the Hippo
OCTOBER 22 - 28, 2026

WITCH OF WESTON TOWER P. 15
DISTILLER'S SHOWCASE P. 16

LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT FREE

Granite State Ghost Hunters

A LOOK AT NH'S PARANORMAL INVESTIGATORS

INSIDE: HALLOWEEN HOWL & MONSTER MASH









the Hippo

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ON THE COVER
8 Michael Witthaus talks to area ghost hunters about their experiences and how they got into investigating the paranormal. Above photo: PI-NE at America's Stonehenge. Photo from Michael Witthaus.

ALSO ON THE COVER Head to downtown Concord for the Halloween Howl on Friday, then swing down to Nashua for the Monster Mash on Saturday (see the story on page 14). In Manchester, visit the Witch of Weston Tower (page 15). Get your tickets for Distiller's Showcase the first Thursday in November (page 16).

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NEWS & NOTES

Learn CPR

October is Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month and the American Red Cross is urging people to learn CPR and how to use an AED (automated external defibrillator), according to a release from the American Red Cross Northern New England Region. "Cardiac arrest doesn't wait for emergency responders to arrive," said Stephanie Couturier, regional executive for the Red Cross of Northern New England, said in the statement. "The actions of a bystander in the first few minutes can make all the difference. CPR and AED training empowers people to respond with confidence and potentially save the life of a loved one, coworker, neighbor or stranger when every second counts." Find local in person as well as online classes in adult and pediatric first aid and CPR or hand-only CPR at redcross.org/take-a-class, the website said.

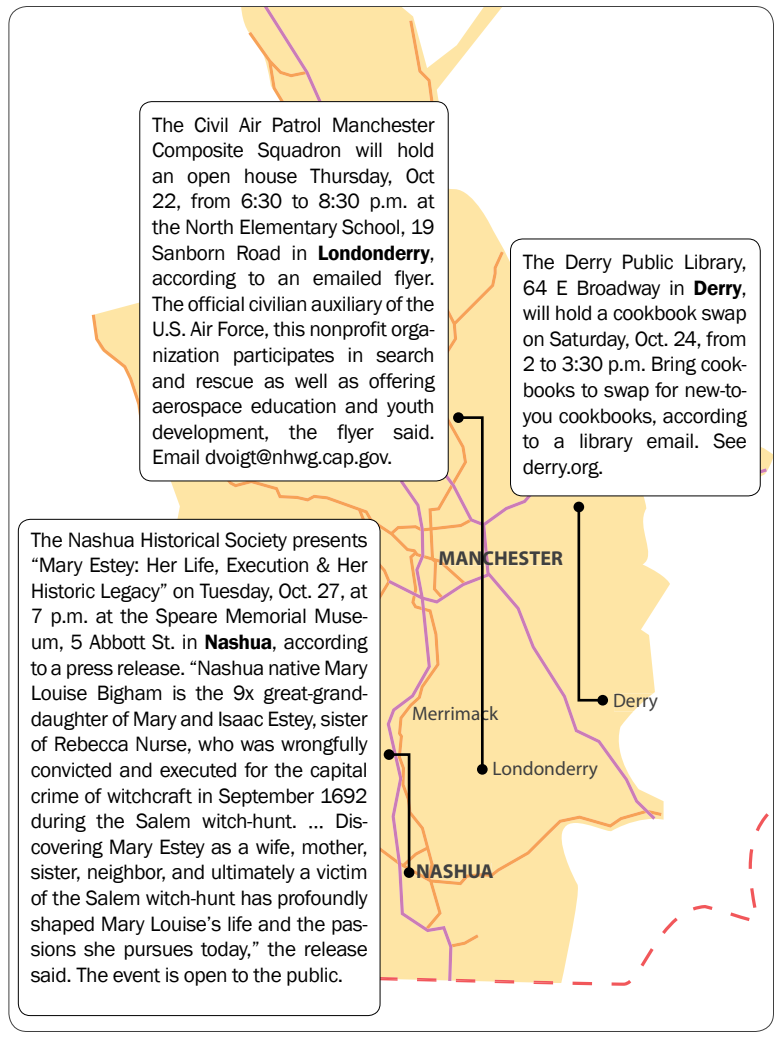
Lung cancer

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services and other health care organizations in the state are working to "increase awareness of lung cancer screening and help eligible residents learn whether they could benefit from this potentially life saving test," according to a press release from Concord Hospital Medical Group, one of the participating organizations. According to the state's Lung Cancer Screening page, dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/disease-prevention/cancer/nh-cancer-partnership/lung-cancer-screening, screening is recommended for ages 50 to 80 years old, people who currently smoke or quit in the last 15 years and have smoked at least one pack of cigarettes per day for 20 years, according to the website, where you can find screening sites across the state.

"Too many people who could benefit from lung cancer screening either don't realize they qualify or haven't had a conversation about it," Kamen Rangelov, MD, Concord Hospital Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine – Laconia, said in the release. "By raising awareness across New Hampshire, we can help more people understand who should be screened and make an informed decision with their health care team. Increasing screening means more opportunities to identify lung cancer when it may be easier to treat."

Game summit

Tickets for the Granite Game Summit, an event focused on "social, open board gaming in the Granite State" which will take place March 11-14 at the Sheraton Nashua, will go on sale on Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 1 p.m., according to a press release and granitegamesummit.com, where you will be able to find the link to purchase tickets. "Attendees are encouraged to bring games from their collection to play. We will provide tables on which to share your games with other attendees or to store underneath," the website said.





QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

It's already flu season

According to an Oct. 16 online article by New Hampshire Public Radio, "Flu season has started early this year, with reports of flu cases, particularly Influenza A, beginning in September rather than the usual onset in October or November." Dr. Gabriela Andujar Vasquez, of Dartmouth Health was quoted as said that the rate of infection is "still low but trending in the direction in which we start thinking that the season will be starting and picking up quickly and soon."

QOL score: -1

Comment: *"For people who can get the flu vaccine," the NHPR report read, "health experts recommend getting the vaccine now as it takes two weeks to develop optimal protection." It also noted, "Good handwashing practices, wearing masks and staying home when sick are also recommended to reduce spread of the flu." Visit the Centers for Disease and Prevention's flu page at cdc.gov/flu.*

More hate graffiti

According to an Oct. 17 press release by Manchester Police Department, "Manchester Police are investigating a series of criminal mischief incidents involving hateful messages found in several areas of the city. So far, police have identified 15 incidents in three areas. The incidents occurred overnight and involved antisemitic, racist, and homophobic content. At this point in the investigation, the acts appear to be random, with no indication that specific individuals or properties were intentionally targeted."

QOL score: -2

Comment: *In the same statement, Manchester Police Chief Peter Marr wrote,"Everyone deserves to feel safe and respected, and we take incidents like these seriously. We are actively investigating this matter and will work to hold those responsible accountable." Police are asking anyone who may have witnessed suspicious activity or has surveillance footage from these areas to contact the Manchester Police Department at 603-668-8711.*

Paw-ranormal activity at the Howl-O-Ween 5K



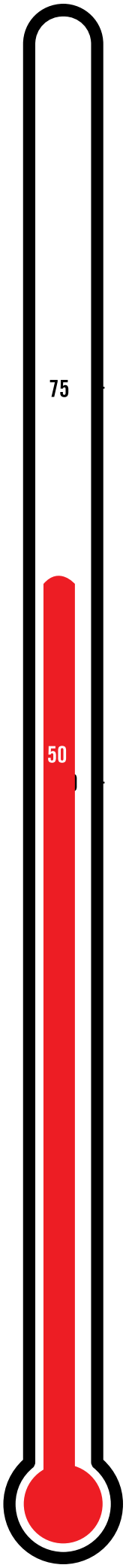
According to Jacob Harper from the ARLNH, the dog dressed as a referee is a blue heeler named van Gogh who has an Instagram page at instagram.com/vangoghtheblueheeler.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, more than 500 human and canine runners and walkers raised more than $50,000 for the Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire at the 9th Annual Howl-O-Ween 5K. "This year's event was the biggest in the race's history," Jacob Harper of the ARLNH wrote in an Oct. 19 press release." Dog and human runners and walkers completed the 5K race in costumes that included humans dressed as pumpkins, bananas, and cows, and dogs in costumes that ranged from tacos, to hot dogs, to pink western gear.

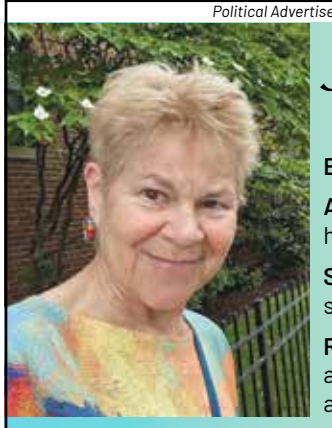
QOL score: +1, because life is better with dogs dressed as tacos.

Comment: *"The need for animal welfare services across New Hampshire continues to grow, and as we receive no state or federal funding, our team needs to raise $1.8 million this year to sustain our programs. Many of these programs provide critical support to low-income families," wrote Marianne Jones, CEO of ARLNH, in the press release. The 10th Annual Howl-O-Week 5K is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 16, 2027.*

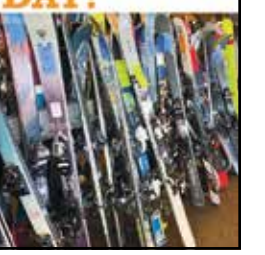
QOL score: 64
Net change: -2
QOL this week: 62
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SPORTS DAVE LONG'S LONGSHOTS

World Series starts Friday



Big Story – World Series: The $130 million payroll Brewers gave the Players Association fresh ammo in advance of the coming labor fight over whether a salary cap is needed or not by sweeping the $430 million L.A. Dodgers to win the NLCS. In the AL it was undecided at deadline with Tampa Bay up 3-2.

The prospect of a series with Milwaukee vs. Cleveland or TB does not have TV executives dancing in the aisles, as it offers no big names and no dastardly team like those Dodgers to root against for an upset. Just resilient, gritty teams who play small ball and know how to win. And we'll see if that's enough to draw big attention or just those who like watching baseball played like it ought to be played.

Sports 101: Who was the first Black player to hit a home run in the World Series?

News Item – Pats Down Jets 26-19: A lackluster effort that made this one live up to the definition of a trap game.

• ***Good – Situational Football:*** It was so solid it let them make enough plays in big moments to hold off the better than expected Jets. Plus the kick coverage was the best it's been all year.

• ***Bad – Injuries to the OL:*** Three starters going down in the same game. Yikes. But they somehow survived as the depth helped them do what they wanted: grind down the clock on the ground in the fourth quarter to ice it.

• ***Ugly – A.J. Brown:*** Either he needs to knock off the rust or he has hands of concrete, which included letting the Jets crucial onside kick go right through his hands.

• ***Grade – C:*** They did enough to win, which is what counts most, but it wasn't pretty.

News Item – Bad Day at Black Rock for Top 10: It was a rough day for the Top 10 in college football on Saturday as Georgia, Notre Dame, Alabama and last week's No. 1 Texas all lost. As did fifth-ranked Indiana, taken down by local lad **Ryan Day**'s now top-ranked Ohio State in the clash of the day.

The Numbers:

237 – yards allowed per game by the Seattle Seahawks, who gave up 277 to the Pats in Week 1.

127.3 – NFL-leading QB rating for Seattle backup **Drew Lock** in his two games filling in for starter **Sam Darnold**.

… Of the Week Awards

Thumbs Up – Tampa Bay: For actually managing a game to let the players win it, rather than having a shut-in stat geek with a laptop decide who does what, by letting excellent pitching starter **Drew Rasmussen** go seven innings and 95 pitches as he gave up one run and six hits in TB's 3-1 Game 5 win over Cleveland.

In Case You're Interested – Alumni News:

• In his first six games with Houston **Kayshon Boutte** has 14 catches on 21 targets for 169 yards and no TDs.

• **Keion White** has three sacks for the 5-0 49ers.

Sports 101 Answer: **Larry Doby** was the first when he hit one in the 1948 Series.

A Little History – Larry Doby: A guy pretty much forgotten by time despite being brought to the majors by Indians owner **Bill Veeck** (as in wreck) just a few months after **Jackie Robinson** in 1947. He played from 1947 to 1959, during which time the career numbers were .288, 273 homers and 1,093 RBI. Good enough to be elected to Cooperstown, though it took them 39 years to do it.

Final Thought – Five Things I'm Most Interested in as the NBA Season Opens:

• ***Knicks vs. 76ers vs. Celtics:*** All three haven't really competed for the division crown together in the same season since 1967-68.

• ***Victor Wembanyama:*** I thought he was a chippy punk in the NBA Finals and I'm hoping he grows up beyond that. Because I'm most eager to see what this young Frenchman adds to his game to help him be the dominant player he has the package to become.

• ***The Philadelphia Experiment:*** The NBA's most ultimate talent-vs.-chemistry situation since **Wilt** joined **West** and **Baylor** in L.A. in 1968-69. Most interesting is not **Jaylen Brown**. It's how **Lebron** morphs his game to fit in at 42, which I think he'll do.

• ***Cooper Flagg:*** In the final six games of his rookie year he scored 51, 45 and 33 in three of them. And while this is probably an unfair comparison, here's how this rookie stacks up to **Larry Bird**'s. CF, then LB: points 21.0 - 21.3, assists 4.5 - 4.5, rebounds 6.7 - 10.4. FG 46.8 - 47.4. Pretty close, but remember LB was 23 when he was a rookie and Flagg 19. All of which will have Dallas fans asking, "Luka who?"

• ***Mitchell Robinson:*** I love offensive rebounders and he's great at it. Plus he plays rim protecting D and is going to be the best pick-and-roll-for-the-lob-to-dunk Celtic since lob it to **Rob Williams** was traded to Portland.

Email Dave Long at dlong@hippopress.com.

This Week

BIG EVENTS OCTOBER 22 AND BEYOND

Friday, Oct. 23

The curtain rises on ***Carrie The Musical***, the stage adaption of the Stephen King novel, presented by Manchester Community Theatre Players at MCTP Theatre at North End Montessori School, 698 Beech St., Manchester, tonight at 7:30 p.m. The show runs through Sunday, Nov. 1, according to manchestercommuniththeatre.com, where you can find a link to purchase tickets. Shows take place at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays, the website said. Described as "a dark pop-rock stage adaptation" of the story "about a bullied teen with telekinetic powers," *Carrie the Musical* is recommended for ages 13+, the website said.



Carrie. Photo by Pam Wicks.

Find more spooky and fantastical theatrical events this season, as well as haunted attractions, downtown Halloween events, kid-friendly fare and more in the Halloween guide in the Oct. 15 issue of the Hippo, which is available in the digital library at hippopress.com.

Thursday, Oct. 22

Greater Manchester Restaurant Week starts today, according to palacetheatre.org/restaurant-week and our story in the Oct. 15 issue of the Hippo, where you can find details about this year's event, which corresponds to the Friday, Oct. 23, opening of the show ***Fiddler on the Roof*** at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St. in Manchester. Restaurant week runs through Nov. 1. The show runs through Sunday, Nov. 15; see palacetheatre.org for tickets.

Friday, Oct. 23

Red River Theatres, 11 S. Main St. in Concord, kicks off its annual screenings of ***Rocky Horror Picture Show*** with a screening tonight at 10 p.m., according to redrivertheatres.org, where you can purchase tickets and see the rules. Costumes are encouraged and ticket-holders will get a bag of props (no outside props allowed) for this 18+ event, the website said. The movie will also screen, with all the fixings, on Saturday, Oct. 24, and Friday, Oct. 30, at 10 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 23

The **Laconia Pumpkin Festival** is slated for tonight from 4 to 10 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 24, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., featuring local vendors, a pumpkin tower, food and drink, a costume parade, a 10K and 5K walk and run, a duck derby and more, according to laconiapumpkinfestival.com, where you can find a schedule.

Friday, Oct. 23

It's the Tupelo Music Hall's monthly **Tupelo Night of Comedy** tonight at 8 p.m. featuring comedians Kenny Rogerson, JJ Jones and Bill Douglas, according to tupelomusichall.com, where you can purchase tickets. The Tupelo Music Hall is at 10 A St. in Derry.

Saturday, Oct. 24

Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St. in Rochester, rochesteroperahouse.org, will present **Arrested Development** tonight at 8 p.m., according to the website, where you can purchase tickets.

Sunday, Oct. 25

Celebrate Samhain will take place today from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hilton Nashua, 2 Somerset Parkway in Nashua, according to facebook.com/NHSamhain. The event will feature vendors, psychics, music, workshops and more, the post said. See celebratesamhain.com for more.



Save the Date! Friday, Nov. 20

The pre-Thanksgiving weekend schedule is packed. One of the options is ***Come From Away***, the musical about Gander, Newfoundland, on Sept. 11, 2001, presented by Community Players of Concord (communityplayersofconcord.org) Friday, Nov. 20, and Saturday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 22, 2 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, according to communityplayersofconcord.org, where you can purchase tickets.



Granite State Ghost Hunters

A LOOK AT NH'S PARANORMAL INVESTIGATORS

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Up a slope called Mystery Hill, amidst stone tunnels and megaliths with eerie names like Oracle Chamber, Tomb of Lost Souls, and a flat rock that most call The Sacrificial Table, on a site carbon-dated to 4,000 years old, a group of dedicated spirit hunters are on a quest to speak with the dead.

America's Stonehenge in Salem has a history of visitors from beyond.

"There are too many strange occurrences to ignore," Ron Kolek of the New England Ghost Project wrote in 2005. That's why Paranormal Investigators of New England, PI-NE for short, booked a private twilight tour on a recent Saturday. They came to explore, bringing tools of the trade for detecting electromagnetic field disturbances and translating ghostly messages. Some had plans to stargaze in search of UFOs.

The sun had barely set when PI-NE appeared to make initial contact with the spirit world.

First, however, they checked the dirt floor for spiders. The Tomb of Lost Souls is a narrow curving tunnel with a dirt floor, and while PI-NE New Hampshire Assistant Director Deb Dutcher ain't afraid of no ghosts, creepy crawlers in dark caves are another thing entirely.

As an investigator laid out an array of devices, including something called a REMPOD that lights up when it detects activity, a few other team members launched an app on their cell phones called Necrometer.

"What would you like us to know?" Melissa Roberge of the New Hampshire PI-NE chapter queried into the darkness.

Her phone lit up. "Her name is Michelle," she reported to the group. "She said, 'You shouldn't be here.'"



PI-NE at America's Stonehenge. Photo from Michael Witthaus.

