

the Hippo

JUNE 11 - 17, 2026

MAKE COOL STUFF
WITH COOL STUFF P. 23

BEER & PIZZA
PICNIC P. 24

LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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Kid's Guide to Summer 2026

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ON THE COVER

8 Your kids are done with school (or soon will be) and are ready to have some summer fun. Find fairs, festivals, kid-friendly theatrical performances, family music concerts and more in our annual kids' guide to summer. Know of a summer event not listed here? Let us know at adiaz@hippopress.com.

ALSO ON THE COVER Michael Witthaus talks to comedian Shane Torres ahead of his Saturday show at Queen City Center (see page 31). Another show to look for this weekend: comedian Bo Johnson at the Moka Pot on Friday, June 12. Find even more in the Comedy This Week listings, also on page 31. John Fladd finds out about Makelt Labs' annual Makelt Fest in Nashua (see page 23). And he talks to the owners of Bow Beer Garden about their outdoor beer and pizza concept (page 24).

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NEWS & NOTES

Veggies for Granite Staters

Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire (NOFA-NH) is helping local residents with limited incomes to participate in Community Supported Agriculture at local farms, according to a press release. NOFA-NH raises half the money to purchase CSA shares, the farms donate a quarter of the cost and the participants pay the other quarter, the release said. "In partnership with 25 New Hampshire farms, this year's program is connecting over 400 of Granite Staters with 115 farm shares, providing community members in need with fresh, local food access at discounted prices across the state. ... Shares span 7 - 26+ weeks during the growing season. Over half of the recipients served are children, families, and seniors," the release said.

"We believe that everyone should have access to local, organic, ecologically grown, nutrient-dense foods, regardless of income," said Executive Director Julie Davenson in the press release. "NOFA-NH's

Farm Share Program illustrates the strength and impact of New Hampshire's organic farming community. Through intentional collaboration and support, individuals, farms, businesses, foundations, and non-profits are working together to improve food access for our neighbors in need across the Granite State."

See nofanh.org/donate for more information about the program, to donate and for a list of participating farms and information about their CSA programs.

Plant swap

In addition to early summer being plant sale season for area garden clubs and other local organizations, now is also Plant Swap season. The Wilton Public & Gregg Free Library, 7 Forest Road in Wilton, for example, is currently running a plant swap, according to a newsletter sent June 2. Bring healthy plants or seeds in a container you don't need back and label it with the kind of plant, care instructions and tips, the newsletter said. The library is open Tuesday through Thursday,

9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday, 1:30 to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the newsletter said. Have any upcoming plant sales or upcoming or on-going plant swaps? Let us know at adiaz@hippypress.com.

Longtime friends

Celebrate the "250 Years of France-U.S. Friendship" with summer mini classes from the Franco American Centre New Hampshire, according to a recent newsletter. The organization is offering two summer 2026 mini classes, one of which is focused on "cultural workshop exploring the people, ideas, traditions, and artistic achievements that have shaped France," according to facnh.com/introclasses-workshops. That class runs five Tuesdays in July and August from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The Franco American Centre is also offering a mini class on "Verbs: The Foundation of French Grammar" which will run five Thursdays in July and August from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., according to the website, where you can register for either class. 🇫🇷

CONCORD

"Song of Democracy" will be performed along with "other stirring music that evokes a vast range of the American experience" by the New Hampshire Master Chorale on Saturday, June 20, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in **Concord** and on Sunday, June 21, at 4 p.m. at the Plymouth Congregational Church, according to a press release. For tickets, see events.ticketleap.com/tickets/nhmc-4/song-of-democracy.

"Art in Bloom Celebration" will take place Friday, June 12, through Sunday, June 14, at the Center for the Arts Members Gallery, 428 Main St. in **New London**. Local garden clubs and florists will create floral interpretations inspired by selected works from "Emergence," a spring juried members exhibition at the gallery, according to a press release. See cfanh.org.

MANCHESTER

The Hollis Social Library will host "Women of '76 with Rita Parisi" on Saturday, June 13, at 7 p.m. in the Lawrence Barn in **Hollis**. Actress and playwright Parisi will offer a solo performance of historical women from the Revolutionary period, according to hollislibrary.org, where you can register to attend.

Portsmouth

The Seacoast LitFest runs Thursday, June 11, through Sunday, June 14, at the Music Hall in **Portsmouth**, according to a press release. Events include multiple author talks including with Jenna Bush Hager (June 11), Temple Grandin (June 12) and Jill Lepore (June 14); a book fair and kid book giveaway on June 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; panels; book signings and more, the release said. See themusic-hall.org for a complete schedule and to purchase tickets to some of the events.

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QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

The high cost of child care

A June 2 report by the New Hampshire Financial Policy Institute confirmed what parents have been very well aware of already: child care is expensive. “The average price of child care in New Hampshire in 2025 remains high for Granite State families,” the report stated. “The average price of care for an infant and toddler in center-based care was \$16,462 and \$15,262, respectively, in 2025. For home-based care, the 2025 average price was \$12,017 for an infant and \$11,732 for a toddler.” For a married couple with two children under 5, the report read, child care costs could easily amount to 25 percent of household income. For a single parent, it might eat up 61 percent of income.

QOL score: -1

Comment: *The NHFPI report stated that the cost of child care in the state has grown quickly. “From 2017 to 2025, the average enrollment price of center-based care and home-based care increased 32% and 30%, respectively,” it read. “The largest increase in tuition prices during this period was 33% for toddlers and 4-year-olds in center-based care, as well as for 4-year-olds in home-based care. These increases in tuition prices outpaced inflation during the same period.” Visit nhfpi.org/blog.*

New art in Nashua

For Nashua, one of the benefits of hosting the Nashua International Sculpture Symposium each spring is receiving new public sculptures each year. “This is the 19th year of our symposium,” said Sculpture Symposium president Gail Moriarty in a telephone interview with The Hippo. “There are four new sculptures this year, for a total of 60.”



Clockwise from top left: “Keep Rocking” by Anna Multone at Atherton Avenue Park, “The Gate of Janus” by Margot Lasalle at Yudicky Ball Field, “Carefully Contained” by Pauline Berger on the Nashua Rail Trail on Will Street, “Good Slug” by Sean Williams, on the June Caron Playground on Temple St.

“From 2024 to 2025, the statewide median price increased by 3.9 percent, the smallest annual gain since 2016,” the report read. (2) Drug-related deaths have declined. By 33.4 percent over the past 10 years, and 10.8 percent between 2024 and 2025. (3) Projected first-year enrollment at UNH has increased. By just over 4 percent this year. (4) Child poverty was cut in half during Covid. “While child poverty has since rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, prior declines underscore the importance of governmental assistance during the pandemic,” the report read. And finally, (5), our roads and bridges have improved. “In 2025, 53% of State-owned [roads] rated as Good and only about 1% of roads were rated as Very Poor,” the report stated.

QOL score: +1

Comment: *Visit nashuasculpturesymposium.org for a map to all the sculptures as well as a photo of each sculpture and a bit about the artist and the work.*

NH is OK

In honor of 603 Day, the New Hampshire Financial Policy Institute released a report on June 2 listing five reasons to be optimistic about the state’s future. (1) Housing price increases are slowing. A little. In some plac-

es. “From 2024 to 2025, the statewide median price increased by 3.9 percent, the smallest annual gain since 2016,” the report read. (2) Drug-related deaths have declined. By 33.4 percent over the past 10 years, and 10.8 percent between 2024 and 2025. (3) Projected first-year enrollment at UNH has increased. By just over 4 percent this year. (4) Child poverty was cut in half during Covid. “While child poverty has since rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, prior declines underscore the importance of governmental assistance during the pandemic,” the report read. And finally, (5), our roads and bridges have improved. “In 2025, 53% of State-owned [roads] rated as Good and only about 1% of roads were rated as Very Poor,” the report stated.

QOL score: +1

Comment: *Visit nhfpi.org/blog for more context and nuance.*

QOL score last week: 47

Net change: +1

QOL this week: 48

What’s affecting your Quality of Life here in New Hampshire?

Let us know at news@hippypress.com.

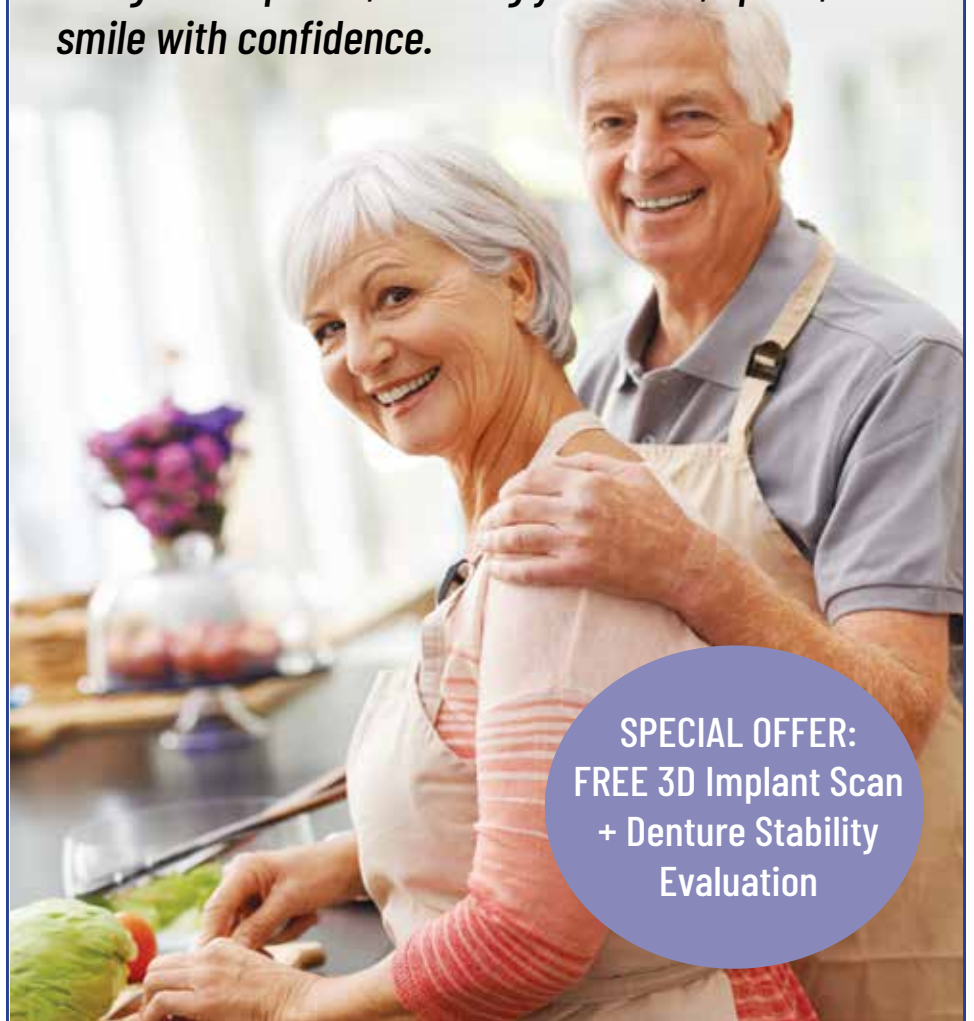
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SPORTS DAVE LONG'S LONGSHOTS

The World Cup begins



The Big Story – World Cup: The four-year wait is over for soccer fans. The first game is today (Thursday) between Mexico and South Africa in Mexico City. Then comes the first game in the U.S. when Scotland

faces Haiti in Foxboro Saturday.

There are changes underway, as the tournament has controversially expanded from 36 countries to 48. That was done, of course, for, what else?, the extra dough to be raked in from the extra games. That's before we even talk about the outrageous expense being charged for tickets, parking, hotels, merch and train rides to Foxboro, etc.

But since no one is being forced to buy any of those things, and I'll only be watching on free TV, what's to complain about?

So enjoy the best way you can.

Sports 101 – Name the first African American players to be MVP in the AL and the NL.

News Item – Red Sox Week: Things got worse, not better. No stat points more to the importance of power when you play at Fenway than their astoundingly being only 10-21 at home so far!

It's been 43 days since Red Sox ace **Garett Crochet** first went on the 15-day IL with simple shoulder irritation. With him being moved to the 60-day IL last week it probably wasn't as simple as first thought.

The ERA was 6.34 when **Brayan Bel-lo** got sent to AAA last week. And after last week's debacle vs. Baltimore, the first-inning ERA alone was an incredible 16.88.

News Item – NBA Finals: Game 3 goes off after I file this. But having won 13 straight playoff games to take a 2-0 Finals lead over San Antonio, the New York Knickerbockers are on one of the greatest playoff runs in NBA history.

Karl-Anthony Towns and **Mike Brown** are changing their under-achieving reps around the NBA.

How dumb does Dallas look after letting **Jalen Brunson** walk for less money than they handed over to keep the always hurt **Kyrie Irving** instead?

News Item – World Cup Thoughts:

I'm taking the over on the Vegas line whatever it is, probably around 96.7% of the games will end in a 1-1 tie before shootouts are needed to break ties.

The only thing I don't like is how the Final 4 will be played out in three separate sites rather than those three games played in the same city to close it out. But the needed recovery time between the Round of 4 and the Final negates the one local idea. So never mind.

Since I probably know five players in the whole thing, no phony predictions from me. Just hoping USA makes it out of opening-round play.

The Numbers:

0.74 – after 10 starts and 61.0 innings the earned run average of 6-2 Dodgers hurler/DH **Shohei Ohtani**.

1.75 – the ERA of the guy the Red Sox got for **Raffy Devers** and dumped this spring for .196-hitting **Caleb Durbin** as the head-ed-for-the-All-Star-game **Kyle Harrison** has gone 7-1 for Milwaukee.

844 – longest in the majors consecutive games played by Atlanta first baseman **Matt Olson**, which came ironically on MLB's annual June 2 "Lou Gehrig Day" when his 17th homer knocked in the winning runs in a 4-3 game.

... Of the Week Awards

Thumbs Up – The BBC: For announcing they will not air the World Cup's Americanization of their event in the form of a half-time musical show ala the Super Bowl's idiotic half-time show for the first time. The British broadcaster will instead air their usual half-time analysis show.

Bravo to the Brits.

Sports 101 Answer: Jackie Robinson was MVP in the NL in 1949, just two years after breaking the color barrier. Yankees (and eventual Red Sox) catcher **Elston Howard** was named American League MVP in 1963.

Final Thought – A.J. Brown Deal Called "Overpay" by Critics: The Patriots finally made the deal with Philly for wideout **A.J. Brown**. And while it gave them their first dynamic downfield threat since **Gronk** left the building, it was immediately labeled an "overpay" by **Ben Volin** of the Boston Globe and the always see the negative afternoon rocket scientists on the Sports Hub.

I said last week I'd give a second pick for him, so giving up a 2028 first-round pick and a fifth in 2027 is an overpay for that. But I look at the deal like this: What would be a bigger catastrophe for the Pats?

Not getting a 1A deep threat to complement the most accurate down field thrower I've seen since **Roman Gabriel** in the '60s, but with the ego satisfaction of not having overpaid for him, or being forced to overpay a little (but delayed to 2028) by making sure their **biggest** need (by far) was filled to prevent someone else from swooping in with a better offer to steal him?

No doubt it would be the first option. I'll be happy to take Brown and live with the overpay.

Email Dave Long at dlong@hippypress.com. 🐾

THIS WEEK

BIG EVENTS JUNE 11 AND BEYOND

Friday, June 12

It's the final weekend for *Love ...Or Best Offer*, "a lighthearted yet heartfelt look at online dating in the 'over 50' generation, blending humor with relatable heartbreak," presented by Bedford Off Broadway at the Bedford Town Hall, corner of 70 Bedford Center Road and Meetinghouse Road, today through Sunday, June 14. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday, according to



a press release. Tickets are available at the door for \$15 (\$12 for students and seniors) and at events.com.

according to a post on the location's Facebook page. Described as a free, family-friendly event, the celebration will feature food, games and crafts, a bounce house, swimming and more, the post said.

Saturday, June 13

It's **Open Farm Day** at Sanborn Mills Farm, 7097 Sanborn Road in Loudon, today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. — a "free, family-friendly event featuring demonstrations, farm tours, hands-on activities, and opportunities to learn about agriculture, conservation, education, and community resources," according to a newsletter from Canterbury Shaker Village newsletter, which is participating in the event. A farm-to-table lunch will be available to purchase, according to sanbornmills.org.

Saturday, June 13

Catch some art show openings in the Queen City tonight. **"The Human Canvas,"** an exhibit

of "works of all mediums that explore the intimate and historic artform of tattooing" will run through Monday, Aug. 3, at Mosaic Art Collective, 410 Chestnut St. in Manchester, with an opening reception tonight from 5 to 7 p.m., according to mosaicartcollective.com. **"The New Naturalists,"** an exhibit of artwork by Peter Sandback, Ashley Normal and Forrest Knight, will be on display at the See Saw Gallery, 408 Chestnut St. in Manchester, Saturday, June 13, through Sunday, June 28, with an opening reception tonight from 5 to 8 p.m., according to seesaw.art.

is slated to start today and run through Saturday, June 20, to raise money for Dartmouth Health Children's, according to a Barley House newsletter. See thebarleyhouse.com and the restaurant's Facebook page for updates.



Friday, June 12

Catch **Jonee Earthquake Band** as well as **Worm, Ragz To Stitches** and **Ruffian Dick** at The Spot at 217 Main St. in Nashua starting at 8 p.m. tonight, according to The Spot's Facebook page. Find more music at local venues in the Music This Week, starting on page 32.

Eric Clapton and George Harrison, takes the stage tonight at the Nashua Center for the Arts, 201 Main St. in Nashua, at 8 p.m. See nashuacenterforthearts.com for tickets. Find more ticketed shows in Concert listings on page 34.

Saturday, June 13

The YMCA of Downtown Manchester, 30 Mechanic St., will hold its annual **Rock the Block** celebration today from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.,

Friday, June 12

Something Wonderful Tonight, a Boston-based tribute band to


Monday, June 15

Burgerfest 2026 at the Barley House, 132 N. Main St. in Concord,


Save the Date! Saturday, Aug. 8

The Concord-based Dark Side Customs will present **The Granite State Gitdown** car, truck and motorcycle show on Saturday, Aug. 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. outside the Everett Arena in Concord. The day will feature food trucks and vendors and "any car or motorcycle is welcome," according to an email from the organizer. See the Dark Side Customs Facebook page for details.

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Kid's Guide to Summer 2026

A SEASON OF FESTIVALS, THEATER, CONCERTS, MOVIES AND MORE FAMILY FUN

Compiled by Amy Diaz
adiaz@hippopress.com

School's Out! For! Summer! School's! Out!
For— wait, for how long?

In this year's kid's guide to summer we offer a rundown of events and attractions for kids and families in the forthcoming school-free weeks. Got a kid-friendly event not mentioned here? Let us know at adiaz@hippopress.com.

EVENTS

- **The Make It Fest!**, a “gathering of makers, doers, DIYers, crafters, tinkers, self-proclaimed engineers and aspiring mad-scientists!” according to makeitfest.com, will take place Saturday, June 13, from noon to 4 p.m. at Make It Labs, 25 Crown St. in Nashua. The event will feature demonstrations, exhibits, workshops, a sumo robot competition, vendor sales and more, according to the website, where you can register to attend.

- **Applecrest Farm Orchards**, 133 Exeter Road in Hampton Falls, has a series of festivals throughout the summer and into the fall on select weekends, starting with a **Strawberry Festival** on Saturdays, June 13 and June 20, and Sundays, June 14 and June 21, according to applecrest.com. Other festivals include a **Blueberry Celebration** July 12, a **Blueberry Festival** July 25-26, **Blueberry & Peach Celebration** Aug. 2, **Peach Festival** Aug. 15-16, **Fall Harvest Kick-Off** Aug. 29-30 and **Labor Day weekend** Sept. 5-7.

- The **Seacoast LitFest** will take place Thursday, June 11, through Sunday, June 14, at the Music Hall in Portsmouth, according to a press release. Young readers may enjoy the Book Fair and Free Kids Book Giveaway slated for Sunday, June 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 28 Chestnut St. in Portsmouth. It will be “a lively book fair with local vendors and authors, featuring live music and poetry readings, free book swap and free children's books for young readers,” according to themusichall.org, where you can find the LitFest's complete schedule.

- Nashua kicks off its **SummerFun** program with **Superheroes in the Park** at Greeley Park on Saturday, June 13, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. featuring trucks to explore, vendors, games, Jedi training, a superhero show and giveaways, including free superhero capes, masks and light sabers for the first 250 kids, according to Nashuanh.gov/546/SummerFun.

- **Golden: A K-Pop Kids' Party**, an all-ages family dance party (kids must be accompanied by an adult), will be held by The Kawaii Rave and VNK Entertainment on Sunday, June 14, at 1 p.m. at the BNH Stage, 16 S. Main St. in Concord, according to ccanh.com, where you can purchase tickets.

- **Joppa Hill Educational Farm**, 174 Joppa Hill Road in Bedford, is holding weekly animal storytimes on Tuesdays (June 16 is the third in the series) through Aug. 11 at 10:15 a.m. “Listen to a short story about farms and animals and then visit with one of the farm residents,” according to jhcf.org, where you can purchase tickets.

- The **26th Annual Hampton Beach Master Sand Sculpting Classic** runs Thursday, June 18, through Saturday, June 20, with the illuminated sculptures on display through June 28, according to hamptonbeach.org/events/sand-sculpture-event. A group carve takes place Wednesday, June 17, according to the website, where you can find a schedule of events and a look at this year's contributors.

- SEE Science Center (200 Bedford St. in Manchester) will hold its **Kick Off to Summer** Saturday, June 20, through Friday, June 26, “featuring activities using LEGO® Bricks and celebrating the 20th anniversary of the completion of our LEGO® Millyard Project,” according to see-sciencecenter.org, where you can find admission prices and pre-purchase admission. Through Labor Day, the Center is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the website said.

- The New London Parks and Recreation Department will hold its ninth annual **Strawberry Fest** on Saturday, June 20, from 10 a.m.

to 2 p.m. in the town green, featuring strawberries and strawberry shortcake for sale (cash or check only) as well as other food and vendors and entertainment, according to newlondon.nh.gov/recreation and a post on the department's Facebook page.

- St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 1160 Bridge St. in Manchester, will hold its **Lamb BBQ and Food Festival** on Saturday, June 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, June 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., according to a church email. Check back on the church's socials or at stnicholasgreekchurch.com for updates.

- The Aviation Museum of New Hampshire will hold its annual **Father's Day Weekend Fly-In BBQ** at Boire Field in Nashua on Saturday, June 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., according to aviationmuseumofnh.org, where you can check back for details.

- The **Wilton NH Main Street Association's SummerFest** will be held Saturday, June 20, according to facebook.com/wiltonmainstreetnh. “Main Street will be closed to traffic and full of vendors from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.. We have live music on two stages during that entire time. The Lions will also have their annual Duck Drop fundraiser in the afternoon,” according to an email from organizers. “Activities move up to Carnival Hill in the evening from 6 to 10 p.m. That will include music provided by a DJ, kids' games, a pie-eating contest and an amazing fireworks display by JPI Pyrotechnics, enhanced this year for the 250th birthday of America,” the email said.

- The Seacoast Science Center in Rye will celebrate **World Ocean Celebration Day** on Saturday, June 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. featuring games, educational activities, tide pool sessions, food trucks and more, according to seacoastsciencecenter.org, where you can purchase tickets.

- The **44th Somersworth International Children's Festival** will take place Saturday, June 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Noble Pines Park and on Main Street and feature activities for

kids, food vendors, craft vendors, a World Cultures Passport Center, a kids' play area, Wildlife Encounters, roaming entertainers, a petting zoo and more, according to nhfestivals.org.

