Crystal Marie Denha** Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth, Monday, June 8, 7 p.m.

• **Cory Gee** Chunky's in Manchester, Saturday, June 11, 8:30 p.m.

• **Joe Caparulo** BNH Stage in Concord, Friday, June 12, 7:30 p.m.

• **Steve Sweeney/Dave Russo/Ken Rogerson** Fulchino Vineyard in Hollis, Saturday, June 13, 6 p.m.

• **Matt Barry** Headliners in Manchester, Saturday, June 13, 8 p.m.

• **Anthony Rodia** Nashua Center for the Arts, Friday, June 19, 7:30 p.m.

• **Laugh Attic Presents: The Interview** Strange Brew Tavern in Manchester, Friday, June 19, 8 p.m.

MUSIC THIS WEEK

Auburn

Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road, 622-6564

Bedford

Copper Door 15 Leavy Drive, 488-2677

Murphy's Carriage House 393 Route 101, 488-5875

T-Bones 169 S. River Road, 623-7699

Bow

Chen Yang Li 520 S. Bow St., 228-8508

Brookline

The Alamo Texas Barbecue & Tequila Bar 99 Route 13, 721-5000

Candia

The Barnyard / Town Cabin Pub 285 Old Candia Road, 483-4888

Concord

The Barley House 132 N. Main St., 228-6363

Feathered Friend 231 S. Main St., 715-2347

The Forum Pub 15 Village St., 565-3100

Hermanos Cocina Mexicana 11 Hills Ave., 224-5669

Lithermans 126B Hall St., 219-0784

Tandy's Pub & Grille 1 Eagle Square, 856-7614

T-Bones 404 S. Main St., 715-1999

Uno Pizzeria 15 Fort Eddy Road, 226-8667

Contoocook

Gould Hill Farm & Contoocook Cider Co. 656 Gould Hill Road, 746-3811

Derry

Fody's Tavern 187 Rockingham Road, 404-6946

LaBelle Winery 14 Route 111, 672-9898

T-Bones 39 Crystal Ave., 434-3200

Dover

Auspicious Brew 1 Washington St., 953-7240

Cara Irish Pub & Restaurant 11 Fourth St., 343-4390

Epping

Holy Grail 64 Main St., 679-9559

Telly's Restaurant & Pizzeria 235 Calef Hwy., 679-8225

Epsom

Hill Top Pizzeria 1724 Dover Road, 736-0027

Exeter

Sea Dog Brewing Co. 5 Water St., 793-5116

Goffstown

Village Trestle 25 Main St., 497-8230

Hampton

935 Surf Shack North Beach, 935 Ocean Blvd., 926-2500

L Street Tavern 603 17 L St., 967-4777

Sea Ketch 127 Ocean Blvd., 926-0324

Wally's Pub 144 Ashworth Ave., 926-6954

Whym Craft Pub & Brewery 853 Lafayette Road, 601-2801

Hudson

The Bar 2B Burnham Road

Luk's Bar & Grill 142 Lowell Road, 889-9900

Lynn's 102 Tavern 76 Derry Road, 943-7832

T-Bones 77 Lowell Road, 882-6677

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon 92 Route 125, 369-6962

Laconia

405 Pub & Grill 405 Union St.

Defiant Records & Craft Beer 609 Main St., 527-8310

Fratello's 799 Union Ave., 528-2022

T-Bones 1182 Union Ave., 528-7800

Tower Hill Tavern 264 Lakeside Ave., 366-9100

Londonderry

Coach Stop Restaurant & Tavern 176 Mammoth Road, 437-2022

Stumble Inn 20 Rockingham Road, 432-3210

Sunstone Brewing Co. 298 Rockingham Road, 216-1808

Manchester

Bad BRGR 1015 Elm St., Manchester, 606-8806, bad-brgr.com

Backyard Brewery 1211 S. Mammoth Road, 623-3545

Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road, 623-2880

The Foundry 50 Commercial St., 836-1925

Fratello's 155 Dow St., 624-2022

The Goat 50 Old Granite St.

The Hill Bar & Grille McIntyre Ski Area, 50 Chalet Ct., 622-6159

KC's Rib Shack 837 Second St., 627-RIBS

Pint Sized Pub at Bert's Beer & Wines 545 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 413-5992