At the next stop, everyone in the group introduced themselves to any and all spirits. Roberge said she was excited to visit America's Stonehenge at night, having spent many days there during her New Hampshire childhood. All were deferential, though some told their invisible hosts, "It's OK to touch me, but please don't follow me home."

Another New Hampshire investigator, Samantha Bravoco, said, "I'm hoping that you're comfortable with us, and whoever's here wants to communicate a little bit." Bravoco studied psychology at Salem State University, choosing the school, her bio on the pi-ne.org website explained, "strictly because of witches, ghosts and goblins."

What followed was a conversation carried out with EMF bells and glowing lights from a REMPOD operated by PI-NE team members. They said the spirit belonged to a young man who was around when Mystery Hill was a stop on the Underground Railroad, helping enslaved people to freedom.

The content of the exchange proceeded with fits and stops, but engaging with a spirit isn't ever easy or predictable, investigators say. Ultimately, at least a small belief that there's something out there and it wants to talk is what brought the group together and keeps them questing.

A reassuring voice

Deb Dutcher's path into the spirit world was guided by someone she knew and loved.

After her mother died unexpectedly, Dutcher left Vermont and moved to Colebrook, her childhood home in New Hampshire. That's when her mom became a *presence*.

"I started seeing things, hearing things," she said in a phone interview. "She visited me. I heard her voice."

Ghost Hunters was on TV at the time, and Dutcher found herself quickly hooked.

"It just really piqued my interest," she said, adding that she'd always wanted to belong to a team of investigators. About three years ago, she saw an ad seeking investigators for PI-NE's New Hampshire division. She applied and passed interviews, along with a background check. A year later, Dutcher was running the chapter.

PI-NE was founded in 2004 and is based in Essex Junction, Vermont. It's Vermont's member of the TAPS Family, the network of teams affiliated with The Atlantic Paranormal Society, the group behind the same *Ghost Hunters* series that hooked Dutcher. Its brief covers hauntings, UFO sightings and even cryptozoology.

The service is free, and most clients are homeowners, with some businesses in the mix. The work commences with a background check on whoever is asking for help. "We don't want to send investigators into a bad situation," Dutcher said. "There have been a couple times we've actually said no."

The most common query is a simple one. "I just received a request that I need to call later on this afternoon, and it says right in it, 'I just need to know I'm not crazy,'" she said. "We hear that a lot."

Often, Dutcher believes, once the answer is found, it isn't frightening at all. Children especially are scared by what they don't understand. "It is so nice to be able to … make the connection that, hey, this is Grandpa or Grandma, just looking out for you," she said. "It makes them feel so much better."

Learning the poltergeist is mice under the floorboards can be just as comforting, even if it introduces a new problem.

"If you can easily debunk something, that takes away the fear as well," Dutcher said, pointing to orbs as an example. "Ninety-nine-point-nine percent of the time, it's bugs or dust."

TV investigators Dustin Pari and Brian Cano helped fuel her skepticism. She's learned to avoid devices with built-in word banks, saying, "I want whatever's coming through to be legitimate."

The team often travels beyond New England. At the Hinsdale House in New York a few weeks ago she tested whether spirit-box listeners are just fitting random radio fragments to the questions. Two listeners wore separate headphones while questions were asked from another room, and the answers didn't match the questions.

"However," she said, "they both wrote down the same exact words."

Closer to home, some of her most memorable experiences happened in public libraries. She saw things "frequently" in the basement of the New Hampshire State Library during seven years working there.

In the basement of the Woodsville Free Library, a teammate who is a medium described a World War I soldier and a talking teddy bear began responding on camera. Upstairs was a display honoring a young local man who served in that war. "When Kathy went over to look at the display, she goes, 'That's him,'" Dutcher said.

The work has changed her, too. "Sometimes I'm facing something that I'm kind of daunted by, and I'm like, 'hey, look, I can walk in all by myself in a dark asylum,'" she said. "I can do this."

A veteran ghost hunter

With more than 25 years of chasing ghosts, Ron Kolek has learned to not sell certainty. The founder of New England Ghost Project in Dracut, Mass., lets the work speak for itself.

"We never tell people whether their house is haunted or not," he said in a recent Zoom interview. "We just give them whatever we find."

Kolek, who has a degree in environmental science, came to the subject grounded in science. In 2000, however, an accident cost him several fingers. A pulmonary embolism that followed put him in intensive care — and gave him a vision. "While I was there, I was somewhere else," he said. "It was a place that was very, very white."

There were figures, and what he describes as angelic music. "I always refer to the Madonna song 'Like a Prayer,'" he said. "There's a line in it that says, 'It feels like home.' That's what it felt like." Then it all fell together, "like the closing of an iris," leaving only the hospital room and his heartbeat on the monitor.

Recovering, he took a TV production course through Media One that required a final project. Inspired by his near-death experience — "I don't know if it was the drugs they gave me or not," he said — and a manufacturing company he owned that employees, including his son, swore was haunted, he made a decision.

"I said, 'You know what, I'll do it on ghosts.'"

Rounding up a couple of collaborators, he quickly got to work, investigating his own "walk to the light" experience with all the objectivity he could muster. Before he knew it, Kolek was in deep. "I couldn't explain some of the stuff that I experienced there," he said. "That's how I got hooked."

He set up New England Ghost Project to prove or disprove the paranormal, but soon decided he couldn't.

"Some people, every light that flickers is a

ghost," he said, while with others, "If a spirit slapped them across the face, they'd rationalize the whole thing away." So he documents and lets people decide. Beyond that, he's talked about the paranormal on the radio for 23 years, including a podcast with British parapsychologist Steve Parsons.

Like many investigators, Kolek does most of his work in private homes, where he says he's encountered more than a few affirmations that the spirit world is real. At one Lakes Region house, a former speakeasy, a camera on a stairway landing somehow ended up at the bottom of the stairs; the footage showed nothing.

At another home about to be foreclosed on, medium Maureen Wood sensed a little boy. As midnight neared, Kolek followed his EMF meter out of the house and into the woods, to a small cemetery with two tiny graves. The names on them matched the ones Wood had picked up.

Kolek has had further encounters of his own in Portsmouth, at the now-shuttered Molly Malone's Irish Steakhouse, and Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse, where Kolek sits on the board. During a fundraising ghost tour in the adjoining fort, he watched a woman pass from window to window toward the door. No one came in.

"I saw whatever I saw as clear as day," he recalled, noting the Coast Guard, whose base the lighthouse sits on, has long reported a woman on the wall. Historian Jeremy D'Entremont later learned that a woman died in an explosion at the fort; all that was ever found was a scrap of her dress.

Kolek's skepticism persists. He's not easily fooled by fantastic stories, like a Pembroke homeowner who once told him a medium had sent "400 Revolutionary soldiers" into the light.

"The idea that ... you can go in there, wave your magic wand and you send them on to the happy hunting ground is a big misconception," he said. This logic applies to the practice of burning sage to ward off bad energy. "I've gone on exorcisms with the Catholic Church, and trust me, it ain't so easy."

His advice for the curious is simple. "Don't do anything that you're not comfortable with," he said, while adding with a laugh that visiting the house in Pembroke did yield his favorite-ever recording, an EVP he heard during setup: "It's the Ghostbusters."

Young guns

Alan Guin used to be the guy rolling his eyes when someone raised the subject of paranormal activity.

"I used to think it was all fake. I never once believed in it," Guin said in a recent phone interview. He spent 10 years as an Air Force combat medic. "I thought everything had an explanation."

Then one night he tagged along with a former partner to a Christian-themed park in Connecticut with a dark past.

What's in the bag: The ghost hunter's toolkit

Alan Guin of SoulSeekers Paranormal NE says his team brings "well over $10,000" worth of equipment to a site. Deb Dutcher of Paranormal Investigators of New England (PI-NE) owns "four cases plus." Much of it was built for electricians, contractors or gamers, not ghost hunters.

Here's what investigators carry and how they say they use it.



Ghost Hunter Gear. Courtesy photo.

Electromagnetic Frequency (EMF) detector. Measures fluctuations in electromagnetic fields. "It wasn't made for ghost hunting," Guin said. "It was made for electricians." Investigators look closer at sudden spikes with no wiring nearby.

EMF bell. An EMF detector built into a bell. It rings only when the reading hits red, the top of its scale. Teams set a code, such as one ring for yes and two for no, and then ask questions. Guin's team uses one called the Dead-Bell. "If you figure out how to use it, show us," he tells whatever might be listening.

REMPOD. Puts out its own small magnetic field and sounds an alarm when anything disturbs it. A similar but not identical piece of equipment called the Omnipod v2 works the same way, while also logging touch, temperature, vibration, barometric pressure and magnetic changes, and sends them to a phone app.

Thermal camera. Shows a room by temperature alone, from cold in blue to hot in red. People show up orange-red. Guin says spirits can register blue-green.

SLS camera. A structured-light sensor first built for Xbox gaming. It reads depth and draws any human shape as a stick figure on screen, even when the room looks empty. Dutcher uses a phone-app version when she travels.

Infrared cameras and audio recorders. These do most of the work. Dutcher says PI-NE has switched from wired cameras tethered to a monitor at "home base" to wireless infrared units on battery packs that can go almost anywhere. Ron Kolek of the New England Ghost Project picks gear to fit the complaint: footsteps on the stairs call for a recorder, not just a camera. Recorders listen for EVPs (electronic voice phenomena), voices nobody heard in the room that turn up on playback.

Spirit box. A radio that sweeps AM and FM stations in rapid bursts while investigators listen for words that seem to answer questions. In the Estes method, one investigator wears a blindfold and headphones and calls out whatever they hear. The rest of the team asks questions the listener can't hear. "It gives the spirit a method to talk to you if they want to," Dutcher said.

Envoy. Dutcher's go-to talking device answers yes or no or spells out words. She avoids gadgets that pull from a built-in word bank. "It just seems like they're always saying, oh, the devil or death."

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Sitting in a cave with only a flashlight, he saw what he calls a giant black smog cloud. "It just kind of showed up in front of me, kind of hung out for a second, went over to my partner at the time, and then just dissipated into the wall as clear as day," he said. He recalled thinking, "Science cannot explain what I just saw."

In 2021, Guin formed SoulSeekers Paranormal NE with Austin Harley and Corey Marshall, friends he met exploring abandoned buildings. Harley and Marshall had both dabbled in the paranormal recreationally, while Guin added scientific method to the mix, along with "the nerdiness of all my tools and editing skills."

The group started with five members, and came back from a pandemic-induced break as a rebranded trio.

"We were more intention-driven," Guin said of their return, noting that five early episodes from their YouTube channel "will never see the light of day again."

Harley now lives in Rhode Island and Marshall in Tennessee. How do they get together? "Cars and planes, man."

The self-taught Guin shoots and edits everything, but the finished work doesn't look it, rivaling *Ghost Hunters* for production values. But he draws a line between paranormal research and entertainment, eschewing reality fare for in-depth investigation work. "We're not over-the-top screaming and provoking, none of that cringy TV garbage."


SoulSeekers. Courtesy photo.

The team carries more than $10,000 in gear, including repurposed tools like an electricians' EMF meter and a SLS camera that he says reveals

Local haunts?

Here's a list of some area spots that have a reputation for strange occurrences.

• **Concord Public Library** (45 Green St., Concord) According to an Around Concord story from Sept. 17, 2019, Concord Public Library director Todd Fabian told a tour group: "Personally, I don't like to be in this building alone late at night after we close." "I feel like at 7 a.m., if I'm alone, the ghosts are sleeping in. In the evening … well, I've heard all kinds of strange sounds that I cannot explain," he said in the article.

• **Gilson Road Cemetery** (Gilson Road & Tanglewood Drive, Nashua) According to a The Cabinet Press story from Oct. 24, 2013, the cemetery "has a considerable reputation in paranormal investigation circles."

• **Island Path Road** (Off Route 1A, Hampton Beach) Eunice "Goody" Cole was twice accused of witchcraft — in 1656 and 1671, according to hamptonhistoricalsociety.org. "On March 8, 1938 at the 300th Town Meeting the citizens passed a resolution restoring Eunice 'Goody' Cole to her rightful place as a citizen of Hampton," the website said. According to HauntedPlaces.org: "... reports say Goody Cole's ghost haunts the residents of Island Path Road. Folks see apparitions, flickering lights, objects that move around, and mysterious vanishing of neighborhood cats."

• **Lorden Plaza** (586 Nashua St., Milford) At this modern shopping plaza, witnesses have described an apparition of a man wearing blue jeans, a plaid flannel shirt, and a tape measure on his belt walking along the property and disappearing into a plywood wall, according to hauntedplaces.org/milford-nh.

• **Margaritas Mexican Restaurant** (1 Bicentennial Sq., Concord) According to Atlas Obscura (atlasobscura.com), from 1890 to 1975, the spot was the home of the Concord Police Department, hence the jail cells that are still part of the dining area. "... [L]ocal legend holds that the restaurant is haunted by a spirit named George, and ghost hunters, including the Paranormal Research Society, have visited…," the website said.

• **The Music Hall** (28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth) One of the state's oldest theaters and a stop on more than a few ghost tours. According to an NHPR story in 2018, cold spots, twinkling lights, music coming from an empty stage, footsteps on an empty staircase and audience members wearing clothing from other eras are among the eerie sightings there.

• **Tilton Inn** (255 Main St., Tilton) Built in 1875, the building has burned down three times, according to the Inn's website at thetiltoninn.com. "One of these … fires is said to have claimed the life of a 12-year-old girl, named Laura, who is suspected to have never left…. There have been many encounters with her both upstairs in the rooms, and downstairs in the pub and restaurant," the website said. The Inn was featured on television's *Ghost Hunters*.

• **Vale End Cemetery** (772 Isaac Frye Hwy., Wilton) The story goes that the ghost of Mary Ritter Spaulding, who died in 1808, appears as a blue light over her headstone, according to a 2017 story in The Cabinet Press.

• **Windham Restaurant** (59 Range Road, Windham) The restaurant embraces its spectral history, with events like an afternoon with medium Patricia Griffin and a recent seance. According to its website, windhamrestaurant.com, "Long before it became a restaurant, this property was part of a working farm in 1729. The Colonial-style house that stands today was built in 1812, carrying over two centuries of history within its walls." A New England Ghost Project, neghostproject.com, post about the location talks about two visits the group made to the site and the odd occurrences people reported.

ghostly apparitions as stick figures, a device normally used for Xbox gaming.

Like most groups, SoulSeekers usually answers calls from people unnerved in their own homes, and works for free.

"One of the most rewarding things is bringing validation to people who ... get looked at kind of with a stink eye that they're crazy," he said.

Sometimes the validation is that nothing is there. At a location in Massachusetts, reports of wailing and loud bangs in the basement turned out to be wind-driven garage doors. "The owner was very relieved to know that it wasn't somebody in the basement."

One of the group's most striking cases was at a restaurant in Milford. Their autumn 2025 investigation centered on a basement well and an odd little closet. On two visits, the team got the name Elizabeth and a plea: "I can't find my baby."

They were stumped until they learned an important detail tied to a centuries-old tragedy.

The restaurant had bought furniture from Country Tavern before it was torn down in late 2021. That Nashua pub was said to be haunted by Elizabeth Ford, who in 1797 was locked in a closet by her sailor husband after he'd learned she had an out of wedlock child while he was at sea. He killed her baby, then murdered her and threw her body down a well.

"The same name, the same fate, the same story came with the furniture," Guin said, adding that the well and closet at the Milford restaurant were eerily similar enough to confuse the spirits into hitching a ride to a new home. A two-part episode about the investigation is called *Whispers from the Well*.

The team recently completed an investigation on a site in Epsom, now a private home that Guin called "incredibly active." They also explored a location in Temple, where equipment was knocked off shelves. He has a theory about why.

"These energies, whatever they are, exist in a matter that our brains don't have the software to process correctly."

A theory loses steam

Everyone involved in paranormal investigations is mindful of false positives; skepticism is in their blood. That's despite an obsession with finding things a lot of people view the same way Guin did before his first visitation. A good case in point can be found at Endicott Furniture in Concord.

For years, a mischievous spirit was said to throw pillows around the showroom at night in this business that's been around since 1925, but lately not so much. Owner Eric Reingold, also a member of JamAntics, a band that played many Halloween Howls back in the day (and will reunite Nov. 6 at BNH Stage), says the reason's kind of prosaic.

"Back when steam heat was the way downtown heated their businesses, there was much more paranormal activity," he said recently. "Banging and clanging, weird hisses … we can't fall back on that any longer so there's not much more to report."





ARTS

Rooted in place

Ethan Tapper brings *The Forest Year* to Gibson's

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

When Ethan Tapper began the follow-up to his New England Book Award winner, *How to Love a Forest: The Bittersweet Work of Tending a Changing World*, he was aiming for something lighter, like an almanac. His 2024 debut made the case that cutting trees, spraying invasive plants and hunting deer can be acts of devotion.

This one, he decided, should go down easier.

"I was like, I just want to write a book about how much I love birds, flowers and seasons," Tapper said in a recent Zoom interview. However, he realized, "It's impossible to write about loving all that stuff and not also address what we do to take care of it. If we go deep enough on this topic, it invariably becomes about stewardship."

Tapper will talk about and read from his new book, *The Forest Year: Finding Hope in a World Worth Saving*, at Gibson's Bookstore on Saturday, Oct. 24. He'll also sign copies and take audience questions. The evening completes a busy day in Concord that begins with a UNH event, "How To Love An Urban Forest" at the Society for the Protection of NH Forests.

Ethan Tapper – *The Forest Year*

When: Saturday, Oct. 24, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord
Tickets: RSVP at gibsonsbookstore.com, 224-0562

Also: "How To Love an Urban Forest: A Conversation With Ethan Tapper," 1:30 p.m., The Society for the Protection of NH Forests Conference Room, 54 Portsmouth St., Concord, register at ethantapper.com

Like his first book, *The Forest Year*'s focal point is Bear Island, a 175-acre parcel in Vermont he purchased in 2017. The previous owner had high-graded it — logging the healthiest, most valuable trees and leaving the rest. Tapper recalled it as the most degraded forest he had ever seen, and set out to revive it. Today, it's "diverse, beautiful and healthy," he effused.

His model for the latest book was Aldo Leopold's 1949 classic *A Sand County Almanac*, a work he believes still sounds radical. Leopold helped popularize phenology, the tracking of the seasons through nature. "It's this cool practice of, like, observing the first serviceberry flower of the year, or when I hear the first warblers singing," Tapper explained.