- The **Second Annual Audubon Nature Challenge** will run Sunday, June 21, through Saturday, June 27, according to nhaudubon.org. “Join people all over New Hampshire documenting birds, mammals, insects, reptiles, amphibians, flowers, trees, mosses, mushrooms, and everything else during this weeklong conservation event. There is at least one location in every county and three that meet ADA accessibility guidelines,” according to the website. Participants can explore on their own or join a guided tour in locations listed on the website, where you can register to participate in the challenge.


- **Concord's Market Days Festival** will run Thursday, June 25, through Saturday, June 27, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, according to marketdaysfestival.com. Each day features music and performances on three stages, food trucks and food vendors, vendors selling other goods and more, the website said.

- **Dartmouth Health Children's NH East-West All Star Football Game** featuring “the state's best graduating high school football players together” will take place Friday, June 26, at 6 p.m. at the Grappone Stadium at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, according to childrens.dartmouth-health.org/events, where you can purchase tickets.

- The next **New England Reptile Expo** is Sunday, June 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown, 700 Elm St. in Manchester, featuring more than 200 vendor tables, according to reptileexpo.com/all-shows/newhampshire.

- The **Strawberry Festival** held by the Hollis Town Band and Congregational Church of Hollis will be held Sunday, June 28, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Monument Square in Hollis featuring strawberry shortcake for purchase with locally sourced strawberries as well as a concert by the Hollis Town Band, according to hollis-townband.info.

• Merrimack's **Independence Day** celebrations begin with a concert on Friday, July 3, at 6:30 p.m. featuring the Merrimack Concert Association (which will be performing and selling root beer floats) at Abbie Griffin Park behind the Merrimack Town Hall, according to merrimackparksandrec.org. A parade will take place Saturday, July 4, at 1 p.m. and fireworks at Kollsmann Athletic Fields around 9:15 p.m., with music and food trucks from 5 to 9 p.m., the website said.

• Go to nashua.gov now to reserve tickets for the **Fourth of July Fireworks and Baseball Game** on Saturday, July 4 — tickets to the Silver Knights Game are free for the first 500 adults and children under 13, according to the city's website. Tickets must be reserved in advance. The game, which starts at 10:30 a.m., will feature an expanded kids' zone and on-field activities, the website said. That evening the program starts with a performance by the band The Slak-


 as at 6 p.m., Nashua Hall of Fame inductions at 8 p.m., the Spartans Drum & Bugle Corps at 8:30 p.m. and a fireworks show at dusk, the website said.

• **Concord's July Fourth Celebration** will take place Saturday, July 4, starting at 6 p.m. in Memorial Field with food vendors and music, with fireworks at 9:20 p.m., according to the Concord Parks & Rec Summer and Fall guide at concordnh.gov.

• The **Hillsboro Summerfest** will run Thursday, July 9, through Sunday, July 12, at 29 Preston St. in Hillsborough, featuring carnival rides and midway games, live entertainment, a 5K on July 10, a town parade, a women's skillet toss, fireworks on Saturday evening and more, according to hillsborosummerfest.com.

• The **Raymond Town Fair** will be held Friday, July 10, through Sunday, July 12, featuring "live music, fireworks, children's activities, educational exhibitions, games & vendors," according to facebook.com/RaymondTownFair, where you can check for schedule updates.

• The American Independence Center will hold the **American Independence Festival** in downtown Exeter on Saturday, July 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. featuring a live reading of the Declaration of Independence, demonstrations of historic 18th-century trades, reenactment groups, colonial games and music and more, according to aicnh.org/american-independence-festival.

• The **10th annual Fairy and Hobbit House Festival** will take place at Bedrock Gardens, 19 High Road in Lee, on Friday, July 17, through Sunday, July 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, according to bedrockgardens.org. Come in costume to compete in the Designer Fairy and Hobbit House Competition (see the

website for details), vote in the competition, take part in fairy and gnome-related activities and more, according to the website, where you can purchase tickets and reserve parking.

• **Stratham Summerfest 2026** will take place Saturday, July 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Stratham Hill Park and feature 4-H animal barns, exhibits and more; magic shows, live music, kids' activities, helicopter exhibits weather permitting, a pie-eating contest and more, according to strathamnh.gov.

• The Second Congregational Church, 25 Gregg St. in Wilton, will hold their annual **Summer Fair** on Saturday, July 18, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. featuring crafts, food, music, kids' activities, plant sales, book sales, a food auction at 1 p.m. and more, according to an email from the church. See 2ccwilton.org.

• **The Nashua Fairytale Festival** will take place Saturday, July 18, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Greeley Park in Nashua featuring stage acts, fairytale characters, character meet and greets and "over 30 community vendors with activities, caricaturists, games, books, and more for the whole family," according to tonashuanh.gov/546/SummerFun.

• The **Canterbury Fair** is, as always, the last Saturday in July — Saturday, July 25, starting at 9 a.m. with a 5K at Canterbury Center, according to canterburyfair.com. The fair, which runs until 4 p.m., in Center Canterbury will also include children's games, a used book sale, live music including from Mr. Aaron and The Ragged Mountain Band, demonstrations of handicrafts, a "whatnot" tag sale, a barbecue and more, the website said.

• The Downtown Nashua Association will present the **Summer Stroll** on Saturday, July 25, on Main Street in Nashua, according to downtownnashua.org, where you can check for updates on the event. "This event turns Main Street into a pedestrian-only festival of food, art, music and kids' activities, featuring dozens of vendor tents and local makers," the website said.

• The Coppal House Farm in Lee will hold its annual **Sunflower Festival** Saturday, July 25, through Aug. 2, open daily with food vendors and special events on the weekend including children's storytimes, music and a craft fair, according to nhsunflower.com, where you can find daily times and admission prices, purchase admission and find tickets to special events.

• The **Suncook Valley Rotary 44th Hot Air Ballroom Rotary** will run Friday, July 31, through Sunday, Aug. 2, at Drake Field on Barnstead Road in Pittsfield, featuring daily night glow displays of the balloons and flights (weather permitting) as well as touch-a-truck, a 5K, a regatta and more, according to nhballoonrally.org.

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- The **Belknap County Fair** will run Saturday, Aug. 1, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 174 Mile Hill Road in Belmont, according to bcfairnh.org.

- **Pizzastock 10**, a fundraiser put on by the Jason R Flood Memorial featuring 12 bands on two stages, will take place Saturday, Aug. 1, from noon to 6 p.m., according to a post on the Jason R Flood Memorial Facebook page. The event is geared toward all ages with games including wiffleball and cornhole, activities for little kids, community organizations with information available, pizza slices from Kendall Pond Pizza as well as other food vendors, raffles and merch, the post said. See pizzastock.org for more on the event and organization.

- Friends of Aine will hold its annual **Kids Try-athlon** on Sunday, Aug. 2, starting at 8 a.m. at Bedford High School and the Bedford Town Pool. The event is a swim, bike, run race for kids grouped by age — 4- to 10-year-olds and 11- to 15-year-olds, according to friendsofaine.com. The event is open to kids regardless of athletic ability and features a post-race festival, according to the website, where you can register to participate.

- Tuesday, Aug. 4, is the **National Night Out**, when many first responder departments hold outreach events, such as fairs and touch-a-truck events. **Brentwood's Police Department**, for example, will hold an event from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Brentwood Recreation Department featuring food, a K-9 demonstration, touch a truck, face painting and more, according to a post on its Facebook page.

- **Hudson Old Home Days** are Thursday, Aug. 6, through Sunday, Aug. 9, according to hudsonoldhomedays.com, where you can check for updates for this year's events. Last year's events and activities included carnival rides, food trucks and other vendors, live music, midway games, a craft fair and more, the website said.

- Sunfox Farm in Concord presents its annual **Sunflower Bloom Festival** Saturday, Aug. 8, through Sunday, Aug. 16, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., featuring live music, food trucks and other vendors, according to sunfoxfarm.org/sunflowerfestival, where you can find details on pricing, parking and more.

- The Children's Museum of New Hampshire, 6 Washington St. in Dover, will hold its annual **Teddy Bear Clinic** on Friday, Aug. 8, from 9 to 11 a.m. Kids can bring stuffed animals in for a checkup and learn more about what happens at the doctor's office, according to a press release. See childrens-museum.org.

- **Londonderry Old Home Day** includes a day-long event Saturday, Aug. 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a parade as well as, at the Town of Londonderry Historical Society, colonial

crafts, music, cannon and musket firing and more, according to londonderryhistory.org. See facebook.com/TownofLondonderryOldHomeDay for more events and updates.

- **History Alive 2026** in Hillsborough on Jones Road will feature historical reenactments of famous battles as well as daily village life (from Viking and medieval demonstrations to World War II) on Saturday, Aug. 15, and Sunday, Aug. 16. See historyalivenh.org for a schedule.

- The **Concord Model Railroad Show**, sponsored by the Concord Model Railroad Club, will take place Sunday, Aug. 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Everett Arena in Concord, according to a flyer from the club. Admission costs \$2 for adults, free for kids under 15 with an adult, the flyer said. The day will feature more than 20 dealers, a food stand, raffles and more, the flyer said. See trainweb.org/cmrc.

- The Annual **Hampton Beach Children's Festival** will run Monday, Aug. 17, through Friday, Aug. 21, with a lineup of performances and events each day leading up to a giant costume parade on Aug. 21, according to hamptonbeach.org/events/childrens-events.

- **CelebratEd** welcomes Manchester students back to school with an event on Thursday, Aug. 20, from 4 to 7 p.m. in Victory Park in Manchester offering backpacks and school supplies, haircuts and clothing support, a family resource fair and school registration assistance, according to manchesterproud.org/celebrated.

- **Candia Old Home Day** starts on Saturday, Aug. 22, at 11 a.m. with a parade, followed by a celebration featuring a dunk tank, food vendors, music and more, according to candiaoldhomeday.com.

- The **8th Annual Family Fun Day** at Field of Dreams in Salem will take place Saturday, Aug. 22, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., according to fieldofdreamsnh.org.

- Dog Friendly NH will host **Bark in the Park: Wag Around the World Festival** on Saturday, Aug. 22, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Rollins Park in Concord, according to a post on the Dog Friendly NH Facebook page. "Come wander through country and region themed areas, [and] enjoy international food trucks, live music, vendors, and a park full of fun and discovery" according to the post, which said the event would also feature a Kids Zone, shopping and more. The event is open to dogs who are "vaccinated, healthy, well-behaved with people and dogs, and comfortable on a leash," the post said.

- **Pembroke and Allenstown's Old Home Day** returns on Saturday, Aug. 22, with homemade crafts, merchants, information booths and more, according to [\[oldhomeday.org\]\(http://oldhomeday.org\), where you can check for updates on this year's events.](http://pembrokeallenstown-

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- **Greekfest**, a celebration of Greek food and culture, will take place at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 111 Island Pond Road in Manchester, on Saturday, Aug. 29, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 30, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., according to an email from the church. The event, held underneath a tent rain or shine, will feature Greek food and pastries, raffles, kids activities and vendors, the email said. See assumptionnh.org.

- The **Hopkinton State Fair** bills itself as a Labor Day weekend tradition happening this year from Thursday, Sept. 3, to Monday, Sept. 7, at the fairgrounds (392 Kearsarge Ave., Contoocook). There will be livestock shows, a demolition derby, carnival rides, monster trucks, live entertainment, food and more. The fair hours are 5 to 10 p.m. on Thursday; 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, according to hsfair.org.

- The **2026 Exeter UFO Festival** will take place Saturday, Sept. 5, and Sunday, Sept. 6, with a lineup of speakers as well as family-friendly festival activities (costume contests for people and pets, a parade, a dance party and more), according to toexeterufofestival.org.

LIVE PERFORMANCES

- **Nashua's Summer Fun** program has a series of Tuesday summer concerts running through Aug. 25 at 7 p.m. at the Greeley Park Bandshell, 100 Concord St., according to nashuanh.gov/546/SummerFun. Next week, Tuesday, June 16, catch North River Music Band, playing music "from the Eagles and Dylan to the Indigo Girls and Grateful Dead," the website said. Tuesdays, July 7 through Aug. 25, Nashua Community Music School will hold a musical playgroup from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in Greeley Park, the website said.

- The Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St. in Concord, will feature several dance schools' recitals and showcases in the coming weeks, according to theaudi.org, which explains where to find tickets for each event. On Saturday, June 13, at 2 p.m., **Turning Pointe Center of Dance presents Mary Poppins**, as its annual recital, the website said. On Saturday, June 20, at 10 a.m. **Dance Inspirations** presents 27th annual dance recital for dancers ages 2 to adult, the website said.

- **The Martin School of Dance will present its Enchanted Forest school show** on Sunday, June 14, at 4 p.m. as well as a Minis show featuring twirl and tap, tumbling and petite ballet students, at 10:30 a.m. at the Chubb Theatre at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord, according to ccanh.com, where you can purchase tickets to either show.

- **Nice Work If You Can Get It Teen Edition**, a musical featuring the music of George and Ira Gershwin, will be presented by the Palace Teen Company (featuring actors ages 12 to 18) at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St. in Manchester, on Tuesday, June 16, and Wednesday, June 17, at 7 p.m., according to the palacetheatre.org,

where you can purchase tickets.

- Children's musical performer **Mr. Aaron** has several performances slated for the summer, according to mraaronmusic.com. Upcoming dates include Friday, June 19, at 6:30 p.m. at Riverfront Park in Northfield; Saturday, June 20, at noon at the Seacoast Science Center in Rye for World Ocean Day; Friday, June 26, at 11 a.m. for Market Days in downtown Concord; Wednesday, July 15, at 10:30 a.m. at the band stand at the Dunbarton Public Library; Wednesday, July 22, at 10:30 a.m. at the Nesmith Library in Windham; Saturday, July 25, at 11 a.m. at the Canterbury Fair; and Mr. Aaron Band on Thursday, July 30, at 4 p.m. in Prescott Park in Portsmouth, according to mraaronmusic.com/calendar.

- The Prescott Park Arts Festival's outdoor production in Portsmouth this summer is **Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella**, which will run June 19 through Aug. 9, with performances most Thursdays through Sundays at 7 p.m., with some matinee performances, according to prescottpark.org, where you can reserve blanket or table space.

- The **Palace Academy's Spring 2026 Dance Showcase** featuring dancers ages 3 to adult will take place Sunday, June 21, at 10 a.m., according to palacetheatre.org, where you can purchase tickets.

- The Somersworth Festival Association will hold **Celebration Night** Friday, June 26, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Somersworth High School, 11 Memorial Drive in Somersworth, featuring entertainment such as "Lightheaded Collective (featuring members of the Somersworth Student Jazz Ensemble), Tricky Dick's Magic Show and Bad Breath Microphone," according to nhfestivals.org. The evening will also offer food, kids' activities and fireworks, the website said.

- **Andy's Summer Playhouse**, 582 Isaac Frye Highway in Wilton, features productions and workshops for kid and teen performers, according to andyssummerplayhouse.org, where you can find the schedule of productions to which audiences can purchase tickets. First up is **Welcome to the Hilltop**, a night of plays by young artists on Saturday, June 27, at 7 p.m., followed by **A Staged Reading Through the Greenhouse Initiative: The Murder of Roger Ackroyd** on Friday, July 3, at 7 p.m., the website said.

- **NH School of Ballet** presents **Snow White and The Wizard of Oz**, the themes of its year-end dance celebration, Saturday, June 20, at 11 a.m. at the Dance Center at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, according to tickets.anselm.edu, where you can purchase tickets.

- **School of Rock**, a teen Actorsingers production of the stage musical, will take place Friday, June 26, and Saturday, June 27, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, June 28, at 2 p.m. at the Janice B. Streeter Theater, 14 Court St. in Nashua, according to actorsingers.org, where you can purchase tickets.

- The **Palace Youth Theatre Summer Camp**, featuring performers in grades 2

through 12, will present productions throughout the summer at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St. in Manchester, according to palacetheatre.org, where you can purchase tickets. Performances include *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (July 2-3, 7 p.m.); *The Music Man Kids* (July 10, 7 p.m.); *The Sponge-Bob Musical Youth Edition* (July 24, 7 p.m., and July 25, 11 a.m.); *Miss Nelson Is Missing The Musical* (July 31, 7 p.m.); *Madagascar Jr.* (Aug. 14, 7 p.m., and Aug. 15, 11 a.m.) and *Shrek The Musical Kids* (Aug. 21, 7 p.m.).

• The Palace Theatre's 2026 Bank of New Hampshire Children's Summer Series runs July 7 through Aug. 27, with a new show each week and showtimes Tuesday through Thursdays at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m., all at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St. in Manchester, according to palacetheatre.org, where you can purchase tickets. This season's shows include *Peter Pan Jr.* (July 7-10);

Summer camps

Summer camps are still signing kids up for weeks of summer fun. Find our listing of area summer camps in the Feb. 26 issue. The issue is in our digital library at hippopress.com; the story starts on page 8.



Willy Wonka Jr. (July 14-17); *The Wizard of Oz Youth Edition* (July 21-24); *How To Train Your Dragon Jr.* (July 28-31); *Madagascar Jr.* (Aug. 4-7); *Shrek Jr.* (Aug. 11-14); Disney's *The Little Mermaid Jr.* (Aug. 18-21), and magician **BJ Hickman** (Aug. 25-27).

• The Somersworth Festival Association will offer **Kid Concerts at the Pavilion at Somersworth High School** on Wednesdays, July 8 through Aug. 12, at 6 p.m., according to nhfestivals.org. The show schedule includes *Wildlife Encounters* (July 8), *Miss Julian* (July 15), *Mr. Aaron* (July 22), *Philip Alexander* (July 29), *Rockin' Ron the Friendly Pirate* (Aug. 5) and *Tricky Dick's Magic Show* (Aug. 12), the website said.

• *The Secret Garden*, based on Frances Hodgson Burnett's novel, will be presented by Majestic Productions at the Derry Opera House, 29 W Broadway in Derry, on Friday, July 10, and Saturday, July 11, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, July 12, at 2 p.m., according to majestictheatre.net, where you can purchase tickets.

• **RB Productions**, which is a "non-profit community theatre organization founded in 2003 by Ryan Brown to provide experiential

and educational theatre opportunities for youth and young theatre professionals throughout greater Concord and the state of New Hampshire," will present several shows via the Capitol Center of the Arts throughout the summer, according to ccanh.com. At the Chubb Theatre, shows include *Footloose Youth Edition* (Friday, July 10, and Saturday, July 11, at 7 p.m.); *Disney's Frozen Jr.* (Friday, July 17, and Saturday, July 18, at 7 p.m.); *Disney's The Lion King Jr.* (Friday, July 24, and Saturday, July 25, at 7 p.m.), and *13 Jr.* (Friday, July 31, and Saturday, Aug. 1, at 7 p.m.). At the BNH Stage, shows include *Seussical Kids* (Saturday, July 18, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.) and *Shrek The Musical Kids* (Saturday, Aug. 1, at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

• *Disney's Frozen* will be presented Friday, July 17, through Sunday, July 19, by the Windham Actors Guild at Windham High School, according to windhamactorsguild.com, where you can purchase tickets.

• Children's musician **Judy Pancoast** celebrates 30 years of performing with a show at the Goffstown Public Library on Monday, July 27, at 11:30 a.m., according to a press release. Find more summer dates at judypancoast.com.

• The Prescott Park Arts Festival's Camp Encore student performers will present *Mean Girls Jr.* Saturday, Aug. 1, and Sunday, Aug. 2, at 1 p.m. and *Willy Wonka Kids* on Saturday, Aug. 8, and Sunday, Aug. 9, at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., according to prescottpark.org, where you can reserve blanket or table space.

• *Seussical* will be presented by the child and young adult performers of Peacock Players on Friday, Aug. 7, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 8, at 2 & 7 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 9, at 2 p.m., according to peacockplayers.org, where you can purchase tickets.

• *Shrek the Musical*, presented by the Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative, will be on stage at the Colonial Theatre, 609 Main St. in Laconia, on Friday, Aug. 7, through Sunday, Aug. 9, with shows at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday, according to powerhousenh.org, where you can purchase tickets.

• *Willy Wonka Kids* will be presented by The Prescott Park Arts Festival's Camp Encore student performers on Saturday, Aug. 8, and Sunday, Aug. 9, at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., according to prescottpark.org, where you can reserve blanket or table space.

MOVIE TIME

• **The Summer Movie Clubhouse**, a lineup of kid-friendly films running Wednesday and Thursday mornings (with a start time usually around 10:30 to 11 a.m.) at Cinemark Rockingham Park (15 Mall Road in Salem; cinemark.com/theatres/nh-salem/cinemark-rockingham-park-and-xd), began the first week of June. Upcoming screenings include *Sonic the Hedgehog* (June 10-11); *K-Pop Demon Hunters Sing Along* (June 17-18); *Shrek Forever After* (June 24-25);

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The SpongeBob Movie: Search for Squarepants (July 1-2); **A Minecraft Movie** (July 8-9); **Dog Man** (July 15-16); **How to Train Your Dragon** (July 22-23); **The Bad Guys 2** (July 29-30) and **Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie** (Aug. 5-6), according to the website.

• **The Milford Drive-In Theater** (531 Elm St., Milford; milforddrivein.com) has two screens for movie screenings, each mostly offering double features, Fridays through Sundays. The box office opens at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 7:15 p.m. on Sunday.

• **Fathom Entertainment** (fathomentertainment.com) features specialty screenings of live events as well as anniversary screenings at area theaters including the Apple Cinemas in Merrimack and Hooksett, Cinemark Rockingham Park and Regal Fox Run in Newington.

Upcoming kid-friendly screenings include the 55th anniversary screening of **Willy Wonka** starring Gene Wilder on Sunday, Aug. 2, and Wednesday Aug. 5; see the website for times and locations.

• **Studio Ghibli Fest 2026** screenings via Fathom include **Ponyo** (June 13-17); **My Neighbor Totoro** (July 11-15); **Tales from EarthSea** (Aug. 8 and Aug. 10); **Only Yesterday** (Aug. 9 and Aug. 11) and **Castle in the Sky** (Aug. 22-26). See the website for times, locations and which screenings are subtitled versus dubbed.

• **Red River Theatres** (11 S. Main St. in Concord, redrivetheatres.org) screens kid- and family-friendly first run movies among its offerings — **Toy Story 5** is slated to start screening on Thursday, June 18. The theater also has an outdoor movie scheduled in partnership with Intown Concord at the August Friday Friday event on Aug. 7, according to an email from Red River.

• **Movies in the Park** takes place in Riverfront Park in Tilton, hosted by the Hall Memorial Library (hallmemoriallibrary.org), on Fridays throughout the summer, with the park opening at 6 p.m. and the movie starting at dusk. According to the website, the upcoming schedule is **Soul** (June 19); 2025's **Lilo & Stitch** (July 31); **Road to El Dorado** (Aug. 28) and **Hercules** (Sept. 25).

• **Chunky's**, 707 Huse Road in Manchester, has Sensory Friendly Screenings, when theater lights are up and the sound is down, and Little Lunch Date screenings, also with lights slightly dimmed, according to chunkys.com. Coming up: **Toy Story 5** will be screened in a Sensory Friendly Screening on Tuesday, June 23, at 11:30 a.m., 2:45 and 6 p.m. and then at a Little Lunch Date on Tuesday, June 30, at 11:30 a.m., according to the website, where you can pick seats and purchase tickets.

• **O'Neil Cinemas**, 16 Orchard View Drive

in Londonderry, will hold a Summer Kid's Series of screenings of kid-friendly movies on Mondays and Wednesdays at 11 a.m., according to oneilcinemas.com. Screenings on the schedule include **The Bad Guys 2** (July 6 & 8); **Dog Man** (July 13 & 15); **How To Train Your Dragon** (July 20 & 22); **The Wild Robot** (July 27 & 29); **Kung Fu Panda** (Aug. 3 & 5) and **Despicable Me 4** (Aug. 10 & 12).

ATTRACTIONS

Find more local museums in our May 14 issue in the story "Granite State Curiosities." The issue is in our digital library at hippopress.com; the story starts on page 8.

• **Andres Institute of Art** (106 Route 13, Brookline, andresinstitute.org) has a network of trails featuring sculptures including pieces created during the annual International Bridges and Connections, according to the website. Find printable trail maps as well as a gallery of the sculptures online.