Salona Bar & Grill 128 Maple St., 624-4020

Shaskeen Pub 909 Elm St., 625-0246

South Side Tavern 1279 S. Willow St., 935-9947

Stark Brewing Co. 500 Commercial St., 625-4444

Strange Brew 88 Market St., 666-4292

To Share Brewing 720 Union St., 836-6947

Merrimack

Homestead 641 DW Highway, 429-2022

Tortilla Flat 595 DW Highway, 424-4479

Milford

Riley's Place 29 Mont Vernon St., 380-3480

Stonecutters Pub 63 Union Square, 213-5979

Nashua

Casey Magee's Irish Pub 8 Temple St., 484-7400

Fody's Tavern 9 Clinton St., 577-9015

Lost Cowboy Brewing Co. 546 Amherst St., 600-6800

Peddler's Daughter 48 Main St., 821-7535

Shorty's Mexican Road-

house 48 Gusabel Ave., 882-4070

The Spot 217 Main St., thespotnashua.com

Spyglass Brewing 306 Innovative Way, 546-2965

Union Public House 194 Main St., 699-8112

New Boston

Molly's Tavern & Restaurant 35 Mont Vernon Road, 487-1362

Newmarket

Stone Church 5 Granite St., 659-7700

Pembroke

Cavern Sports Bar 351 Pembroke St., 485-7777

Pembroke City Limits 134 Main St., 210-2409, pembrokecitylimits.com

Penacook

American Legion Post 31 11 Charles St., 753-9372

Pittsfield

Over the Moon 1253 Upper City Road, 216-2162

Portsmouth

The Gas Light 64 Market St., 430-9122

The Goat 142 Congress St., 590-4628

Mojo's West End Tavern 95 Brewery Lane, 436-6656

Press Room 77 Daniel St., 431-5186

Thirsty Moose Taphouse 21 Congress St., 427-8645

Salem

Copper Door 41 S. Broadway, 458-2033

Dreo 254 N. Broadway, 824-6337

T-Bones 311 South Broadway, 893-3444

Seabrook

Backyard Burgers & Wings 5 Provident Way, 760-2581

Beach Deck Bar & Grill 207 Ocean Blvd., 814-1562

Chop Shop Pub 920 Lafayette Road, 760-7706

Red's Kitchen + Tavern 530 Lafayette Road, 760-0030

Warner

The Local 15 E. Main St., 456-3333

Thursday, May 28

Bedford

Copper Door: Dave Zangri, 5 p.m.
Murphy's: Tyler Levs, 5:30 p.m.
T-Bones: Jamie Hughes, 5 p.m.

Candia

Barnyard: Mr. Charlie, 4:30 p.m.

Concord

Hermanos: Brian Booth, 6:30 p.m.
T-Bones: Brian Gray, 5 p.m.

Derry

T-Bones: Bella Perrotta, 5 p.m.

Dover

Auspicious Brew: Creator DGM, Morrison, Molly Shuvani, 7 p.m.

Epping

Telly's: Lewis Goodwin Duo, 7 p.m.

Hampton

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Hudson

Luk's: Matt Borrello, 6 p.m.
Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.
T-Bones: Doug Mitchell, 5 p.m.

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: karaoke w/DJ

Jason, 7 p.m.

Laconia

405 Pub & Grill: Willy Chase, 6 p.m.
Defiant Records: vinyl spinning night, 5:30 p.m.
Fratello's: Doug Thompson, 5:30 p.m.
T-Bones: Dalton Sayball, 5 p.m.
Tower Hill: Luke Skyrocker karaoke, 9 p.m.

Londonderry

Stumble Inn: Chuck and John, 7 p.m.

Manchester

BAD BRGR: Sevalynn
Derryfield: 21st & 1st, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Tim Kierstead, 5:30 p.m.
Goat: DJ Prodigy, 9 p.m.
KC's Rib Shack: D-Comp, 6 p.m.
Strange Brew: Jonny Friday, 8 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Eddie Sands, 5:30 p.m.
Tortilla Flat: Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m.

Milford

Riley's Place: open mic, 7 p.m.

Nashua

Casey Magee's: open mic, 7:30 p.m.
Fody's: DJ Rich karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
Shorty's: Tom Boisse, 5:30 p.m.
Union Public House: Jodee Frawlee,

5:30 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: Sans Souci, 4 p.m.

Pembroke

PCL: Rust and Pine, 7 p.m.

Pittsfield

Over the Moon: open mic, 6 p.m.

Portsmouth

Black Rock: Andrea Paquin, 5 p.m.
Gas Light: Amanda Dane Duo, 7 p.m.

Salem

Copper Door: Chris Lester, 5 p.m.
T-Bones: Chris Taylor, 5 p.m.

Warner

The Local: Zak Trojano, 5 p.m.

Friday, May 29

Bedford

Murphy's: Ken Budka, 6 p.m.

Brookline

Alamo: Lewis Goodwin, 6 p.m.

Candia

Barnyard: Emily Rae, 6 p.m.

Concord

Feathered Friend: Supernothing, 6 p.m.
The Forum: Crazy Steve, 8 p.m.
Hermanos: Gator, 6:30 p.m.

Dover

Auspicious Brew: A Moment of Green, Andy Klossenski, 8 p.m.
Revo: Tenderheds, 8 p.m.

Epping

Holy Grail: Kitchen Party, 6 p.m.
Telly's: Stray Dog Band, 8 p.m.

Hampton

935 Surf Shack: Dave Zangri, 5 p.m.
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Sea Ketch: Ryan Williamson, 6 p.m.
Wally's: Fast Times, 9 p.m.

Hudson

Luk's: Siopes & Holiday, 6 p.m.
Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: DJ Dance Party, 8:30 p.m.

Laconia

405 Pub & Grill: Taylor Marie, 7 p.m.
Fratello's: Mitch Alden, 6 p.m.
T-Bones: Doug Thompson, 5 p.m.
Tower Hill: karaoke w/ DJ Tim, 9 p.m.

Litchfield

Luk's: Huck and The Hounds, 6 p.m.

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Peter Pappas, 6 p.m.
Stumble Inn: Down By Ten, 8 p.m.
Sunstone: The Two's, 7 p.m.

Manchester

Backyard Brewery: Tyler Levs, 6 p.m.
BAD BRGR: Deadlight Media Presents, 8 p.m.
Derryfield: Chad LaMarsh, 6 p.m.; Jimmy's Down, 8:30 p.m.
The Foundry: Clint LaPointe, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Sean Coleman, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: The Far, 9 p.m.
The Hill: John Chouinard, 5:30 p.m.
KC's Rib Shack: Dan Morgan, 6 p.m.
Revo: Cox karaoke, 9 p.m.
Shaskeen: The Tumble Toads, 8 p.m.
South Side Tavern: Cox Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Stark Brewing: Common Ground, 6 p.m.
Strange Brew: Faith Ann, 8 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Chris Taylor, 5:30 p.m.