At the core of his stewardship argument is a rejection of two "delusions": that ecosystems can continue to be exploited without consequence, and that forests battered by invasive species, deer overpopulation and climate change can heal simply by having a fence put around them. In some, cutting, culling or herbicides are warranted; in others they aren't.

Tapper calls *The Forest Year* a book about hope, not alarm.

With protections for endangered species, public lands and wetlands under pressure, he worries about despair turning into apathy. "That's one of the scariest and least helpful things human beings can do," Tapper said. "When we're hopeful, we actually do stuff …. I've started to believe that hope is a practice, and it's also a responsibility."

That responsibility doesn't require a private forest, he continued — people can do it in their own backyards.

At his UNH talk on urban forests, he'll suggest homeowners plant native species and make yards "more complex and rich with life than just a mowed lawn." He also urges people to connect with local land trusts and conservation groups. As a county forester, he had a hard time getting people to show up.

Now audiences ask him where to start.

"I'm so glad to hear that, because your conservation community has been waiting to hear from you, and they're ready," he said. "The other part is connecting with those local conservation organizations, local land trusts and community groups, seeing where you can do the most good with advocacy and also with volunteering."

The Forest Year's central theme is staying, committing to one place, though Tapper acknowledges the irony of preaching this as he moves from one speaking engagement to another. "But I always come home," he said, noting that travel, like his social media channels, helps build "the biggest platform possible from which to advocate for ecosystems."



Ethan Tapper. Photo by Corey Hendrickson.

His online presence has grown to 400,000 followers, but it began as a line in his first book's marketing plan.

Tapper's DIY streak suits his punk band, The Bubs, still very active. "It's the only thing I do that's not about forests," he said, adding, "If we only did things that were necessary, we wouldn't make any music." He makes a similar case for independent bookstores like Gibson's, whose existence in an economy built on convenience is almost an act of resistance.

"These bookstores aren't just going to magically be here," he said. "The same thing is true for forests."

Art

Events

• **"Cursed II: Haunted Objects and Storytelling!"** will take place at The Eleventh Letter The Writing Gallery, 146 N. Main St. in Concord, theeleventhletter.com, in collaboration with N.A.V. Arts on Oct. 29 from 6 to 8 p.m., a "free, fun, spooky spoken word night where seasoned storytellers spin a yarn based on various "cursed" objects created by local artists," the website said.

• **Masquerade Night at the Museum** at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St. in Manchester, currier.org, will take place on Friday, Oct. 30, from 6 to 9 p.m., according to the website, where you can purchase tickets for events.

Exhibits

• **"Pure Form: Abstract Expression"** an exhibit featuring the works of 24 regional artists, is on display at the Center for the Arts Member Gallery, 428 Main St. in New London through Oct. 24, according to centerfortheartsnh.org, where you can also find information on a Microgalleries series of exhibits at New London locations (Alison Vernon at Grounds, 374 Main St.; Karen Haskell + Sara Rae at Blue Loon Bakery, 12 Lovering Lane, and Peter Jacoby at Tatewell Gallery, 277 Newport Road), also on display through Oct. 24.

• **"Chromatic Nature Exhibit"** featuring acrylic paintings by Tracy Levesque is at NH Audubon's McLane Center, 84 Silk Farm Road in Concord, nhaudubon.org, through Oct. 24. The center is open Wednesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• **"Continuing the Tradition"** is on display at the Exhibition Gallery at the League of NH Craftsmen's headquarters, 49 S. Main St., Concord, through Thursday, Oct 22, according to nhcrafts.org. "The gallery is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• **"Reflections: 180 Years of Manchester NH,"** featuring works that explore Manchester's history, identity and evolution over the past 180 years, including the city as it exists today, will be on display at Mosaic Studios, 66 Hanover St., Suite 201, through Monday, Oct. 26, according to mosaicartcollective.com.

• **"Jyl Draws Every Day: A Creature Double Feature Exhibit by Jyl Dittbenner"** is at the NH Audubon's Massabesic Center**,** 26 Audubon Way in Auburn, nhaudubon.org, through Oct. 30. The center is open Wednesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• **"Beyond the Surface: National Mixed Media Exhibition"** is on display at The Art Center, 1 Washington St. in Dover, theartcenterdover.com, through Saturday, Oct. 31, according to a press release. "This juried exhibition brings together artists from across the country in an exciting exploration of the extraordinary possibilities of mixed media," the release said.

• "**Remnants of Us,"** a solo exhibition by artist Kevin Brassard featuring mixed-media works, is on display at The Art Center, 1 Washington St. in Dover, theartcenterdover.com, through Saturday, Oct. 31, according to a press release.

• **Works of Current and Past Students** will be on display at Creative Ventures Gallery**,** 411 Nashua St. in Milford, creativeventuresfineart.com, in October, the website said.

• **Oct. 9 through Nov. 9 Show at Glimpse Gallery**, 4 Park St., Concord, features the works of artists June Latti, Ben Wymer, Mark Ruddy, Scarlet Hao, Darren Taylor, Erica Bodwell and Robyn Witney Fairclough, according to theglimpsegallery.com. The gallery is open by appointment, the website said.

• **"Harvest Hues"** will run through Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Kimball Jenkins Mansion, 266 N. Main St. in Concord, according to kimballjenkins.com.

• **"Home Sweet Home,"** featuring fiber art, glass, and pottery from Lisa Almeida, Laura Morrison, Anne Boedecker, Verne Orlosk, Sarah Burns and Cheryl Miller, will run at Two Villages Art Society 846 Main St. in Contoocook, twovillagesart.org, through Saturday, Nov. 14, the website said.

Theater

• ***The Sound Inside*** at New Hampshire Theatre Project, 959 Islington St., No. 3, in Portsmouth, nhtheatreproject.org, runs through Sunday, Nov. 1, with shows on Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m., according to the website, where you can purchase tickets.

• ***Carrie The Musical*** will be presented by Jonesing for Theater, jonesingfortheater.wixsite.com, at Millspace,



MURDER MOST FOUL

The Majestic Theatre, 880 Page St. in Manchester, majestictheatre.net, will present the murder mystery ***Much Ado About Murder*** — "where the audience participates in solving the crime" — on Friday, Oct. 23, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 24, at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 25, at 2 p.m., according to a press release. Tickets are available online, by calling 669-7458 and at the door, the release said. "Rich but rotten Carlton Larraby enjoyed punctuating the lives of his family with macabre little surprises. His latest joke is a Halloween party with everybody dressed as a character from Shakespeare. When the play begins, the bored guests have arrived and wait impatiently for their host to show up, unaware that he has been gruesomely bludgeoned to death in his study. Since this is an audience-participation play, the murder is revealed to the audience before the characters of the play know about it," the release said. *Featured photo: Katherine Pereira and Lee Peet in* Much Ado About Murder.

55 Main St. in Newmarket, millspace.org, through Sunday, Nov. 1, according to the venue's website, where you can purchase tickets. Described as "a chilling, blood-red theatrical experience based on Stephen King's legendary horror story," the show runs at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and dSaturdays and 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, the website said.

• ***The Commedia Pinocchio*** will be presented by the Winnipesaukee Playhouse Professional Theatre for young audiences at the Winnipesaukee Playhouse, 33 Footlight Circle, Meredith, Saturday, Oct. 24, at 3 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 25, 1 p.m., according to winnipesaukeeplayhouse.org, where you can purchase tickets.

• **Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*** will be presented by Windham Actors Guild (windhamactorsguild.com) at Windham High School on Friday, Oct. 23, and Saturday, Oct. 24, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 25, at 2 p.m., according to the website, where you will be able to purchase tickets.

• ***Carrie The Musical*** will be presented by Manchester Community Theatre Players at MCTP Theatre at North End Montessori School, 698 Beech St., Manchester, manchestercommunitytheatre.com, Friday, Oct. 23, through Sunday, Nov. 1, with shows at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays, the website said.

• ***Fiddler on the Roof*** will run at the Palace Theatre**,** 80 Hanover St., Manchester, Oct. 23 through Nov. 15, with shows Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 and 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. as well as Thursday, Nov. 12, at 7:30 p.m., according to palacetheatre.org, where you can purchase tickets.

• ***Much Ado About Murder,*** a murder mystery, will be presented by the Majestic Theatre, 880 Page St. in Manchester, majestictheatre.net, Oct. 23-25, according to a theater email.

• ***And Then There Were None***, the Agatha Christie story of "Murder. Suspense. 1930s," will be presented by The Players' Ring, 105 Marcy St. in Portsmouth, playersring.org, Friday, Oct. 23, through Sunday, Nov. 15, with shows at 7 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and at 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays (2 p.m. only on Oct. 31 and 2 and 7 p.m. on Nov. 1), according to the website, where you can purchase tickets.

• ***Dracula*** will be presented by Break a Leg Legally and the Ball Players at Centennial Hall, 105 Post Road in Hampton, Friday, Oct. 23, through Sunday, Nov. 1, with shows at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, according to breakaleglegally.com, where you can purchase tickets.

• **Cirque Us: Stories** will be presented at Stockbridge Theatre, 5 Pinkerton St., Derry, pinkertonacademy.org/stockbridge-theatre, on Saturday, Oct. 24, at 2 p.m., according to the website, where you can purchase tickets.

• ***Matilda Jr.*** will be presented by the Palace Youth Theatre at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St. in Manchester, on Tuesday, Oct. 27, and Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 7 p.m., according to the website, where you can purchase tickets.

• ***An Empty Sky***, a staged reading as part of the New Play Lab at The Players' Ring, 105 Marcy St. in Portsmouth, playersring.org, will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 27, at 6:30 p.m., according to the website, where you can purchase tickets.

• ***Witch Perfect***, described as an "all live-singing comedy parody" of *Hocus Pocus*, will be presented at the Palace Theatre**,** 80 Hanover St., Manchester, on Thursday, Oct. 29, at 8 p.m., according to palacetheatre.org, where you can purchase tickets.

• **The Vampire Circus** will be presented at the Capitol Center for the Arts' Swope Theater, 44 S. Main St., Concord, on Friday, Oct. 30, at 7:30 p.m., according to ccanh.com, where you can purchase tickets.

Classical

• **"From Beethoven to the Beyond"** will open the season for the New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra on Saturday, Oct. 31, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 1, at 2 p.m., according to nhphil.org, where you can purchase tickets. Phil concerts take place at the Seifert Performing Arts Center at Salem High School, 44 Geremonty Drive in Salem, the website said.

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Twice the tricks, twice the treats

Prizes for puppies and parties on Main Streets

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

Both Concord and Nashua will celebrate Halloween with downtown celebrations this weekend.

A large section of Main Street will be closed down on Friday, Oct. 23, from Hills Ave. to Loudon Road for Intown Concord's Halloween Howl. Many downtown businesses will remain open, and children and their families are encouraged to visit them to trick-or-treat.

There will be other, larger activities going on at the same time, said Berit Brown of Intown Concord. She said this year's Halloween Howl will lean heavily on treats.

Downtown celebrations

Intown Concord's Halloween Howl will take place Friday, Oct. 23, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. along Main Street in downtown Concord. Visit intownconcord.org/halloween-howl-2026.

The Downtown Nashua Association's Main Street Monster Mash will take place Saturday, Oct. 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. along Main Street in downtown Nashua. Visit downtownnashua.org/main-street-monster-mash.

Both events are free and open to the public.

"We have some awesome food trucks coming this year," she said, "which will be a lot of fun. We have Wicked Tasty, Kona Ice, Teenie Wienies, Nothing Bundt Cakes, and Nice Ice Baby. So there will be a really great variety of more dinner options and some sweet treats. We also will have trunk-or-treat back this year. It's actually going to be the biggest trunk-or-treat we've ever had. It will be on South Main Street right by the [Concord Food] Co-op and we'll have 20 different trunks [from] a combination of sponsors and downtown businesses. There will be some kind of get-zombified trunks. We have some that are handing out free little goodies. Some of them are teaching dances. I will say I think one of the funny ones this year is that Hood is doing the trick-or-treat and they're handing out chocolate milk ... It will be a really great interactive trunk-or-treat this year — we'll have a people's choice award for the best-decorated trunk. And so you'll be able to vote on that online after Halloween Howl."

Other activities will include live music in Bicentennial Square with Wandering Souls, Ghostly Games by the Concord Parks and Recreation Department, a costume contest with DJ Nazzy, a pumpkin carving contest and more.

"There's a cheerleading group who's going to come and they'll lead some free activities and they'll be in their cheerleading costumes, so that will be kind of fun," Brown said.

On Saturday the Downtown Nashua Association will stage the second annual Main Street Monster Mash. Nashua, too, will close down a section of its Main Street for pedestrian traffic during the late morning and early afternoon, said Downtown Nashua's director, Alyssa O'Mara. "There will be trick-or-treating up and down Main Street at a bunch of different restaurants and retail spaces," she said. This will be the second year of Main Street Monster Mash, she said, and that last year's event was very encouraging.

"It went better than we could have expected. We were hopeful because it was the first time in probably, I want to say almost 20 years, that they had done trick-or-treating downtown, like its own event. So we were hopeful maybe 100 families would show up, and we had at least 500 families show up. We actually, people were running out of candy, so myself and my volunteers were running up and down the street. ... So we are pre-buying extra candy this year so that we won't run out."

"We partner with the Humane Society for Greater Nashua," O'Mara said, "and we do what we call a Howl-o-ween parade, h-o-w-l. It is a puppy parade that goes up and down East and West Pearl Street with prizes for the best puppy costumes."



Courtesy photo.

"And then our other partner is the Actorsingers theater organization in Nashua," O'Mara said. "They have a production coming up and this is the second year in a row that they are doing 'Thriller' flash mobs for us, so people can watch or join in … they have two performances at 11:30 and at 12:30 where they'll be doing a flash mob of 'Thriller.'"

O'Mara was impressed by last year's costumes.

"I have seen some good costumes over the years," she said, "but last year people really brought it. My favorite was a couple that dressed as chefs and they had their baby in a giant lobster pot dressed as a lobster. That pot was on wheels. They were wheeling their baby around in a lobster pot. It was great."

CAR TALK

A bright idea for visibility — during both day and night



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:

You recently asked for comments from anybody who doesn't use their automatic headlight switch, asking why. I took several safe driving classes through my employer. The instructors always advised that cars with their headlights on during the day got in fewer accidents because they are more visible. Thus, I always drive with my headlights on day or night! So, I manually turn on the lights during the day. I also have to remind my husband to turn on the lights every time he is driving during the day — he can't be trained. I love your column and never miss it.— Sue

That's a good point, Sue. The handful of complaints we hear about automatic headlights relate to them coming "on" when the driver does not want their lights on.

Your complaint is that the automatic system keeps the lights "off" during the daytime when you want them lit up. And you're right that using your lights during the day has been shown to reduce accidents by anywhere from 3% to15%, depending on the circumstances. However, most cars now have daytime running lights (DRLs). Those are "always-on" front lights designed for exactly that purpose — to make your car more visible.

DRLs are a little bit different than your normal lights. In some ways safer, and in other ways, not as safe, in my opinion. They have a lower light intensity, so they're not as bright as your headlights. However, they have a wider beam dispersion and send light in all directions. Your regular headlights tend to point down toward the road. So, I imagine there are circumstances in which DRLs could do a better job of catching an oncoming driver's eye.

I'd call it a wash, overall. But the clear downside of DRLs is that they're only installed up front and do nothing to increase your visibility from behind. Another factor is that turning on your regular headlights during the day may make it harder to see your instrument cluster. Many cars dim the lighting on the cluster when the headlights are on — assuming it's dark out and you don't want your eyes to be blasted from inside the car.

If you choose to switch over to using DRLs during the day, it's super easy. Just set your headlights to "automatic." Your DRLs will light up during the day, and headlights will come on as it gets dark. If you want to keep using your regular lights during the day, many cars now are smart enough to shut off the lights entirely when you turn off the ignition and lock the vehicle. So, you may be able to leave the light switch in the "on" position at all times, with no worries about them running down the battery. Some cars have a "timer," which leaves the headlights on for a minute or so, to light up a pathway to your house while you go inside. But you can test your own car. Leave the headlight switch on, shut off the car, lock it, and go inside. Then take a furtive peek from behind the curtains a few minutes later and see if all the lights are off. Try not to let your neighbors catch you doing this.

If all lights are off, then just leave the switch set to "on" all the time, and you're all set. That'll even eliminate the need for husband training, Sue. At least for that one issue. *Visit Cartalk.com.*

INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT



Hi, Donna,

I am very curious about this item, which I believe is a snuff box. It belonged to my grandmother. I do not know how or exactly when she came to possess it, but likely the 1930s. The measurements are 1 13/16" wide by 3 3/16" long. The depth is 3/8". I find a lot interesting about this, including the two dates (1832 and 1855), the decorative engraving, and the building or monument that is depicted. There is a crack in the lid that is visible in the first picture below. I wonder if you would be able to shed any light on its origin and any possible value it might hold.

Thank you.

Kathleen

Dear Kathleen,

First I want to say thanks for all the additional pictures. It really helps. You are also right that it could be a snuff box or tobacco box from the late 1800s to early 1900s. From what I can see it appears to have a gold wash inside. If so it's made for acidic stuff like snuff, tobacco or even pills.

To determine if it's silver, nickel silver, silver-plated or even Russian silver. I think it should be seen for real. I couldn't quite figure out the touch marks that could help with that answer. Depending on the silver and origin it could be worth anywhere from $300++++.

What you have to consider is the condition. The bottom is dented as well as the top crack. That will take away from the end value. But bringing it to a jeweler or antique shop I think would be your best way for final information. Thank you, Kathleen, for sharing with us and good luck.

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.

View from the top

Witch of Weston Tower greets visitors with games and fun

By Chelsea Spear
listings@hippopress.com

The McIntyre Ski Area's annual Witch of Weston Tower event, with its scenic chairlift ride, thrilling tractor trip and visit from the Witch herself, has something fun for the whole family.

"You get to McIntyre, you get to hop aboard the chairlift ride," says Nicole Cunningham, the marketing director at McIntyre Ski Area. "You get a nice short trail ride to the top, taking in the views of Manchester. Then we have a wagon tractor ride that goes from the chairlift to Weston Tower. When you get to the tower, you get to meet the Witch herself, so the kids love that. We do candy and pictures and all sorts of stuff, and then you get to hike up to the top of Weston Tower and look over the city of Manchester."

Visits to the Witch of Weston Tower are a new tradition for Manchester-area families. McIntyre Ski Area first held this event in the fall of 2021.