• **The Aviation Museum of New Hampshire** (27 Navigator Road, Londonderry, 669-4820, aviationmuseumofnh.org) offers exhibits related to the

aviation history of the state — as well as a cockpit kids can get inside of, featuring real audio from traffic control at neighboring Manchester Boston Regional Airport. The museum is open Wednesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. See the website for admission prices.

• **Beaver Brook** (117 Ridge Road in Hollis, beaverbrook.org) offers camps, regular walks and hikes and other programs as well as trails and gardens that are open daily. Maps for the trails are available on the website.

• **Canobie Lake Park** (85 N. Policy St., Salem, canobie.com), an amusement park with rides and water attractions, is, in summer, open daily with tickets sold in advance only via the website. Prices vary by day. After-5 p.m. tickets are available Friday through Sunday nights.

• **Charmingfare Farm** (774 High St., Candia, 483-5623, visitthefarm.com) is a working farm with wildlife exhibits featuring animals such as black bears, coyotes and more. Charmingfare is currently open Thursdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Reptile Day is slated for Saturday, July 18, with a reptile show scheduled for 1 p.m.

• **The Children's Museum of New Hampshire** (6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002,

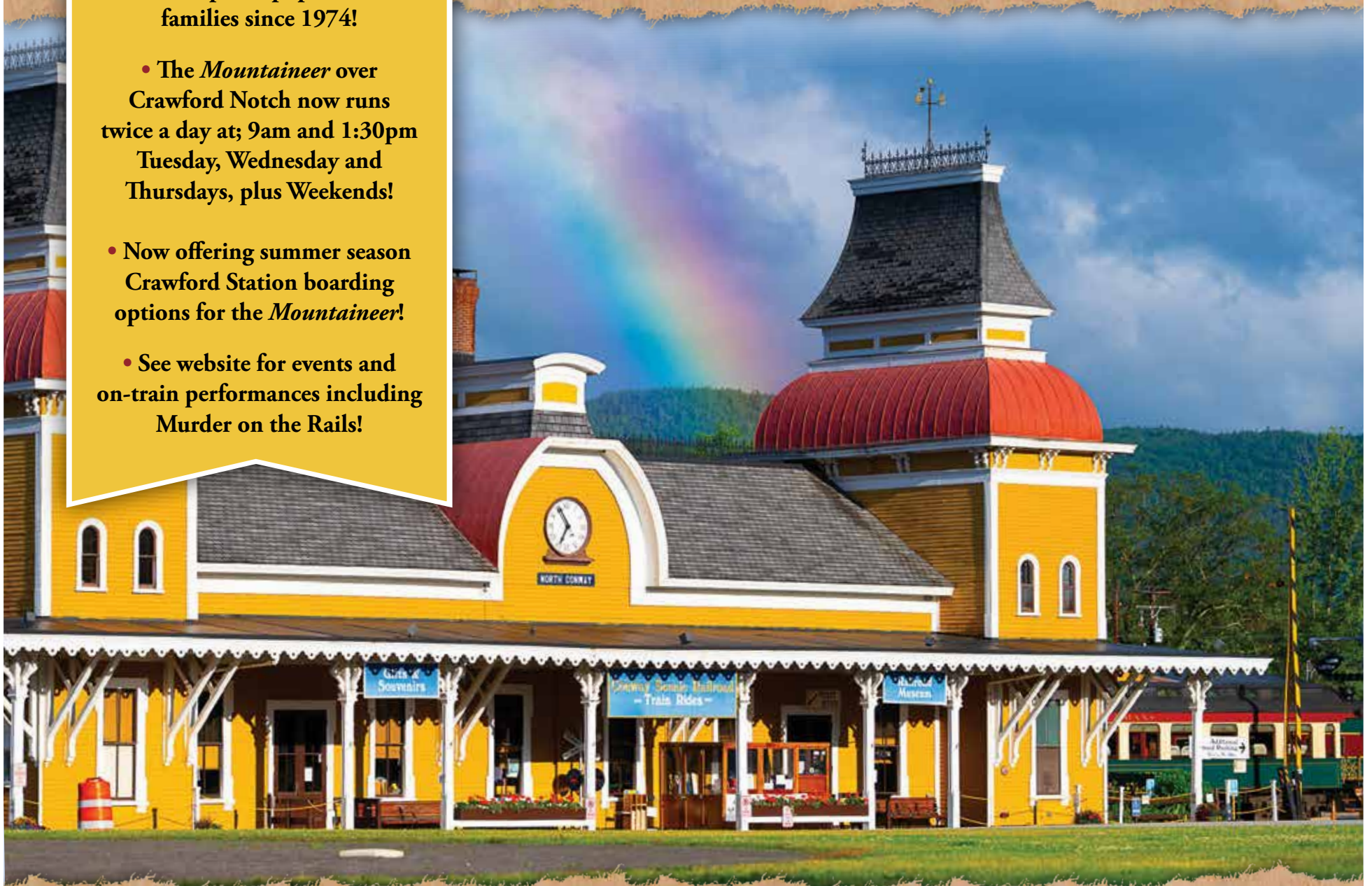
Museums

Find local museums in our May 14 issue in the story "Granite State Curiosities." The issue is in our digital library at hippopress.com; the story starts on page 8.

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childrens-museum.org) is a family museum featuring interactive exhibits with a focus on art, science and culture. It is open for morning (9 a.m. to noon) and afternoon (1 to 4 p.m.) play sessions Wednesdays through Saturdays and for morning sessions only on Tuesdays and Sundays. See the website for special programming, such as Toddler Tinker Time on Tuesdays, Wacky Art Wednesdays, Cultural Crafts on Thursdays and Science Fridays. New at the museum: the Kids Cafe is being transformed into a pretend pizzeria, and later in the summer the museum will reveal a "Calling All Superheroes!" exhibit "featuring capes, accessories, and green-screen superpowers," according to a press release.

• **Chuckster's Family Fun Park** (Route 4, Chichester, chuckstersnh.com) is open daily, hours vary by day (and weather). This year a new zipline is slated to open; the park also features minigolf, batting cages, bumper boats, a climbing wall, go karts and more. Admission varies based on attraction packages. Chuckster's also has a minigolf-only location at 53 Hackett Hill Road in Hooksett.

• **The Currier Museum of Art** (150 Ash St., Manchester, currier.org) is open Wednesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and admission costs \$20 for regular admission, \$15 for 65+ and students (with ID) and \$5 for ages 13 to 17, according to the website. The museum also offers free admission for New Hampshire residents on the second Saturday of each month.

• **Funspot** (579 Endicott Lane, Laconia, funspotnh.com) bills itself as the largest arcade in the world, including classic arcade games, and also offers bowling, indoor minigolf, on-site eateries and more. Open daily, Funspot's hours starting June 22 will be 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. (11 p.m. on Saturdays).

• **Joppa Hill Educational Farm** (174 Joppa Hill Road, Bedford, jhef.org) is open daily, dawn to dusk, with a suggested donation of \$5 per family. Visit the animals or check out the hiking trails, maps for which are on the farm's website.

• **The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center** (2 Institute Drive, Concord, starhop.com), a celebration of space, science, engineering and aviation, is open daily, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. The outdoor Jeanne Gerulskis Science Playground is open when the center is open, weather permitting. Purchase admission to the center and extra tickets to see planetarium shows. See the website for the current line-up of planetarium films.

• **Mel's Funway Park** (454 Charles Bancroft Highway, Litchfield, melsfunwaypark.com) offers minigolf, go karts, laser tag,

arcade, batting cages, bumper boats, bounce houses and more. The park is open daily, with hours varying by day and attraction.

• **New Hampshire Audubon** (nhaudubon.org) has two nearby centers — Massabesic Center (26 Audubon Way in Auburn) and McLane Center (84 Silk Farm Road in Concord). Both centers are open to visitors Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5



p.m. Trails near the centers and in the Audubon's 40 wildlife sanctuaries throughout the state are open daily, free of charge (though donations are welcome), the website said. Find maps and other information about the trails on the website, as well as a calendar of events.

• **The New Hampshire Fisher Cats** at Delta Dental Stadium in downtown Manchester play their

next home games Tuesday, June 23, through Sunday, June 28, with games at 6:03 p.m. (except Sunday, when game time is 1:05 p.m.) against the Somerset Patriots. Regular season games continue through Sunday, Sept. 13. See milb.com/new-hampshire for tickets.

• **The Nashua Silver Knights**, members of the Futures Collegiate Baseball League, will next play at Holman Stadium (67 Amherst St., Nashua) on Monday, June 15, at 6:03 p.m. against the Worcester Bravehearts. Their last home game of the regular season will be on Friday, Aug. 7, at 6:03 p.m. against the Norwich Sea Unicorns. See nashuasilverknights.com.

• **SEE Science Center** (200 Bedford St., Manchester; see-sciencecenter.org) is open daily at 10 a.m. — until 4 p.m. on weekdays and 5 p.m. on weekends. This hands-on science center offers exhibits on a variety of subjects. Admission is recommended to be purchased in advance via the website.

YOUR TOWN

Libraries have reading programs and town gazebos have music — at least, that is the schedule you'll find in many area towns and cities. Some town and city events are meant just for residents and others don't specify. Your location's library and parks and recreation department will have the most up to date information about summer happenings; registration is often required. Here are some of the family-friendly highlights.

• **Allenstown:** At the Allenstown Public Library, the summer reading program, with the theme "Unleash a Story," began in June, according to allenstownlibrary.org.

• **Amherst:** The Amherst Town Library (amherstlibrary.org) is kicking off its summer reading program with a concert featuring Steve Blunt Tuesday, June 16, at 6 p.m. (registration required). On Wednesday, June 24,

there will be a Live Pet Show from 10 to 11 a.m. on the library front lawn (bring your pet or just come to see other's pets), according to the website. Mondays throughout the summer are "Chalk the Walk" days, when chalk will be provided to draw on the sidewalk outside.

The Amherst Recreation department (amherstnh.gov) will offer Summer Concerts on the Green on Tuesdays, June 23 through Aug. 11, 6:30 to 8 p.m., starting with Amherst Town Band.

• **Auburn:** The Griffin Free Public Library (griffinfree.org) will hold a Build a Gnome Home event on Thursday, July 9, at 1 p.m. (register online). The summer reading program — "Plant a Seed, Read" — starts June 17. The library will hold its annual book sale at the Auburn Village School gym on Saturday, July 25, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, July 26, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., according to the library's Facebook page.

Auburn's Parks and Recreation department will hold a Summer Concert Series at Circle of Fun Playground, 5 Bunker Hill Road in Auburn, monthly on Thursdays at 6 p.m.: Off Duty Angels (June 18); Emily's Garage Band (July 16), and Gary Mav & His Ad Hoc Rock Band (Aug. 20), according to auburnnh.gov.

• **Bedford:** The Bedford Public Library (bedfordnhlibrary.org) holds its Summer Reading Kickoff Concert with Ben Rudnick and Friends on Monday, June 15, at 6:30 p.m. (register online). A Wildlife Encounters event for ages 7 to 12 will take place Monday, July 20 (two sessions, register online).

The Bedford Parks & Recreation department will host its Family Concerts in the Park on Wednesdays, June 24 through July 29, at 6 p.m. at the Bedford Village Common Park Gazebo, according to bedfordnh.gov.

• **Bow:** At the Baker Free Library (bowbakerfreelibrary.org) the "Plant a Seed, Read" Summer Reading Kickoff Party & Farm Animal Petting Zoo is Friday, June 19, at 4 p.m. The library also hosts a magic show with Magician Mike Bent on Thursday, July 23, at 4 p.m.; a live reptile show on Thursday, July 2, at 10:30 a.m.; an outdoor concert with NH Scot on Monday, June 29, at 6 p.m., and Mr Aaron at the Town Gazebo as part of the Bow Rotary Summer Concert Series on Thursday, July 16, at 6:30 p.m.

The concert series runs through Aug. 13, according to the summer program brochure at bownh.myrec.com, which lists a variety of

Garden escapes

Find public gardens to visit in our May 28 issue in the story "A Day in the Garden." The issue is in our digital library at hippopress.com; the story starts on page 8.

camp and kids' programs.

• **Boscawen:** The Boscawen Public Library (boscawenpubliclibrary.org) kicks off its "Unearth a Story" Summer Reading program on Monday, June 22, with a program at 6 p.m.

• **Brookline:** The Brookline Public Library (brooklinepubliclibrary.org) will hold its Summer Reading Kick-Off Party on Tuesday, June 23, at 4 p.m. featuring "lawn games, crafts, bubbles, and freeze pops," according to the website. The library will also host a Dinosaur Safari Magic Show at the Brookline Community Church Tuesday, July 28, at 4 p.m., the website said.

• **Canterbury:** The Elkins Public Library (elkinspubliclibrary.org) offers storytimes and other activities for kids.

• **Chichester:** The Chichester Town Library (chichesternh.org) will hold a book sale on Saturday, June 13, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., according to its Facebook page, where you can also find the summer storytime schedule. There will be a summer reading kickoff party with a Musical Puppet Show by Tom Knight on Friday, June 26, at 11 a.m. at the Chichester Grange Hall, according to a post.

• **Concord:** The Concord Public Library (concordpubliclibrary.net) will hold storytimes in the park on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. June through August; see the website for a schedule. The library will hold its summer reading kickoff on Saturday, June 20, at 9:30 a.m.

The Concord Parks & Rec lists a variety of summer kids' programs in its summer and fall brochure, available via concordnh.gov. The city holds multiple concert series including Tuesdays featuring the Nevers Band at a variety of city parks and other locations at 7 p.m. (starting June 17); Thursdays at Eagle Square at 7:30 p.m. (July 2-Aug. 13); Wednesdays at Canal Street at 6:30 p.m. (July 15, July 29, Aug. 12 and Aug. 26), and a White Park Sunday Concert series many Sundays into September at 10 a.m., the website said.

• **Derry:** The Derry Public Library (derrypl.org) will hold its "Plant a Seed, Read" Kick Off Dance Party on Thursday, June 18, at 1:30 p.m. Let's Play Music will offer a musical petting zoo on Wednesday, July 8, at 10 a.m.; the Children's Museum of NH will present Dinosaur Detectives on Thursday, July 16, at 2 p.m. and there will be family storytimes many Friday mornings on the patio, according to the website, where you can register for these and other events.

The Derry Parks & Recreation Concert Series runs Tuesdays, June 16 through Aug. 18, at 7 p.m. in Macgregor Park, according to a post on the department's Facebook page.

• **Dunbarton:** The Dunbarton Public Library (dunbartonnh.org/dunbarton-public-library)



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will kick off its “Unearth a Story” summer reading program on Tuesday, June 23, with a make a library fairy garden program at 1 p.m., according to the website, which also lists programs such as a reptile show on Thursday, June 25, at 1 p.m.; a touch a truck on Saturday, July 11, at 10 a.m., and several storytimes.

Dunbarton’s Old Home Day is slated for Saturday, Aug. 15, according to dunbartonnh.org, where you can find a schedule of the day’s events such as a 10 a.m. parade, vendors and exhibitors from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and ice cream at 2 p.m.

• **Goffstown:** The Goffstown Public Library (goffstownlibrary.com) is also theming its summer reading program “Plant a Seed, Read” and kicks it off June 20. See the website for the line-up of storytimes and other activities. Judy Pancoast will perform at the library’s Picnic on the Lawn on Friday, July 24, at 11:30 a.m.

• **Hollis:** Hollis Social Library (hollislibrary.org) will kick off its summer reading program with a Touch-a-Truck on Tuesday, June 23, at 2 p.m. at Lawrence Barn, 28 Depot Road in Hollis, according to the website. The library also has craft programs and storytimes for a variety of ages. Mr. Aaron is slated to perform on Thursday, July 23, at 3:30 p.m. and Lindsay and her Puppet Pals are slated to perform on Tuesday, July 28, at 3 p.m.

Hollis Recreation will hold a playground pop-up this summer on Tuesdays, 2 to 4 p.m., with activities at the Little Nichols Playground behind the library, according to the department’s Facebook page.

• **Hooksett:** The Hooksett Public Library (hooksettlibrary.org) will hold a touch-a-truck event to kick off the summer reading program on Saturday, June 20, at 10 a.m. and a Magic Fred Show on Monday, July 13, at 10:30 a.m., according to the website, where you can find other kids’ activities.

• **Hopkinton:** The Hopkinton Town Library (hopkintontownlibrary.org) starts its “Plant a Seed, Read” summer reading on Monday, June 22, with activities including Music With Meghan on Friday, June 26, at 10:30 a.m., storytimes with Miss Grammy Pat and Ice Pops with Super Cool Cops on Wednesday, July 29, at 3 p.m.

Hopkinton Recreation Committee hosts the July Fourth Parade and Family Fun in Riverway Park in Contoocook with a farmers market, the Brad Myrick Band, the kids’ parade at 11 a.m. followed by the Independence Parade at 11:30 a.m. and family fun activities, according to hopkintonnh.myrec.com.

• **Hudson:** The George H. and Ella M. Rodgers Memorial Library (rodgerslibrary.org) will offer summer events including storytimes in Benson Park; a performance by Magic Fred

on Tuesday, June 23, at 1:30 p.m.; a Teddy Bear Garden Party on Friday, July 10, at 10 a.m.; Wildlife Encounters on Wednesday, Aug. 12, at 1:30 p.m. and more.

• **Litchfield:** At the Aaron Cutler Memorial Library (litchfieldnh.gov/222/Aaron-Cutler-Memorial-Library), the “Plant a Seed, Read” summer reading program starts Tuesday, June 23, with weekly themes, activities for kids, teens and tweens and more according to the newsletter on the library’s website.

• **Londonderry:** The Leach Library (londonderrynh.gov/371/Leach-Library), which continues to operate from the Community Room of the Londonderry Police Department while work is done on the building, will hold a visit from the Lorax on Tuesday, June 16, at

4 p.m. and Thursday, June 18, at 11 a.m. at Moose Hill Council Chambers in Town Hall as well as other storytimes and activities. The Leach Library will team up with the Londonderry Arts Council for a Con-

cert on the Common for Kids on Saturday, July 11, at 1:30 p.m. featuring Matt Heaton and the Outside Toys at the Londonderry Town Com-

mon, according to the May newsletter. The Londonderry Arts Council’s Concerts on the Common program began in early June and runs through Aug. 12 on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the Common, 265 Mammoth Road in Londonderry, according to londonderry-artsCouncil.org.

• **Loudon:** The Maxfield Public Library (maxfieldlibrary.org) will host Alejandro’s Olde Tyme Magik Showe at Charlie’s Barn on Thursday, June 11, at 6 p.m., according to the website. The library will start its summer reading with a magic show featuring Jason Purdy at Charlie’s Barn on Saturday, June 20, at 11 a.m., where you can also register for summer reading, the website said. Find more storytimes and events, including a Dinosaur Tea Party on Wednesday, Aug. 5, at 11 a.m., on the website.

• **Manchester:** Manchester City Library (manchesterlibrary.org) will offer Family Movie Afternoons on Mondays at 2 p.m. starting Monday, June 22, according to a post on the library’s Facebook page. The library will also host a Dino Party on June 22 at 10 a.m., on theme with the summer reading program, “Unearth a Story,” which also begins June 22, according to the website. Other summer events include Slime of the Month club,



Summer Guide

Find more summer fun in our Summer Guide issue, May 21. The issue is in our digital library at hippypress.com; the story starts on page 8.

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escape rooms, multiple storytimes, Teen Thursdays and more, the website said.

- **Merrimack:** At the Merrimack Public Library (merrimack.aspendiscovery.org), the summer reading program begins with a performance by musical performer Tom Knight on Thursday, June 25, at 6 p.m. in Abbie Griffin Park, according to the website (where you can register). In addition to a line-up of storytimes and craft events, the library will have a Dino Tea Party on Tuesday, July 14, at 11:30 a.m. (register online) and more.

The Merrimack Parks & Recreation Department will host a Summer Concerts in the Park series on Thursday nights at 6 p.m. in Abbie Griffin Park starting June 25 with the Tom Knight performance, according to merrimack-parksandrec.org. The series runs through Aug. 13.

- **Milford:** At the Wadleigh Memorial Library (wadleighlibrary.org), summer kicks off on Friday, June 12, at 6 p.m. with a community picnic. Along with crafts, storytimes and teen-specific programming, the library will feature a vegetable derby for grades 2 to 5 on Wednesday, July 8, at 2 p.m. and Miss Lindsay and Her Puppet Pals on Wednesday, July 29, at 11 a.m., according to the website.

The Milford Recreation Department's summer offerings include the Keyes Summer Bash 2026 in Keyes Memorial Park from noon to 3 p.m. featuring a bike parade, touch a truck, local vendors, games, a reading of the Declaration of Independence and a live concert, according to a post on the recreation department's Facebook page.

- **Mont Vernon:** The Daland Memorial Library (dalandlibrary.com) runs its summer reading program Tuesday, June 16, through Friday, Aug. 7, according to the website.

- **Nashua:** The Nashua Public Library (nashualibrary.org) will hold its Summer Reading Kick-Off Party on Friday, June 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Library Plaza and feature a bounce house, an inflatable corn maze, ice cream and popcorn, live music from Straightjacket ('90s cover band), crafts, an herb garden activity, a plant clipping swap, lawn games and more, according to the website. In addition to storytimes and other kids' activities, the library offers a variety of programming (including a Teen Rock Show on Tuesday, June 23, at 7 p.m. featuring Fates Collide from Nashua Community Music School), the website said.

Nashua's extensive SummerFun programming (nashuanh.gov/546/SummerFun) includes special events such as the Fairytale Festival and Superheroes in the Park as well as weekly Tuesday night concerts at the Bandshell in Greeley Park at 7 p.m.; the Nashua Community Music School playgroup in Greeley on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. starting June 30 as well as Thursdays starting July 9, and more. See the city's website for the complete summer schedule.

- **New Boston:** Whipple Free Library (whipplefreelibrary.org) will offer storytimes and other events attached to its summer reading program — see the website for upcoming events and to sign up.

The New Boston Recreation department will host Concerts on the Common on Tuesdays, July 7, through Aug. 11, at 6 p.m. with live music and food concessions, according to the department's Facebook page. The series starts with The Bel Airs, playing the oldies, the post said. See new-bostonnh.gov/recreation for updates.

- **Pembroke:** The Pembroke Library (pembroke-library.org) will hold a Summer Reading Kickoff on Wednesday, June 24, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. with a fun walk, a children's performance by Miss Julieann and a musical performance for teens and adults by Oliva Conway, according to the website, where you can sign up



and find the schedule of storytimes and drop-in play times.

- **Salem:** The Kelley Library (kelleylibrary.org) offers programming for kids and teens, according to the website's calendar.

See the Salem Community Services Department Facebook page for upcoming events this summer.

- **Windham:** Nesmith Library (nesmithlibrary.org) will hold its Summer Reading Program Kickoff on Tuesday, June 23, from 4 to 7 p.m. with lawn games, the Walking Gourmet Food Truck and Bryson Lang juggling at 6 p.m., according to the website. See the website for storytimes, crafts for kids and teens, Wildlife Encounters on Wednesday, July 8; Lindsay and Her Puppet Pals on Wednesday, July 15, at 10:30 a.m.; Mr. Aaron on Wednesday, July 22, at 10:30 a.m. and a "Meet the Town Vehicles" on Thursday, July 30, at 10:30 a.m.

The Windham Recreation Department will hold the town's Fireworks display on Wednesday, June 24, at the high school, where the parking lot opens at 5:30 p.m., according to windham.recdesk.com. The department also offers a summer concert series, starting Sunday, June 14, at 2 p.m. with Nicole Knox Murphy playing on the Windham Town Common — see the website for the full schedule of seven shows, running through September.