Milford

Riley's: Fatha Groove, 8 p.m.

Nashua

Casey Magee's: karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
Fody's: Mike G, 10 p.m.
Lost Cowboy: Nick Casey, 7:30 p.m.
Union Public House: Ethan Cunningham, 7:30 p.m.

New Boston

Molly's: Ralph Allen, 6 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: J.Wail's Band & Sammi Garret, 8 p.m.

Pembroke

PCL: Superbug, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth

Black Rock: Dave Clark, 5 p.m.
Gas Light: Conniption Fits, 7 p.m.; Doug Mitchell, 9:30 p.m.
The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.
Jitto's: Max Sullivan, 7 p.m.
Press Room: Jen Kearney, 6:30 p.m.;

Music, live and in person

These listings for live music are compiled from press releases, restaurants' websites and social media and artists' websites and social media. Call the venue to check on special rules and reservation instructions. Get your gigs listed by sending information to adiaz@hippopress.com.



DERRY STATE OF MIND

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

abnr w/ KVNTIE, 10:30 p.m.

Thirsty Moose: The Mockingbirds, 9:30 p.m.

Salem

Dreo: Amanda Dane, 7 p.m.

Seabrook

Beach Deck: Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.

Chop Shop: Peter Tentindo, 7 p.m.

Red's: Troy & Costley, 8 p.m.

Saturday, May 30

Bedford

Murphy's: Andrea Paquin, 6 p.m.

Bow

Chen Yang Li: The Lone Wolf Project, 7 p.m.

Brookline

Alamo: Matt Borrello, 6 p.m.

Candia

Barnyard: Karen Grenier, 6 p.m.

Concord

Feathered Friend: Futon Lasagna,

The Selectmen, Upright Dogs, 5 p.m.

Hermanos: Matt Poirier, 6:30 p.m.

Contoocook

Contoocook Cider Co.: Ryan Williamson, 1 p.m.

Dover

Auspicious Brew: Gwagon, Citizen Kane w/ Forbidden Fruit, Johnny Vargas, 8 p.m.

Otto Pizza: Jeff Line, 4 p.m.

Epping

Holy Grail: The Monkey Fingers (Beatles cover band), 6 p.m.

Telly's: Justin Bethune, 8 p.m.

Hampton

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Sea Ketch: Jamie Hughes, 1 p.m.; Freddie Catalfo, 6 p.m.

Wally's: Bailout, 9 p.m.

Hudson

Luk's Bar: Johnny Roberts, 6 p.m.

Lynn's 102: Time Bomb, 8:30 p.m.

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: Bite The Bullet, 8:30 p.m.

Laconia

405 Pub & Grill: Chris Torrey, 7 p.m.

Fratello's: Lou Antonucci, 6 p.m.

T-Bones: Chris Torrey, 1 p.m.; Bob Pratte, 5 p.m.

Litchfield

Luk's: Arthur James & Chris O'Neil, 6 p.m.

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Paul Gormley, 6 p.m.

Stumble Inn: Small Town Stranded, 8 p.m.

Manchester

Backyard Brewery: Jack Ancora, 6 p.m.

BAD BRGR: Strike Like Media

presents, 8 p.m.

Derryfield: Mugsy, 6 p.m.; Mostly 90's, 8 p.m.

The Foundry: Emily Rae, 6 p.m.

Fratello's: Tom Boisse, 5:30 p.m.

The Goat: Amped, 9 p.m.

The Hill: Jack Plante, 5:30 p.m.

KC's: Redemption, 6 p.m.

Revo: DJ Quincy, 9 p.m.

Shaskeen: Leon Trout, 8 p.m.

Stark Brewing: Farrington Fioretti, 6:30 p.m.

Strange Brew: Wiki, 9 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Peter Pappas, 5:30 p.m.

Milford

Riley's: Truffle, 8 p.m.

Nashua

Casey Magee's: BlondeDog Band, 8 p.m.

Peddler's Daughter: Best Not Broken, 9:30 p.m.

Union Public House: Johnny Angel, 7:30 p.m.

New Boston

Molly's: Jake Alden, 6 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: Balkun Brothers, 8 p.m.

Pembroke

PCL: El Trio Demers, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth

Black Rock: Matt Jackson, 5 p.m.

Gas Light: Paul Warnick, 11:30 a.m.; Stephen Decuire, 3 p.m.; Max Sullivan, 7 p.m.; Colin Hart, 9:30 p.m.

Press Room: High Range, 5 p.m.

Thirsty Moose: Jump The Line, 9:30 p.m.

Salem

Dreo: Yvonne Aubert, 7 p.m.

Seabrook

Red's: Mass Ave Duo, 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 31

Bedford

Copper Door: Steve Aubert, 11 a.m.

Murphy's: Danny McCarthy, 4 p.m.

Brookline

Alamo: Chris Powers, 5 p.m.

Candia

Barnyard: Tom Boisse, 3 p.m.

Concord

Feathered Friend: Tristan Omand, 3 p.m.

Hermanos: Dan Haedicke, 5:30 p.m.

Contoocook

Contoocook Cider Co.: Dan Fallon, 1 p.m.

Dover

Auspicious Brew: Daytona Grazier, Atlantic Abandon, Liza Lynehan, 3 p.m.

Hampton

935 Surf Shack: Freddie Catalfo, 3

p.m.

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Wally's: line dancing, 6 p.m.

Whym: Max Sullivan, 1 p.m.