"Weston Tower has always been a cool part of McIntyre, and we were just looking for a way to engage people during the fall season," Cunningham said.

While the Witch is the star of this event, two new attractions will join her at Weston Tower.

"We'll have a fortune teller up top, so that's going to be fun," Cunningham says. "We also have Bubble Bailey at the top. She does neon glow bubbles that the kids usually love."

This Saturday and Sunday, fun continues at the base of the mountain.

"We're going to do a potato sack race for the kids," Cunningham says. "We'll do limbo. We do a witch's ring toss where you have to toss a ring on the witch's hat. We do a costume contest for all the younger kids and pumpkin painting."

Some of the Queen City's most popular food trucks will also be present for the event. Just the Sip, a coffee and breakfast truck, will be selling hot beverages and "more of that savory kind of food," Cunningham says, and the bespoke ice cream truck Treat Trolley will be selling frozen desserts. Donut Shack is "going to do hot apple cider, hot coffee, different specialty drinks, things like that."

The Witch of Weston Tower raises money for the Manchester Historical Association, the nonprofit that collects, preserves and shares objects related to the history of Manchester and operates the Millyard Museum.

Witch of Weston Tower

Where: McIntyre Ski Area, 50 Chalet Way, Manchester
When: Friday, Oct. 23, 4-8 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 24, noon-6 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 25, noon-6 p.m.
More: Visit mcintyreskiarea.com/acitivities/witch-of-weston-tower for a detailed schedule and to purchase tickets.

KIDDIE — POOL —

Family fun for whenever

Halloween fun

• Charmingfare Farm in Candia continues its **Children's Trick or Treat** Saturday, Oct. 24, and Sunday, Oct. 25, during the daytime, according to visitthefarm.com. The event will feature horse-drawn wagon or tractor train rides along a Halloween-themed trail, candy gathering locations, visits with farm animals, a juggling show and more, according to the website, where you can purchase tickets. On Friday, Oct. 23, and Saturday, Oct. 24, Charmingfare will also operate **Harvest of Haunts,** an after-dark event aimed at ages 3 to 10 that starts at 6 p.m., with a glowing woodland trail and a Halloween night ride but no jump scares or scare actors, the website said. (Children's Trick or Treat and Harvest of Haunts will also run on Saturday, Oct. 31, the website said.)

• The Aviation Museum of New Hampshire, 27 Navigator Road in Londonderry, aviationmuseumofnh.org, will be giving **Broomstick Pilots Licenses** to kids ages 12 and under — along with free admission to the museum — on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The day will also feature "the ghosts of past aviation pioneers, who will describe their achievements and explain basic principles of flight," and Halloween treats for licensees, according to a press release.

• The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord will present the **Family Fright Fest** celebration on Sunday, Oct. 25, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., according to starhop.com, where you can purchase admission. The day will feature "Hands-On Spooky Activities for the whole family including … pumpkin painting, comMOONity art, a scavenger hunt, face painting, and more," the website said. Activities are included with general admission, the release said.

• **Hudson's Best Trunk or Treat** at the Hudson Mall, 77 Derry Road in Hudson, will take place Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. to noon, according to an email from organizers. The event will take place "next to Autozone and will have the entire mall giving out treats, games and a haunted dojo," the email said. See thehudsonmall.com.

• The **Haunting of Wilton** will take place Saturday, Oct. 24, with a parade down Main Street at 1 p.m. (leaving from the police station), trick-or-treat with downtown merchants following the parade, a performance by A Company of Witches in the Main Street Park at 2:30 p.m. and pumpkin carving/painting and display in the park at 4 p.m., according to an email from Wilton Main Street Association.

CONTINUED ON PG 25









weekly DISH

News from the local food scene

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

• **27 Teas has reopened:** In an Oct. 8 press release, Manchester tea seller 27 Teas announced it has reopened at a new address at 1191 Elm St., Manchester. The shop carries more than 40 loose-leaf blends. Its new hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit 27Teas.com.

• **An Evening with Alton Brown:** Food philosopher and celebrity cook Alton Brown will present An Evening with Alton Brown on Friday, Oct. 23 at the Swope Theater at the Capitol Center for the Arts (44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com). The show starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at $64 through the Capitol Center's website.

• **"Deep" as in thick and chewy, or "deep" as in profound?** UNO Pizzeria & Grill (Tanger Outlets, 122 Laconia Road, Tilton, 286-4079) will host a deep-dish pizza cooking class Saturday, Oct. 24, at noon. Learn the secrets of making the famous Chicago-style pizza. Get hands-on experience and learn the art of creating the perfect crust, layering the toppings, and baking deep-dish pizza. Tickets are $64.80.

• **Cookbook swap:** There will be a cookbook swap at the Derry Public Library (64 E. Broadway, Derry, 432-6140, derrypl.org) Saturday, Oct. 24, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Looking for some new recipes? Want to get rid of some cookbooks? This is the event for you! Bring the cookbooks to the swap — no more than five; the Library will not accept donations beforehand. This event is free but registering online on the library's website is recommended.

• **A spooky brunch:** Flag Hill Winery (297 N. River Road, Lee, 659-2949, flaghill.com) will host a "Boo Brunch" Sunday, Oct. 25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This brunch will feature a full mimosa bar with a farm-to table-brunch, featuring a mac & cheese bar, fresh pastries & fruit, quiches, frittatas and more. Tickets are $40.28 through Flag Hill's website. Reservations are required.

• **Candy bingo:** The Nashua Public Library (2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, nashualibrary.org) will host a session of Candy Bingo on Tuesday, Oct. 27, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. This event is for students in K-5 and features sweet prizes. Visit nashualibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events.

FOOD

A spirited evening

Distiller's Showcase is the culmination of Spirits Week

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

The Distiller's Showcase, which will take place Thursday, Nov. 5, in Manchester, is one of the New Hampshire State Liquor Commission's flagship events. Hundreds of distillers and distributors will have more than 700 spirits available to sample. Twenty-five restaurants will be on hand with samples of their food. Liquor enthusiasts and experts of all types will have the opportunity to try new spirits and connect with each other.

"The Showcase itself is the culmination of Spirits Week," said Mark Roy, the Director of Marketing, Merchandising, and Warehousing for the State Liquor Commission."If you go to our website and check that out, [you'll find] a lot of events going on during the week. But the big Distiller's Showcase is kind of the [highlight] of the week. In the main expo we have about 165 tables of spirits and non-alcoholic options. We also have about 20 to 25 different restaurants from around the state that come and visit us and show off their goods as well."

Each of the 165 tables at the Expo will offer samples of multiple products, Roy pointed out. "Each table is maxed out at four products," he said. "We do encourage each table to offer a premixed cocktail. It showcases what you can do with each individual spirit, but obviously you can have it on its own and we order in responsible amounts to make sure that you can have more than one and enjoy your evening, along with a responsibility piece of it. This year we're sponsored by Brown Foreman, who represents Jack Daniel's, a bunch of other brands. They partnered with Grace Limousine again this year for our free ride home program. So in case you happen to overindulge slightly and feel more comfortable getting a ride home, we offer that service as well."


Distiller's Showcase. Courtesy photo.

13th Annual Distiller's Showcase

Where: Doubletree Expo Center, 700 Elm St., Manchester, 625-1000
When: Thursday, Nov. 5, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.
Tickets: General admission tickets (21+) are $75 at distillersshowcase.com. Connoisseur tickets for early admission are $90. Master Distiller VIP tickets sell out very quickly and are already gone for this year's expo.

While a wide variety of spirits are always represented at the Distiller's Showcase, as drinking trends change, each year one or two types of liquor are more prominently represented, Roy said. "Brown spirits are still up there — they're still one of the best-selling categories at this time of year. The leaves are changing, and the temperatures are dropping a little bit. As you're putting your tank tops and T-shirts away and switching over your sweaters and jeans, [drinkers are] moving over to the whiskey category, whether it's Irish or American bourbon or Canadian. That's usually the driver, but we've got a pretty good spread of spirits this year. There are a lot of new entries this year, a lot of new things to check out."

One of the surprising trends in the beverage industry that is reflected



Horse-drawn ride at Charmingfare Farm. Courtesy photo.

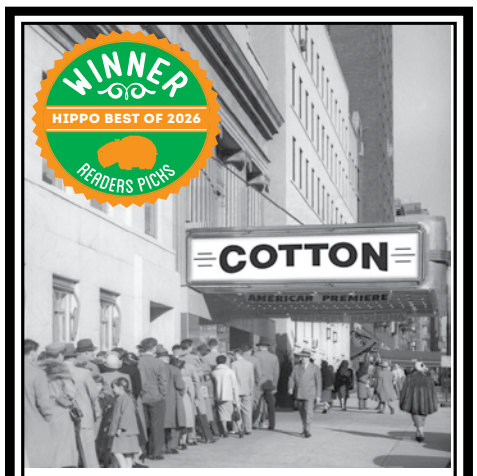
said, “we have Woodford Bourbon signed on as our spirit sponsor and we also have Ruffino wines from Tuscany sponsoring the wine side of things. This fall event [will be] a guiding tasting tour through the Woodford portfolio and the Ruffino Tuscan wine portfolio.” On its website the Liquor Commission described the menu. “Dinner is a self-serve BBQ buffet catered by KC’s Rib Shack. The menu features North Carolina-style pulled pork with BBQ sauce, smoked bone in chicken breast, and hickory smoked sweet Italian sausage. Sides include cole slaw, baked beans, macaroni salad, dirty rice, and corn bread, along with a tossed salad with croutons and your choice of ranch or Italian dressing.”

The Liquor Commission has ambitious plans for future seasonal events, Roy said.

“This is a feature event for this first season and then we’re actually in the process of selecting our next spirit and wine to represent us as we go into 2027. We’ll have some great giveaways to continue, and we’re putting together some ideas for what our event will be for the upcoming season as well. There’ll be some e-coupons floating around out there, so some special values … and sweepstakes too, that they can enter.” As an example, “there will be a Woodford’s [Bourbon] Kentucky Derby Experience. [A] grand prize winner and a guest will [go] to the Kentucky Derby on May 1. Rufino is doing a grand prize of a home entertaining package with kitchen equipment, glassware, Italian specialty goods and a $500 grocery card so you can go buy some of the food that you’re going to sample, hopefully.”







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FOOD

COOKING WITH JOHN FLADD

Marlborough Pie


Marlborough Pie. Photo by John Fladd.

This is a very old-fashioned New England pie that manages to be both an apple pie and a cream pie. It is shockingly good.

Pie pastry dough for a single-crust pie — don't let anybody crust-shame you if you decide to use pre-made frozen dough. It's pie crust, not a purity test.

Enough apples to give you two pounds (around 900 grams) of shredded flesh. The apple's, not yours. For this experimental first recipe, I used seven Honeycrisps.

3 Tablespoons lemon juice — It can be fresh squeezed, but its purpose here is more about acidity than flavor, which will probably be overwhelmed by some of the other, more assertive ingredients. We are using it to keep the apples from oxidizing and turning brown.

3 Tablespoons sherry — this will give the apples a lovely, slightly boozy smell as they cook, but *most* of the alcohol will be cooked out.

2 Tablespoons (1/4 stick) butter

2/3 cup (132 g) granulated sugar

3 eggs

1 cup (227 g) cream or evaporated milk – I used half-and-half

1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/4 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg – this is one of those snooty cook things that really matters. Freshly ground nutmeg is a whole different beast than nutmeg dust that has been sitting in your spice cabinet for — who was president when you bought that?

Large pinch of kosher or coarse sea salt.

Heat your oven to 350°F.

Blind-bake your pie crust. This means to pre-bake it. (This is a process that pretends to be complex but is actually relatively straightforward. Every single baking book will guide you through it.)

Peel the apples, then use a box-grater to shred them. In a bowl, combine them with the lemon juice and sherry.

In a wide-bottomed skillet or pot, melt the butter over medium-high heat, until it gets foamy. Add the apple mixture and sugar, and stir together. Cook until the mixture comes to a boil, then reduce the heat to medium-low, and cook until almost all of the liquid is gone, probably at least 20 minutes, so this would be a good time to listen to a podcast or have a heart-felt conversation with a teen, where you have a good excuse not to make eye contact.

When the apple mixture has cooked, set it aside to cool for a few minutes. In a mixing bowl, whisk the eggs, cream, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt together into a custard base. Stir in the apple mixture, then transfer the filling to your pre-baked pie crust, which you have thought to place on a baking sheet, just in case Destiny decides to intervene while this pie is baking.

Bake for 40 minutes or so, until the filling is set but hasn't browned. Remove from the oven and let it cool for at least half an hour or so before serving with vanilla ice cream. Or at room temperature the next morning for breakfast.

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POP CULTURE

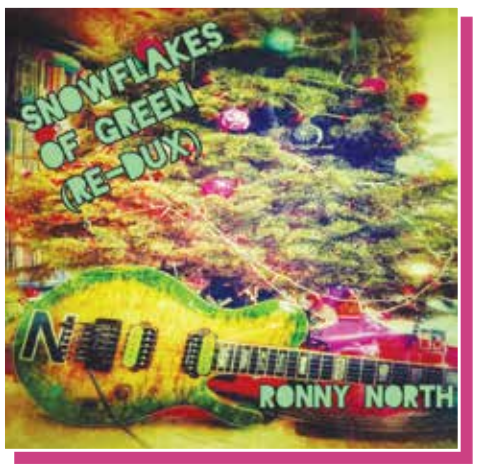
MUSIC, BOOKS, MOVIES AND MORE

She Past Away, *Mizantrop* (Metropolis Records)



The fun-but-depressing part of covering the goth rock sphere is that the artists can come from anywhere in the world but unfortunately it's hard to tell where sometimes because of all the verisimilitude of the music. Take this duo for example: They're from Turkey, but they could be from Poughkeepsie if going by the sound alone, but what's nice is that the lyrics are in Turkish instead of the broken English that usually comes with these packages. I'm sure the verbiage is very deep, at least in that "Well, exactly how deep did Sisters Of Mercy ever get" sort of way, but OK, they do try to emulate early, low-budget Cure and Bauhaus at once; in other words the aesthetic is danceable Fields of the Nephilim all the way, so whatever you're picturing after knowing the above is probably very close to the reality of it. That being said, there is indeed an exotic ring to this stuff, something melodically unconventional, which is to say it's not interminably boring although it kind of wants to be. **B+** *—Eric W. Saeger*

Ronny North, "Snowflakes of Green (Re-Dux)" (Terror Kitty Music)



The holiday tuneage is already starting to fill my inbox, which is a nice change from years past. I do like to give indie artists a chance to make the sugarplums dance in my head, because if someone can't pull off a decent-enough Christmas song I don't feel bad smiting them with the old Negan snark-bat, since it might keep them from quitting their day jobs. This here is a special case, given that this L.A.-based hair-metal guitarist's website's home page is a giant mystery-meat graphic of the dude that you need to click on before you get to the stuff that looks like something he designed in Alta Vista in 1996, a bunch of blurbs about how Quiet Riot's drummer and a dozen other industry bit-players think he's awesome. Anyway, I muttered my Negan incantation: "Little pig, little pig! Let! Me! In!" and clicked the music clicky, and soon enough there was normal happy instrumental Christmas music, bells and jingles at first, but then it became a shred-athon, with North's guitar completely (no, I mean completely) drowning out the drums and bass (pro tip for bands: don't do that, not ever), and yes, he shreds like Randy Rhoads, but what am I even supposed to say about a demo tape meant to get this dude a job with Buckcherry or whatever he's doing? Sorry, but, well, batter up! **D-** *—Eric W. Saeger*

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Friday, Oct. 23, comes two days after my birthday, why didn't you get me anything, but first some analysis. Last month I scribbled a few thoughts about the troubles Ed Sheeran was running into after he fired Macklemore from this year's tour owing to a political stance (which wasn't really a political stance, just simply a lose-lose situation that was forced onto Sheeran by peripheral fat cats in the music industry). Now as I write this, the internet's decided to leave Sheeran alone and chase its latest villain, James Hetfield of Metallica, who made a similar non-statement to a Las Vegas crowd on Oct. 10, to wit: "Metallica is not here, like some other entertainers, to influence you with their [baloney]. OK? We are here … no [baloney] … we're here to forget about all the outside [baloney], OK?" Now, given that Metallica has no morbidly rich dude dictating whom they can or can't have as guests on their tour, his wisest move would have been to keep his mouth shut and let people process all the sociopolitical stuff they read on the internet on their own time, so of course the non-statement turned him into the internet's guest of (dis)honor for days. My own takeaway landed on multiple choice: Either Hetfield was honestly trying to keep "politics" out of his music or he was looking to insert himself into the political conversation, which couldn't hurt, since the band hasn't put out a decent album in many years now. Either way, like the Sheeran debacle, the blowback revealed the public's evolving attitude toward celebrities, or at least the parasocial relationships they have with them. Like it or not, the vintage Frank Zappa quote "Shut up and play your guitar" has never felt more relevant than it does now, but let's stay on track by discussing **Shabazz Palaces**, a Seattle-based avant-hip-hop group led by Ishmael Butler, who called himself "Butterfly" when he was in the jazz-rap trio Digable Planets. Their eighth album, *It's a Style Sport*, is the full-length followup to 2024's *Exotic Birds of Prey*, which had something of an Egyptian feel; this album's lead single "Ahh World (I Won The Alpha Bet)" sounds appropriately bleeding-edgy and, more importantly, underground, cheaply made but robust, if that makes any sense.

• And the cleverest stage name of ever goes to Canadian indie-glam dude **Art d'Ecco**, whose sixth album, *Scheele's Green*, streets this week. The second single is called "Disappear Here," and if you want to know exactly what it sounds like, imagine Ric Ocasek of The Cars singing for a band that wants to revive the sound of 1969-era Stooges but with a half-assed saxophone solo. Needless to say there is no new ground broken here.

• In case you have a subscription to Us Weekly and thus an interest in celebrity news, before dating Chrissy Teigen, R&B/soul singer/pianist **John Legend** was allegedly involved with socialite and musician Wafah Dufour according to various internet news sites, the estranged niece of Osama bin Laden, all of which means literally nothing to people who don't collect weird factoids. Legend's new album, *Muse*, was co-written and produced by Pharrell Williams, including the single "Fireflies," which features a simple, dark-sounding piano loop that I found pretty neat.