- **Wilton:** The Wilton Public & Gregg Free Library (wiltonlibrarynh.org) will hold its summer reading Kick-Off Party on Friday, June 26, at 2 p.m.: "Join us for a summertime treat, make a craft, show off your artistic skill with some sidewalk chalk (weather permitting), take a walk along our story-trail at the front entrance, take some pictures at our photo-booth designed by Iggy, and welcome in the summer!" 🌸



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ARTS

Serious play

Learn art in downtown Manchester

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

For anyone who's wanted to draw or paint but didn't know where to begin, or lapsed artists looking for a new start, Art House Studios School for Drawing and Painting, located in a well-lit second-floor space next to the Palace Theatre on Hanover Street in Manchester, will fill the bill.

Run by an artist, Plymouth State professor and Currier Museum teacher, it offers classes in drawing, painting, abstraction, portraiture, and mixed-media assemblage, along with open studio sessions and figure drawing. Prices start at \$35 for a workshop, materials included.

Jason Bagatta grew up a half hour away from New York City, later attending the Fashion Institute of Technology there. "But I didn't study fashion," he said while sitting at a table in the spacious studio, surrounded by easels, paint and other art supplies, along with a chop saw in a corner of the room.

Bagatta came to Manchester when an academic job called, and he's been here ever since. He started Art House when the nearby college where he taught was bought by another institution. "That particular administration

Art House Studios School for Drawing and Painting

Where: 66 Hanover St., Suite 202, Manchester

More: arthousestudios.org

wasn't doing it justice," he said. Seeing a gap, he decided to fill it.

Bagatta's teaching philosophy is built on three words. "A way in," he said. "This is how we can start, then it's up to you how you interpret it. I'm not looking for a cookie-cutter, copy-me. I show you a technique and you interpret it for yourself, and that allows people to bring their own personality."

While in graduate school, Bagatta read *Homo Aestheticus: Where Art Comes From and Why* by social anthropologist Ellen Dissanayake, and found the idea that changed how he thinks about his work. "Art-making is biological, and it's a response to existing," he recalled. "It is the act of making things special."

The insight cut through the over-intellectualizing that he saw surrounding art education and replaced it with a simpler and more inclusive point of view. Dissanayake's definition, he believes, opens up art's possibilities. "Anything can be artfully done," he said, tracing a line back to monastic culture. "A certain amount of integrity can be put into sweeping a floor."

This philosophy also shaped how he thought about his students. A creative background, he realized, can range "from how you decorate your living space, to how you make a bed or a sandwich, how you garden ... and then to more traditional drawing and painting and sculpture and poetry."

Those attending classes span an equally wide range of ages and experience.

"I get the child prodigy, the 12-year-old who is way over-accomplishing and needs a creative outlet aside from academics," Bagatta said. "But mostly it's adult learners, people in their 30s, married people, a lot of people who have retired. The range is 14 to people in their 90s."

What motivates them isn't commercial aims, although artists looking to sell their works are referred to the nearby Mosaic Art Collective — who soon won't be a next-door neighbor. On June 13, Mosaic will move from its second-floor space to a street level storefront at 410 Chestnut St., joined by longtime co-tenant See Saw Art.

Frequently, students are driven by a need to anchor a newfound urge to create, whether to fill in something that's missing or return to an abandoned muse. Having a deadline, it turns out, matters. "For people who like to make stuff but won't do it unless they come to a structured situation," Bagatta said. "They need a time and a place designated for that."

Among Bagatta's favorite experiences at Art House is working with a New Americans ESL group, where the language barrier turned out not to matter. "It's a visual interaction," he said. "I can show them what I want them to do as well as explain it, and they can do it because they could see me doing it. The visual language transcends the verbal."

In mid-June, Art House Studios will host a three-day art intensive for students ages 13 to 17. It's a minicamp, with three four-hour sessions on consecutive days, 12 hours in all.



Jason Bagatta. Photo by Michael Witthaus

Both drawing and painting will be covered in a collaborative framework, guided by an interactive discussion on day one. "I want to see what these kids want," Bagatta said.

His academic approach, Bagatta continued, never loses sight of what he calls "serious play." That the classroom can feed and inspire him as much as it does his students is something he's sheepishly pleased to admit.

"Someone's always doing something I wouldn't have thought of," he said with the hint of a guilty smile. "I'm open to receive as much as possible." 🍌

Art

Opening

• **"The New Naturalists,"** an exhibit of artwork by Peter Sandback, Ashley Normal and Forrest Knight, will be on display at the See Saw Gallery, 408 Chestnut St. in Manchester, Saturday, June 13, through Sunday, June 28, with an opening reception Saturday, June 13, from 5 to 8 p.m., according to seesaw.art.

• **"Art in Bloom Celebration"** will take place Friday, June 12, through Sunday, June 14, at the Center for the Arts Members Gallery, 428 Main St. in New London. Local garden clubs and florists will create floral interpretations inspired by selected works from "Emergence," a spring juried members exhibition at the gallery, according to a press release. See cfanh.org.

• **The June Show** at Glimpse Gallery, 4 Park St. in Concord, opened June 9 and runs through July 9 and features the works of Rose Culver, Erica Bodwell, Matt McCain, Laura Johnson, Monika Castillo, Melissa Latulippe and Benjamin Archibald, according to theglimpsegallery.com, where you can RSVP to an opening reception on Saturday, June 13, 5 to 7 p.m.

Events

• **Leather and Lace Exhibition Party** at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St. in Manchester, on Friday, June 12, from 7 to 9 p.m. in conjunction with the current exhibit "Danny Lyon: The Bikeriders." "Join us for a night of photography and rock and roll. Cash bar with specialty drinks," according to an email from the Currier. See currier.org for tickets.

Arts & craft fairs

• **The Make It Fest!**, a "gathering of makers, doers, DIYers, crafters, tinkerers, self-proclaimed engineers and aspiring mad-scientists!" according to makeitfest.com, will take place Saturday, June 13, from noon to 4 p.m. at Make It Labs, 25 Crown St. in Nashua, the website said. The event will feature demonstrations, exhibits, workshops, a sumo robot competition, vendor sales and more, according to the website, where you can register to attend.

Exhibits

• **2026 Sylvia Profos 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 Thursday, June 11, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. See kimballjenkins.com.

• **"All Kinds of Everything"** featuring the works of Lucy Mink & Keiko Narahashi will continue through Saturday, June 13, at Outer Space, 35 Pleasant St. in Concord, according to outerspacearts.xyz. The gallery is open Saturdays noon to 3 p.m. or by appointment.

• **"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. or by appointment.

• **"Frank Lloyd Wright in Manchester: The Histories of the Zimmermans and Kalis"** is on display at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St. in Manchester, currier.org, through June. The Currier is open

Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. See the website for information on visiting the two houses the exhibit discusses.

• **"Emergence,"** a spring juried members' exhibition, will run through Saturday, June 27, at the Center for the Arts Members Gallery, 428 Main St. in New London. "Emergence" highlights artwork inspired by themes of transformation, renewal, and the shifting energy that arrives as spring moves toward summer. The exhibiting reflects both the natural transition from cold to warmth and the creative momentum that grows within a supportive arts community," according to a press release. The gallery is open Thursday through Saturday, 1 to 5 p.m. See cfanh.org.

• **"Loud & Proud,"** will be on display at the New Hampshire Art Association's Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery, 136 State St. in Portsmouth, through Sunday, June 28, according to a press release. The gallery hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m., the release said.

• **"What We Live Behind,"** featuring the works of Hallie Driscoll in an exhibition featuring "a mixed media body of work discussing how memory, place, and personal history shape who we are through found objects such as book pages, flowers, and natural materials," will be on display at the New Hampshire Art Association's Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery, 136 State St. in Portsmouth, through Sunday, June 28, according to a press release. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m., the release said.

• **"Closing the Sea,"** Patricia Keliher's "series of black-and-white photographs of plastic water bottles that

critique consumerism and highlight our lack of environmental responsibility," will be on display at the New Hampshire Art Association's Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery, 136 State St. in Portsmouth, through Sunday, June 28, according to a press release. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m., the release said.

• **"Creme de la Creme"** a members exhibition featuring 150 works from more than 100 artists in a collaboration between New Hampshire Art Association and The Art Center, will run through the end of June at The Art Center, 1 Washington St. in Dover, according to a press release. See theartcenterdover.com.

• **"The Human Canvas,"** an exhibition of "works of all mediums that explore the intimate and historic artform of tattooing" will run through Monday, Aug. 3, at Mosaic Art Collective, 410 Chestnut St. in Manchester, with an opening reception on Saturday, June 13, from 5 to 7 p.m., according to mosaicartcollective.com.

• **"Spray: Jules Olitski in the 1960s"** will run through Aug. 9 at the Currier

Museum of Art in Manchester. The exhibit “invites you to rediscover a modern master who explored the possibilities of color with gumption, vision, and a passion for experimentation,” according to currier.org.

• **“Danny Lyon: The Bikeriders”** 16 works by photographer Danny Lyon of the Chicago Outlaws Motorcycle Club are on display through Aug. 16 at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St. in Manchester, according to currier.org.

• **“Together, Apart, Away: Snapshots from the Peter J. Cohen Collection”** are on display through Aug. 16 at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St. in Manchester, according to currier.org.

Theater

• **“Love ... Or Best Offer,”** a lighthearted yet heartfelt look at online dating in the ‘over 50’ generation, blending humor with relatable heartbreak,” will be presented by Bedford Off Broadway at the Bedford Town Hall, corner of 70 Bedford Center Road and Meetinghouse Road, Friday, June 12, through Sunday, June 14. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday, according to a press release. Tickets are available at the door for \$15 (\$12 for students and seniors) and at events.com.

• **“Spamilton: An American Parody,”** “[c]reated by Gerard Alessandrini, the comic mastermind behind the long-running hit Forbidden Broadway and performed by a versatile cast of eight,” will be presented Friday, June 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the Colonial Theatre in Laco-

nia, according to coloniallaconia.com, where you can purchase tickets.

• **“Morning Sun,”** a play by Simon Stephens, will be presented by Theatre Kapow at the NH Theatre Project in Portsmouth on Friday, June 12, through Sunday, June 14, according to a press release. “As 50 years pass, one woman’s life is revealed in all its complexity, mystery and possibility in this play about mothers and daughters, beginnings and endings,” the release said. Show take place Friday, June 12, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, June 13, at 4 p.m. and Sunday, June 14, at 2 p.m., the release said. See tkapow.com for tickets.

• **“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, through Sunday, June 21, wrapping up the “St. Mary’s Bank 2025-2026 Performing Arts Series” of mainstage performances 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.

• **“Nice Work If You Can Get It Teen Edition,”** a musical featuring the music of George and Ira Gershwin, will be presented by the Palace Teen Company (featuring actors ages 12 to 18) at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St. in Manchester, on Tuesday, June 16, and Wednesday, June 17, at 7 p.m., according to the palacetheatre.org, where you can purchase tickets.

org, where you can purchase tickets.

Classical

• **“Song of Democracy”** will be performed along with “other stirring music that evokes a vast range of the American experience” by the New Hampshire Master Chorale on Saturday, June 20, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Concord and on Sunday, June 21, at 4 p.m. at the Plymouth Congregational Church, according to a press release. For tickets, see events.ticketleap.com/tickets/nhmc-4/song-of-democracy.

• **“Strike Up the Band”** a benefit concert from the Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra featuring “works by Gershwin, Copland, Bernstein, Price and Light” as well as “a special appearance by the Portsmouth Brass Quintet performing a selection of Scott Joplin and other 1920’s jazz-era music,” will take place Saturday, June 20, at 7 p.m. at the Music Hall in Portsmouth, according to a press release. See portsmouthsymphony.org or themusichall.org.

• **The Boston Civic Symphony,** a 75 piece symphony joined by the classical violinist Keila Wakao, will perform at the Sawyer Theater at Colby Sawyer College in New London on Saturday, June 27, at 7 p.m. The performance will include Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto, Mendelssohn’s Hebrides Overture and Elgar’s Enigma Variation, according to a press release. Tickets cost \$30 for adults and are free for students, the release said. See summermusicassociates.org.

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Tips for growing wonderful flowers

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

I've heard it said that June is the most common month for weddings. I'm not sure why, but my theory is that June, despite black flies and noxious ticks, is a great month to be outside for wedding receptions. Roses are in bloom, as are peonies, iris and so much more.

Roses have evolved considerably since I was a boy in the 1950s. Breeders have created modern hybrids that are disease-free and bloom almost non-stop all summer. In the old days rosarians sprayed roses regularly with various poisons to minimize damage from fungal diseases and insect pests.

Many old-fashioned roses bloom mostly in June and are deliciously fragrant. New hybrids will bloom more or less continuously all summer if in full sun, but most are not fragrant. And they are rarely attacked by insects as they have no scent that would attract them. Since I'm technically a geezer, I should grow the old-fashioned roses — but I like these new hybrids.

There are several lines of trademarked roses. I love the 'Knock-Out' roses. They are winter hardy (in Zone 4) and offer blooms until October for me. Everything the Proven Winner people grow — annuals, perennials, roses — does very well. Their 'Oso Easy' line of roses is well-regarded, but I haven't personally grown any.



Bachelor buttons have unusual, spidery flowers. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

My wife loves heirloom roses and has had great luck buying some from Old Sheep Meadows Nursery in Alfred, Maine. And if they will grow in Alfred, Maine, they will grow where you are. According to his website, the owner, Raymond Graber, has been growing roses in Maine for over 60 years. He has a wealth of knowledge and he is happy to share it.

Three bits of knowledge I can share about roses: 1. They love — and need — plenty of water. Water daily in hot or dry times. 2. They like dark, rich soil and some added garden lime and slow-release organic fertilizer at planting time. 3. Although six hours of sunshine or more is recommended, most will do fine with four. You



Peony 'Festiva maxima' that my grandmother grew. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

don't have any roses? Go buy a few. We only live once.

Most plants have a finite lifespan. Many perennials will die out in 10 years. Some trees last a hundred or more. But I often say, "Properly planted, peonies will live forever." My maternal grandmother, Anna Lenat, died in 1953 when I was just 7 years old. My mother dug up one of her peonies and brought it to our home in Connecticut. I dug it up again in 1984 and divided it, leaving half with my mom, and planting half at my home in Cornish, New Hampshire. The roots or tubers, presumably more than 100 years old by now, still produce plenty of blossoms.



Gas Plant is a good addition to any garden. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

I always recommend buying peonies in June when they're in bloom — seeing is believing. Some are fragrant — even heavenly fragrant — while others are not. Some have stiff, strong stems, while others flop even on sunny days from the weight of their magnificent blossoms. "Single" peonies have just one row of petals so are less prone to flopping. But most common are the doubles: gorgeous, but with so many petals they flop when it rains.

Peony rings are wire cages sold to hold up flower stems even on rainy days. Most are too low to really do the job right. Plus, you have to remember early in May to install them. By

CONTINUED ON PG 23 ▶

Synthetic oil is the real deal



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:
You often recommend synthetic motor oil for cars. How do they make synthetic oil? Most modern products are made from oil, plastics, etc.

What do they make synthetic oil from? — John

Good question, John. In referring to oil, synthetic means that the process is not a naturally occurring one. But synthetic oil still begins with petroleum.

There are two ways synthetic oil is made. The "from the ground up" method involves starting with crude oil or natural gas, and "cracking" it to remove a small molecule called ethylene.

Then they take these small ethylene molecules and fuse them together and build larger and larger molecules, eventually ending up with something called PAO (polyalphaolefins, not to be confused with KUNG PAO at your local Chinese restaurant)

Then, they mix the PAO with hydrogen to stabilize it and protect it from breaking down in heat and air. And, voila! A very pure oil. That's method number one.

The more common process goes in the other direction. Instead of starting from the molecu-

lar level and building up, they start with crude oil and remove impurities.

Using a chemical catalyst, plus hydrogen, heat, and high pressure, they're able to weed out impurities like nitrogen and sulfur. The process also rearranges the molecules, and makes the whole thing not only purer, but also more stable and long-lasting. And the result is a pretty close match with PAOs. Then, like any other oil, they add in things like detergents, viscosity agents, and anti-wear chemicals.

The result — regardless of which method they use — is a motor oil that, in my experience, does a far better, longer-lasting job of protecting engines. And the reason it works better is that traditional crude oil comes from its dinosaur ancestors with all different-sized molecules. So, the molecules don't flow as easily over each other and spread as uniformly over your engine parts.

If you want a visual image, Mobil 1 once likened the molecules in conventional motor oil to "a can of rocks." Which is also how I used to refer to my brother's brain.

Whereas synthetic oil, they say, has molecules that are more like "a can of marbles." And marbles flow more smoothly and coat more evenly than rocks.

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,
I have a hanging tapestry that is approximately 7 feet by 4 feet, and a wall-mounted one that is about 5 feet by 4 feet. Both have backing sewn on the rear.

According to family lore, the tapestries were acquired by my grandfather in the early 1930s when the Roxy Theatre chain in NYC went bankrupt during the Depression. Allegedly, they were "antiques" at that time. They were given to his son, my uncle, and were stored in a duffel bag for more than 50 years. My uncle gave me the weavings and we have had them on the wall since about 1985, but know nothing about their origin or provenance beyond the family tale. My uncle could provide no further info and is now deceased.

Thanks in advance for your help.
Ron

Dear Ron,

Thanks for all the information.

I can tell you, Ron, that your tapestries are from the late 1800s or early 1900s. Most are made



in other countries such as England, France and a couple others.

They were made en masse for years. Larger ones like yours could have easily been used in a theater for decorative purposes.

I have had many throughout my career. I think you would be safe going to an antique shop for help. Or a consignment shop. Most

larger ones in good clean condition can run up to \$200. They are not an easy sell. Whoever buys or sells for you needs room financially to find the final buyer.

I hope this helps, Ron, and you find a new home for both tapestries.

Thanks for sharing with us.

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. 🍷

Making stuff with 'very cool toys'

Celebrating creations of all types at MakeIt Fest Nashua

By John Fladd

jfladd@hippopress.com

MakeIt Labs is a makers' space in downtown Nashua. On Saturday, June, 13, it will host MakeIt Fest, a celebration of maker culture. For many people, the terms "maker" or "maker space" bring a mental image of a group of young inventors with soldering irons building custom electronics in a basement somewhere. Brad Goodman thinks that is just a starting point; Making (with a capital M) is about getting drawn into learning skills that might not seem to have anything to do with each other at first glance.

Goodman, a member and director of MakeIt Labs and a coordinator for MakeIt Fest, said Making is about learning to imagine something that doesn't exist, and then learning how to bring it into reality. "MakeItLab is a community makerspace," he said. "We're an all-volunteer organization, and we are basically a collective of artists, engineers, hobbyists, crafters, self-proclaimed mad scientists, and people who just like to learn things, create things and teach each other. We are a community first. We're a building full of a lot of very cool toys, second, and we have everything from pottery studios to woodworking places



Courtesy photo from MakeIt Labs.

to machine shops to robotics and electronics labs and a million other things. We do jewelry making, woodworking, and conventional arts and crafts."

This weekend's MakeIt event is about demonstrating a thirst for curiosity with a wider audience, Goodman said.

"What makes MakeIt Fest unlike most craft shows that you go to where the idea is that you come and you look at stuff that other people have done with the hope that you'll buy something, is it's just really more of a gathering of our members and other people in the community who are also makers and crafters and

doers and it's a chance for us to show off the kinds of stuff that we do. Really, the goal isn't about, 'Look at what I did; buy my stuff,' but, 'Hey, this is the kind of stuff that we're into and we're just learning this too. Come join this movement. Are you interested in blacksmithing? Are you interested in woodworking? Do you not know how to weld? Do you want to learn these things? Well, this is the kind of stuff that we're into doing and learning.' It's not just about inspiring people, but really giving them more of a tangible way to get started in this kind of stuff."

MakeIt Fest will be more hands-on than many craft fairs or hobby shows, Goodman said.

"At last count, there will be about 46 different areas set up. There will be booths for makers — our members and even non-members who have their own side businesses — who do a lot of weird and creative things. A lot of [the spaces] are different things that MakeIt Labs does — showing off our woodworking, showing off pottery, showing off in general. People will be able to have a picture taken with our robot mascot and we will use a dye sublimation process to give you a mug with your picture with a robot on it. Or one of our lasers can take your name and a design and we'll engrave your name on a

key tag for you. So there's like a lot of giveaway type things like that. Showing off our resource areas. Like I said, blacksmithing, woodworking. One guy, he bought an old school bus, turned it into a conversion van for his band to tour in. So that'll be set up for people to come in and look at and explore."

"We'll have tours of our Lab and our machine shop," Goodman said, "and drive around on our remote control couch. We'll have our handmade kinetic sculptures, which are things like a four-wheeled bicycle that goes through roads, mud and water on display there. It's a kind of a showcase for all the weird, wacky stuff that we do and the kind of stuff that is really attainable if you want to come to an organization like ours and learn about some of this stuff."

"Our hope is that people come in and go, 'Oh, wow, here's a neat machine. If I only knew how to do that, there's this cool thing that I really want to do.' And then we'll help them do that."

MakeIt Fest 2026

When: Saturday, June 13, from noon to 4 p.m.

Where: MakeIt Labs, 25 Crown St., Nashua, 487-6218, makeitlabs.com.

More: There will be contests and raffles open to all attendees. Visit makeitfest.com

◀ HOMEYER FROM PG 22

now mature plants are too big to fit the cages over them. My solution is to poke three bamboo stakes firmly into the soil around each plant and then connect them at the appropriate height with green garden twine. If you were a Scout, you may remember learning to tie a clove hitch. That's the knot you want.

If you bought a nice peony a few years ago and it no longer blooms, you may have planted it too deeply or covered the "nibs" (growing points) with too much mulch. Feel around the plant to see where next year's growth will emerge from little pointy nibs. More than an inch of cover will often inhibit blooming. Yes, you will have a

healthy plant — but no blossoms.

My great Great-Granny told me that peonies need ants crawling around on the buds for them to open. Not true. Peonies attract aphids, and ants come to harvest the sweet "nectar" that is their poop.

Other great June flowers in my garden include gas plant (*Dictamnus albus*), which has an intense citrus odor that is strongest at dusk to attract night-flying moths.

Delphiniums are wonderful plants with stalks often over 5 feet tall and loaded with blue, purple or white blossoms. But you do need to stake them to keep them upright in the rain. Scratch in some slow-release organic fertilizer each spring



'Knockout' roses are reliable bloomers. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

as they are heavy feeders. And if you cut them back to the ground after blooming, they probably will re-bloom in the fall.

Perennial bachelor buttons (*Centaurea mon-*

tana) are easy to grow and make good cut flowers. Blue to purple, they love sun and will make you feel like you have made it as a gardener.

All the flowering plants are wonderful. Think back to what your parents and grandparents grew. That's a good place to start shopping. Or better yet, see if you can dig some plants from their gardens if they will let you.

Henry can be reached at PO Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746 or henry.homeyer@comcast.net. He is the author of four gardening books.

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News from the local food scene

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

• **LaBelle happenings:** There are several events on the schedule for LaBelle Winery (345 Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898, labellewinery.com).

LaBelle Winery Amherst (345 Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898, labellewinery.com) will host a four-course wild game dinner on Friday, June 12, from 6:30 to 10 p.m. The menu will include duck, wild boar and elk. According to the LaBelle website, “This intimate gathering celebrates rustic elegance, sustainable sourcing, and the adventurous spirit of the outdoors.” Tickets are \$95 each, through labellewinery.com/public-winery-events.

There will be a Greek-god-themed murder mystery dinner at LaBelle Winery Amherst (345 Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898, labellewinery.com) Saturday, June 13, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. According to the LaBelle website, guests will “immerse themselves in a world of divine glamour, hidden secrets, and shifting alliances as they step into the role of powerful immortals, uncover clues, and unravel the truth.” The mystery will be accompanied by a three-course Mediterranean dinner. Tickets are \$84 each through labellewinery.com/public-winery-events.

Also at LaBelle in Amherst, on May 18, the winery announced a new dog-friendly menu at both its restaurant locations. “Pups on the Patio [is] now available at The Bistro in Amherst and Americus in Derry,” the announcement read. “The menu, developed by executive chef Justin Bernatchez, features chef-prepared entrees and desserts formulated specifically for dogs, with no added salt, spices, onions, garlic, chocolate or artificial sweeteners.” Visit the LaBelle website.