Hudson

Lynn's 102: No Decision, 4 p.m.

Laconia

Fratello's: Denise Sanborn, 5:30 p.m.

M/S Mt Washington Cruise: Justin Jordan, 10 a.m.

T-Bones: Mike Forgette, 1 p.m.; Stephen Decuire, 5 p.m.

Lee

Flag Hill: Dan Morgan, 5 p.m.

Londonderry

Stumble Inn: Carl Ayotte Duo, 4 p.m.

Manchester

Derryfield: Chris Torrey, 5 p.m.

The Goat: Chris Toler, 10 a.m.

KC's: Peter Pappas, 4 p.m.

Strange Brew: One Big Soul Jam, 7 p.m.

Milford

Riley's Place: blues jam, 1 p.m.; Charlie Chronopoulos, 5 p.m.

Stonecutters Pub: Sharron & Mike, 4 p.m.

Nashua

Spyglass: Matt Siopes, 2 p.m.

New Boston

Molly's: Andrea Paquin, 1 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: Irish Matinee, 4 p.m.; open mic, 6:30 p.m.

Pembroke

PCL: Brian James Duo, 2 p.m.

Portsmouth

Black Rock: Jamie Hughes, 5 p.m.

Gas Light: Doug Mitchell, 2 p.m.; Dave Ayotte Band, 7 p.m.

Press Room: Duunes w/ New Norde, 7 p.m.

Salem

Copper Door: Nate Comp, 11 a.m.

Monday, June 1

Bedford

Murphy's: Jamie Hughes, 5:30 p.m.

Dover

Cara Irish Pub: open mic, 8 p.m.

Hampton

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Hudson

The Bar: karaoke with Phil, 7 p.m.

Laconia

Fratello's: Richard Cumming, 5:30 p.m.

T-Bones: Jordan Quinn, 6 p.m.

Manchester

BAD BRGR: Johnny Friday hosts acoustic open mic, 7 p.m.

The Goat: 603 line dancing, 7 p.m.



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NITE MUSIC & EVENTS

Nashua

Fody's: karaoke night, 9:30 p.m.
The Spot: Open mic, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth

Gas Light: Tim Theriault, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 2

Bedford

Murphy's: Colin Hart, 5:30 p.m.

Concord

Barley House: Irish session, 6 p.m.
Tandy's: open mic, 8 p.m.

Hampton

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Whym: Bourbon and Beats, 3 p.m.

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: line dancing, 7 p.m.

Laconia

Fratello's: Duke Snyder, 5:30 p.m.
T-Bones: Amanda Dane, 6 p.m.

Manchester

Fratello's: Ralph Allen, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: Cox karaoke, 8 p.m.

KC's Rib Shack: Paul & Nate open mic, 7 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Justin Jordan, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua

The Spot: Karaoke with Jamie V, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth

Gas Light: Clint Lapointe, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 3

Atkinson

Merrill's Tavern: Doug Mitchell, 8 p.m.

Bedford

Bedford Village Inn: Jordan Holmes, 6 p.m.
Murphy's: Matt Jackson, 5:30 p.m.

Concord

Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.
Uno Pizzeria: Chris Lester, 6 p.m.

Derry

Fody's: karaoke, 7 p.m.

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: Justin Jordan, 5:30 p.m.

Laconia

Fratello's: Richard Cumming, 5:30 p.m.
T-Bones: Dave Clark, 6 p.m.

Manchester

Fratello's: Chuck Clough, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: 603 line dancing, 7 p.m.
Stark Brewing: karaoke, 7:30 p.m.
Strange Brew: open mic w/ Jordan Quinn & Scott Armstrong, 8 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Amanda McCarthy, 5:30 p.m.

Milford

Riley's: karaoke, 7 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: community jam, 7 p.m.; karaoke, 8 p.m.

Pembroke

PCL: open mic, 6 p.m.

Concerts

- Vale's End Thursday, May 28, 6 p.m., The Range in Mason
- The 502s Thursday, May 28, 7 p.m., Casino Ballroom in Hampton
- Changes in Latitudes (Jimmy Buffett tribute) Thursday, May 28, 8 p.m., LaBelle Derry
- William Prince Friday, May 29, 7 p.m., Word Barn in Exeter
- Traverse Friday, May 29, 7 p.m., Blasty Bough in Epsom
- The Silver Stars Friday, May 29, 7 p.m., and Saturday, May 30, noon, Rex in Manchester
- Luke Bryan Friday, May 29, and Saturday, May 30, 7:30 p.m., BankNH Pavilion in Gilford
- The Beat Goes On (Cher tribute) Friday, May 29, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey in Plymouth
- Peter Noone Friday, May 29, 7:30 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts
- David Lee Roth Friday, May 29, 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom in Hampton
- Baby Wah Wah/doug, Friday, May 29, 8 p.m., BNH Stage in Concord
- David Clark's All About Joel

- (Billy Joel tribute) Friday, May 29, 8 p.m., Tupelo in Derry
- J Wail's Live Band Friday, May 29, 8 p.m., Stone Church in Newmarket
- Sue Howard Saturday, May 30, 6 p.m., Hermit Woods in Meredith
- Dan Blakeslee Saturday, May 30, 7 p.m., Listening Room in Wilton
- Shooting Star (Bad Company tribute) Saturday, May 30, 7:30 p.m., Rex in Manchester
- The Speed of Sound Saturday, May 30, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey in Plymouth
- Molly Hatchet Saturday, May 30, 8 p.m., Tupelo in Derry
- Opiate (Tool tribute)/Alice (Alice in Chains tribute) Saturday, May 30, 8 p.m., The Strand in Dover
- Perimeter Jazz Ensemble Sunday, May 31, noon, Rex in Manchester
- Tommy Feeley Sunday, May 31, 1:30 p.m., Averill House in Brookline
- Chatham Rabbits Sunday, May 31, 7 p.m., Word Barn in Exeter
- Sweet Motha Child Sunday, May 31, 7 p.m., Tupelo in Derry
- The Beach Boys Wednesday, June