• We'll wrap up the week with **Gus Dapperton**, a gender-bending, fashion-allergic bedroom-indie singer from Warwick, N.Y. "Don't Let Me Down," the featured single from his new full-length *4 Dear Life*, is what you'd hear if Kate Havnevik went yacht-techo, it's very pretty and completely brainless. *—Eric W. Saeger*

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







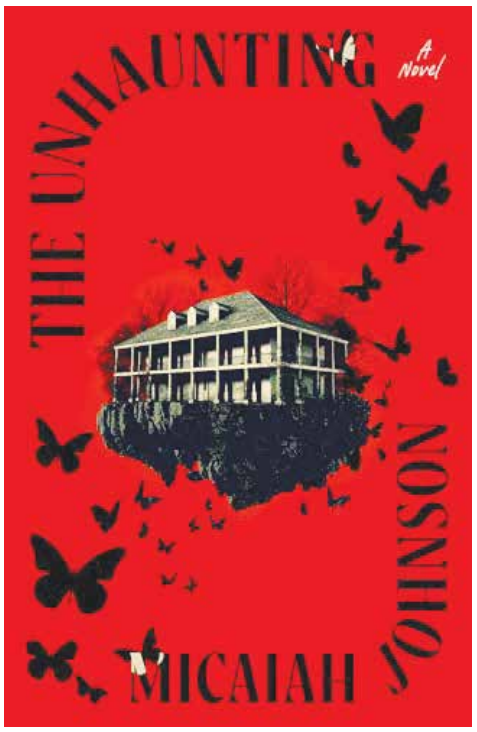
***The Unhaunting*, by Micaiah Johnson** (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 270 pages)

When I was a kid, each October I scoured the library shelves, looking for children's books about Halloween, like the new one by LeBron James. It was part of the fun of the spooky season. So it's delightful to find grown-up Halloween fare, like Micaiah Johnson's *The Unhaunting*.

Described by one writer as a cross between the work of Shirley Jackson and Toni Morrison, *The Unhaunting* signals that this is not your traditional fare with its cover illustration: a spooky-looking house surrounded by creatures that look like bats until you realize they are butterflies — which Johnson later reveals to be moths. The Addams Family this is not. But it's a genuinely spooky tale about a haunted house, with complex underlying themes ("There is an undercurrent in this book cautioning us to be careful about making a home in institutions or people that love you for the wrong reasons," the author says in the acknowledgments).

"A house, itself, is nothing. It's not a shelter until it is sheltering someone. Not a home until it is digesting a family. It is an empty theoretical. A house is a house fire, waiting for its match. A house is a ghost story, waiting for its death," the novel begins.

The house in *The Unhaunting* is a two-story Civil-War era home with aged carpet the color of wine, bizarrely wallpapered throughout with scenes of duck hunting. The house has



been left to Avery Abernathy after the death of a cousin, and he has convinced his best friend since childhood, Shantell, to move there with him to fix it up.

Avery and Shantell, despite their close bond, couldn't be more different. Avery comes from money and enjoys a worldview informed by that. Shantell's worldview is informed by loss. Her father died in military service, her brother was killed by police, and her mother died by suicide. She suffers from anxiety and agoraphobia. She can't imagine anyone leaving her a whole house: "For Shantell, death had meant debt. Her father's death had cost them their house in the city, and her mother's funeral had taken two years to pay off. Imagine *getting* money when you lose someone. She'd be a millionaire."

Avery has his own anxieties, including a fear of heights and a complicated relationship with his often unpleasant and sometimes cruel brother, Tobias. But Tobias is a contractor, and so he, too, has been invited to help renovate the house.

As the trio move in and start working on the house, it becomes clear that the house is quite strange and possibly home to one or more ghosts. It has an attic with no visible entry point. Markings on the wall that indicate children's growth have an unexplained date related to Avery. And a first-person voice that occasionally addresses the reader appears not to be a friendly Casper-like presence but something much more sinister — if we can trust it. ("I'm not used to telling the truth," the voice says at one point.)

Whatever the being is — it will be a while before its provenance becomes clear — it is evil and smart. Reflecting on Tobias, it says, "There was a time when he would have been my favorite. I've always found use for a blunt instrument, and a person with caloused knuckles attached to a damaged heart is capable of nearly anything. But these days I crave encounters more satisfying than ending lives…. Murder is an unsatisfying harvest. It only happens once. Conversion is a bit better; they kill themselves in little ways a million times before the end."

The appearance of what seems to be a ghost and the disappearance of a swarm of moths that were at the house when Shantell and Avery first arrived don't drive them away, however. A local tour guide tells them cryptically, "Nothing bad ever happens in the big house," which seems oddly enough to be true. The old house and its inhabitants seemed to have escaped troubles that had plagued others in the town; even its walls are oddly unmarked under all the wallpaper. Yet when Avery's girlfriend, Emily, arrives, she remarks, "Oh wow. You weren't lying about the ghosts. This place is … heavy."

It is heavy not only with what is happening in real time but what has taken place in the past. We realize that the otherworldly presence has been watching Shantell since long before the day she showed up at the house, that it is obsessed with her, and that the ghosts of slavery still hang over the region. The mystery of the house, as is gradually revealed, is one that was created by design.

"No one comes to a ghost story looking for survivors," the being that is the narrator says at one point. Similarly, don't look to a haunted house for a happy ending, but in this case, at least there's a satisfying one. **B+** —*Jennifer Graham*

Books

Author events

• **Hannah Fries** presents ***A Forest Language: Words that Illuminate the Astonishing World of Trees*** on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com).

• **Spooky local authors** sign copies of their books on Saturday, Oct. 24, at 3-5 p.m. at the Bookery (844 Elm St., Manchester, bookerymht.com). The Bookery will also host a Spooky Trivia Night that evening, 6-8:30 p.m.

• **Ethan Tapper** presents his new book ***The Forest Year*** on Saturday, Oct. 24, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com).

• **Gerry Rich** presents his new book ***Chasing Hollywood*** on Sunday, Oct. 25, at 7 p.m. in a discussion moderated by co-author Mark Dagostino at the Music Hall Lounge (131 Congress St., Portsmouth). Ticket package is $45 and includes a signed book. Buy tickets at themusichall.org or by calling 436-2400.

• **Gillian Daniels** discusses her debut novel, the quirky horror-romance ***Jenny Will Eat You Now***, on Thursday, Oct. 29, at 2 p.m. at Balin Books (375 Amherst St., Nashua, balinbooks.com).

• **Avree Kelly Clark**, a local author and NH native, will discuss her historical novel ***All Manner of Evil: The Unmasking of H.H. Holmes***, based on a real NH resident, at the NH Historical Society (30 Park St., Concord) on Saturday, Oct. 31, at 2 p.m. Admission is free for NHHS members, $10 for nonmembers. No registration required.

• **Tina Morris** presents her book ***Return to the Sky: The Surprising Story of How One Woman and Seven Eaglets Helped Restore the Bald Eagle*** on Saturday, Oct. 24, 3-5 p.m. at Warner Town Hall (Main Street, Warner), as part of the Tory Hill Author Series presented by the Warner Historical Society. Meet the author, enjoy free deserts, get your book signed and celebrate America's 250th. Tickets $20 adults, $10 students, available online at mainstreetbookends.com or warnerhistorical.org.

• **John Mutter** presents his debut novel, ***Fortune and Glass***, on Sunday, Oct. 25, at 12:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com).

• **Ana Hebra Flaster** visits the Nashua library to discuss this year's Nashua Reads title, ***Property of the Revolution: From a Cuban Barrio to a New Hampshire Mill Town***, on Sunday, Oct. 25, at 2 p.m. Copies of the book will be available to purchase at the event, at Chandler Performance Arena in the Nashua Public Library (2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, nashualibrary.org). Tickets can be purchased online for $10 via eventbrite.com or at the door for $15.

• **Emily Ladau** presents the revised edition of her book ***Demystifying Disability*** on Thursday, Oct. 29, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com).

• **Howard Mansfield** discusses and signs copies of his new book, ***Invisible Monuments: Tribute, Memory, and the Summoning of the Past***, on Saturday, Nov. 7, at 2 p.m. at Balin Books (375 Amherst St., Nashua, balinbooks.com).

Virtual events

• **Genealogy in Early America, or, Why George Washington Was a Genealogist and You Are Too** virtual lecture by Karin Wulf of Brown University, author of *Lineage*, presented by the NH Historical Society via Zoom on Wednesday, Nov. 4, at 7 p.m. Free. Registration is required; go to the Programs & Events Calendar at nhhistory.org.

Book events

• **Spines and Spice Fall Festival** hosted by Bookish Bliss Mobile Bookstore on Saturday, Oct. 24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Sandlot Event Center, Sandown. Find Bookish Bliss on social media for details and reminders.

• ***A Court of Thorns and Roses* Book 6 midnight release party** from Monday, Oct. 26, at 10 p.m., until 1 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27, at Bookery (844 Elm St., Manchester, bookerymht.com). Enjoy themed snacks and drinks as well as activities and games, followed by the midnight book release.

History, stories, discussions & lectures

• **Science on Tap** informal monthly discussion with local scientists and experts, offered by the SEE Science Center, held at Stark Brewing Co. in Manchester. Advanced sign-up is appreciated; sign up via see-science-center.org. Food and drink are available for purchase. Doors open at 5 p.m. and discussion starts at 6 p.m.

• **Beer for History** continues on Thursdays this fall at the Folsom Tavern at the American Independence Center (1 Governors Lane, Exeter, aicnh.org, 772-2622). Tickets are $25 per program, or buy a season pass for $250 for all seven events. Oct. 22, the topic is "Wine for History" with Vino e Vino and its sommelier. Nov. 5, Richard Tucker presents "The Continental Marines" with Fat Hen Brewing Co. Nov. 19, Brooke Barier presents "Cocked and Boozy," a program about alcohol and the Revolution, with Samuel Adams. Dec. 3, AIC Curator Kali Kraemer presents "Washington's Crossing." Programs run from 6 to 8 p.m.

• **Alton Brown** , a Food Network star and author of several books, brings "some twists on his greatest hits" with "new demonstrations, music, and slightly scaled-down mayhem" to the Swope Theater (44 S. Main St., Concord) on Friday, Oct. 23, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from $64 to $221 at ccanhy.com.

• **Black Abolitionists: The Courage to Stand Up and Speak Out** presented by Gail Braccidiferro MacDonald, author of *Abolitionists of the Northeast*, with a focus on four Black figures from New Hampshire, at the NH Historical Society (30 Park St., Concord, nhhistory.org) on Saturday, Oct. 24, at 2 p.m. Admission is free for NHHS members, $10 for nonmembers. No registration required.

• **Portraits of a Revolution** presented by Inex McDermott on Thursday, Oct. 29, at 1 p.m. at Pembroke Town Library (313 Pembroke St., 485-7851), exploring American portraits painted and sculpted during the years leading up to and after the Revolution. Free and open to the public.

Book clubs

• **To Share Brewing Co.** 720 Union St., Manchester. Monthly. Second and fourth Thursday of every month, 6 p.m. RSVP required. Visit tosharebrewing.com or call 836-6947. Oct. 22: *Local Woman Missing*. Nov. 12 or Nov. 24: *The Book Club for Troublesome Women*. Dec. 10 or Dec. 22: *The Christmas Bookshop*.

Poetry

• **Goth poetry night & open mic** hosted by Mae Fraser and Shane Morin and featuring poet Mike Linehan on Thursday, Oct. 29, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Bookery, 844 Elm St., bookerymht.com.

• **NAV Arts open mic** for poetry, writing, music and performance on the second Wednesday of each month from 5 to 7 p.m. at Bookery, 844 Elm St., bookerymht.com.

• **Poetry Reading Group** once a month from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at MainStreet BookEnds (16 E. Main St., Warner, mainstreetbookends.com).

• **Friday Night Jam** hybrid open mic welcomes poets, writers, musicians and performance artists at Bookery (844 Elm St., Manchester, bookerymht.com) on the last Friday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. Free admission, join in person or virtually via Zoom.

Romance, spookiness

Films in the two fall flavors

By Amy Diaz
adiaz@hippopress.com

This latest adaptation of Jane Austen's ***Sense and Sensibility*** (in theaters now) really highlights its status as the capital-R Romantic one of her core-four books.

This movie is also capital-G Gritty, though not in the "mean streets of Devonshire" sense but in the "Regency England probably did not smell great" sense. There is visible dirt on the grimy floor of the cottage the Dashwood ladies are banished to after their father dies and his weenie son (Tom Brooke) from his first marriage, egged on by his graspy wife Fanny (Stacy Martin), takes over the family estate. Widow Dashwood (Caitriona Balfe) does not like how her stepdaughter-in-law treats her and her daughters — Elinor (Daisy Edgar-Jones), Marianne (Esmé Creed-Miles) and young Margaret (Bodhi Rae Breathnach) — so Mama Dashwood takes distant cousin Mrs. Jennings' (Fiona Shaw, who is chef's-kiss perfect) offer of the cottage. It is small and dirty and puts Elinor very far away from Edward (George MacKay), the kind and seemingly-marriage-material brother of Fanny. But Mrs. Jennings assures the Dashwoods that her whole deal is matchmaking and she's got the perfect (wealthy) Col. Brandon (Herbert Nordrum) for somebody, maybe Marianne. But Marianne is all starry-eyed about her own notion of romantic love, which should be full of passion!, which Austen always defines as "a handsome jerk," who in this case is Willoughby (Frank Dillane).

In addition to the dirt and the wrinkles on clothes and the frizz in hair, this movie feels rawer than, say, the glossy 1995 adaptation, more openly emotional while still being aware of the Dashwoods' precarious economic and social situation. This movie also has more sisterly-ness; the 1995 movie featured the then-mid-30something Emma Thompson and 20-year-old Kate Winslet as Elinor and Marianne, and they had a relationship that often felt more mother-daughter. Here, Edgar-Jones and Creed-Miles clock in at 28 and 26 respectively, making them feel more like they are both going through the turmoil of young womanhood at the same time, if in their different ways. They are both making mistakes and learning, rather than Marianne just absorbing good behavior from Elinor. Likewise, Balfe brings a little something different to her role as their mother, who is often given little to do but be "old widow." Here she doesn't get a love plot but this Mrs. Dashwood isn't someone in her dotage, she's someone learning how to be in her new circumstance. One nice moment features her trying — without much success, based on Elinor's facial expression — to figure out how to cook after years of being cooked for. (Also, Balfe as a performer is just a joy to be with.)

The movie is a fun watch, for fans of romances and Austen fans alike. And it has me eager to revisit the book, and maybe more adaptations. If you're looking for other *Sense and Sensibilities*: **Hallmark+'s 2024 *Sense and Sensibility*** is streaming on Hallmark+ and available for rent or purchase. A **BBC three-part *Sense and Sensibility*** from 2008 is available on a variety of platforms (Amazon Prime Video, Tubi, Pluto, Peacock, Hulu/Disney+, Britbox, The Roku Channel, etc.). The **1995 *Sense and Sensibility*** is available for rent or purchase and on Pluto TV.

Fittingly, the rest of this week's watches rest somewhere on the spooky or thriller continuums.

Whalefall, also new in theaters last week, had so much dumb potential, based on its premise: guy gets swallowed by a whale. The Bible did it and more recently ***911*** did it, the original-recipe Los Angeles-based version of the goofy rescue procedural (airing on ABC, available on Hulu/Disney+). In that Season 9 episode from 2025, guest star Mark Consuelos getting stuck in a whale (while on his cell phone!) was only one of several events in the episode (though it led to this whole multi-episode arc where some characters go to space, like definitely check it out if dumb fun is your thing). Here, we take about 30 minutes to get to guy-in-whale; in this case "guy" is Jay, played by Austin Abrams, who I kept thinking of as off-brand Timothée Chalamet. Jay goes diving off the California coast looking for the remains of his dad (Josh Brolin), who suffered



Sense and Sensibility.

from an increasingly debilitating illness and died by suicide a year earlier. I don't know if "look for remains a year later" is how the ocean works but this setup does provide the shaky scaffolding on which to hang several flashback scenes of Jay and Dad's terrible relationship. Each incident of crummy parenting does, however, contain advice that Jay is able to apply to his attempts to get out of the whale. Along the way, he runs into other still-alive creatures that have been eaten and deals with his unresolved guilt about not seeing his dad once he got sick.

The mix of gross-out whale-stomach scenes and borderline abusive parenting is weird and not what I'm looking for in my "guy swallowed by whale" movie. The movie's moments of dumb fun-ness or improbable whale biology really clash with the scenes of, like, a drunk Brolin's character smashing a beer can on his head and trying to give his son a face tattoo with a knife.

For more — and better! — scary-water stuff, definitely check out ***Below***, a six-episode series on Netflix starring Josh Hartnett. Hartnett plays Cal Penny, who lives in Newfoundland and would be a fisherman, like his forefathers, but for government regulations about commercial fishing. Instead, he fishes for chunks of icebergs, which he sells to the local vodka distillery. Cal has three adult children: son Wade (Charlie Heaton), who lives with him; daughter Mary (Ruby Stokes), who returns to the island from college in Montreal with boyfriend Noah (Kaleb Horn) for a townwide celebration, and his son Jay (Rohan Campbell), who works in oil fields out west. He is still mourning the death of his wife, their mother, and the long-ago death of his father, which happened when the family was being relocated by the government from a smaller fishing town to the slightly more populous small town he lives in now. And from which Cal and everyone he knows may be relocated again. Cal is attached to his home and to the ocean, even though, on the day his father presumably drowned while bringing the family across a bay, Cal saw a big Something in the water. That Something may be back, possibly related to changing climate and warming waters in the ocean, as local scientist Fonda (Mackenzie Davis), suspects.

Reviews frequently compare this show to Apple TV's *Widow's Bay*, and while that series is superior, this one has some similar small-town, spooky-water vibes and is plenty fun. The standout performance for me is Willow Kean, who plays Cal's sister Ruth and whose whole person emits delightful "Not Here For Your Nonsense" vibes.

Hokum (a May theatrical release that is now available for rent or purchase and streaming on Hulu) is an old-school haunted-house/scary-witch story. Miserable jerk author Ohm Bauman (Adam Scott) is having a hard time ending his popular book trilogy. He goes to Ireland to be miserable and jerkish in a new locale while he fights this writer's block, and to scatter his parents' ashes near the grounds of the quaint (which in this case means "mildew-y looking") inn where they went on their honeymoon decades ago. Upon arrival, he has a full day: scattering ashes; meeting Jerry (David Wilmot), a local who makes moonshine and grows psychotropic mushrooms; being a real butthead to bellhop Alby (Will O'Connell), and even laying on thick snark with Fiona (Florence Ordesh), a bartender who is nice to him even when he's being the worst. Fiona is the one who tries to return the stuff he left at the bar after drunkedly returning to his room. She has a bad feeling about the headspace he's in, and subsequently finds Ohm

CONTINUED ON PG 26 ▶

Film

• ***The History of Concrete*** (2026) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 1:30 p.m.