• **Pints, pipes and a podcast:** Twins Smoke Shop and Lounge (twinsmokeshop.com) will host an afternoon of Nørding pipes, a live recording of the Not Just Blowing Smoke podcast and a tobacco tasking, Saturday, June 13, from noon to 4 p.m. at 603 Brewery (42 Main St., Londonderry, 404-6123, 603brewery.com). 603 Brewery will offer a \$30 Beer & Brat Bar, and there will be a 4th Generation bulk tobacco tasting. Visit the Twins Smoke Shop website.

• **Bubbles and boas:** Unwined Wine Bar (1 Nashua St., Milford, 213-6703, unwinednh.com) will host a Corks and Queens drag brunch Sunday, June 14, at 11 a.m. Tickets are \$28.52 through the Unwined website.

• **Share and Pair:** Sundays through July 5, Averill House Vineyard (21 Averill Road, Brookline, 244-3165, averillhousevineyard.com) will host Share and Pair Sundays. Relax in Averill House’s outdoor living room with up to seven friends. Each two-person ticket includes tastings of four Averill House wines or a wine

FOOD

Elegance to go

Ice cream, croissants, caviar and The Whole Shebang

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

Melissa Samaras has worked in restaurants and the hospitality industry for years. Recently she decided to follow a dream she has nurtured over most of that time: opening her own business. In her case, it is a gourmet food truck called The Whole Shebang. Things fell into place so she could unveil her dream business at one of the biggest food events around, downtown Manchester’s Taco Tour.

But two weeks before Taco Tour her trailer, a vintage Citroën, hadn’t been delivered.

“It finally got here a week and a half before Taco Tour,” Samaras said. “Just getting the trailer here in time just for the date itself was nerve-racking. I was ready to work. The Chamber [the Greater Manchester Chamber, the organizer of Taco Tour] was working with me and they’re like, ‘Is she going to get in? Is she going to get in?’ And I ... by the skin of my teeth, got in and it was the most beautiful, perfect night.”

Samaras’ food truck, The Whole Shebang, made a big splash.

“I couldn’t be happier with how well-received everything was,” she said. “We did a beautiful mangonada [a Mexican frozen drink with mango, tropical flavors and a chili-lime seasoning, like Tajin] ... I wanted to complement the night. I knew I couldn’t do a taco, because our brand is different from Mexican cuisine, but I wanted to do something with our Dole Whip [a frozen pineapple soft-serve, like that served outside the Tiki Room in a Disney resort]. We have a beautiful soft-serve machine, so we did a luxury Dole Whip piece for the evening that included chamoy, which is a spicy fruit sauce, a plum sugar, bruleed pineapple, and mango Dole Whip

with some fresh diced mango. Alongside that, we had a beautiful dirty soda with coconut-vanilla cream on top, Dr. Pepper, coconut flavoring, a little bit of lime and sea salt. That was very well-received as well and perfect for the night.”

The philosophy behind The Whole Shebang is one of simplified sophistication, Samaras said. “I’ve been drawn to the European cafe culture,” she said, “the idea that food and drink are about more than consumption. It’s about connection, conversation, and something I’m not the best at, slowing down. So that’s what I wanted for people. Food truck service is supposed to be quick service. We can still do that while being elegant and efficient, but I want to be able to take a moment and have it be a full experience. The Citroën embodies that. It has an undeniable charm when you look at it. There’s an elegance that immediately sparks curiosity and that nostalgic feel.”

Samaras’ goal, she said, is to provide an elegant accent to events — big ones like Taco Tour and Manchester’s upcoming jazz festival in August, but also smaller, more personal events like weddings, showers and corporate events that will be complemented by a touch of elegance. “Being a wedding and event planner,” she said, “I want to bring [events] grazing tables and stylized experiences with food. We have an a la carte graze collection that has beautiful salads, luxury charcuterie boards, charcuterie combs, raw bars, caviar tasting stations, all of those fun things that are really beautiful and allow my clients to be themselves at their events. I want to represent them and make them proud of the event they’re throwing and take the effort away from them and take the stress away from them and let them know that it’s all taken care of.”

As an example, Samaras said, “we’re doing croissant soft-serve; rather than a traditional ice



The Whole Shebang. Photo by Sunshine Shannon Photography.

cream cone, a croissant is filled with vanilla soft-serve and luxury toppings. Some can be topped with caviar. So we have sturgeon caviar for our vanilla soft-serve in little pieces, just to be a great conversation starter. And it’s meant to be fun. It’s meant to be approachable. We’ll also have gourmet hot dogs — we serve only Wagyu. Those will also be served in croissants. So rather than even a beautiful brioche bun, we’re really going in on that theme of that European, French, Parisian, cafe, street bustling, just European elegance is really what we want.”

Her menu, Samaras said, “is pretty things that serve beautifully anywhere. That’s my motto, my tagline.”

Visit thewholeshebangevents.com.

FOOD

Beer, pizza and the outdoors

Bow Beer Garden offers picnic vibes

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

Some dreams are realized all at once; others happen one step at a time.

Dan Thomas from Hoptimystic Brewing (71 Main St., Sunapee, hoptimysticbrewing.com) has wanted to open a new brewery and restaurant in Bow for several years.

“We have been working on it for like three years,” he said, “and we finally got something to fruition. We were hoping to open a full build-out of a brewery and restaurant, but we hit a bunch of hurdles and this is what we could do — we created a completely outdoor space here in Bow, right on South Street.”

The Bow Beer Garden will have a definite picnic theme this first year, Thomas said.

“It’s 100 percent outdoors. It’s definitely an outdoor New Hampshire rustic vibe. It’s a wood chip base, and we’ve got picnic tables. We’ve got some shade, some sun. We have a modified shipping container that has a concession window in it, so everything is ordered right out of there. You order your beer, your pizza, all of it, in a one-stop shop, right out of the container. We’re using the food truck more as just a mobile kitchen. Although it’s there, the customers won’t really interact with that at all. It’s definitely a very, very low-key casual vibe. You’ll walk away with your beer, but if you’re getting pizza you’ll get a buzzer. And when your buzzer goes off, come up to

the window, grab your pizza and off you go.”

The food side of the Beer Garden will be addressed by a local pizza institution, Thomas said. “We found a great partner in 900 Degrees from Manchester. We’re doing the beer and we’re offering a very limited menu from 900 Degrees, but it’s the pizzas that folks already know. We have six different pizzas available — all 10-inch pizzas.”

On the beer side, Thomas and his staff plan to serve some proven winners.

“We came up with a beer for 900 Degrees called the House Pie Pilsner,” he said. “That’s something that we’re brewing for them. We’ve had that on tap since Day 1, and that’s been a huge hit for us. It’s a nice, light, crisp, refresh-



Courtesy photo.

ing beer. It's not the hoppiest beer for real craft beer enthusiasts, but it really attracts the masses. Then, one of my personal favorites, more for the craft beer enthusiasts, is our Smooth Operator IPA. That's one we're excited about. The thing about us, and we do this in our other tasting rooms, although we have a couple core beers that stay on tap, we're constantly changing. So you'll see in a couple of weeks we'll have a couple of sours. We've got a Creamsicle IPA that we do

The Bow Beer Garden

Hours: Wednesday and Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from noon to 9 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 7 p.m.

More: Visit the Beer Garden's website at hoptmysticbrewing.com/new-page, which is also a work in progress.

once a year, which is super refreshing and popular. I think the thing about us is not so much that there's one beer that defines us. We've had folks posting on some social media about how they appreciate the fact that we have variety."

Thomas said that he has a good feeling about the new beer garden. "We're still a work in progress for sure," he said, "but we've got heating, we've got cold beer, and we've got hot pizza. Some of the aesthetic stuff we're still working on. Every week, when you come, it's going to look a little better. We've done a couple things this last week from when we opened, from the week prior. This week we've got a couple more things coming, and next week we've got a few more things coming. Every week we're getting a little bit better. It was important for us to get open. And when folks come down, we're happy to serve them." 🍷



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FOOD



DRINKS WITH JOHN FLADD

Jimmy B's retirement lemonade

The label on the bottle reads “Buchanan’s Pineapple.” It’s a brand of scotch flavored with pineapple and citrus fruit. Yes, the fruit flavors cover up the whiskey’s more subtle nuances, but let’s face it, if you were super-concerned about subtly nuanced flavors, you probably wouldn’t be playing around with pineapple-flavored scotch.

Which is not to say that it isn’t delicious. It’s actually very tasty — a little sweet, a little, er, scotchy — and has a lot to bring to a mixed drink. No, you won’t sit in a leather armchair, drinking it out of a snifter and reading poetry in classical Greek (or, for all I know, maybe you will), but it can act well in an ensemble cast.

Which we’ll get to in a minute.

There is something else on the bottle’s label — a signature that reads “James Buchanan.” If that name sounds familiar, it’s the name of the president in office just before Abraham Lincoln. Most historians rate him pretty poorly as a president; a combination of poor judgement, bad luck, and rumors of a — for the time — scandalous personal life led to a rough four years in the White House. He left an ugly mess for Lincoln to deal with, and we know how well *that* turned out.

Now, I’m not saying that the James Buchanan on the label of this pineapple-flavored scotch is the same Buchanan who was partially responsible for the Civil War. But it would be foolish to discount the possibility.

OK, actually we do know it wasn’t the same guy, but I like to imagine Buchanan moving to Scotland for a fresh start after leaving office and going into the whiskey business. Which is why we’re calling this week’s cocktail:



Jimmy B's retirement lemonade. Photo by John Fladd.

Jimmy B's retirement lemonade

- 1 lemon, thinly sliced
- 2 teaspoons granulated sugar
- 2 ounces Buchanan’s Pineapple

Combine the lemon slices and sugar in a cocktail shaker. Muddle them thoroughly — really grind them together for a full minute or so. Then, add the whiskey and five or six ice cubes.

Shake enthusiastically, until a line of condensation forms on the shaker or you hear the ice start to break up into small shards.

Do not strain this drink. Pour everything directly into a rocks glass, and drink it with an open mind and a light heart.

Does it taste like lemonade? Yes, a little.

Does it taste fruity and boozy? Definitely.

Does it taste of questionable choices? Perhaps, but it’s springtime, a time for impulsive decisions. You will not regret this one.

Probably. 🍷

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Weekly Dish

Continued from page 24

slushy and a curated charcuterie board. Knowledgeable associates will be on hand to talk wine. Tickets are \$59.

• **Hot wax and bourbon:** There will be a Maker’s Mark Dipping Event and Seminar at the NH Liquor & Wine Outlet Store No. 69 (25 Coliseum Ave, Nashua, 882-4670, liquorandwineoutlets.com) Sunday, June 14, from 1 to 3 p.m. Participants will see a demonstration of hot-wax dipping and have a guided tasting of three Maker’s Mark whiskeys. Each guest will receive a live-dipped rocks glass to take home, and a \$3 coupon for selected purchases of Maker’s Mark products. Tickets are \$12 through Eventbrite.com.

• **Mozzarella stretching is the best kind of stretching:** Learn how to form and stretch curd into a shiny mozzarella ball at a Hand-Stretched Mozzarella and Pizza-Making class at Tuscan Market (Tuscan Village, 9 Via Toscana, Salem, 912-5467, tuscanbrands.com) Wednesday, June 17, at 6 p.m. You can use your fresh mozzarella as a topping on your own hand-stretched pizza dough or take it home to enjoy later. Guests will also get to choose from a selection of house-made artisan ingredients. Tickets are \$69.89 through tuscanbrands.com/cooking-classes. 🍷

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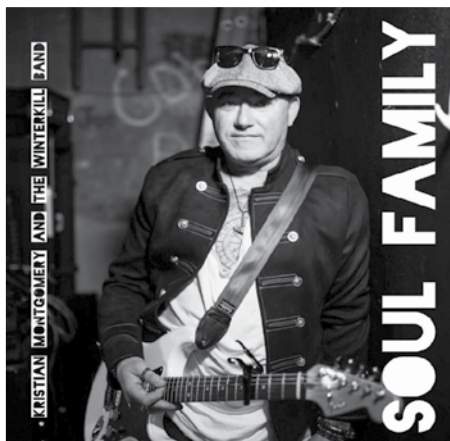
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POP CULTURE

MUSIC, BOOKS, MOVIES AND MORE

Kristian Montgomery and the Winterkill Band, *Soul Family* (self-released/Bandcamp)



We've talked about this local musician before, including how he lost his home and all his belongings in a fire last year, and about his ongoing battles with the elements that lord over the Boston rock scene. We're more than casual acquaintances now, online at least, where I heard some rough demos of the songs on this album while they were still babies. Anyhow, as always, there's a lot of great stuff to be heard here, beginning with opener "This Is How We Roll," which he's sculpted into a really amazing tune that combines the beat from The Outfield's "Your Love," adds some Allmans hubris and tops it off with a pseudo-Millennial whoop for good measure. That tune also signals a leaning toward riff rock and less Tom Petty pop than we've heard before,

which we hear in "Brotherhood Of Ghosts," a cross between Zep's "Black Dog" and early Mountain. On the lighter side, ballad-adjacent Cajun-rocker "The Last Time I Loved You" floats an instantly hummable verse and some techy layering; "Home" is pure Gregg Allman-style Southern bombast. Sooner or later this guy's hitting on a hit, I assure you. **A+** —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

Rich Willey, *Laid Back Vol. 1* featuring John Swana (self-released/CDBaby)



Just in time for the hot weather comes this appropriately named if imperfect collection of seven jazz compositions from trumpet/tuba player Willey and his band of 11 guys, whose sound is slightly bigger than that number would indicate. As far as vibe, you should be thinking Caribbean, Spyro Gyra, reggae and that sort of thing, perfectly innocuous, but it's not quite as simple as that, given that some of the sounds are a little, well, unconventional, starting with Paul Mutzabaugh's antiquated-sounding B3 organ, but more to the point is the presence of Swana, the wild card in the deck: He plays an "electronic valve instrument" (EVI), of which Willey is apparently a fan, unfortunately. Where Geof Bradfield and Jim Gailloro's saxes fit quite

well with the trumpet played by Willey and Carey Deadman, the bizarre, often high-pitched, alien sounds from the EVI become something of an unwelcome distraction and would work much better in a more, I don't know, progressive setting. Willey loves the thing, though, and wants it to become a more commonplace sound within jazz, which is noble, but, again, I wouldn't have used it on this album. **B-** —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Look out everyone, the next New CD Release Friday looms over us like a, you know, a looming loomosaurus, June 12 to be specific! As you know, I'll try anything once, and that includes pop divas who want to turn our schoolchildren into twerking zombies. I will give anyone a chance, because I am a professional at this, and professionalism requires constant sacrifice, so for the moment my mission is to try to see why the new **Olivia Rodrigo** album is more musically profound than the ones from the last few child-ruiners, like **Ariana Grande** or **Sabrina Carpenter**. Why do I do things like this? Mostly because when people send me hateful Facebook messages yelling at me for selling out and writing about corporate pop music instead of obscure bands who purposely try to sound weird just to get attention from their former college roommates, I learn things, and it also provides me the opportunity to practice my yelling at people over the internet, which will be a very marketable skill when the AI bots take all our jobs. But I also have a certain curiosity about popular culture, so it's nice to know what people like Ms. Rodrigo sound like, given that they are hip and groovy and important to our children, sort of like how **Cyndi Lauper** was in 1986 and **Annette Hanshaw** in 1934. I do try to spot new pop trends too, not that there's been much to do in that regard since **Madonna** discovered trance music and put a bunch of it on her 1998 (where does the time go, I ask you) album *Ray Of Light*, after which most of the new shrink-wrapped, corporate-molded pop divas copied her, the way all the divas ape **Chappell Roan** (who's basically a humorless Cyndi Lauper, if you think about it) these days. Anyway, the new Olivia Rodrigo album is titled *You Seem Pretty Sad For A Girl So In Love*, a Chappell Roan-inspired title if I ever saw one, but apparently there is depth to this vacuousness, as the LP is divided into two parts: One side is dedicated to first love, and the second half is about how being in love won't solve your anxieties and personal problems (such depth, folks! I'll tell you, if my first love had been that introspective at age 20, my life would have turned out differently, that is unless it wouldn't've). The single "Drop Dead" starts out all slow-tech-no-y, like Chappell Roan, then the epic chorus comes in and it totally rips off Chappell Roan's "Casual" but all the children will be too scared to say anything, so all this derivative nonsense will continue until further notice.

• On the older pop diva front, now that **Bebe Rexha** has reached her mid-30s she's adopting a "cool auntie" (not my expression, by the way) attitude for her new album *Dirty Blonde*, her first record to be distributed independently under Empire Distribution. Free at last to do whatever she wants, her main goal is to "sound unlike anyone else," so let's go see about that. The second single, "Sad Girls," features Rexha teaming up with boring house producer David Guetta but nevertheless it is good, mostly because it sounds like half the songs trance soundsystem **Above & Beyond** did during the Aughts (anyone noticing a pattern yet?).

• Until now, **Fruit Bats** albums have mostly comprised Eric Johnson playing over click tracks, but the new one, *The Landfill*, features his actual band. The title track actually does have a pulse, sort of like Smashing Pumpkins meets Train.

• Lastly we have prog legends **Yes**, with *Aurora*, an album whose seven-minute title track showcases some fairly cool guitar bits from sole original member Steve Howe, some orchestra stuff from the Czech National Symphony Orchestra, and some particularly lifeless vocals from Jon Davison, whom the band should fire. —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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It's Hard to be an Animal, by Robert Isaacs (Grand Central Publishing, 288 pages)

Meet Henry Parsons — although he'd rather you not.

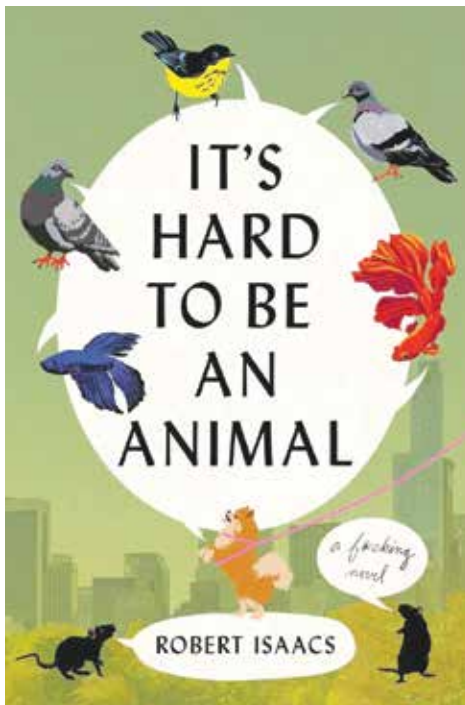
Henry is socially awkward and reticent; he's most comfortable in the third-floor New York apartment he shares with a roommate he'd found on Craigslist and two betta fish. He likes "sitting on his own frayed, moss-green couch, in the company of familiar books and plates and towels; they gave him a sense of belonging. Life anywhere else in the city required breathing borrowed air, occupying temporary space, infringing on someone else's territory."

So the conflict-averse Henry moves cautiously about his life, going to work, seeing a therapist every week, trying to recover from a friendly break-up three years ago. And things are mostly fine until animals start talking to him.

That might be nice if the animals were friendly, like the woodland creatures who helped Snow White clean the Seven Dwarfs' kitchen. But the animals talking to Henry in Robert Isaacs's *It's Hard to be an Animal* are wicked snarky, with a vocabulary that would make a sailor blush. Also, they seem to hate everybody.

The first time it happens, Henry is in Central Park on a blind coffee date arranged by a coworker. Molly Bent, his date, is admiring a bird, which Henry knows is a magnolia warbler, when it unleashes a torrent of profanities at the pair. But only Henry can hear.

Later, when he goes home, he watches in bewilderment as the two betta fish hurl Shake-



spearean insults at one another. (Example: "Malodorous and repugnant though you be, I am indebted to you for one thing: your cursed, unenviable existence serves as a sobering corrective to my own baser instincts.")

After a couple of dogs being walked mock a woman who petted one of them, Henry fears he is losing his sanity. The therapist, who always keeps Henry waiting, is of no help at all. But before Henry has a chance to fully process what is happening, a new problem arises: he learns — from a couple of subway

rats — that bodies are being dragged into a tunnel below the subway and left there to rot. "Maybe it was all rat bravado," he thinks. But maybe not.

Meanwhile, an elderly neighbor that Henry is friendly with is hospitalized and asks Henry to pick up her crotchety Pomeranian, who is at the vet. This is an alarming development — not only will it take Henry away from a planned lunch date with Molly, but it will expose him to a disturbing number of animal conversations, as will a later visit to a dog park in the city.

It all sounds quite absurd, but surprisingly this is a novel with unexpected heart, revealed early on, when Henry is asked to watch the young daughter of a co-worker for a few minutes and the two instantly develop a rapport. Henry, we quickly realize, isn't quite as maladapted for the world as he initially seems.

Nor is Molly, the human sprite who is making Henry's heart flutter with hope. She is an effervescent soul who works at an anti-poverty nonprofit and, like Henry, has conversational skills above her paygrade. Their banter is as delightful as the baleful betta fish.

Talking animals isn't a new literary device — hail, Charlotte — but in Isaacs' hands, these events feel fresh and whimsical, particularly since most of the animals here are full-on trash talkers, contemptuous of the humans that surround them.

"Although he'd grown up with no pets of his own, due to parental allergies, Henry had always accepted as an uplifting, feel-good truth that humans had 'befriended' certain ani-

mals thousands of years ago, brought them into their warm, dry homes for comfort and companionship, fed and sheltered and doted on them. ... Did all our fellow creatures hate us? Every last one of them?"

This is the first novel by Robert Isaacs, who the publisher notes "in his youth supported himself as a juggler and unicyclist on the streets of San Francisco" and went on to become a Grammy-nominated musician.

Whatever his life experiences, they prepared him well for fiction, and *It's Hard to be an Animal* is both charming and witty, despite the dark mystery at the center of it. Will Henry and Molly become a couple and survive a relationship-threatening event? Will they survive an REI-outfitted excursion in an underground tunnel looking for the corpses which the rats foretold? How did the corpses get there? Is Henry having a psychotic breakdown? Is he really hearing voices at all? And most importantly, what will happen to the warring betta fish, who are the breakout stars of this ridiculously endearing show?

And we haven't even talked about Henry's Eastern European roommate whose burgeoning English vocabulary is informed by a bathroom thesaurus and doesn't always come across the way he intends. Or Gracie, the Pomarian, whose philosophical observations about the world differ sharply from those of the other animals that Henry hears.

Some books you don't want to end because they are absorbing; some, because you love the characters so much. *It's Hard to Be An Animal* achieves both. A+ —Jennifer Graham

Books

Author events

- **David O. Dodge** will talk about his new historical novel, *Hannah: One Woman's Quest for Vengeance and Enlightenment*, based on the life of Hannah Duston, on Thursday, June 11, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com), and on Friday, June 12, at 3 p.m. at Balin Books (375 Amherst St., Nashua, balinbooks.com).
- **Seacoast LitFest** runs June 11-14 in Portsmouth and will include an evening with **Jenna Bush Hager** with special guest Shannon Garvey, a conversation with Dr. Temple Grandin, and presentations by Jill Lepore and Barbara McQuade. Purchase tickets at themusicall.org.
- **Rick Davidson and Bill Thompson** present volumes 1 and 2 of *Buried New Hampshire*, about the state's most interesting burial sites, on Friday, June 12, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com).
- **Jonathan A. Wright** will discuss his new book, *Half a World Away: Nine Months Around the World in 1962-1963 Through the Eyes of a Young Boy* on Saturday, June 13, at 11 a.m. at Toadstool Bookshop in Peterborough (12 Depot Square, toad-

books.com).