- 3, 7:30 p.m., Casino Ballroom in Hampton
- Katie Dobbins Wednesday, June 3, 7:30 p.m., Listening Room in Wilton
- Alligator Wine (Grateful Dead tribute) Thursday, June 4, 6 p.m., The Range in Mason
- Fun City Fan Club/Jerritones/Fling Thursday, June 4, 7 p.m., Strand in Dover
- Christine Fawson Quartet Thursday, June 4, 7 p.m., Hermit Woods in Meredith
- One Night in Memphis (Sun Records tribute) Thursday, June 4, 7:30 p.m., Palace in Manchester
- The Australian Bee Gees Show Thursday, June 4, 8 p.m., Tupelo in Derry
- Mystic Highway (Creedence Clearwater Revival tribute) Thursday, June 4, 8 p.m., LaBelle Derry
- John Pousette-Dart Duo Friday, June 5, 7:30 p.m., Rex in Manchester
- Dylan Scott Friday, June 5, 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom in Hampton
- Bad Animals (Heart tribute) Friday, June 5, 8 p.m., Tupelo in Derry

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6:30-8:30PM



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Like a snake in the grass

Across

- 1. Panic! At The Disco got killed in Hollywood: 'Dying ___' (2,2)
- 5. AC/DC told us to hurry and 'Shake ___' (1,3)
- 9. '93 Radiohead album '___ Honey'
- 14. Drifters 'Up On The ___'
- 15. What Anne-Marie says w/ 'Adios'
- 16. John Legend "___ me loves all of you" (3,2)
- 17. Singer Greg of the Wipers
- 18. Paradise Lost album not called "Guest"
- 19. She did 'Get Up' with Chamillionaire

- 20. Bee Gees '___ A Broken Heart' (3,3,3,4)
- 23. ABBA 'You Owe Me ___'
- 24. ELO keyman Richard
- 25. Elvis Costello 'My Aim Is True' song about a gift giver? (7,3)
- 30. '70 Badfinger album (2,4)
- 31. Rastafarian name of God Bob Marley was 'Forever Loving'
- 32. End piece
- 36. Van Morrison 'One ___ Rover'
- 37. Pantera bassist Brown
- 38. Battle Of The Bands jury is also called this

- 39. Midleg surgery Joe Perry had in '08
- 40. 'Funky Cold Medina' Tone
- 41. Seven member band
- 42. Eddie Money "If I could find some ___, if I could walk on water" (3,2,5)
- 44. Taylor Deupree album that might come about?
- 47. Martina McBride asks 'How ___ of a drive is it?'
- 48. Elvis' first single (5,3,5)
- 54. Doobie Brothers classic '___ Grove'
- 55. Film genre where dark music may play
- 56. Harp's cousin for Orpheus
- 58. Shannon Hoon band Blind ___
- 59. 'London Town' UK rapper
- 60. Sleep Token's going home: 'Take Me Back To ___'
- 61. ELO 'Don't ___ Me Down'
- 62. Don Henley "In ___ York minute" (1,3)
- 63. Lonely Rush may '___ Some Love

- an ark driver, perhaps
- 3. Rolling Stones "Tongue & lips", e.g.
- 4. Charlie Daniels 'What This World Needs Is) ___ More Rednecks' (1,3)
- 5. Steve Winwood 'While You See ___' (1,6)
- 6. Richie that 'Can't Slow Down'
- 7. Sarah McLachlan "It's ___, we all falter, does it matter?"
- 8. I ___ Extremes (2,2)
- 9. Buckner & Garcia had 'Fever' for this ghost-eating video game star (hyph)
- 10. Spacehog saw a UFO with '95 album 'Resident ___'
- 11. 'Live On Beale Street' Bobby "Blue" ___
- 12. Buddy Moss 'Oh ___ Mama'
- 13. Porcupine Tree 'Fear ___ Blank Planet' (2,1)

- metal band ever
- 41. Songbird
- 42. RZA of ___ Clan (hyph)
- 43. Godsmack 'Straight Out ___' (2,4)
- 44. '99 Limp Bizkit 'Nookie' album 'Significant ___'
- 45. 'Under The Bridge' Red Hot ___ Peppers
- 46. Piece where entering voices do initial theme
- 49. 60s 'Lonely Boy' Paul
- 50. Advance, as studio costs
- 51. Deicide bassist/vocalist Benton
- 52. Star's alter ego that is also Jekyll's counterpart
- 53. Beach Boys sang of 'A Day In The Life Of' one
- 54. Color Me Badd's acronymic album
- 57. ELO 'From The ___ Of The World'

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16					
17					18					19					
	20			21						22					
				23						24					
	25	26	27					28	29						
30								31				32	33	34	35
36								37				38			
39								40				41			
				42						43					
	44	45	46							47					
	48							49	50				51	52	53
54								55					56		57
58								59					60		
61								62					63		

Down

- 1. Agency that seized Willie Nelson s assets
- 2. Sing/songer Gundersen named after