• ***You Can See Everything*** (R, 2026) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 3 & 7 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 23, through Sunday, Oct. 25, at 1:45 p.m. & 6 p.m.; Monday, Oct. 26, at 2:45 & 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Oct. 27, 10 a.m., 2:15 & 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Oct. 23, at 1:45 & 6 p.m.; Thursday, Oct. 29, at 2:45 & 6:30 p.m.

• ***Sense & Sensibility*** (PG, 2026) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 4:15 & 7:15 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 23 through Sunday, Oct. 25, 1:15, 4:15 & 7:15 p.m.; Monday, Oct. 26, through Thursday, Oct. 29, at 4:15 & 7:15 p.m. (plus 10 a.m. on Oct. 27 and 1:15 p.m. on Oct. 28).

• ***A Talent for Murder*** (R, 2026) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 4:30 & 7:30 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 23, through Sunday, Oct. 25, at 1:30, 4:30 & 7:30 p.m.; Monday, Oct. 26, at 4:30 & 7:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Oct. 27, at 10 a.m., 1:30, 4:30 & 7p.m.; Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 1:30, 4:30 & 7:30 p.m.; Thursday, Oct. 29, at 4:30 & 7:30 p.m.

• ***The Exorcist*** (R, 1973) will screen at Chunky's in Manchester on Tuesday, Oct. 20, & Thursday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m.

• ***Nosferatu*** (1922) a silent film directed by F.W. Murnau and featuring live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, will screen on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m. at The Flying Monkey in Plymouth, according to silentfilmlivemusic.blogspot.com.

• ***The Shining*** (1980) will screen on Friday, Oct. 23, at 6:30 p.m. at the Park Theatre in Jaffrey.

• ***Rocky Horror Picture Show*** (R, 1975) will return to Red River Theatres in Concord Friday, Oct. 23; Saturday, Oct. 24, at 10 p.m. See redrivertheatres.org for tickets and rules.

• ***Psycho*** will screen at The Village Players, 51 Glendon St. in Wolfeboro, village-players.com, Saturday, Oct. 24.

• ***The Rocky Horror Picture Show*** (R, 1975) will screen at Chunky's in Manchester on Saturday, Sept. 24, and Friday, Oct. 30, at 9 p.m. Screenings are +18. Doors open at 8 p.m. and props and costumes are allowed, according to chunkys.com.

• ***The Bat*** (1926) a silent film featuring live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, will screen on Sunday, Oct. 25, at 2 p.m. at the Wilton Town Hall Theatre, according to silentfilmlivemusic.blogspot.com.

• ***The Shining*** (R, 1980) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Tuesday, Oct. 27, at 7 p.m.

• ***Halloween*** (R, 1978) screens at Chunky's in Manchester Tuesday, Oct. 27, and Thursday, Oct. 29, at 7 p.m.

• ***The Hunchback of Notre Dame*** (1923), a silent film starring Lon Chaney, will screen with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, on Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 1:30 p.m. at Park Theatre, 19 Main St. in Jaffrey, according to theparktheatre.org, where you can purchase tickets

• ***The Bat Whispers*** (1930), about a "daring jewel thief," will screen on Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 1:45 p.m. at Park Theatre, 19 Main St. in Jaffrey, according to theparktheatre.org, where you can purchase tickets.

• ***Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*** (G, 1971) will screen at the Flying Monkey, 39 Main St. in Plymouth, on Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 6:30 p.m., according to flyingmonkeynh.com, where you can purchase tickets.

• ***The Rocky Horror Picture Show*** (R, 1975) will screen at Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St. in Rochester, on Thursday, Oct. 29, and Friday, Oct. 30, at 9:30 p.m., according to rochesteroperahouse.org; see for tickets.

• ***The Cat and the Canary*** (1927), a silent film featuring live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, will screen on Friday, Oct. 30, at 7 p.m., at the Derry Opera House sponsored by the Derry Public Library, according to silentfilmlivemusic.blogspot.com.

• **Harry Houdini Double Feature** with ***Terror Island*** (1920) and ***Haldane of the Secret Service*** (1923), silent films featuring live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, will screen on Saturday, Oct. 31, at 2 p.m., at the Wilton Town Hall Theatre, according to silentfilmlivemusic.blogspot.com.

THE ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus
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• **Jerry's man:** After joining the Jerry Garcia Band in 1980, **Melvin Seals** spent 15 years with the Grateful Dead guitarist. Upon Garcia's passing in 1995, he carried on JGB's tradition, while moving it forward and putting his own stamp on the sound. Thirty years on, the Hammond B-3 wizard is still doing it, with sets mixing "Cats Under the Stars," "Sugaree" and Motown covers. Thursday, Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m., Nashau Center for the Arts, 201 Main St., Nashua, $46 and up, etix.com.

• **Loaf love:** The only band endorsed by both Jim Steinman and their late namesake, **Bat Out of Helloween** pays tribute to Meat Loaf, reaching all the way back to his early *Rocky Horror Show* days. Steinman called singer Andrew Polec, who originated the role of Strat in the London West End's *Bat Out of Hell* production, "phenomenal, the definitive embodiment of the rock-and-roll spirit." Friday, Oct. 23, 8 p.m., The Colonial Theatre, 609 Main St., Laconia, $46 and up, etix.com.

• **Seattle song:** Earning a 2013 Emmy nod when his song "Day Is Gone" appeared on *Sons of Anarchy*, **Noah Gundersen** broke out the next year with *Ledges*, an expansive album with standouts like the haunting a capella "Poor Man's Son," the countrified "Boathouse" and "Cigarettes," a love-as-addiction gem. A deluxe edition of the Washington native's latest LP, *Rites of Spring*, arrives Oct. 30. Saturday, Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m., BNH Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord, $40 and up, ccanh.com.

• **Drag fright:** Putting a Halloween spin on things, **Brewery Babes: Boo Bash** is hosted by "All American Goddess" Ivy League along with fellow drag performers Raya Sunshine, "Boston's Barbie Doll" Chanel Thee Angel, Destiny, and Violencia! for what's billed as "a night of tomfoolery" paired with songs and spectacle. Saturday, Oct. 24, 6:30 p.m., Backyard Brewery & Kitchen, 1211 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester, $25, eventbrite.com.

• **On track:** Originally scheduled for September, but postponed due to high winds, the **Off the Rails Festival** is back on with headliner Lil' Yachty, a Grammy-nominated rapper (for contributing to DRAM's hit "Broccoli") and the on-screen manager of WWE wrestler Trick Williams. Also performing are stoner rockers Peach Pit, DJ Jullee, and the Maintenance Band. Sunday, Oct. 25, 4 p.m., University of New Hampshire, A Lot (Main Street), Durham, $57, usnh.evenue.net.

NITE

Time traveling

He Is Legend bring career-spanning show to Jewel

By Michael Witthaus
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He Is Legend. Courtesy photo.

For more than two decades, He Is Legend has been one of active rock's best-kept secrets. The Wilmington, N.C., band's mix of metalcore crunch, Southern-rock swagger and psychedelic groove has earned it a devoted, almost cultish following.

On Thursday, Oct. 22, the band brings its Time Travel tour to Jewel Music Venue in Manchester.

Justin Marcotte is a veteran booker who began working with Jewel earlier this year. He has a good feeling about this show.

"I've probably booked about 500 national tour packages in my life," he said in a recent Zoom interview. "So it's not every time that I book a tour package that I know everything about them."

He liked what he found in He Is Legend.

"This is more of a rock 'n' roll show," Marcotte said. "I do primarily book a lot of metal stuff, but I love rock 'n' roll, and I wish there was more of it, honestly. So this is right up my alley." The band has a broad appeal, he added. "They attract metalheads and they attract rockers. So they're kind of great for everybody."

Lead singer Schuylar Croom, guitarist Adam Tanbouz and bassist Matty Williams have played together since high school. Their 2004 debut, *I Am Hollywood*, was done in Westfield, Mass., and co-produced by Killswitch Engage's Adam Dutkiewicz. Their 2006 follow-up, *Suck Out the Poison*, drew more from the Southern rock it grew up on.

After a five-year hiatus begun in 2009, the band returned with the fan-funded *Heavy Fruit* in 2014, which became their highest-charting album, followed by *few* in 2017, then 2019's *White Bat*, hailed by critics as a career high. The band called their most recent LP, 2022's *Endless Hallway*, its most aggressive yet.

In recent years, He Is Legend has been looking back.

The band toured for the 20th anniversary of *I Am Hollywood* and then for *Suck Out the Poison*, playing both albums front to back. This year, the latter record also came out on vinyl for the first time. The Time Travel tour widens the lens, with songs from every album and EP in the catalog.

The two-stage Jewel show is billed as a Halloween party, with costumes encouraged. Along with the headliners, the lineup includes In Angels and Excide, a pair of bands that are new to Marcotte's ears. "I gotta be quite blunt, I don't really know a lot about them," he said. "But after checking them out, I was completely blown away."

Marcotte had more to say about the regional bands rounding out the bill. On the second stage are Rear Percussion, Dead Fiction and Socially Problematic Children. Parts Per Million will kick things off on the main stage, and he called them "one of the greatest bands I've ever worked with, hands down, in 20 years."

Beginning as a teenager, Marcotte has promoted New England shows, festivals and tattoo conventions for 24 years, spending nine years as entertainment manager and talent buyer at Fete Music Hall, a 1,000-seat club in Providence. He's also booked The Vault in New Bedford, Mass. He continues to live in and commute from Rhode Island.

"It's worth it," he said of the long drive, adding, "live music is unlike anything else in the entire world."

He brings a fan's energy to booking shows, and works hard to weave in regional talent.

"It's important to remember that every national act starts as a local band," he said, adding praise for Jewel owner John Crosson, who opened the music-centric bar in 2014. "He genuinely cares about the place, and he puts a lot of work into it."

He Is Legend

When: Thursday, Oct. 22, 6 p.m.
Where: Jewel Music Venue, 61 Canal St., Manchester
Tickets: $25, ticketleap.com, 18+
Also appearing: In Angels, Excide, Parts Per Million, Dead Fiction, Socially Problematic Children, Reapercussion

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Weekly comedy nights

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

Open mic comedy nights

• **Moka Mic hosted by Alex Lachance** Moka Pot in Manchester, Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m.
• **This Must Be the Mic co-hosted by Tucker Sampson** Hop Knot in Manchester, Wednesdays, 8 p.m.
• **Laugh Attic hosted by Danny Pee** Strange Brew in Manchester, Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.
• **Candia Road Brewing hosted by Pete Trubble Morse** 840 Candia Road, Manchester, first and third Thursdays, 6 p.m.

Events

• **Matthew Hayden/Nate Piercey** Beijing & Tokyo in Concord, Thursday, Oct.. 22, at 8:30 p.m.
• **Ken Rogerson/JJ Jones** Tupelo in Derry, Friday, Oct. 23, 8 p.m.
• **The High School Dropout: Scary Book Reports** Strange Brew Tavern in Manchester, Friday, Oct. 23, 8 p.m.
• **Jim McCue** McCue's in Portsmouth, Friday, Oct. 23, and Saturday, Oct. 24, 8 p.m., and Tuesday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m.
• **Feud Gone Wild** Chunky's in Manchester, Friday, Oct. 23, 8:30 p.m.
• **Philip Anthony** Headliners in Manchester, Saturday, Oct. 24, 8 p.m.
• **Cory Gee** Chunky's in Manchester, Saturday, Oct. 24, 8 p.m.
• **Sam Miller, Matt Barry, Danny Pee** Moka Pot in Manchester, Monday, Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m.
• **Andy Gross** Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth, Thursday, Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m.
• **Frank Santos Jr.** Park Theatre in Jaffrey, Friday, Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m.
• **Jody Sloane** Chunky's in Manchester, Saturday, Oct. 31, 8 p.m.
• **Brian Glowacki** Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth, Friday, Nov. 6, 6 and 8:30 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 7, 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.
• **Edge of Reality** Rex in Manchester, Friday, Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m.
• **Tyler Hittner** Moka Pot in Manchester, Saturday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m.
• **Jimmy Dunn's Comedy All-Stars** Colonial in Laconia, Saturday, Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m.
• **Kelly MacFarland** Headliners in Manchester, Saturday, Nov. 7, 8 p.m.
• **Carolyn Plummer** Chunky's in Manchester, Saturday, Nov. 7, 8 p.m.



HOLLYWOOD CALLING

Matthew Hayden may be known throughout New England for his high-energy live shows and sarcastic sense of humor, but he's also the only local comedian to share the screen with Zendaya (in this spring's sleeper hit The Drama). Don't miss his show at Beijing & Tokyo (61 S. Main St., Concord, 228-0888) on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 8:30 p.m. See eventbrite.com for tickets.

MUSIC THIS WEEK

Alton Bay
Foster's Tavern 403 Main St., 875-1234

Amherst
LaBelle Winery 345 Route 101, 672-9898

Atkinson
Merrill's Tavern 85 Country Club Drive, 362-8700

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

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

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

Concord
The Barley House 132 N. Main St., 228-6363
Feathered Friend 231 S. Main St., 715-2347
The Forum Pub 15 Village St., 565-3100
Hermanos Cocina Mexicana 11 Hills Ave., 224-5669
Lithermans 126B Hall St., 219-0784
Tandy's Pub & Grille 1 Eagle Square, 856-7614
Uno Pizzeria 15 Fort Eddy Road, 226-8667

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

Deerfield
Big Dog Pub 43 North Road, 463-3769

Derry
Fody's Tavern 187 Rockingham Road, 404-6946
LaBelle Winery 14 Route 111, 672-9898

Dover
Cara Irish Pub & Restaurant 11 Fourth St., 343-4390
Otto 431 Central Ave., 697-4150
Revo Casino & Social House 887b Central Ave., revocasino.com

Epping
Holy Grail 64 Main St., 679-9559
Telly's Restaurant & Pizzeria 235 Calef Hwy., 679-8225

Epsom
Hill Top Pizzeria 1724 Dover Road, 736-0027

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

Farmington
Butternut Farm 195 Meaderboro Road, butternutfarm.net

Gilford
Beans & Greens 245 Intervale Road, 293-2853
Patrick's 18 Weirs Road, 293-0841

Goffstown
Village Trestle 25 Main St., 497-8230

Hampton
The Goat 20 L St., 601-6928
L Street Tavern 603 17 L St., 967-4777
Sea Ketch 127 Ocean Blvd., 926-0324
Wally's Pub 144 Ashworth Ave., 926-6954
Whym Craft Pub & Brewery 853 Lafayette Road, 601-2801

Hudson
The Bar 2B Burnham Road
Luk's Bar & Grill 142 Lowell Road, 889-9900
Lynn's 102 Tavern 76 Derry Road, 943-7832

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon 92 Route 125, 369-6962

Laconia
405 Pub & Grill 405 Union St.
Fratello's 799 Union Ave., 528-2022

Litchfield
Luk's Bar and Grill Mel's Funway Park, 452 Charles Bancroft Hwy., 261-3484

Londonderry
Coach Stop Restaurant & Tavern 176 Mammoth Road, 437-2022
Stumble Inn 20 Rockingham Road, 432-3210

Manchester
Bad Brgr 1015 Elm St., Manchester, 606-8806, bad-brgr.com
Backyard Brewery 1211 S. Mammoth Road, 623-3545
Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road, 623-2880
The Foundry 50 Commercial St., 836-1925
Fratello's 155 Dow St., 624-2022
The Goat 50 Old Granite St.
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
Revo Casino & Social House 1279 S. Willow St., revocasino.com
Salona Bar & Grill 128 Maple St., 624-4020
Shaskeen Pub 909 Elm St., 625-0246
Stark Brewing Co. 500 Commercial St., 625-4444
Strange Brew 88 Market St., 666-4292
To Share Brewing 720 Union St., 836-6947

Meredith
Twin Barns Brewing 194 DW Highway, 279-0876

Merrimack
Homestead 641 DW Highway, 429-2022
Tomahawk Tavern 454 DW Highway, 365-4960
Tortilla Flat 595 DW Highway, 424-4479

Milford
Riley's Place 29 Mont Vernon St., 380-3480
Stonecutters Pub 63 Union Square, 213-5979

Nashua
Casey Magee's Irish Pub 8 Temple St., 484-7400
Fody's Tavern 9 Clinton St., 577-9015
Peddler's Daughter 48 Main St., 821-7535
Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse 48 Gusabel Ave., 882-4070
The Spot 217 Main St., thespotnashua.com
Spyglass Brewing 306 Innovative Way, 546-2965
Union Public House 194 Main St., 699-8112

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

Newmarket
Stone Church 5 Granite St., 659-7700

Pembroke
Cavern Sports Bar 351 Pembroke St., 485-7777
Pembroke City Limits 134 Main St., 210-2409, pembrokecitylimits.com

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

Pittsfield
Over the Moon 1253 Upper City Road, 216-2162

Portsmouth
The Gas Light 64 Market St., 430-9122
The Goat 142 Congress St., 590-4628
Jitto's 3131 Lafayette Road, 436-9755
Otto 110 Brewery Lane, 802-6886
Press Room 77 Daniel St., 431-5186
Thirsty Moose Taphouse 21 Congress St., 427-8645

Rochester
Governor's Inn 78 Wakefield St., 332-0107
Porter's 19 Hanson St., 330-1964
Spaulding Steak & Ale 78 Wakefield St., 332-0107

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

Tilton
Dox on Winnisquam 927 Laconia Road, 527-8381
Greenside Lochmere Country Club, 360 Laconia Road, 528-7888

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

Thursday, Oct. 22

Amherst
LaBelle: ZeppHalen (Led Zeppelin & Van Halen tribute), 7:15 p.m.

Bedford
Copper Door: Lewis Goodwin, 7 p.m.

Derry
LaBelle: Nirvani (Nirvana tribute), 7:15 p.m.

Epping
Telly's: Tim Theriault, 7 p.m.

Hampton
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Hudson
Luk's: Lee Ross, 6 p.m.
Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon: karaoke, 7 p.m.

Laconia
405 Pub & Grill: Paul Driscoll, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Eric Grant, 5:30 p.m.

Londonderry
Stumble Inn: Jimmy's Right, 7 p.m.