- **Dennis Pierce** will discuss his newest book, *Cross Checking*, a mystery thriller, on Saturday, June 13, at 2 p.m. at Balin Books (375 Amherst Road, Nashua, balinbooks.com).
- **Isaac Fitzgerald** presents his new book *American Rambler: Walking the Trail of Johnny Appleseed* on Tuesday, June 16, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com).
- **Laura Knoy** presents her new novel *The Shopkeeper of Alsace* on Wednesday, June 17, at 6 p.m. at Wine on Main (9 N. Main St., Concord). Throughout the evening, guests will enjoy four wines inspired by the book, and light snacks. 21+. Seating is limited. Tickets \$39.19; register via wineonmainnh.com or theelevnthletter.com.
- **Caitlin Shetterly** presents her novel *The Gulf of Lions* on Thursday, June 18, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com).
- **Trey Sager** presents his newest fiction collection, *Pretend I'm Not Here*, on Friday, June 19, at 6:30 p.m. at The Eleventh Letter (146 N. Main St., Concord, theelevnthletter.com).
- **Anthony Caplan** presents his new literary science fiction novel, *Alias Tomorrow* on Friday, June 19, at 6:30

p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com).

- **Sarah Shea Smith** will talk about her book *They Saved Up a Storm*, which tells the story of a group of women who operated a sawmill on the shores of Turkey Pond in Concord in 1942, on Wednesday, June 24, at 5:30 p.m. in the Carriage House at Kimball Jenkins (266 N. Main St., Concord, 225-3932, kimballjenkins.com), in conjunction with the "Sawmill: Women Man the Mill" art exhibit on display there June 19-Aug. 1.
- **Maggie O'Farrell**, author of *Hamnet* and other acclaimed novels, will talk about her newest, *Land*, on Friday, June 26, at 7 p.m. at Music Hall Historic Theater (28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusicall.org). Ticket packages cost \$48 and include a copy of the book.
- **Local authors celebrate Manchester's 180th anniversary** on Saturday, June 27, noon-4 p.m. at Barnes & Noble in Manchester (1741 S. Willow St., bn.com). Attending authors will include Robert B. Perreault, author of *Franco-American Life & Culture in Manchester, NH*, the recent novel *Courtship in Purgatory* and other titles; Gary Samson, author of *Manchester: The Mills and the Immigrant Experience*; Yvette Lazdowski, co-au-

thor of *Manchester's Shoe Industry*, and Kelly Kilcrease, author of *Boston's Long Wharf: A Path to the Sea*.

- **E.H. Jacobs** will talk about his new book, *Into a Wider Sky: A Tragic Novel of Good Intentions*, on Thursday, July 2, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com).
- **Jennifer Dupree** presents her book *Slow Motion: A Memoir of Friendship, Disability, and Advocacy* on Thursday, July 9, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com). Dupree will be in conversation with Melanie Brooks, author of *A Hard Silence*.
- **Laura Knoy** will discuss and sign copies of her book *The Shopkeeper of Alsace* on Saturday, July 11, 1-3 p.m. at Bookery Manchester (844 Elm St., bookerymht.com).
- **Gordon Korman**, bestselling author of middle-grade chapter books, presents his latest, *Sleepless* on Monday, July 13, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com).
- **Daniel Mason**, author of *North Woods* and other acclaimed novels, will talk about his newest, *Country People*, on Tuesday, July 14, at 7 p.m. at the Music Hall Historic Theater (28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusi-

call.org). Ticket packages cost \$47 and include a copy of the book.

- **Chris Sweeney** will talk about his book *The Feather Detective* on July 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the McLane Center (84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909). Register at nhaudubon.org/event to attend.
- **Jess Zafarris** will talk about her new book, *A Miscellany of Weird & Wonderful Facts*, on Thursday, July 19, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com).
- **Joyce Maynard** presents her new novel, *In Wonderland*, on Thursday, July 23, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com).
- **Colson Whitehead**, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Nickel Boys*, presents his new book *Cool Machine*, Book 3 in the Harlem Trilogy, on Friday, July 24, at 7 p.m. at BNH Stage (16 S. Main St., Concord) as part of the Author on Main series. Tickets \$40 via ccanh.com.

History, stories, discussions & lectures

- **Justice & Journalism: The Rise of the Civic Documenter** presented by NHPR on Thursday, June 18, at 7 p.m. at BNH Stage (16 S. Main St.,

Concord). Standard tickets \$23 (\$18 for students and teachers); premium tickets \$54 (includes post-show event). Purchase tickets at ccanh.com.

Book events

- **Bookish Bingo** hosted by Bookish Bliss at Dave & Buster's (Mall of NH, 1500 S. Willow St., Manchester) on Tuesday, June 23, 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 buy tickets.
- **Bookish Bingo** hosted by Bookish Bliss at Cork N Keg Grill in Raymond (inside Strikers East, 4 Essex Drive) on Tuesday, June 30, 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.

Poetry

- **Poetry Society of New Hampshire** holds monthly poetry readings at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com), with reading followed by an open mic. Newcomers are welcome and encouraged. Wednesday, June 17, 4:30-6 p.m., headliner is t love smith.

Com! Rom! and more

A look at *Office Romance* and other streaming fare

By Amy Diaz
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I like a rom-com that doesn't skimp on the com. *Office Romance* (R) is a movie written by Brett Goldstein (best-known perhaps as the gruff "he's every-[bleeping]-where" Roy Kent on *Ted Lasso*) and Joe Kelly, whose writer/co-creator credits on IMDb include *Ted Lasso* and *Detroiters*. Despite being a Netflix release (on June 5) this movie is of theatrical release quality with a sensibility that hits a nice middle space between expected rom-com beats and the kookier sense of humor of those involved. And, in case years of superstardom and the Affleck of it all have caused you to forget, Jennifer Lopez is actually pretty good at kooky.

Here she plays Jackie Cruz, the CEO of Cruz Air, who has successfully guided the company but is still called "Gordita" by her father, Jack Cruz (Edward James Olmos), the airline's founder, during meetings with a board of directors that is tepid on her leadership. When expansion plans lead to a frivolous lawsuit by a competing airline, Jackie meets in-house lawyer Daniel (Goldstein), asked to handle the case when the company's head attorney (Bradley Whitford, clearly having fun doing the most) is sidelined due to a breakfast burrito mishap. Daniel and Jackie very quickly realize their mutual attraction but, in the face of the company's "zero tolerance for intraoffice dating" policy, they know they can't act on it. So, of course, they get drunk on a work trip and wind up in bed. The no-dating policy is really only part of the obstacle to their romance, most of which is silly, but Goldstein and Lopez have nice romantic chemistry and even better comedy chemistry as a duo involved in romance-tinged goofiness.

For me the movie's MVP is Betty Gilpin, who plays Jackie's extremely pregnant assistant Sydney. The role has that "early aughts Judy Greer role" vibe but Gilpin brings her specific brand of delightful lunatic intensity. Betty Gilpin is always the MVP — whether she's intimidating Goldstein whilst in labor, as she does here, or playing a colonial era woman whose desire to escape spinsterhood leads her to marry a man who is possibly in league with the devil on a



Jennifer Lopez and Brett Goldstein in *Office Romance*.

plague-ridden island (watch Apple's *Widow's Bay*, a weird-fun horror series in which Gilpin has an excellent one-episode appearance).

Office Romance is a goes-down-easy movie that seems to have put fun first — offering solid comedy along with its reality standard romance.

Elsewhere in the streamingplex is *Miss You, Love You* (TV-MA, streaming on HBOMax as of May 29). Allison Janney is Diane, a woman grieving her husband who just died after a battle with Parkinson's. She is putting together his funeral and, while she'd like her son to help her, what she gets is his assistant Jamie (Andrew Rannells). With the exception of a little Bonnie Hunt here and Oscar Nunez there, this movie is mostly Janney and Rannells talking to, talking past and dealing with each other in the days leading up to the funeral — so much so that I assumed this was the adaptation of a play. It doesn't appear to be — it was written as a screenplay and directed by Jim Nash, probably still best recognized from his role as the dean on *Community*, according to Wikipedia.

Though Diane and Jamie's relationship seems straightforward — she's a new widow, angry that her son has sent an assistant instead of coming to care for her himself, and he's the assistant sent, like it or not — both of their backstories are more complicated than that.

"I like seeing Allison Janney like this" was a thought I had early in the movie, by which I think I meant I like seeing Allison Janney just acting, just doing the work as a smart, articulate woman without some other bit of daffy business stacked on the role. Her performance here

is precise — you understand immediately who Diane is and then get to know her in a way that deepens that understanding. Janney and Rannells play off each other well, both when the characters are getting along and when they're fighting. It's really enjoyable to watch even if it's watching people move through varying stages of grief.

The Home is also sort of about grief — is a not completely untrue thing a person could say about this oddball horror movie that allegedly was in theaters last summer and is currently streaming on Hulu. *The Home* stars Pete Davidson, of all unlikely people, whose character, Max, comes to work at a retirement home as part of a community service sentence for doing socially conscious graffiti. Max immediately begins seeing and hearing strange things as he gets to know the residents including those played by John Glover and Mary Beth Peil (Grams from *Dawson's Creek*, among her many credits). For the movie's first half, Max sort of ambles through increasing creepiness and gore, both real and (possibly) in dreams, responding somewhat like his Chad character from the *Saturday Night Live* sketches (fun fact: there actually was a Chad horror movie sketch and it features John Mulaney — it's fun!). Then Max begins a campaign of obsessive observation of the residents with a series of hidden video cameras and breaking into spaces he shouldn't go, quickly followed by a left turn into Bonkersville.

There is a world in which all of that, especially the turn into Bonkersville, could have been a wild *Malignant*-like ride of horror tropes and operatic goofiness. But it doesn't quite get there; it has some "huh, that's a fun idea" beats but can't pull it all together into something that transcends its weaker moments.

For a look at a story in a retirement living situation that does transcend its bumpier elements — and, frankly, the reason I'm talking about *The Home* at all — check out *The Boroughs*. This eight-episode Netflix series also has something strange happening at a retirement community — the New Mexico-set *The Boroughs*, which feels similar to *The Villages* in Florida, and its full-time care facility *The Manor*. (This show was the reason I thought "maybe?" when coming across *The Home*.) In

The Boroughs, Boomers drive golf carts around a resort-like setting and engage in day drinking and promiscuity. In the nearby *Manor*, those with memory and cognitive difficulties wait at prop bus stops and peacefully serve each other yarn-filled mugs of "coffee." But in both places, the settings feel a little too gentle and the staff is a little too aggressively positive. The why of it all is imperfect but the stacked cast makes the show worth sticking with: Alfred Molina as the newest resident; Jena Malone as his daughter; Alfre Woodard, Clark Peters, Denis O'Hare and Geena Davis as his neighbors, and Bill Pullman, Ed Begley Jr., Anna Deavere Smith, Jane Kaczmarek and Mary McDonnell making appearances. It is, as many reviewers have observed, a murderers' row of performers who absolutely make everything they're given at least 30 percent better. Skip *The Home* and watch *The Boroughs*.

Also streaming on Hulu is *In Cold Light* (R), which Wikipedia indicates had some sort of release earlier this year. This movie is, as the title indicates, chilly and didn't feel fully developed but I enjoyed it for the downbeat crime & family drama it is. Maika Monroe plays Ava, vibrating with barely contained rage, sadness and fear at all times. Just released from prison, Ava tries the law-abiding citizen route for like a minute before she tries to return to the drug business she ran with her twin brother Tom (Jesse Irving). She quickly learns that there are new players and finds herself plunged into a war featuring a dirty cop and unreliable allies. (And Helen Hunt, perhaps auditioning for something in the neighborhood of the Annette Bening role on *Paranormal Activity's Dutton Ranch*. If so, she should get it. She is solid. Also, meanwhile, *Dutton Ranch* is a hoot.) The heart of the movie is the difficult relationship between Ava and her father Will (Troy Kotsur, Oscar-winner for *CODA*). Their scenes offer a reminder that, whatever Covid-era baggage we attach to *CODA* aside, Kotsur deserved his Oscar and that, while I mostly know Monroe from the *The Hand that Rocks the Cradle* remake and the weird 2024 horror movie *Longlegs*, there is definitely something there with her. 🍷

Film

• **The Summer Movie Clubhouse**, a lineup of kid-friendly films running Wednesday and Thursday mornings (with a start time usually around 10:30 to 11 a.m.) at Cinemark Rockingham Park (15 Mall Road in Salem; cinemark.com/theatres/nh-salem/cinemark-rockingham-park-and-xd), began the first week of June. Upcoming screenings include *Sonic the Hedgehog* (June 10-11); *K-Pop Demon Hunters Sing Along* (June 17-18).
• **The Mandalorian & Grogu** (PG-13, 2026) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday,

June 11, at 4 & 7 p.m.

• **Backrooms** (R, 2026) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, June 11, at 3, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Friday, June 12, through Sunday, June 14, at 12:30, 3, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Monday, June 15, and Tuesday, June 16, at 3:15, 5:45 & 8:15 p.m.; Wednesday, June 17, at 12:30, 3, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Thursday, June 18, at 5 & 8 p.m.

• **Disclosure Day** (PG-13, 2026) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, June 11, at 4 & 7:15 p.m.; Friday, June 12, through Sunday, June 14, at 12:45, 4 & 7:15

p.m.; Monday, June 15, through Thursday, June 18, at 4 & 7:15 p.m. (plus June 17 at 12:45 p.m.).

• **The Kid** (1921) a silent film starring Charlie Chaplin with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, will screen on Thursday, June 11, at 7 p.m. at Flying Monkey in Plymouth.

• **Pressure** (PG-13, 2026) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Friday, June 12, at 12:15 & 5:15 p.m.; Saturday, June 13, 2:45 & 7:45 p.m.; Sunday, June 14, at 12:15 & 5:15 p.m.; Monday, June 15, 3 & 8 p.m.; Tuesday, June 16, at 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Wednesday, June 17, at 12:15 & 5:15 p.m.

• **Tuner** (R, 2026) will screen at Red River Theatre in Concord on Friday, June 12, 2:45 & 7:45 p.m.; Saturday, June 13, 12:15 & 5:15 p.m.; Sunday, June 14, at 2:45 & 7:45 p.m.; Monday, June 15, 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, June 16, 3 p.m.; Wednesday, June 17, 2:45 & 7:45 p.m.

• **The Mandalorian & Grogu** (PG-13, 2026) will screen at the Peterborough Community Theatre on Thursday, June 11, at 7 p.m.; Friday, June 12, at 3 p.m. with captions; Saturday, June 13, and Sunday, June 14, at 3 & 7 p.m.; Wednesday, June 17, at 3 & 7 p.m.

• **Milford Drive In** screenings for Friday, June 12, through Sunday, June 14, are — Screen 1: *Masters of the Universe* (PG-13, 2026) and *Scary Movie* (R, 2026); Screen 2: *Disclosure Day* (PG-13, 2026) and *Obsession* (R, 2026). Box office hours are 7 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, 7:15 p.m. on Sunday.

• **A League of Their Own** (1992) will screen on Friday, June 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the Park Theatre in Jaffrey.

• **Studio Ghibli Fest 2026** screenings via Fathom Entertainment (fathomentertainment.com) include *Ponyo* (June 13-17). See the website for

times, locations and which screenings are subtitled versus dubbed.

• **42nd Street** (filmed in 2018 at the Theatre Royal in London) will screen on Sunday, June 14, at 1:30 p.m. at the Park Theatre in Jaffrey.

• **Elio** (PG, 2025) will screen at the Flying Monkey in Plymouth on Wednesday, June 17, at 6 p.m.

• **The Wizard of the Kremlin** (2026) will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth on Wednesday, June 17, at 7 p.m.; Sunday, June 21, at 4 p.m.

• **Grease** (1978) will screen at the Flying Monkey in Plymouth on Thursday, June 18, at 6 p.m.

THE ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Blue adieu:** Celebrating a 60-plus-year career, **Judy Collins** is on her final *Sweet Judy Blue Eyes* tour, the name a nod to the breakup song that Stephen Stills wrote for her (his title itself a double pun). Collins is a legendary singer whose string of hits commenced with her cover of Joni Mitchell's "Both Sides Now" and includes "Send in the Clowns" and "Since You Asked." Thursday, June 11, 7:30 p.m., Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord, \$61.50 and up at ccanh.com.

• **Bass man:** Anyone who's intent on eating all the yogurt in a container will get the title of **Aaron Bilodeau's** new record *Lid Licker*. The Milford-based experimental bass player, who weaves live effects, vocal tracks and other groovy sounds into his sets, will mark the LP's release at a Seacoast listening room. If the teaser song "The Passenger" is any indication, it's good one. Friday, June 12, 7 p.m., Button Factory Stage, 909 Islington St., Portsmouth, \$10, portsmouthnhtickets.com.

• **All there:** A pair of local favorites share the stage as the **Faith Ann Band** and **J3ST** perform. Now a trio, female-fronted TFAB is a raucous live act, with songs like the punchy "Say Less" and the slightly sinister love ode "Route 2" raising the energy. J3ST is an organ-forward band, with Tom Robinson playing a vintage Hammond, with guitarist Scott Solsky and Jared Steer on drums. Friday, June 12, 9 p.m., Penuche's Ale House, 16 Bicentennial Square, Concord, thefaithannband.com.

• **Dead ringers:** Over the years, the unique tribute act **Bearly Dead** has been joined by everyone from Mike Campbell of Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers to Jerry Garcia's Wolf guitar, which BD's Nick Swift once played on Garcia's birthday. The band does Dead songs and honors each member individually, while also performing songs from prominent artists like Talking Heads and Phish. Saturday, June 13, 7:30 p.m., Rex Theatre, 23 Amherst St., Manchester, \$40, palacetheatre.org.

• **Engines roar:** It's Bike Week in the Lakes Region, and active rock stalwarts **Leaving Eden** are always a mainstay at the annual gathering. Their performances over the week — they're there every day — include a couple by their alter ego Silver Springs, an excellent Fleetwood Mac tribute band. Lead singer Eve Gynan does a great job as Stevie Nicks, along with belting out powerful hard rock. Sunday, June 14, 8 p.m., Hawg's Pen Café, 114 Route 11, Farmington, leavingeden.com. 🍷

NITE Laugh City

Indie comedy grows in Manchester

By Michael Witthaus
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When he last was in Manchester, Shane Torres appeared at Shaskeen Pub. In 2021, it was one of the few places in the city for his brand of comedy. Since then, though, the scene has grown. Comedy at Queen City Center began in April, Strange Brew Tavern's Laugh Attic has a good groove going, and now a theater district coffee bar is in the game.

Early returns are more than encouraging. The Moka Pot, near the corner of Elm and Hanover, has two shows with Seattle comic Bo Johnson on April 12. The early set sold out weeks ago, with only a few tickets remaining for the late one. Coming up are Aaron Berg (July 31 and Aug. 1), Brendan Sagalow (Aug. 8) and Robby Slowik (Aug. 21).

The Moka Pot is ready, with a recently issued liquor license and new LED lighting array. Alex LaChance is the venue's comedy booker. With fellow comic Nick Sands, LaChance also runs the game show parody *Wrong Hill to Die On* at the Shaskeen, which returns for a third time on July 14. The first *Wrong Hill* event sold out, and the second came close.

The day after Johnson's show, Torres will appear at Queen City Center. The laconic Texas native has had a lot of success since his last visit. His first special, *The Blue Eyed Mexican*, came out at the end of 2023. Vulture praised its "beautiful directness and keen sense of good storytelling," calling it "a refreshing combination of delicate and obscene."

Torres's other recent credits include *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert*, though he didn't get the McCartney treatment when he appeared, as Colbert was out of town that night. The host pretaped introductions for him and a few other comics. "Sadly, it was not the version I'd dreamed of," Torres said by phone recently. "No couch, no Stephen."

Another late-night talk show helped elevate

Torres in 2017. He appeared on Conan O'Brien and went viral for defending shock-haired Food Network host Guy Fieri. It was 10 years ago, but the bit still follows him around, and he professes to be at peace with his "Free Bird" moment.

"I don't do that bit anymore, but sometimes people will call for it," he said. "Like, I was in Seattle doing Fremont Abbey, a really cool room, and somebody yelled something about Guy Fieri. This other guy shouted, 'That's how I heard about you,' and another one said, 'Me too!' So I have that to be grateful for."

He and fellow comedian Katherine Blanford's *Coastal Idiots* podcast stands out in a crowded field. The two "frenemies" have a delightful Odd Couple banter well-suited to Torres's laid back demeanor. Recurring bits include a contest to guess the sale price of various works of art, some museum worthy, others county fair castoffs.

Torres balances all this with incessant touring. "Last year I did something like 250,000 miles, and that was just on Delta," he said. "Not even including riding on a tour bus for a few weeks, or driving from Chicago to Milwaukee to Madison to Minneapolis. The only mileage accounted for is just through the Delta app."

He's looking forward to coming back to Manchester, recalling doing many shows at the Shaskeen when it was booked by Nick Lavallee, who's now in charge of Queen City Center's comedy events, and will also be opening up his Wicked Joyful retail store in the Canal Street facility on June 20.

Torres enjoyed hanging out with Lavallee in the Shaskeen days.

"I always had fun there," he said. "Nick is a friend; he's an old indie rock kind of punk rock guy like me. That's the kind of culture and stuff he came up in as a kid. So we had a little bit of that in common."

Along with the success Torres has experienced since his last visit is a newfound desire to savor it more, including when he's back in New Hampshire.

"I will appreciate being in this place more presently," he said, adding, "There's a difference between



Shane Torres. Courtesy photo.

logically knowing you've moved forward ... and feeling it, recognizing it and appreciating it."

Torres's next big career milestone happens after his Manchester show. In August he'll head to the legendary Edinburgh Fringe Festival, where he'll perform his one-man show, tentatively titled *Skinned Knees*. The show is about his mother's coma and his father's homelessness, framed as comedy about what home means and what masculinity looks like.

"It's going to be terrifying," he said, adding that he hopes people will find laughs among the show's poignancy. "I'm afraid people are going to be like, 'You're brave!' And I'll be like, 'and funny?'" That's a real fear, but also a self-deflating (and funny) joke in his statement, a combination that is the Shane Torres essence. 🍷

Bo Johnson

When: Friday, June 12, 9:30 p.m. (7 p.m. show sold out)

Where: Moka Pot, 8 Hanover St., Manchester

Tickets: \$25, eventbrite.com

Shane Torres

When: Saturday, June 13, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Queen City Center, Canal Street, Manchester

Tickets: \$25, eventbrite.com (\$30 day of show)

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Weekly comedy nights

• **Wednesdays** Ruby Room at the Shaskeen, 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

• **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.

• **Bo Johnson** hosted by **Danny Pee, Featuring Kaile Krenzer**, Friday, June 12, 7 & 9:30 p.m., Moka Pot in Manchester

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

• **Shane Torres** Queen City Center in Manchester, Saturday, June 13, at 6:30 p.m.

• **Mark Scalia & Greg Boggis** Barley House in Concord, Saturday, June 13, at 7 p.m.

• **Matt Barry** Headliners in

Manchester, Saturday, June 13, 8 p.m.

• **Late Night Catechism** Colonial in Laconia, Sunday, June 14, 2 p.m.

• **Carmen Lynch** Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth, Friday, June 19, 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

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

• **Frank Santos Jr.** Rochester Opera House, Friday, June 19, 8 p.m.

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

• **Joey Carroll** Headliners in Manchester, Saturday, June 20,

8 p.m.

• **Jim McCue** McCue's in Portsmouth, Saturday, June 20, 8 p.m.

• **James Dorsey** Chunky's in Manchester, Saturday, June 20, 8:30 p.m.

• **Joe Fenti** BNH Stage in Concord, Friday, June 26, 8 p.m.

• **Andrew Della Volpe** Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth, Saturday, June 27, 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

• **Mike Donovan/Jay Martin/Dan Boulger** Fulchino Vineyard in Hollis, Saturday, June 27, 6:30 p.m.

• **Lenny Clarke** Tupelo in Derry, Saturday, June 27, 8 p.m.