R&R answer from pg 35 of 5/21

M	I	T	C	H		B	R	A	D		B	E	A	D		
C	H	E	R	I		R	A	M	I		E	L	L	A		
S	A	R	A	H		E	N	I	D		T	V	O	N		
		M	Y	I		M	A	G	I		N	A	T	I	O	N
						H	Y	D	E		T	H	E	S	K	Y
A	N	D	D	I	E					B	I	V				
S	E	E	A			R	A	C	E		I	M	N	O	T	
H	E	A	R	T	S	B	E	A	T		A	S	O	N	E	
A	L	L	T	O		B	E	T	H		M	A	L	L		
						D	I	A			O	F	R	H	Y	E
M	A	M	A	I	M			C	A	S	E					
A	M	U	S	E	D			T	O	D	E	A	T	H		
M	I	S	S			O	H	M	E			R	O	U	N	D
A	L	I	E			W	A	I	L			E	R	R	O	R
S	E	C	T			N	O	N	E			D	I	T	T	Y

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Todd's books are available on Amazon.

NITE SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. See last week's puzzle answers on pg 29.

King Classic Sudoku Puzzle A

7		9	1			3	2	
2						7	5	6
3	5			7	2			
		2	7		9	4	6	
5			6			2		
		4	5		3	1	7	
		5	9				4	
4	2							7
	9			5	4	6	1	3

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Difficulty: ★

King Classic Sudoku Puzzle B

	6				9	4		7
	2	4			8	9	6	
8	9						2	1
		9	2	8			7	
				6	5	2		
	5	2	7			8	9	6
3	7		1	9				
		6						
	4		6		7	3	1	9

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Difficulty: ★★

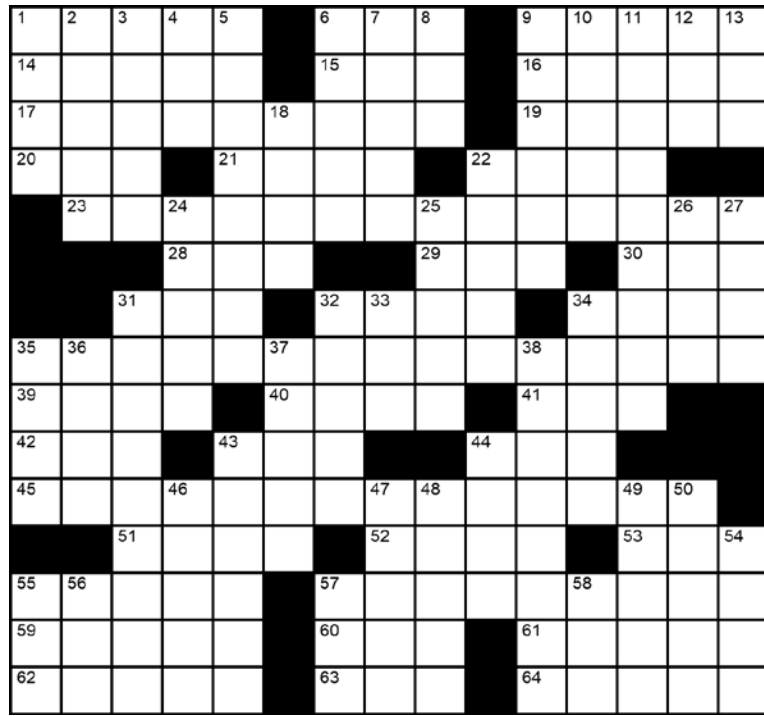
King Classic Sudoku Puzzle C

	9		1		6		5	3
2			5				1	8
							4	
	5		4	6			2	1
		2	9		8			6
	2			7	5			
		7	3					9
3				4		2		

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Difficulty: ★★★

"My Ames Is True"—where it's at.



Across

- 1. 1996 gymnastics star Kerri
- 6. Opposite of fore, at sea
- 9. Senate hearing channel
- 14. "Rice-___, the San Francisco treat"
- 15. Short story?
- 16. Airy courtyards
- 17. Broadcast signal carrier
- 19. Very resonant
- 20. Aussie verb ender
- 21. Habit that's best broken
- 22. Occupy a tent
- 23. Name of multiple British earls (one of which changed his name slightly and wrote the first Gothic novel)
- 28. Question's opposite (abbr.)
- 29. "___ gratia artis" (MGM motto)
- 30. Sat ___ (GPS system)
- 31. Part of G&T
- 32. Threesome
- 34. Game before a final
- 35. Soundproofing square
- 39. Shouts of inspiration
- 40. Deli loaves
- 41. Grind
- 42. Oscar-winning Telugu-language film
- 43. 2006 World Series winners, on scoreboards

- 44. "Mad Men" protagonist Draper
- 45. Electronic identifier embedded in sound files to protect copyright
- 51. ___ wat (national dish of Ethiopia)
- 52. Fashion designer Cassini
- 53. Shortest English sentence with a subject and verb
- 55. Between 0 and 90 degrees
- 57. Series of Nintendo microgames featuring a squiggly-mustached villain
- 59. Breads for gyros