Manchester
Bad Brgr: Arlo Matthews, Sorry Safari, 8 p.m.
Fratello's: Clint Lapointe, 5:30 p.m.
Goat: DJ Prodigy, 9 p.m.
Strange Brew: Ken Clark, 8 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Jessica Olson, 5:30 p.m.
Tomahawk: Chad LaMarsh, 6 p.m.
Tortilla Flat: Jodee Frawlee, 6 p.m.

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

Nashua
Casey Magee's: open mic, 7:30 p.m.
Fody's: DJ Rich karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
Shorty's: Jamie Hughes, 5:30 p.m.
Union Public House: D-Comp, 5:30 p.m.

Newmarket
Stone Church: Eric Lindell, 8 p.m.

Pembroke
PCL: Steven Decuire, 7 p.m.

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

Portsmouth
Press Room: Plant Fight w/ Spirit Ghost, Gaud, & The Moon Snails, 8 p.m.

Salem
Copper Door: Eddie Sands, 7 p.m.

Tilton
Dox: Justin Jordan, 6 p.m.

Warner
The Local: Jack Ancora, 5 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 23

Bedford
Murphy's: Amanda McCarthy, 6 p.m.

Brookline
Alamo: Jordan Holmes, 6 p.m.

Concord
Feathered Friend: Selectmen, 6 p.m.
Forum: Hayley & Mike, 8 p.m.
Lithermans: open mic, 6 p.m.

Derry
Fody's: Jordan Quinn, 8 p.m.

Dover
Revo: Randy McGravey, 8 p.m.

Epping
Holy Grail: Cory Phillips, 6 p.m.
Telly's: Johnny Angel, 8 p.m.

Exeter
Sea Dog: Chad Verbeck, 5 p.m.

Gilford
Beans & Greens: Willy Chase, 5:30 p.m.

Hampstead
Pickleball 603: Blaming Abbey, 6:30 p.m.

Hampton
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Wally's: Third Gear, 9 p.m.

Hudson
Luk's: Mark Huzar, 6 p.m.
Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon: Flannels & Firepits, 6 p.m.

Laconia
405 Pub & Grill: Mark Dionne, 7 p.m.
Fratello's: Kyle Dumais, 5:30 p.m.

Litchfield
Luk's: Paul Driscoll, 6 p.m.

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Paul Lussier, 6 p.m.
Stumble Inn: Tina J & Nuff Said, 8 p.m.

Manchester
Backyard Brewery: Tom Boisse, 6 p.m.
Derryfield: Bob Pratte Band, 8:30 p.m.
The Foundry: Joel Begin, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Dan Morgan, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: Trash Party, 9 p.m.
The Hill: Jonny Friday, 5:30 p.m.
Revo: karaoke w/ George Cox, 9 p.m.
Shaskeen: Caylin Costello Band, 8 p.m.
Strange Brew: Outside Help, 9 p.m.
To Share: Mike Barger, 6:30 p.m.

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

Milford
Riley's: Hickory Horned Devil, 7 p.m.

Nashua
Casey Magee's: karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
Fody's: Brian Wall, 10 p.m.
Lost Cowboy: Mike Jetti, 7:30 p.m.
Union Public House: Stephen Decuire, 7:30 p.m.

New Boston
Molly's: Dalton Sayball, 6:30 p.m.

Music, live and in person

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



NEW ENGLAND CLASSIC

In the 1970s **Jon Pousette-Dart** made the Billboard Hot 100 with the smooth folk rock of "For Love." He's been a mainstay on the New England folk scene ever since. Don't miss his show at the Flying Goose (40 Andover Road, New London, 526-6899, flyinggoose.com) on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 7:30 p.m. See the website for tickets.

Newmarket
Stone Church: Club d'Elf, 8 p.m.

Penacook
American Legion Post 31: JMitch Karaoke, 7 p.m.

Pittsfield
Over the Moon: Charlie Chronopoulos, 6 p.m.

Portsmouth
Black Rock: Richard Wallace, 5 p.m.
Gas Light: Slow Burn, 7 p.m.; Tim Theriault, 9:30 p.m.
The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.
Jitto's: Max Sullivan, 7 p.m.
Press Room: Dead Gowns w/ Helenor, 8 p.m.
Thirsty Moose: Amped Party band, 9:30 p.m.

Salem
Dreo: Alxia, 7 p.m.

Seabrook
Red's: Dave Ayotte Duo, 8 p.m.

Tilton
Greenside: Justin Jordan, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 24

Auburn
Auburn Pitts: Hellfest with Sons of Otto, Chunky Love, Happy Hour Heroes, 5 p.m.

Bedford
Murphy's: James Stark, 6 p.m.

Bow
Chen Yang Li: Mark Dionne, 7 p.m.

Brookline
Alamo: Ralph Allen, 6 p.m.

Concord
Feathered Friend: Sage and the Tumbleweeds, 6 p.m.
Forum: Bill Coffill Acoustic Music, 8 p.m.
Sunfox Farm: Jamie Hughes, 10 a.m.; Anthony St. Peter, 1 p.m.; Ferni, 4 p.m.; Newfound Grass, 6:30 p.m.

Contoocook
Contoocool Cider Co.: Tyler Levs, 1 p.m.

Derry
Fody's: The Blues Express, 3 p.m.

Dover
Otto Pizza: Brendan Gill, 4 p.m.
Revo: Dancing Madly Backwards, 8 p.m.

Epping
Holy Grail: Kitchen Party, 6 p.m.
Telly's: Dan Morgan Duo, 8 p.m.

Gilford
Beans & Greens: Dakota Smart, 5:30 p.m.

Hampton
The Goat: Codie Welch, 9 p.m.
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Sea Ketch: Justin Jordan, 1 p.m.; Freddie Catalfo, 6 p.m.
Wally's: Evil Empire, 9 p.m.

Hudson
Luk's Bar: Paul Driscoll, 6 p.m.

Laconia
405 Pub & Grill: David Cron, 7 p.m.
Fratello's: Paul Warnick, 6 p.m.
M/S Mt Washington Cruise: Jamie Hughes, 6 p.m.

Litchfield
Luk's: Birch Hill, 6 p.m.

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Stephen Decuire, 6 p.m.
Stumble Inn: Conniptions Fits, 8 p.m.

Manchester
Bad Brgr: Uchikatsu, Soul Mirror, The Last King, Funeral Thirst, Trading Tombstones, 8 p.m.
Backyard Brewery: Andrea Paquin, 6 p.m.
Derryfield: The Slakas, 8:30 p.m.
The Foundry: Matt Borrello, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Chris Cavanaugh, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: The KR Show, 9 p.m.
Great North Aleworks: Nick Lilley, 4 p.m.
The Hill: Peter Pappas, 2 p.m.
Shaskeen: Mixtapes Masters, 9 p.m.
Strange Brew: Soup du Jour, 9 p.m.

Meredith
Twin Barns: Ian Archibold, 3 p.m.

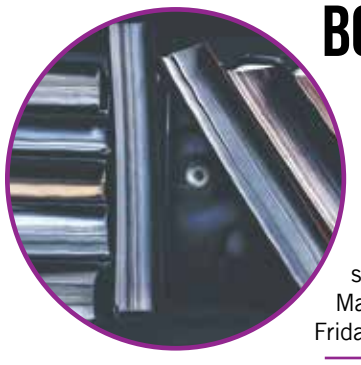
Merrimack
Homestead: Lou ANtonucci, 5:30 p.m.

Milford
Riley's: Murphy Clark Band, 7 p.m.

Nashua
Casey Magee's: Sugarbush Band, 8 p.m.
Fody's: Jordan Holmes, 10 p.m.
Peddler's Daughter: Category 5, 9:30 p.m.
Union Public House: Dave Zangri, 7:30 p.m.

New Boston
Molly's: Jodee Frawlee, 6:30 p.m.

Newmarket
Stone Church: Jarred Garneau, 4 p.m.; Organ Fairchild w/ Mike Benjamin



BOOKS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT

If you're looking for a Spooky Season-ready read, you've come to the right place. Some of New England's best-loved comics will tell you about the spookiest books they've read at **Scary Book Reports to Tell in the Dark**. You'll either be spooked or laugh your socks off at Strange Brew Tavern (88 Market St., Manchester, 666-4292, strangebrewtavern.net) on Friday, Oct. 23, at 8 p.m. See eventbrite.com for tickets.

◀ KIDDE POOL FROM PG 15

• The Town of Merrimack's **Halloween Spooktacular** will take place Saturday, Oct. 24, from 4 to 8 p.m. in Abbie Griffin Park, with trunk-or-treat (start times by age) from 4 to 6 p.m. and a movie in the park (*Minions & Monsters*) starting at 6 p.m., according to merrimackparksandrec.org. Food will be for sale and food donations will be accepted by Laura's World Fund to support Pay It Forward and the Merrimack Drive Through Food Pantry, the website said.

• **Children's performer Laurie Berkner's Halloween Party Concert** will take place Saturday, Oct. 24, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts' Swope Theater, 44 S. Main St. in Concord, according to ccanh.com, where you can purchase tickets. Find her music at youtube.com/user/TheLaurieBerknerBand.

• Tuscan Village in Salem will hold a Trick or Treat on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with participating stores handing out treats, according to a post on the Tuscan Village Facebook page.

PUBLIC AUCTION

1st Priority Auto & Towing, LLC will be auctioning for non-payment, impounded/abandoned vehicles per NH Law RSA 262 Sec. 36-40. To be liquidated:

2017 Subaru WRX JF1VA1E60H9801790
2026 Ford F350 1FT8X3BN8TEC83733
2018 Dodge Challenger
2C3CDZDJXJH229814
2012 Honda CR-V
2HKRM4H55CH600488
2014 GMC Sierra 1500
p/u 1GTV2UEHXEZ230072

Vehicles will be sold at Public Auction Oct 30, 2026 at 10:00 AM at 26 Mason St., Nashua NH.
We reserve the right to refuse/cancel any sale at any time for any reason.

FREE JUNK CAR REMOVAL!
We will pay up to $600 for some cars and trucks.
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1-877-JUNKBOX
Londonderry, NH
HELP WANTED!
55 Hall Rd.
Londonderry
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Please mention this Hippo ad
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Pembroke
PCL: Cory Phillips, 7 p.m.

Pittsfield
Over the Moon: Pooka Finn, 6 p.m.

Portsmouth
Gas Light: Jonny Friday, 2 p.m.; Max Sullivan Group, 7 p.m.; Amanda McCarthy, 9:30 p.m.
The Goat: Garrett Smith, 9 p.m.
Otto Pizza: Jessie Raspbury, 4 p.m.
Press Room: YellowHouse Blues Band, 7 p.m.

Salem
Dreo: Jordan Quinn, 7 p.m.

Seabrook
Red's: Brian Johnson, 8 p.m.

Tilton
Greenside: Bob Pratte, 6 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 25

Bedford
Copper Door: Nate Comp, 11 a.m.

Brookline
Alamo: Chris Powers, 5 p.m.

Concord
Lithermans: The Womps, 1:30 p.m.
Sunfox Farm: Cody Knapp, 10 a.m.; Matt Litzinger, 1 p.m.; Justin Merie, 4 p.m.

Contoocook
Contoocook Cider Co.: Tom Boisse, 1 p.m.

Hampton
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Wally's: line dancing, 6 p.m.

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

Lee
Flag Hill: Jonny Friday, 1 p.m.

Londonderry
Stumble Inn: Matt Jackson, 4 p.m.

Manchester
Bad Brgr: Demsfightingwords, Ratblood, Quarantined, Chokeout, Obsolescence, Buck 50, 8 p.m.
The Goat: Chris Toler, 10 a.m.
Strange Brew: One Big Soul Jam, 7 p.m.

Milford
Riley's Place: blues jam, 1 p.m.
Stonecutters Pub: Sam Vlasich, 4 p.m.

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

Pembroke
PCL: Cory Phillips, 7 p.m.

Pittsfield
Over the Moon: Tug Wildwood, 3 p.m.

Portsmouth
Gas Light: Justin Jordan, 2 p.m.
Press Room: Nik Parr & The Selfless Lovers w/ Sinnet, 7 p.m.

Salem
Copper Door: Yvonne Aubert, 11 a.m.

Monday, Oct. 26

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

Gilford
Patrick's Pub: open mic, 6 p.m.

Hampton
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

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

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

Manchester
Bad Brgr: acoustic open mic with Jonny Friday, 7 p.m.
The Goat: 603 line dancing, 7 p.m.

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

Tuesday, Oct. 27

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

Hampton
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

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

Manchester
Fratello's: Chris Torrey, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: karaoke night w/ King of Karaoke, 8 p.m.
KC's Rib Shack: Paul & Nate open mic, 7 p.m.
Strange Brew: Jordan Quinn, 8 p.m.

Nashua
The Spot: Karaoke with Jamie V, 7 p.m.
Spyglass: Jordan Holmes, 5 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Joe Winslow, 5:30 p.m.

Portsmouth
Press Room: Hunter Flynn w/ Evan Coyote, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 28

Atkinson
Merrill's: Lou Antonucci, 5 p.m.

Concord
Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.
Uno Pizzeria: Dave Clark, 6 p.m.

Derry
Fody's: karaoke, 7 p.m.

Hampton
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Laconia
Fratello's: Michael Werning, 5:30 p.m.

Manchester
Bad Brgr: Modern Natives, 8 p.m.
Fratello's: Jordan Holmes, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: 603 line dancing, 7 p.m.
Stark Brewing: Cox karaoke, 8 p.m.
Strange Brew: open mic w/ Jordan Quinn & Scott Armstrong, 8 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Jonny Friday, 5:30 p.m.

Milford
Riley's: karaoke, 7 p.m.

Newmarket
Stone Church: karaoke night, 8 p.m.

Concerts

• **Rocktober Halloween: He Is Legend, In Angels, Excide, Parts Per Million, Dead Fiction, Repercussions** Thursday, Oct. 22, 6:45 p.m., Jewel
• **John Pousette-Dart** Thursday, Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m., Flying Goose in New London
• **Melvin Seals & JGB** Thursday, Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts
• **Nirvana** (Nirvana tribute) Thursday, Oct. 22, 8 p.m., LaBelle Derry
• **ZeppHalen** (Led Zeppelin/Van Halen tribute) Thursday, Oct. 22, 8 p.m., LaBelle Amherst
• **Understudy Records presents Ghost Stories: A Hip Hop Showcase with Minds of One Collective Genius: Michael Murphy III, B. Snair, and Vincent Tesoro. YHL Young Hustle League: Mr. Goodbarz, Beneficial Bang, and Trip Da Menace. Spamily Records: Zac Pacillo and Slaughtamaine. Understudy Records: Krispy, 6 Minds Combined, and Shinnozuke** Friday, Oct. 23, at 8 p.m., Terminus Underground in Nashua
• **Back in Black** (AC/DC tribute) Friday, Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m., Rex in Manchester
• **Celebrating Meat Loaf: Bat out of Helloween** Friday, Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m., Colonial in Laconia
• **Echoes of Floyd** (Pink Floyd tribute) Friday, Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m., BNH Stage in Concord
• **Hachi Halloween 3: Kumarion, Venture 5, Mr. Eyeslee, Sokomodo, J-rawk** Friday, Oct. 23, at 8 p.m.
• **Voyage** (Journey tribute) Friday, Oct. 23, 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom in Hampton
• **Laurie Berkner** Saturday, Oct. 24, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., Swope Theater at CCANH in Concord
• **Daybreak** (Barry Manilow tribute) Saturday, Oct. 24, 2 and 7:30 p.m., Rex in Manchester
• **Here Come the Mummies** Saturday, Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts
• **Upstate** Saturday, Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey in Plymouth
• **Noah Gundersen** Saturday, Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m., BNH Stage in Concord
• **Panorama** (Cars tribute)/**4play** (Boston tribute) Saturday, Oct. 24, 8 p.m., Tupelo in Derry
• **Jiggery Pokery** Sunday, Oct. 25, 1:30 p.m., Averill House in Brookline
• **Andrea Paquin** Sunday, Oct. 25, 4 p.m., BNH Stage in Concord
• **Gaelic Storm** Sunday, Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey in Plymouth
• **Carsie Blanton** Wednesday, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m., BNH Stage in Concord
• **Disco Biscuits** Wednesday, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m., Swope Theater at CCANH in Concord
• **Southern Rail Bluegrass Band** Wednesday, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m., Concord City Auditorium
• **With A Vengeance** Thursday, Oct. 29, 7 p.m., Tupelo in Derry
• **Garnet Rogers** Thursday, Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m., Flying Goose in New London
• **Bearly Dead** (Grateful Dead tribute) Thursday, Oct. 29, 8 p.m., LaBelle Derry
• **Booty Vortex** (disco tribute band) Thursday, Oct. 29, 8 p.m., LaBelle Amherst
• **Teddy Thompson** Friday, Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m., Rex in Manchester
• **Brass Against** Friday, Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m., BNH Stage in Concord

◀ FILMS FROM PG 22

attempting to harm himself. When Ohm finally leaves the hospital days later, he learns that Fiona went missing the day after she saved him (which happened to be Halloween) and that the inn is preparing to close for the season. Jerry finds Ohm and is certain that Fiona is calling to him from the hotel, probably from the honeymoon suite, which is locked up tight because the owner says he captured a witch in there years earlier.

Even before Ye Olde Witch-Prison Inn, Ohm seems haunted both figuratively by his family's past and literally by a ghostly figure. In addition, there may be at least one more uneasy spirit at the inn and there's a lot of talk of a demonic witch who kidnaps children. All of this seemed to be both laying it on thick and resulting in an overall spookiness that felt a little thin — more like watching one not-great dude's slide into a deeper pool of self-loathing, which is not the kind of "scary" I'm looking for in my Spooky Season movies. But about halfway through, the movie picks up, with a nice examination of grief and guilt along with some supernaturalness and good old-fashioned Mur-Der. This movie isn't great but it's quietly entertaining — or like, entertaining enough when you want something spooky but without big scares or gore. And Adam Scott is naturally compelling enough that we can walk through this haunted house with him, jerkishness and all.

The documentary ***Clown Panic*** (streaming on Hulu) is an oddball scary-movie watch. It is about real events — the 2016 stories about a spate of clown sightings that I have a vague memory of from a year when a lotta other things were going on. Its interview subjects swing wildly from a reporter sent to do an early story about the clown sightings and a professional clown talking about how much the whole thing was a real bummer for his profession to the family members of both victim and perpetrator in a clown-related assault that ended with the death of one young man and the incarceration of another. And a pastor says something like "the story of the clowns is the story of modern America" which is both ridiculous and accurate. Lines are drawn to previous frenzies such as the 1980s Satanic Panic and the Salem Witch Trails. This isn't a light lift, per se, with its pokes into issues of race, poverty, law enforcement and the 2016-ness of it all. I think in the end this documentary manages to be (mostly) respectful to the people who suffered genuine injury during this whole clown thing and to capture the absolute weirdness of it all.