MUSIC THIS WEEK

Auburn

Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road, 622-6564

Barnstead

JJ Goodwin's: 769 Suncook Valley Road, 269-0059

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

CC Tomatoes 209 Fisherville Road, 753-4450

Concord Craft Brewing 117 Storrs St., 856-7625

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

The Forum Pub 15 Village St., 565-3100

Hermanos Cocina Mexicana 11 Hills Ave., 224-5669

Keach Park 2 Newton Ave, concordnh.gov

Lithermans 126B Hall St., 219-0784

Penuche's Ale House 16 Bicentennial Square, 228-9833

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

White Park 1 White St., concordnh.gov

Contoocook

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

Derry

Fody's Tavern 187 Rockingham Road, 404-6946

Hare of the Dawg 3 E. Broadway, 552-3883

T-Bones 39 Crystal Ave., 434-3200

Dover

Auspicious Brew 1 Washington St., 953-7240

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

Otto 431 Central Ave., 697-4150

Epping

Holy Grail 64 Main St., 679-9559

Railpenny Tavern 8 Exeter Road, 734-2609

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

Epsom

Blasty Bough Brewing Co. 3 Griffin Road, 738-4717

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

The 401 Tavern 401 Lafayette Road, 926-8800

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

Bernie's Beach Bar 73 Ocean Blvd., 926-5050

Boardwalk Cafe 139

Boardwalk Cafe 139

Ocean Blvd., 929-7400

Bogie's 32 Depot Square, 601-2319

The Goat 20 L St., 601-6928

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

Sea Ketch 127 Ocean Blvd., 926-0324

Shane's Texas Pit 61 High St., 601-7091

Smuttynose Brewing 105 Towle Farm Road

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

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

Dox 263 Lakeside Ave., 619-5169

Fratello's 799 Union Ave., 528-2022

Looney Bin Bar 554 Endicott St., 366-2300

Naswa Resort 1086 Weirs Blvd., 366-4341

Tortilla Flat: Justin Bethune, 6 p.m.

Milford

Brickhouse: Kathy Hicks, 7 p.m.

Nashua

Casey Magee's: open mic, 7:30 p.m.

Shorty's: Stephen Decuire, 5:30 p.m.

Union Public House: Doug Mitchell, 5:30 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: Rose Alley, 8 p.m.

Pembroke

PCL: Gary's Musical Gathering, 7 p.m.

Pittsfield

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

Portsmouth

Black Rock: Caylin Costello, 5 p.m.

Gas Light: Two Drink Minimum, 7 p.m.

The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.

Press Room: The Sadies w/ Jon Nolan & Good Co., 7:30 p.m.

Salem

Copper Door: Peter Pappas, 6 p.m.

T-Bones: Ian Archibold, 6 p.m.

Warner

The Local: Karen Grenier, 5 p.m.

Off the Rails 21 Weeks St., 409-6191

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

The Common 265 Mammoth Road

Stumble Inn 20 Rockingham Road, 432-3210

Manchester

Backyard Brewery 1211 S. Mammoth Road, 623-3545

Bookery 844 Elm St., 836-6600

Candia Road Brewing 840 Candia Road, 935-8123

Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road, 623-2880

Firefly 21 Concord St., 935-9740

The Foundry 50 Commercial St., 836-1925

Fratello's 155 Dow St., 624-2022

The Goat 50 Old Granite St.

Great North Aleworks 1050 Holt Ave., 858-5789

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

Mason

The Range 96 Old Turnpike Road, 878-1324

Merrimack

Homestead 641 DW Highway, 429-2022

Tortilla Flat 595 DW Highway, 424-4479

Milford

Brickhouse 241 Union Sq., 672-2270

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

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

Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse 48 Gusabel Ave., 882-4070

Sky Meadow Country Club 6 Mountain Laurels Drive, 888-9000

The Spot 217 Main St., thespotnashua.com

Spyglass Brewing 306 Innovative Way, 546-2965

Stella Blu 70 E. Pearl St., 578-5557

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

North Hampton

Locals Restaurant & Pub 215 Lafayette Road, 379-2729

Throwback Brewery 7 Hobbs Road, 379-2317

Pembroke

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

Pittsfield

Over the Moon 1253 Upper City Road, 216-2162

Plaistow

Sweet Hill Farm 82 Newton Road, 974-7279

Portsmouth

The Gas Light 64 Market

St., 430-9122

The Goat 142 Congress St., 590-4628

Jimmy's Jazz & Blues Club 135 Congress St., 603-5299

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

Otto 10 Brewery Ln, 802-6886

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

Chop Shop Pub 920 Lafayette Road, 760-7706

Ernie's Seaside 209 Ocean Blvd., 760-7500

Red's 530 Lafayette Road, 760-0030

Tilton

Greenside Lochmere Country Club, 360 Laconia Road, 528-7888

Warner

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

Thursday, June 11

Bedford

Copper Door: Bella Perrotta, 6 p.m.

Murphy's: Lewis Goodwin, 5:30 p.m.

T-Bones: Jessica Olson, 6 p.m.

Candia

Barnyard: Alan Roux, 4:30 p.m.

Concord

CC Tomatoes: Lucas Gallo, 6 p.m.

Concord Craft Brewing: David Corson, 6 p.m.

T-Bones: Chris Taylor, 6 p.m.

Derry

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

Epping

Telly's: Rob & Jody, 7 p.m.

Hampton

Bernie's: The Dave Macklin Band, 8 p.m.

Wally's: Creed Fisher, 8 p.m.

Hudson

Luk's: Chris Cyrus, 6 p.m.

T-Bones: David Hoffman, 5 p.m.

Laconia

405 Pub & Grill: Mikey G, 6 p.m.

Fratello's: Doug Thompson, 5:30 p.m.

T-Bones: Mitch Alden, 6 p.m.

Londonderry

Stumble Inn: Cruncaoustic, 7 p.m.

Manchester

Bad BRGR: Vanna, Actor Observer, Godseys, Mob Candy, 7 p.m.

Derryfield: Chuck Alaimo, 6 p.m.

Firefly: Colin Hart, 5 p.m.

Fratello's: Eddie Sands, 5:30 p.m.

KC's Rib Shack: Jodee Frawlee, 6 p.m.

Strange Brew: Wiki, 8 p.m.

Mason

The Range: The Whole Loaf, 5 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Joe Winslow, 5:30 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.



DEAD-LIKE

At the age of 12, Zach Nugent taught himself to play the Grateful Dead's "Ripple" on guitar. Almost two decades later, he's playing that song — and many others — as the frontman for the popular Grateful Dead tribute band Dead

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

KC's Rib Shack: Karl Kloris, 6 p.m.
Shaskeen: Vanna, 6 p.m.
Stark Brewing: Stitch, 7 p.m.
Strange Brew: Peter Higgins, 8 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Jimbo LaBelle, 5:30 p.m.

Milford

American Legion Post 23: Jennifer Mitchell Band, 8 p.m.
Brickhouse: Hell On Heels, 8 p.m.

Nashua

Casey Magee's: karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
Fody's: Sara Bird, 10 p.m.
Lost Cowboy: Mike Jetti, 7:30 p.m.
The Spot: Worm, Ragz To Stitches, Jonee Earthquake Band, Ruffian Dick, 8 p.m.
Spyglass: Sonic Avionics, 6 p.m.
Union Public House: Justin Bethune, 7:30 p.m.

New Boston

Molly's: Bob Pratte, 6:30 p.m.

Newmarket

The Rock: Chad Verbeck, 6 p.m.
Stone Church: Canyon Lights w/ Handsome Jack & Troy Mercy, 8 p.m.

Pembroke

PCL: Scalawag, 7 p.m.

Pittsfield

Over the Moon: C&C Acoustic Factory, 6 p.m.

Plaistow

Sweet Hill Farm: Mark Huzar, 6 p.m.

Portsmouth

Black Rock: Brian Gray, 5 p.m.
Gas Light: Sum X 4, 7 p.m.; Jamie Cain, 9:30 p.m.
The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.
Press Room: Caitlin Piper w/ Tiny Dog Fight, 6 p.m.; Y2K Block Party w/ DJ Chad Banks, 10:30 p.m.
Thirsty Moose: Neon Lighthouse, 9:30 p.m.

Salem

Dreo: Dave Zangri, 7 p.m.

Seabrook

Ernie's: Brian Walker, 6 p.m.
Red's: Redemption, 8 p.m.

Tilton

Greenside: Jack Ancora, 6 p.m.

Saturday, June 13

Bedford

Murphy's: Ian Archibold, 6 p.m.

Bow

Chen Yang Li: Mikey G, 7 p.m.

Brookline

Alamo: Jordan Holmes, 6 p.m.

Candia

Barnyard: Blaming Abbey, 6 p.m.

Concord

Feathered Friend: Jared Garneau, 6 p.m.
The Forum: acoustic circle, 2 p.m.;

Emily Jayne 8 p.m.

Contoocook

Contoocook Cider Co.: Matt Litzinger, 1 p.m.

Derry

Fody's: Joe Mannion, 8 p.m.
Hare of the Dawg: Olivia Conway, 7 p.m.

Dover

Auspicious Brew: The Kenny Brothers Band, The Muddpuppies, The Any Which Way, 8 p.m.
Otto Pizza: Rock Dove, 4 p.m.
Revo: Alter Ego, 8 p.m.

Epping

Holy Grail: Quinton Center, 6 p.m.
Railpenney: Redemption, 4 p.m.
Telly's: Amanda Dane Band, 8 p.m.

Hampton

Bernie's: 7 Day Weekend, 8 p.m.
The Goat: Codie Welch, 9 p.m.
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Sea Ketch: Clint Lapointe, 1 p.m.; Freddie Catalfo, 6 p.m.
Shane's BBQ: Chad Verbeck, 6 p.m.
Wally's: Trash Party, 9 p.m.

Hudson

Luk's Bar: Ayotte Brothers, 6 p.m.

Laconia

405 Pub & Grill: Jackie Lee, 7 p.m.
Defiant Records: Colin Hart, 5:30 p.m.
Dox: Justin Jordan, 1 p.m.
Fratello's: Ramez Mataz, 6 p.m.
Looney Bin Bar: Jennifer Mitchell Band, 4:30 p.m.
Naswa: James Montgomery, 1 p.m.; Undercover Band, 4 p.m.; Kurt Allen Band, 7 p.m.
T-Bones: Chris Cavanaugh, 1 p.m.; Brendan Gill, 6 p.m.
Tower Hill: Sucker Punch, noon

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Eddie Sands, 6 p.m.
Stumble Inn: Rust & Pine, 1 p.m.; Hell on Heels, 8 p.m.

Manchester

Bad BRGR: Nine Men's Misery, Spinal Teeth, 8 p.m.
Backyard Brewery: Lewis Goodwin, 6 p.m.
Bonfire: Maddi Ryan, 8 p.m.
Bookery: Kevin Horan, noon
Derryfield: Two Towns, 6 p.m.; Stray Dog Band 8:30 p.m.
Firefly: Brian McGravey, 5 p.m.
The Foundry: Temple Mountain, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Jimbo LaBelle, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: Brooks Hubbard, 10 a.m.; 100 Proof, 9 p.m.
Great North Aleworks: Lucas Gallo, 4 p.m.
The Hill: Dave Zangri, 5:30 p.m.
KC's Rib Shack: Casey Roop, 6 p.m.
Revo: DJ Jason Crate, 9 p.m.
Shaskeen: Emo night, 8 p.m.
Stark Brewing: The Rampage Trio, 6:30 p.m.
Strange Brew: Hey Moe, 9 p.m.

Mason

The Range: Passfire w/ Beach Fly, 6 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Lou Antonucci, 5:30 p.m.

Milford

Brickhouse: The Mighty Colors, 8 p.m.
Riley's: 19th Nervous Breakdown, 8 p.m.

Nashua

Casey Magee's: Jordan Quigley, 8 p.m.
Fody's: Sugar Bush, 10 p.m.
Peddler's Daughter: Category 5, 9:30 p.m.
Union Public House: John Chouinard, 7:30 p.m.

New Boston

Molly's: Matt Bergeron, 6:30 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: Matty and The Penders, 7 p.m.

Pembroke

PCL: Justin Merle, 7 p.m.

Pittsfield

Over the Moon: Rick & Alexis, 6 p.m.

Plaistow

Sweet Hill Farm: SumX4, 1 p.m.; 2 of Us, 6 p.m.

Portsmouth

Black Rock: Peter Pappas, 4 p.m.
Gas Light: Matt Jackson, 11:30 p.m.; Johnny Angel, 3 p.m.; Dana Breatly Trio, 7 p.m.; Ethan Cunningham, 9:30 p.m.
Otto Pizza: Ethan Cunningham, 4 p.m.
Press Room: The Stray Horses, 7 p.m.; DJ Lunch, 10 p.m.

Salem

Dreo: Rebecca Turmel, 7 p.m.

Seabrook

Red's: J-Lo, 8 p.m.

Tilton

Greenside: Chris Perkins, 6 p.m.

Sunday, June 14

Bedford

Copper Door: Phil Jacques, 11 a.m.
Murphy's: Patrick Synan, 4 p.m.

Brookline

Alamo: Jodee Frawlee, 5 p.m.

Candia

Barnyard: Steve Haidachuk, 3 p.m.

Concord

White Park: Katie Dobbins, 10 a.m.

Contoocook

Contoocook Cider Co.: Garrett Smith, 1 p.m.

Dover

Auspicious Brew: Dylan Patrick Ward, Weird Pioneer, Scott Heron, 3 p.m.

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YMCA ALLARD CENTER OF GOFFSTOWN
 116 Goffstown Back Rd, Goffstown, NH
 603.497.4663 • yallardcenter

YMCA OF CONCORD
 15 N. State St, Concord, NH
 603.228.9622 • concordymca

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 35 Bartlett Ave, Somersworth, NH
 603.692.2081 • ysomersworth

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 603.431.2334 • ymcaofseacoast

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 206 Rockingham Rd, Londonderry, NH
 603.437.9622 • ylondonderry

*Amenities and offerings vary by location

Scan Here to Learn More and Join!

NITE MUSIC & EVENTS

Epping

Holy Grail: Ryan Maher, 3 p.m.

Railpenney Tavern: Redemption (reggae), 4 p.m.

Epsom

Blasty Bough Brewery: Ian Archibold, 5:45 p.m.

Hampton

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Post 8: Justin Jordan, 1 p.m.

Sea Ketch: Ray Zerkle, 1 p.m.

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

Whym: Max Sullivan, 1 p.m.

Laconia

Fratello's: Dave Zangri, 6 p.m.

M/S Mt Washington Cruise: Brian Gray, 10 a.m.

Naswa: Tom Paquette, 4 p.m.

T-Bones: Dan Morgan, 1 p.m.; Colin Hart, 6 p.m.

Tower Hill: karaoke w/ DJ Tim, 9 p.m.

Lee

Flag Hill: Matt Jackson, 1 p.m.

Londonderry

Stumble Inn: 603's Trio, 4 p.m.

Manchester

Bad BRGR: Trench, 8 p.m.

Bonfire: line dancing, 7:30 p.m.

Derryfield: Justin Bethune, 5 p.m.

Firefly: Chuck Alaimo, 11 a.m.

The Goat: April Cushman, 10 a.m.

KC's Rib Shack: Paul Lussier, 4 p.m.

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

To Share: open mic w/James & Molly, 4 p.m.

Mason

The Range: Matt Swanton, 3 p.m.

Milford

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

Stonecutters Pub: Jenni Lynn, 4 p.m.

Nashua

Stella Blu: Jonny Friday, 3 p.m.

New Boston

Molly's: Rich Wallace, 1 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: open mic, 6:30 p.m.

Pembroke

PCL: Laurel Canyon, 11 a.m.

Pittsfield

Over the Moon: Tug Wildwood & Friends, 3 p.m.

Plaistow

Sweet Hill Farm: Autumn, 2 p.m.

Portsmouth

Black Rock: Brendan Gill, 5 p.m.

Gas Light: Freddie Catalfo, 2 p.m.; Truffle, 6 p.m.

The Goat: Garrett Smith, 9 p.m.

Press Room: Splendid Torch w/ Bitter Pill, 7 p.m.

Salem

Copper Door: Yvonne Aubert, 11 a.m.

Windham

Windham Gazebo: Nicole Knox Murphy, 2 p.m.

Monday, June 15

Bedford

Murphy's: Ryan Williamson, 5:30 p.m.

Candia

Barnyard: Synergy Band, 6 p.m.

Dover

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

Hampton

Bernie's: line dancing, 7 p.m.

The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Hudson

The Bar: karaoke with Phil, 8 p.m.

Laconia

Dox: Justin Jordan, 1 p.m.

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

T-Bones: Chris Torrey, 6 p.m.

Manchester

Bad BRGR: Acoustic Open Mic hosted by Johnny Friday, 7 p.m.

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

Portsmouth

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

The Goat: Dana Brearly, 9 p.m.

Jimmy's Jazz: Max Sullivan, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 16

Bedford

Murphy's: Tyler Levs, 5:30 p.m.

Concord

Barley House: Irish session, 6 p.m.

Keach Park: Nevers' 2nd Regiment Band, 7 p.m.

Tandy's: open mic, 8 p.m.

Hampton

Bernie's: Reggae Tuesday, 7 p.m.

The Goat: Jared Moore, 9 p.m.

Whym: Bourbon & Beats, 3 p.m.

Kingston

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

Laconia

Fratello's: Duke Snyder, 5:30 p.m.

T-Bones: Jessica Olson, 6 p.m.

Weirs Drive In Theater: Leaving Eden, noon

Manchester

Fratello's: Jordan Quinn, 5:30 p.m.

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

Strange Brew: David Rousseau, 8 p.m.

Mason

The Range: Nick Mariany & Friends w/ Sam Martin + Joey Mariany, 6 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Johnny Angel, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua

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

Spyglass: Kevin Horan, 5 p.m.

Portsmouth

Gas Light: Jodee Frawlee, 7:30 p.m.

The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.

Seabrook

Backyard Burgers: music bingo

with Jennifer Mitchell, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 17

Atkinson

Merrill's Tavern: Regular Gents, 8 p.m.

Bedford

Murphy's: Jordan Holmes, 5:30 p.m.

Concord

The Forum Pub: Mikey G, 8 p.m.

Uno Pizzeria: Danny McCarthy, 6 p.m.

Hampton

Bernie's: Jamsterdam, 7 p.m.

Bogie's: open mic w/ Ben Butterworth, 7 p.m.

The Goat: MB Padfield, 9 p.m.

Laconia

Defiant Records: Dueling Pianos, 6:30 p.m.

Dox: Justin Jordan, 6 p.m.

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

Naswa: DJ Terry, 4 p.m.; Tim Dion, 6 p.m.

Off The Rails: Justin Jordan, 1 p.m.

T-Bones: David Hoffman, 6 p.m.

Weirs Drive-In Theater: Leaving

Eden, noon

Londonderry

Common: Lark NH Line Dancing, 5:30 p.m.; Martin and Kelly, 7 p.m.

Manchester

Fratello's: Amanda Dane, 5:30 p.m.

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

The Hill: Chad LaMarsh, 7 p.m.

Strange Brew: open mic w/ Jordan Quinn & Scott Armstrong, 8 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Clint Lapointe, 5:30 p.m.

Pembroke

PCL: Olivia Conway, 7 p.m.

Plaistow

Sweet Hill Farm: Mark & Mick, 6 p.m.

Portsmouth

Gas Light: Max Sullivan, 7:30 p.m.

The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.

Press Room: Harvey Street w/ Lost River Fleet & Milk St, 7:30 p.m.

Seabrook

Red's: Fred Ellsworth, 7 p.m.



RETURN OF SWING

Get ready for a night of swing with Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. This eight-piece brass band spearheaded the swing revival in the 1990s and has been bringing high-energy performances to enthusiastic audiences ever since. Go, go, go daddy-o to the Palace (80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org) on Thursday, June 11, at 7:30 p.m. See the website for tickets.

Concerts

• **A Night of Sinatra: Rich DiMare & Ron Poster** Thursday, June 11, 5 and 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth

• **Seacoast Showcase** Thursday, June 11, 7 p.m., The Strand in Dover

• **Dark Star Orchestra** (Grateful Dead tribute) Thursday, June 11, 7 p.m., BankNH Pavilion in Gilford

• **Josie Lawrence Quartet** Thursday, June 11, 7 p.m., Hermit Woods in Meredith

• **Jay Nash & Brooks Hubbard** Thursday, June 11, 7 p.m., Word Barn in Exeter

• **Judy Collins** Thursday, June 11, 7:30 p.m., Chubb Theatre in Concord

• **Andy McKee** Thursday, June 11, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's in Portsmouth

• **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy** Thursday, June 11, 7:30 p.m., Palace in Manchester

• **Cooper Alan** Thursday, June 11, 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom in Hampton

• **The Wood Brothers** Friday, June 12, 7 p.m., Chubb Theatre in Concord

• **Jordan TW Trio** Friday, June 12,

7 p.m., Word Barn in Exeter

• **Aaron Bilodeau** Friday, June 12, 7 p.m., Button Factory in Portsmouth

• **The Nth Power** Friday, June 12, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's in Portsmouth

• **Zach Nugent's Dead Set** Friday, June 12, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey in Plymouth

• **Ty Myers** Friday, June 12, 7:30 p.m., BankNH Pavilion in Gilford

• **Ladies of the '80s** ('80s tribute) Friday, June 12, 7:30 p.m., Rex in Manchester

• **Yellow Brick Road** (Elton John tribute) Friday, June 12, 8 p.m., Rochester Opera House

• **Tusk** (Fleetwood Mac tribute) Friday, June 12, 8 p.m., Tupelo in Derry

• **Something Wonderful Tonight** (George Harrison/Eric Clapton tribute) Friday, June 12, 8 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts

• **Reed Foehl** Friday, June 12, 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth

• **Passafire/Beach Fly** Saturday, June 13, 6 p.m., The Range in Mason

• **John Franzosa** Saturday, June 13,

6 p.m., Hermit Woods in Meredith

• **Being Petty** (Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers tribute) Saturday, June 13, 7 p.m., BNH Stage in Concord

• **Darius Rucker** Saturday, June 13, 7 p.m., BankNH Pavilion in Gilford

• **Ellis Paul** Saturday, June 13, 7 p.m., Word Barn in Exeter

• **Not Your Mama's Drag Show** Saturday, June 13, 7 p.m., Button Factory in Portsmouth

• **ADHD** (AC/DC tribute)/Nutshell (Alice in Chains tribute) Saturday, June 13, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey in Plymouth

• **Bearly Dead** (Grateful Dead tribute) Saturday, June 13, 7:30 p.m., Rex in Manchester

• **Dino's Lounge** (Dean Martin/Marilyn Monroe/Louis Armstrong tribute) Saturday, June 13, 8 p.m., Lakeport Opera House in Laconia

• **WailOn** (outlaw country tribute) Saturday, June 13, 8 p.m., Rochester Opera House

• **Magical Mystery Doors** (Beatles/Zeppelin/Doors tribute) Saturday, June 13, 8 p.m., Tupelo in Derry

• **Something Wonderful Tonight** (George Harrison/Eric Clapton tribute) Saturday, June 13, 8 p.m., Colonial in Laconia

• **Katie Dobbins** Sunday, June 14, 1:30 p.m., Averill House in Brookline

• **moe./Umphrey's McGee** Sunday, June 14, 7 p.m., Casino Ballroom in Hampton

• **Sad Bastards/SevenEight** Sunday, June 14, 7 p.m., Andres Institute in Brookline

• **John Scofield Trio** Sunday, June 14, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's in Portsmouth

• **Wake Up Mama** (Allman Bros. tribute) Monday, June 15, 7 p.m., Jimmy's in Portsmouth

• **The Movement/Pepper** Wednesday, June 17, 7 p.m., Casino Ballroom in Hampton

• **Popa Chubby** Wednesday, June 17, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's in Portsmouth

• **Onwego** Thursday, June 18, 7 p.m., Hermit Woods in Meredith

• **Straight No Chaser** (yacht rock tribute) Thursday, June 18, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall in Portsmouth