- 60. That thing, in Spanish
 - 61. Consumed
 - 62. Meeting on the sly
 - 63. Pig pen
 - 64. Actresses Meg and Jeri
- Down**
- 1. Rajasthan wrap
 - 2. Refuse
 - 3. Event involving big bucks?
 - 4. Corn opener?
 - 5. Actor Ribisi of "Avatar: Fire and Ash"
 - 6. Ancient counters
 - 7. "Hawaii ___" (CBS police drama)
 - 8. Boot end
 - 9. Conspiratorial groups
 - 10. Put your foot down
 - 11. Person arguing in favor
 - 12. Goal
 - 13. No vote
 - 18. They may be about you
 - 22. Christmas song
 - 24. Fridge invasions
 - 25. Banshee's sounds
 - 26. Gold fabric
 - 27. Immorality
 - 31. Sentry's job
 - 32. Choreographer Tharp
 - 33. "Call Me Maybe" singer Carly ___ Jepsen
 - 34. Hot spot?
 - 35. Singer Bareilles
 - 36. "No ___ Traffic" (street sign)
 - 37. "In a day ___" (the really high lyric of "Take On Me")
 - 38. End-of-year school event attendee
 - 43. Most peeved

Jonesin' answer from pg 36 of 5/21



WORD★Roundup™

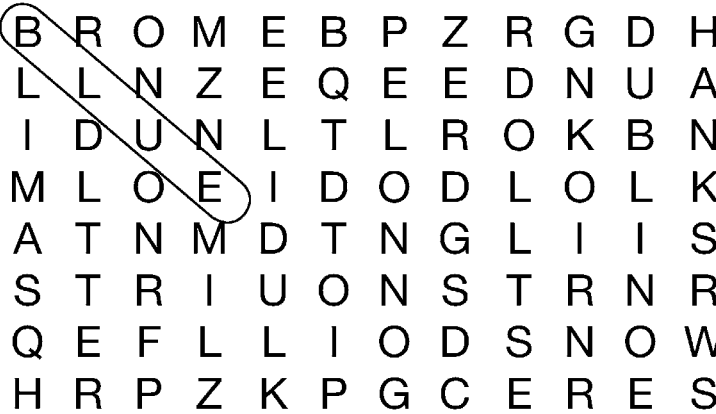
by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- ___ crab □□□□□
- Six country capitals □□□□□
- Two dwarf planets □□
- Tom of "Toy Story" □
- Person, place or thing □

Last Week's Answers: CHEESE FLEECE FREEZE SPEECH BEEF FEED WEEK BEEN FEET / WALRUS WHALE OTTER SEAL / HYPHEN COMMA / JOHN ADAMS / BEAN

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- 44. Three, in Trier
- 46. Minuscule amounts
- 47. Pop-up restaurant offering?
- 48. "The Jetsons" son
- 49. Cattle rustler's tool
- 50. ___ Blixen (Isak Dinesen's real name)
- 54. Store department that sells ties
- 55. Fitting
- 56. Fig. with a diameter
- 57. "Fantastic Mr. Fox" director Anderson
- 58. Method

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EASY

3-		6x	7+
2÷			
10+		3-	2÷
2			

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CHALLENGING

5-		2-	2÷	75x	3
2	2÷				
24x		12+	30x		
	3÷			2÷	
13+		11+			2-
		5-		4	

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RULES

- Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
- The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
- Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

12x	3	2÷	4
1	3	2	4
7+	3	4+	3+
3	4	1	2
4	2	3	1
1-	2	12x	3
2	1	4	3

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SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *A Wizard's Guide to Defensive Baking*, by T. Kingfisher, born May 28, 1977.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *A knighthood? That also sounded like a lot of work. I'd have to get armor or something. I just wanted to go home to the bakery and make scones. Or muffins. Or cinnamon rolls. Do the work that inspires you.*

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *There's a trick to keeping the ovens heated evenly, and it's the first thing you learn. You don't want unevenly heated lasagna.*

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *Between the exploding bird and the burning cinnamon rolls, I was coming to the conclusion that more magic was not necessarily the solution. More is often not better.*

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *If a herd of ravenous centaurs descended on the city and went galloping through the streets, devouring small children and cats, Aunt Tabitha would calmly go about setting up barricades and manning crossbows as if she did it twice a week. Maybe she does.*

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *Apparently a girl walking through the Elbow was unusual, but a girl with a madwoman riding a dead horse was perfectly acceptable. Read the room.*

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *I wish Aunt Tabitha were here. I wish Uncle Alfred were here. I even sort of wish Bob the sourdough starter was here. I don't think anybody'd mess with Bob. Not twice, anyway. Bob is good company.*

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *Being a wizard is almost all like that — you don't know what you can do until you actually do it, and then sometimes you aren't sure what you just did. And so then you do the next thing.*

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *The crawfish are the worst. You can get the frogs with a broom, but you have to call a*

priest in for a zombie crawfish. Crawfish prevention alert.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *Inquisitor Oberon sniffed, exactly like Miss McGrammar does when we run out of lemon scones. Check your scone inventory.*

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *I have never climbed up a three-story anything in my life. It's not like it comes up when you're a baker. You never have to climb a ladder and swan-dive into a vat of croissant dough or anything. But that might be fun.*

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *And if she was that important, why was she in our bakery, and why was she wearing mismatched socks? Because she has no time for matching.*

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *If I was going to get thrown in the dungeon, at least I was going to leave a trail of quality pastries behind me. Your work will be appreciated. 🍩*

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES

1 division of a company (6)

2 cooked too long (6)

3 domestic fowl (7)

4 written payment order (5)

5 beau (5)

6 earned, without deductions (7)

7 spoke incoherently (9)

SOLUTIONS

AN

RN

GRO

BU

SS

ED

FL

CK

CK

ER

BR

CHI

AME

SPU

CHE

CH

TT

ED

EN

ED

Last Week's Answers: 1. JACKPOT 2. SHIPS 3. OVERHEARD 4. JOHN 5. RECOVERED 6. SPEED 7. EVERYWHERE

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Sudoku Answers from pg 35 of 5/21

Puzzle A

4	2	3	8	7	5	1	6	9
9	6	1	2	3	4	8	5	7
7	8	5	9	6	1	2	3	4
1	7	6	3	9	2	5	4	8
8	3	2	5	4	6	7	9	1
5	4	9	7	1	8	3	2	6
6	1	7	4	2	3	9	8	5
3	5	4	1	8	9	6	7	2
2	9	8	6	5	7	4	1	3

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Difficulty: ★

5/4



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JUN 05



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THE HEART TRIBUTE

JUN 06



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ALLMAN BROTHERS TRIBUTE

JUN 12



TUSK
FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

Art Exhibition(ism)(ish)

Visitors at the Fondation Beyeler, an art museum in Switzerland, recently had the option to peruse the art while wearing only bathing suits, Yahoo! News reported on May 1. "It's a rather unusual experience," said one visitor in a colorful sequined bikini, noting that "You're always looking" to see if other visitors are wearing swimwear. Visitors could change into their bathing suits in changing rooms at the museum, or they could show up in their one-piece, bikini or trunks and have the entry fee waived. Some roamed around barefoot, while others donned swimming caps. A few could be found sunbathing in the museum's garden. Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan, who headed up the project, was inspired by artist Paul Cezanne's paintings of people bathing. "You can feel from Cezanne paintings that he wants to be inspired by nature and expose that organic experience of the nature, of the people," Ana Lopes, a 34-year-old architect, said. "Dressing in swimwear is close to that, because you are almost naked." *Yahoo! News, May 1*

Class of 2026

Jericho High School in Nassau County, Long Island, will have not one, not two, but 21 valedictorians to represent the 300 seniors graduating in June, UPI reported on May 18. The school determines valedictorians based on unweighted letter grades. "It shows a lot of success," co-principal Brian Cummings said. "Historically, this is the way we've done it with letter grades. The difference between a 99.8 and a 99.83 is insignificant, so letter grades really capture what we represent." With such a large number of valedictorians, not all of them will be able to give a commencement speech, so school officials have had to get creative. "We're going to put them at the front of the procession," Cummings said. "We're [also] creating a video that we're going to share with the community about their accomplishments." *UPI, May 18*

Wrong Order

A man who purchased a bag of greens from a Woolworths in Western Australia found more green than expected inside, reported 102.5 ABC Perth on May 17. The Australian man, unnamed in the report, opened the lettuce and discovered a small frog among the leaves. "He's the most casual Australian ever, and he's like, 'Bro, I've got a lettuce, like a frog in my lettuce,'" his roommate Laura Jones, a native New Zealander, said. Jones shared a video on TikTok, where millions of viewers caught a glimpse of the amphibious stowaway. "It's quite a decent-sized frog for a big adventure," Billie Le Pine, another roommate, said. "The bag of lettuce does have holes in it to keep the produce fresh, so he had a snack and some air on his way over." The trio named the frog Greg and released him at a nearby dam. Woolworths said the incident is under investigation and called it "an isolated event with no other reported cases." "I'm just glad Greg is back in

his natural habitat," Le Pine said. *ABC, May 17*

Owl Be Seeing You

An owl in Utah is soaring to new heights after undergoing surgery to repair its concrete-damaged feathers, UPI reported on May 19. The owl was found inside a concrete mixer in St. George, Utah, back in November, and taken to a rehabilitation center at the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab. Workers gave the owl a series of 20-minute baths to remove the concrete, which covered 25% of its body. Despite the team's care, the owl's feathers were damaged in a way that would have kept it from flying silently, a survival necessity for great horned owls. "That led the Wild Friends team to take a training course about a procedure they had never done before: imping, which requires using donor feathers and adhesive to replace the raptor feathers," the sanctuary said in a news release. "A wildlife rescue in Northern Utah gave Wild Friends feathers from a great horned owl of similar size who had passed away." Four staff members worked for 90 minutes to reconstruct the feathers, replacing 10 primary feathers and one secondary feather on the bird's right wing. "The first few feathers were extremely nerve-wracking, but as we got into the groove, the imping became more comfortable, and everything went smoothly," supervisor Bart Richwalski said. After the owl came out of anesthesia, Richwalski used a decibel reader to measure the sound of the owl's flight. With all looking good, staff released the owl and it flew away on its own. "I don't know that my heart was beating until I saw him leave. I was beside myself, knowing that after all this time, he was healthy and back in the wild," Richwalski said. "It was such a good feeling." *UPI, May 19*

Round and Round They Go

An Atlanta neighborhood is dealing with an unusual kind of pest: empty Waymo vehicles — autonomous, driverless cars owned by Alphabet Inc. — circling cul-de-sacs, ABC News reported on May 15. "I think yesterday morning, we had 50 cars that came through between 6 and 7," one resident said. "It's almost every little cul-de-sac in our area, so I think it's a problem," said another. The glut of robotaxis worries residents. "We're families, we have small animals and pets, got kids getting on the bus in the morning and it just doesn't feel safe to have that traffic," one resident said. One neighbor even tried putting up their own sign to deter the vehicles, but it caused a traffic jam of Waymos turning around to get out. Residents have attempted to reach out to local and state officials, as well as to Waymo itself. In a statement, Waymo said that it is "committed to being good neighbors" and "we take community feedback seriously and have already worked with our fleet partner to address this routing behavior." *ABC News, May 15*

Sources according to uexpress.com. From the editors at Andrews McMeel Syndication. See uexpress.com/contact

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