• **Rebecca Loebe** Thursday, June 18, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth

• **Funky Dawgs Brass Band** Thursday, June 18, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's in Portsmouth

• **Yellowcard/New Found Glory/Flycatcher** Thursday, June 18, 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom in Hampton

• **KISS ALIVE** (KISS tribute) Thursday, June 18, 8 p.m., LaBelle Derry

• **Dueling Pianos with The Flying Ivories** Thursday, June 18, 8 p.m., LaBelle Amherst

• **Randy Houser** Friday, June 19, 6 p.m., The Range in Mason

• **John Zevos & Friends/Divergent Strings/Restoration** Friday, June 19, 7 p.m., Button Factory in Portsmouth

• **Jack Johnson/Hermanos Gutierrez** Friday, June 19, 7:30 p.m., BankNH Pavilion in Gilford

• **The Samples** Friday, June 19, 7:30 p.m., Rex in Manchester

• **Jo Dee Messina** Friday, June 19, 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom in Hampton

• **Floydian Trip** Friday, June 19, 8 p.m., Tupelo in Derry

• **Hugo** (Journey tribute) Friday, June 19, 8 p.m., Colonial in Laconia

• **Jersey Tenors** (Frankie Valli/oldies tribute) Saturday, June 20, 2 and 7:30 p.m., Rex in Manchester

• **Matt Fuller** Saturday, June 20, 6 p.m., Hermit Woods in Meredith

• **Live and Let Die: The Music of Paul McCartney** Saturday, June 20, 7 p.m., Chubb Theatre in Concord

• **Strike Up the Band! PSO Benefit Concert** Saturday, June 20, 7 p.m., Music Hall in Portsmouth

• **Rock Country Nights: Best of Nashville** Saturday, June 20, 8 p.m., LaBelle Derry

• **Let's Sing Taylor** (Taylor Swift tribute) Saturday, June 20, 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom in Hampton

• **Smells Like Nirvana** (Nirvana tribute) Saturday, June 20, 8 p.m., Rochester Opera House

• **The Massacoustics** Saturday, June 20, 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth

• **Bit Brigade** Saturday, June 20, 8 p.m., BNH Stage in Concord

• **Porches** Saturday, June 20, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace in Portsmouth

Clues are here, there and everywhere

Across

- 1. 'Hell' Squirrel __ Zippers
- 4. Prince “__ should've known by the way you parked your car sideways that it wouldn't last” (1,5,1)
- 11. End of a guitar pick
- 14. Soothing vocal sound
- 15. 'Poem' band that anchors a plant firmly?
- 16. Lynyrd Skynyrd “Outlaws, renegades, rebels on the run” song
- 17. Beatles ‘__ John & Yoko’ (3,6,2)
- 19. “Why she had to __ don't know, she wouldn't say” (2,1)
- 20. Dean of Stone Temple Pilots
- 21. '09 U2 album ‘__ On The Horizon’ (2,4,2)
- 23. Like Foreigner's ‘White Boy’
- 25. Red Jumpsuit Apparatus ‘__ The Enemy’ (2,1)
- 28. IL ‘Places For Breathing’ band
- 29. Lyric poem set to music
- 30. Record, tape or Compact this
- 32. Splinter group?
- 33. Tommy Mattola and Clive Davis
- 37. 33. Across runs these
- 39. '99 Foo Fighters album ‘There __ To Lose’ (2,7,4)

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	64				65	66
67				68							69	
70				71							72	

- 43. AC/DC's ‘Candy’ tastes this
- 44. Imperial Drag asks if you are a ‘__ Girl’ (3,2,1)
- 46. Sing/songster and rapper Dominic
- 49. Faster Pussycat live in a ‘House Of’ this
- 51. Duran Duran ‘Hungry Like The Wolf’ album
- 52. “There are many here __ us, who feel that life is but a joke”
- 54. ‘State Of The Heart’ Rick Springfield album for Chinese truth
- 55. Set designer's concern
- 57. Promise Ring will sail the Sea of California or this
- 59. Ohio band Over The __
- 61. Lead singers sometimes have an oversized one
- 62. Bob Dylan song solely played on '66 tour that asks his female parent for an answer? (4,2,5)
- 67. Pearl Jam ‘Jeremy’ album
- 68. Ian Hunter ‘All Of The Good __ Taken’ (4,3)
- 69. David Geffen's 90-99 label
- 70. '05 Madonna album ‘Confessions __ Dance Floor’ (2,1)

- 71. Offspring guitarist Kevin Wasserman's stage name
- 72. Greg Ginn of Black Flag founded this label at age 12

Down

- 1. ‘That Ain't Right’ __ King Cole
- 2. What Boyz II Men grunt before ‘Ahh’
- 3. Dixie Dregs did ‘Industry Standard’ under this name in 1982 (3,5)
- 4. Lacuna Coil origin
- 5. “It's like a full force __, an American storm” Bob Seger
- 6. Put a song online
- 7. Revolution Renaissance entered into a ‘New’ one
- 8. Landscaper need after a backyard show destroys grass
- 9. Tim McGraw ‘Not A Moment Too __’
- 10. Walkmen ‘What's In __ Me’ (2,3)
- 11. Beatles “I may not have a lot __, but what I got I'll give to you” (2,4)
- 12. Alanis Morissette “It's a black fly in your chardonnay” song
- 13. Julia Michaels may have come from confession when she wrote this song
- 18. 50 Cent and Kanye had a wager or this for top spot (1,3)
- 22. ‘It's My Party’ Gore
- 23. Suffix with free, as ‘15 Refused album
- 24. Bryan Adams “Everything __ do it for you” (1,2,1)
- 26. Metallica have a ‘Metal’ military force or this
- 27. Marilyn Manson “There __ exit here, I say it is and it's true” (2,2)
- 31. NYC spot Talking Heads rocked
- 34. Not yet sent, as a press kit
- 35. Like not a high voice
- 36. Happy Mondays told the bus driver to ‘__ On’ it
- 38. 70s rock grp. that used violins
- 40. ‘Going Up The Country’ Canned __
- 41. 80s ‘Tender Love’ R&Bers (5,3)
- 42. Husker Du, e.g.
- 45. Album oriented rock radio format (abbr)
- 46. ‘Disconnected’ __ Face (4,2)
- 47. ‘Hide & Seek’ Heap
- 48. Ben Böhmer/Wood song for the Hungarian word for “crown”
- 50. Blue October ‘Approaching __’
- 53. Gloria Estefan ‘__ Your Feet’ (3,2)
- 55. Joan Jett puts them in the jukebox
- 56. ‘Ambient 1: Music For Aiports’ Brian
- 58. German neoclassical/blues guitarist Roth
- 60. Beatles ‘__, There And Everywhere’
- 63. Guitar making icon Fender
- 64. ‘Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds’ inspiration perhaps
- 65. Booker T sidekicks
- 66. Opening or warm-up __

R&R answer from pg 27 of 6/4

B	O	P	S	L	I	F	T	F	O	R	U	M			
I	N	L	A	E	P	R	O	O	F	O	N	E			
G	E	A	R	G	O	E	R	R	A	B	I	N			
N	O	T	A	N	A	D	D	I	C	T	I	T	S		
O	N	E	H	O	T	M	O	J	A	V	E	O	H	M	E
S	A	M	B	A	A	S	I	F	C	O	A	T			
O	D	E	O	N	K	O	O	F	R	O	N	T			
L	O	G	O	S	O	U	L	L	Y	D	I	A			
E	G	A	N	O	B	L	A	D	A						
W	E	A	K	A	S	T	R	A	L						
U	M	A	M	O	N	K	E	Y	H	O	U	S	E		
S	A	T	B	Y	A	N	D	A	O	F	I	T			
T	U	T	T	I	D	O	I	N	L	I	A	M			
O	R	S	O	N	A	W	E	D	S	O	N	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 37.

King Classic Sudoku

Puzzle A

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

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Difficulty: ★

King Classic Sudoku

Puzzle B

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

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Difficulty: ★★

King Classic Sudoku

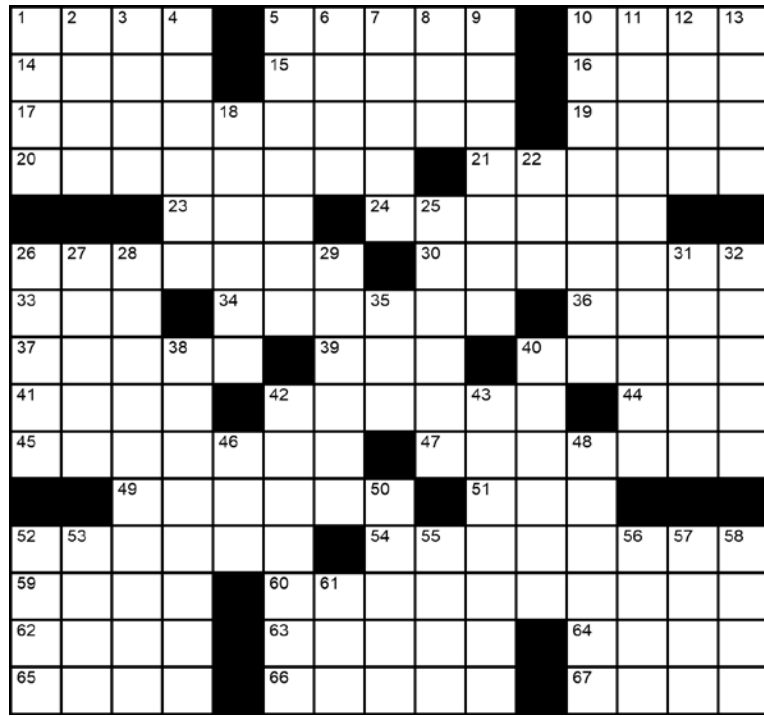
Puzzle C

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

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Difficulty: ★★★

"The Potato Eaters"—a tasty work of art.



Across

- 1. Positive votes
- 5. Barcelona appetizers
- 10. Haggis vendor, usually
- 14. Hurting
- 15. Without ___ in the world
- 16. Base for poi
- 17. Mennen aftershave brand
- 19. Strummed instruments
- 20. Like U.S. phone numbers (including area codes)
- 21. YouTube offerings
- 23. Royal flush need
- 24. Fish nets
- 26. Some fast food freebies
- 30. #42
- 33. Numerical suffix
- 34. It contains the id
- 36. Brand of tea once owned by Starbucks
- 37. Adidas rival
- 39. Sign of summer
- 40. Rachel Maddow's network, as of late 2025
- 41. Car sold at auction, maybe
- 42. Brief outline
- 44. Stranded material

Jonesin' answer from pg 28 of 6/4



- 62. Env. data
- 63. Owe ___ of gratitude
- 64. "The Incredibles" fashion designer Mode
- 65. "California Dreamin'" singer Elliot
- 66. "Say ___ the Dress" (TLC reality series)
- 67. Grains at the shore

Down

- 1. Helper, for short
- 2. Ox connector
- 3. Brockovich portrayed by Julia Roberts
- 4. "Where the Wild Things Are" author
- 5. Goals
- 6. Three-syllable berry
- 7. Agreements
- 8. "Where ___ you going with that thing?"
- 9. Submissive
- 10. Class members
- 11. Flat trays for weddings
- 12. Vegan and kosher cookie
- 13. Chuck
- 18. Arm muscle
- 22. Ending for some pasta varieties
- 25. It's major when there's a G#
- 26. Some custard fruits
- 27. Offshore
- 28. Recycled paper products used for backing
- 29. Air dwellers of folklore
- 31. O3
- 32. "That's impossible!"
- 35. Intro to chemistry?
- 38. Fruit desserts

- 45. Ozzy's band, for short
- 47. Patrick who played McDreamy
- 49. Become fixated
- 51. "Aladdin" monkey
- 52. 2026 Winter Olympics country, locally
- 54. Ingrid Bergman's "Casablanca" character
- 59. Golden Tempo's mother, e.g.
- 60. Divisive political topic

WORD★Roundup™

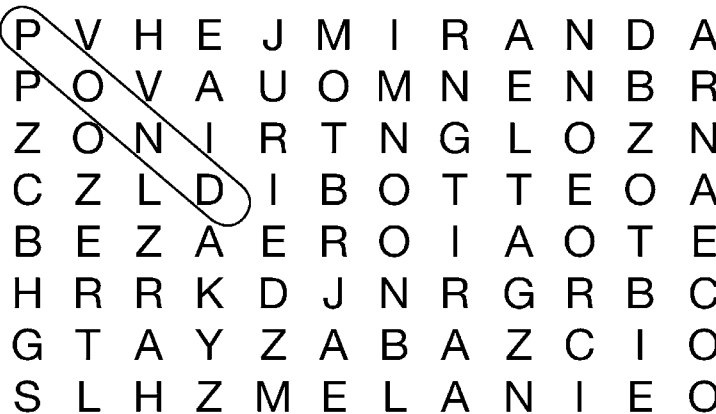
by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Eight bodies of water
- Two neighboring provinces
- Two three-syllable gases
- Griffith in "Working Girl"
- Three-syllable moon orbiting Uranus

Last Week's Answers: PAID RAIL SAID MAIN PAIN FAIR BAIT WAIT RAIN / ELEPHANT RESIDENT BACHELOR ACTIVATE / HEARTS SPADES CLUBS / ARKIN / NINE

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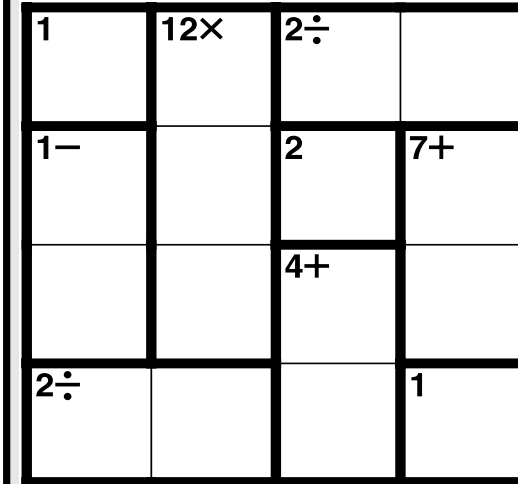
- 40. Bollywood's home
- 42. Eroded
- 43. Words before "exist" or "be"
- 46. "___ was about to say ..."
- 48. Heartbeats
- 50. Entree go-withs
- 52. Colorful tech product of the late 1990s
- 53. Sound of a big reveal?
- 55. Pride letters
- 56. Meat package letters
- 57. Actor Bill or director Trevor
- 58. Completely out of power
- 61. Stamp ending?

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THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

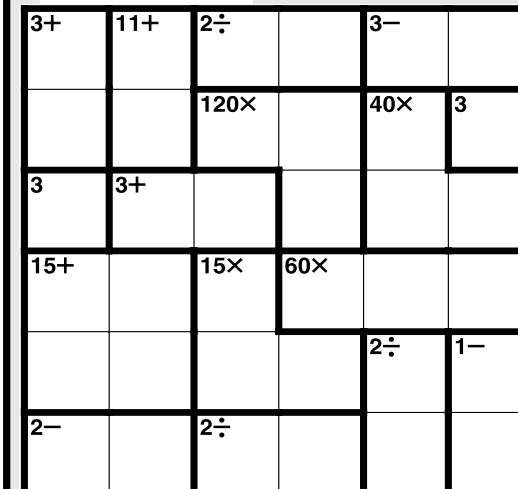
EASY



WORKSPACE:

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CHALLENGING

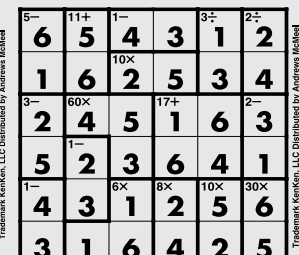
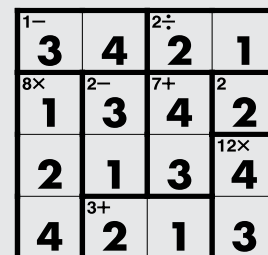


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RULES

- 1 Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
- 2 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.
- 3 Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

PREVIOUS ANSWERS



SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *Merci Suarez Can't Dance*, by Meg Medina, born June 11, 1963.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *You're mind-ing your own business at the school store, and the next day you're staring at somebody's key-lime-pie-crust-ed lips, wondering if they've kissed anyone. Anyone want some Key lime pie?*

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *Hannah is always the last one done on tests because she likes to check her answers three times before she hands anything in. Not me, of course. ... The more I check, the more confused I get, especially in advanced earth science. Check your work but maybe not three times.*

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *Tia is wearing her yoga pants and tan Zumba shoes, all ready to teach her 'dancers,' which I have to say is a pretty generous way of describing this crew. Be generous.*

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *Sometimes you have bad options, but you still have to pick, like, do you eat the yucca or the quimbombó at Lolo and Abuela's house for dinner? You just make the best of it. Whichever one's ready first.*

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *'How was school?'* Mami asks as we buckle in. ... *What part does she mean? School was a gazillion ways. It was boring in English ... and awful in science.... It was fun in PE because I hit all my layups. And it's horrible right this second because one of my best friends in the whole world won't come over. Who has time for a conversation about all of that? It's a gazillion ways.*

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *I suggested our own version of American Ninja Warrior right here on the quad. ... I got fifty signatures of kids who wanted to rappel down the science building, but still she squashed my dream flat. Keep dreaming.*

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *Then ... the twins showed off for them in the yard, performing like circus animals in the grapefruit tree. They aren't used to having Simón in the audience, so they had lots of extra energy. Got energy? Use it up.*

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)

Here's how it works around our house. If you need permission to do something even remotely fun, it pays to know who to ask. That's how it works everywhere.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *What are the rules here? ... Even a hello or where y'at can mean teasing and trouble. So, it's squash or be squashed. Or eat squash or play squash.*

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *Suddenly I don't really feel like peeing with Edna listening to me. Knowing her, she'll tell me I'm peeing wrong, or too loud, or whatever. Limit your Edna time.*

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *'I'm a terrible dancer,' I say. 'I'm just not like you and Lolo.' 'Ah.' She slides the first pin in place and kisses my cheek. 'You are like you, Merci. And that's enough. Now, stand still, niña, so I can concentrate. I promise, you'll look so spectacular, no one will care how you dance.' Look good, dance better.*

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *Or maybe she'll say I should ignore Jason, the way Mami does, which always makes me so mad because how can you ignore someone in your face like Jason, when there are lots of Jasons and only one of you? So, I say the next part slowly to see if she can really understand. Say it slowly.*

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	SOLUTIONS
1 from Budapest, say (9)	_____
2 from Tirana, say (8)	_____
3 from Minsk, say (10)	_____
4 from Zagreb, say (8)	_____
5 from Tallinn, say (8)	_____
6 from Ljubljana, say (9)	_____
7 from Helsinki, say (7)	_____

AN	CROA	BELA	IAN	IAN
SLO	FIN	HU	ES	TIAN
SIAN	VEN	ALB	TO	NI
IAN	NGAR	NISH	AN	RU

Last Week's Answers: FORGETFUL 2. PREDICAMENT 3. FLEETING 4. POLITICIANS 5. PREGNANT 6. CLAM 7. SOCIALIZED

Sudoku Answers from pg 27 of 6/4

Puzzle A

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

Difficulty: ★

5/18

Puzzle B

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

Difficulty: ★★

5/19

Puzzle C

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

Difficulty: ★★★

5/21



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JUN 26		<h2 style="margin: 0;">DUELING PIANOS</h2>
JUN 27		<h2 style="margin: 0;">LENNY CLARKE</h2>
JUL 10		<h2 style="margin: 0;">DIO RULES</h2> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: 12px;">TRIBUTE TO RAINBOW, BLACK SABBATH, & DIO</p>
JUL 11		<h2 style="margin: 0;">BEGINNINGS</h2> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: 12px;">CELEBRATING THE MUSIC OF CHICAGO</p>



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Renaissance Man

• Sterling Nasa, a student of politics and international studies at the University of Sydney, found himself in an unusual spot recently: behind an electric keyboard during a live concert of the “La La Land” movie score. The 21-year-old was in the audience for the May 30 concert at the Darling Harbour theater in Sydney when composer and conductor Justin Hurwitz made an unusual request from the stage during intermission: Did anyone in the audience know how to sight-read? The orchestra’s keyboardist had fallen ill, and local reinforcements were too far away to make it to the theater in time. “I figured nobody’s as close as they say they are,” Hurwitz said, “so I just thought, well, we have 2,500 people in here [in the audience].” Despite Nasa’s background in music — he plays piano, organ and bagpipes — he was initially hesitant to volunteer his services. But with encouragement from his friend, he headed down to the pit. If being thrust into the spotlight weren’t enough, Nasa also had to play a tricky piece — John Legend’s “Start a Fire,” which has a complex solo that synchronizes with the character Sebastian’s (Ryan Gosling) frenetic piano playing on screen. With no time to prepare, Nasa improvised the piece, earning him a rousing ovation. “To be able to play a really cool solo in the right key, in the right scale, on the fly

with no rehearsal — it was remarkable,” Hurwitz said. *The Guardian, June 1*

Goal!

Brenden Aaronson, 25, a forward for the U.S. Men’s National Team in the FIFA World Cup, missed practice on May 29 for a very important reason: his wedding. He and his high school sweetheart, Milana D’Ambra, booked their wedding date over two years ago. Aaronson realized the scheduling conflict in March, but a conversation with head coach Mauricio Pochettino put his fears at ease — he could take a day to attend his wedding without losing his status on the team. The couple married in New Jersey, not far from where they met. Aaronson had to leave shortly after the wedding to get back to the team. “It’s not easy to be leaving on a wedding night, but she’s been with me since the beginning,” Aaronson said of his wife. “She knows how many days we’ve been through doing all the football stuff. For her to be as cool as she is is amazing.” *Yahoo! Sports, June 2*

Born This Way

Shelbee Dugger-Kemp of Texas has a birth story for the ages: She delivered her premature twins in the passenger seat of a moving car. According to *People*, Dugger-Kemp was

at a campsite at the Texas-Oklahoma border with her family over Memorial Day weekend when she experienced stomach pain that she initially attributed to a bad batch of nachos. At 31 weeks pregnant, she decided it wouldn’t hurt to pop over to the hospital to make sure everything was OK. Her husband’s grandmother, Mimi, drove her, and on the way, Dugger-Kemp quickly realized that her pain was actually contractions. “She said, ‘Oh no, Shelbee,’ and I said, ‘Oh yes, Mimi, it’s about to happen.’” With the ambulance 20 minutes away, the seasoned mom of four — now six — delivered two boys. Kane came first, at 4 pounds, 4 ounces, followed about five minutes later by Kallan, who weighed 3 pounds, 15 ounces, and emerged still in his amniotic sac, known as an en caul birth. The baby boys were born about eight weeks ahead of their due dates but are doing well in the neonatal intensive care unit. *People, June 1*

Oh, Rats

One Australian designer is taking ratty clothing to a new level. Rat Oddity Gizzard, known for using taxidermied rats to make unusual creations, recently released a line of clothing they’re calling LingeRAT (pronounced like “lingerie”), *Oddity Central* reported on May 29. Unfortunately, it’s exactly what it sounds like — taxidermied rats sewn onto underwear. While the garments

aren’t meant to be worn, Rat Oddity Gizzard’s Instagram audience begs to differ, with followers claiming to want to surprise their partners. The lingerie sells for \$137 apiece, and yes, they do offer international shipping. *Oddity Central, May 29*

Crime Report

On May 31, a French museum reported a theft — not of precious jewels or a priceless painting, but of fruit. A banana, to be precise. The banana had been taped to the wall as an artistic piece called “Comedian,” by Italian visual artist Maurizio Cattelan. A security guard noticed the banana missing from the Pompidou-Metz museum, and the museum has “lodged a criminal complaint for theft against persons unknown,” *Gulf News* reported. The banana is typically replaced every three days, and the museum says this is not the first time the fruit has been stolen: A hungry visitor helped themselves to it last July. “Comedian” is valued at \$120,000. *Gulf News, May 31*

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

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