It Ends (an August theatrical release, according to Wikipedia, that is now available for rent or purchase) is labeled on Apple as a thriller and there are definitely moments of suspense and even terror here, but I think the movie and the story it tells is a lot more "whatever you think it is" than that. Four friends from high school — Tyler (Mitchell Cole), Day (Akira Jackson), Fisher (Noah Toth) and James (Phinehas Yoon) — have gotten together after three of them (all but Tyler) have graduated from college. A drive to drop one of them off leads them to take a road through a forest, one that is not lit, not populated and, Tyler realizes, probably taking them past where they were supposed to turn off. He makes a U-turn, heads back and finds a wall of trees where he's certain they turned onto the road. As they try to figure out where they are and find phone service, they see and hear movement in the trees around them that quickly turns into a horde of people maniacally running toward them. They get back in the car and speed back down the road.

After all the initial "what is happening," they start trying to investigate the situation — nobody is hungry or particularly sleepy, which would suggest no passage of time, but the sun rises and sets and when Fisher is injured he starts to heal. They time how long it takes between when they stop the car and the screaming horde shows up. They carefully scan through the radio frequencies. Tyler starts to take quick investigative dashes into the woods. Meanwhile, the combination of fear, boredom and uncertainty leads to a variety of conversations and intragroup relationship dynamics.

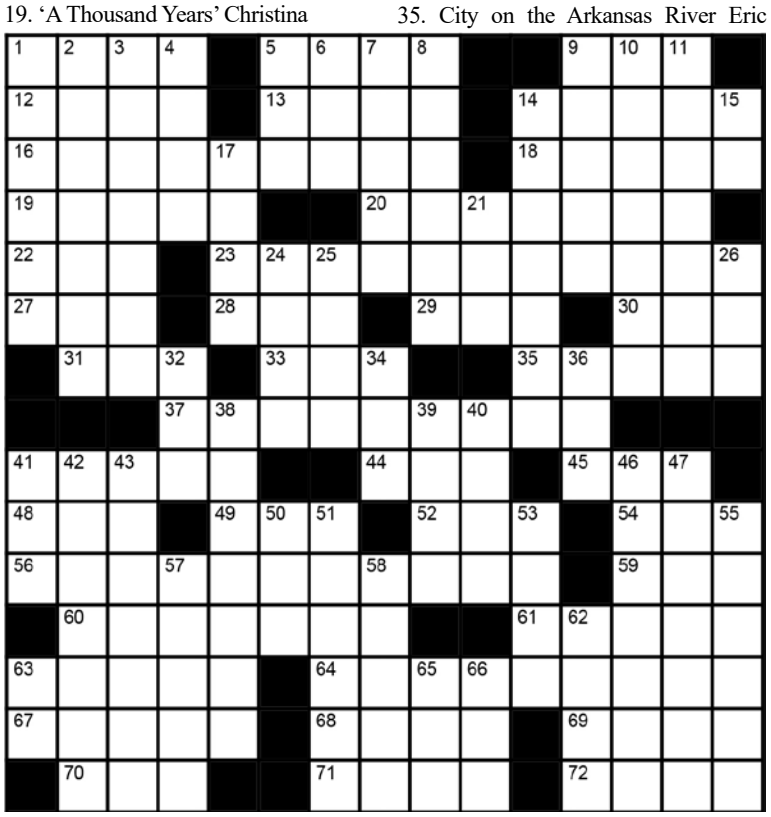
This is an existential nightmare? A metaphor for life? A commentary on post-college despair and confusion? I think "sure, could be" is the right answer for all of those things. The play-on-wheels quality is well put together (the story is both claustrophobically all in the car and also in an infinite unknown) and these characters, who we don't know a whole lot about, are nonetheless very well built in terms of understanding their actions. It's a compelling watch.

ROCK AND ROLL CROSSWORDS BY TODD SANTOS

In one puzzle and right out the other

Across

1. You don't want to hear __-chat during a quiet show
5. Cage The Elephant 'Float __ The Sky'
9. Get lazy, as fall behind in producing new stuff
12. Pre-AC/DC Cliff Williams band for his abode
13. __ Herder's 'Van Halen' is their biggest hit
14. '__ Little Closer' Cage the Elephant (4,1)
16. Red Jumpsuit __
18. Country 'No Place That Far' singer Sara
19. 'A Thousand Years' Christina
20. Led Zep 'Coda' song with girl's name
22. King Diamond will take a look with 'The __' album
23. Part of Mike + The Mechanics smash, w/'Miracle' (3,1,4,2)
27. 'La Bamba' __ Lobos
28. Ozzy's Black Sabbath replacement Ronnie James
29. Gerardo's second album for "two" in Spanish
30. 'Zip-Lock' rockers that are beyond tipsy?
31. Steve Miller is an American 'Living In The __'
33. Steve Martin's Egyptian 'King' guy
35. City on the Arkansas River Eric Clapton spends 'Time' on
37. Snap! dance hit 'Rhythm __' got us on the floor (2,1,6)
41. Popular item sold at show
44. Sound from a doo-wop group
45. Guitar company with Ron Wood model
48. Oasis brothers, e.g.
49. Scoundrel, as a shady guy in the biz
52. Pretenders make it with a hot kettle on 'The Adultress'
54. Beck had a beast of burden or a 'Jack' one on 'Odelay'
56. STP is 'Trippin' On A Hole In __' (1,5,5)
59. 80s R&B 'Trouble' singer Peeples
60. Meredith Brooks will break or do this to her boyfriend's window
61. The Doors 'Love Her' this way
63. Megadeth '__ Le Monde' (1,4)
64. Opening track on Cage The Elephant's 'Social Cues' album (6,3)
67. 1985's 'Oh Yeah' duo that rocks Ferris Bueller
68. Beta Band 'Dog's Got A __'
69. John Vanderslice may release a 'White' one
70. 'On The Beach' English sing/songer Chris
71. Multiple Grammy-winning bluesman Robert
72. Guitars



Down

1. Elvis Presley is at a pew and 'Crying In The __'
2. AFI wants revenge: 'I __ Suffer' (4,3)
3. Floor, as a stunned fan
4. She Wants Revenge '__ You Apart'
5. U2 is having tea and hits the stage '__ Little While' (2,1)
6. Band site URL ending
7. Donovan song almost for Sting's wife Styler?
8. Part of Jimi Hendrix song, w/'Castles Made' (2,4)
9. Jackie Wilson is lonely and wants 'To Be __'
10. Boston ballad '__ Never Be' (1,3,3)
11. 'Abacab' band
14. 'Strange' UK songstress
15. Cage The Elephant "__ I recall, you were looking out of place"
17. Moroccan musician may have his home studio in one
21. 'In My Dreams' __ Speedwagon
24. 'Kiss Me Deadly' Ford
25. How Kiss loves 'It' on 'Creatures Of The Night'
26. Matthew Sweet is speechless and '__ Loss' (2,1)
32. Non-musician's guitar- playing style
34. '85 Rick Springfield album for Chinese ideal
36. 'Do They Know It's Christmas?' co-writer Midge
38. A final section of an opera with increasing tempo for a climax
39. Ani DiFranco '__ Pretty Girl' (3,1)
40. Singing star of The Witches Of Eastwick film
41. Reggae relative with horns and upstrokes
42. Non-mainstream fan drinking craft coffee in vintage clothing
43. Alice In Chains "Down __, losing my soul" (2,1,4)
46. Where little kids dream of stardom
47. John Powell did the music in Garard Butler's film __ You (2,1,4)
50. Rockers __ Brut
51. '94 Beatles album of performances 'Live At __' (3,3)
53. Against All Odd (Take A Look __ Now) (2,2)
55. Elliot Smith song he plays when proposing (3,3)
57. 'Forever Your Girl' Abdul
58. A wrong career move is made in this
62. "__ one, two, three, four" (3,1)
63. Axl repeats this exclamtion right before "Oh, where do we go now?!"
65. Joseph Arthur went 'Out __ Limb' (2,1)
66. Song's harmonic tonic

R&R answer from pg 35 of 10/15

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

Jonesin' answer from pg 36 of 10/15

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

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Todd's books are available on Amazon.

NITE SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku — **Puzzle A**

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

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Difficulty: ★

King Classic Sudoku — **Puzzle B**

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

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Difficulty: ★★

King Classic Sudoku — **Puzzle C**

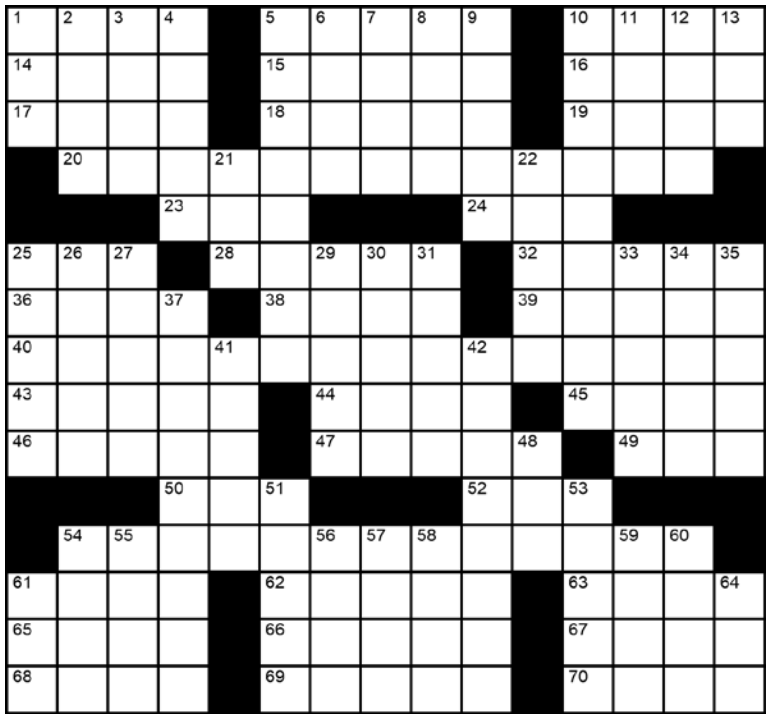
	2	7		6		9	3	
		6				1		
				9	2	8		6
9				2	7		6	
5			3	8	6	4		7
6	7						2	8
4		8	6			2		
			2		3	6		
			8		1	7		

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Difficulty: ★★★

JONESIN' CROSSWORD BY MATT JONES

"I Was Not Invited"— but I appear anyway.



Across

1. Plays quizmaster
5. Big name in photography since 1888
10. Barn attachment
14. Karaoke option
15. Naproxen brand
16. Huge celebrity
17. Suspicious of
18. Actress Shire of "Rocky" and "The Godfather"
19. Banquet hall platform
20. Inheritor of the secret to flying in V formation?
23. Badly lit
24. "Hamilton" Tony nominee Phillipa
25. Abbr. on a bounced check
28. Seacrest took over for him
32. Waste paper
36. Melville captain
38. ___-tiller
39. Author Ferrante
40. Bouncy coils on an underground cart track?
43. Lauder of makeup fame
44. Rapper ___ Dogg
45. Irksome sort
46. 1971 film with an Oscar-winning theme
47. Goes after flies
49. Airport info
50. Irish folk dance
52. Diamond official
54. Royal leader of cashing out change?
61. "Hamilton" character, sir
62. "Rice-___, the San Francisco treat"
63. Spencer of "Good Morning America"
65. Australian Netflix comedy about a probate lawyer
66. Character resurrected by AI in a 2026 Netflix reality show
67. Almost rainless
68. Greeting for 65-Across
69. Goes back and forth
70. Customer service center workers

Down

1. Commotion
2. "Song ___ Blue" (Hugh Jackman movie)
3. High-fat, low-carb diet
4. Remained in effect
5. One of the real-life sisters playing twins in Werner Herzog's 2026 film "Bucking Fastard"
6. St. ___ College in Northfield, Minn.
7. "Remove," in proofreading
8. Athletic shoe company
9. "Ode to a Nightingale" poet
10. Part of a movie trailer
11. Berry in a bowl
12. "Dark" film genre
13. Naan ingredients?
21. Bro's opposite
22. "Strange Brew" insult
25. Directory listings
26. ___ kebab
27. Fruit-flavored Coca-Cola brand
29. Gets into
30. Attorney ___
31. Tennis player-turned-"Daily Show" correspondent Michael
33. Hugh's "Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy" co-star
34. Feeling of unease
35. Noodles
37. Strips at a convenience store?
41. Fix, as a shoelace
42. Funnel-shaped flowers
48. Texting format, briefly
51. Goes after a chew toy
53. ___ opposites
54. British pound, informally
55. Bear up there
56. Rook's cousin
57. "Avatar: Fire and Ash" actress Chaplin
58. Black like the night
59. Very infrequent
60. Sojourn
61. Voice role for Mark Rylance in a 2016 Dahl adaptation
64. Spots

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WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

Paul ____	☑☐☐☐☐☐
Three sports	☐☐☐
Two common popcorn toppings	☐☐
Two neighboring U.S. states	☐☐
Two two-syllable bodies of water	☐☐

Last Week's Answers: LONE TONE ZONE NONE BONE CONE DONE / MOUSE MOOSE CAMEL SKUNK HORSE / DRUM OBOE HARP LUTE / SMILE GRIN / TEXAS

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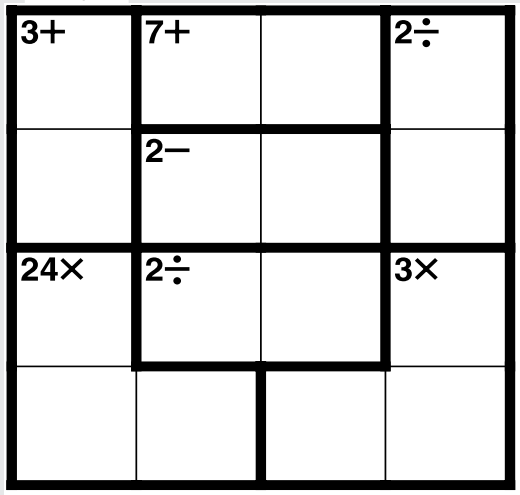
6/20

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

KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY

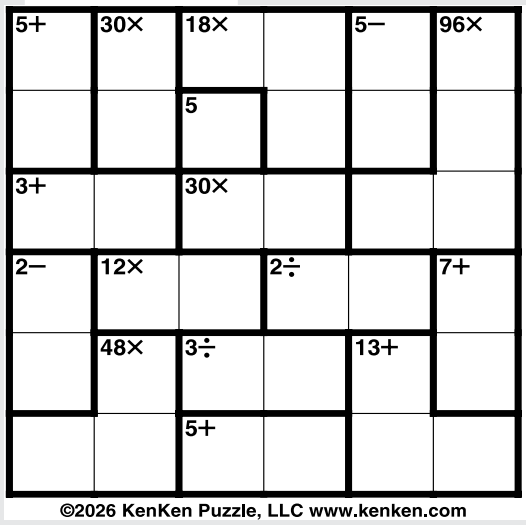


WORKSPACE:

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CHALLENGING



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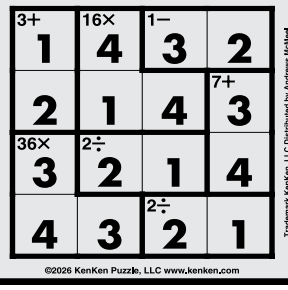
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2-9-26

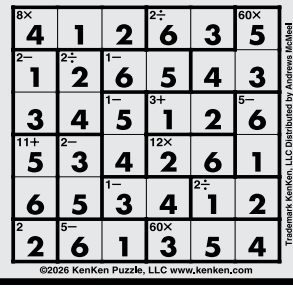
RULES

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



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SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *The Right Call: What Sports Teach Us About Work and Life*, by Sally Jenkins, born Oct. 22, 1960.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *The success of all great NFL play callers and decision-makers thus begins long before the game ever starts, days and even weeks before kickoff.* You don't win the Super Bowl the day after your first football practice.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *The notion that leaderly strength is incompatible with emotional candor is an increasingly useless old idea, but it's a tenacious one.* Don't hang on to useless things.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *It's axiomatic among the best coaches that player evaluation is most effective when you separate the performance from the person.* What you need is performance evaluation.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *Practice differs from conditioning: it's strategic, informed, targeted work, usually under the evaluative eye of a teacher or coach.* Practice, condition, rinse, repeat.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *Athletes and chess players don't drink a Coke and eat a donut before a contest, because they know they'll crater.* And for other reasons.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *The word 'practice' evokes tedium, but it's really a matter of being interested in and willing to work at critical details.* Be interested.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *High-quality basketball had to be learned as attentively as any other subject at Harvard, [head basketball coach Tommy] Amaker stressed to his players.* Put some effort into learning.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *Every year on the field of the Super Bowl, there are as many players who were once considered failures as there are bits of victory confetti.* Probably not quite, but you get the idea.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *'Culture' is a word that can drive one crazy with its overuse and vagueness. It's the leader, just edging out 'paradigm,' for verbiage guaranteed to leave an irritability headache behind.* Keep your communications clear and direct.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *Why is it so often the case that an organization led by a seemingly strong personality implodes, while a less assuming character succeeds?* Because it takes a team.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *It's counterintuitive, but good decision-makers make a certain amount of failure discussable, and even permissible.* It takes trial and error to find a good outfit.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *Yet it's a noticeable fact that the longest-tenured and most successful coaches in the NFL are not the spit screamers.* Keep cool.

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 leg bone (5)	
2 back bone (8)	
3 knee bone (7)	
4 hand bone (9)	
5 ear bone (7)	
6 hip bone (7)	
7 finger bone (7)	

LA	CH	TRA	ALA	BRA
PAT	PEZ	LL	MA	IS
MUR	TE	EUS	FE	PH
NX	VER	IUM	EL	IUM

Last Week's Answers: 1. SCOWL 2. CARAMEL 3. ACCELERATE 4. BEMUSED 5. ABDICATE 6. EPIGONE 7. ENDOGENOUS

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Sudoku Answers from pg 35 of 10/15

Puzzle A

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

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Difficulty: ★ 9/28

Puzzle B

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

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Difficulty: ★★ 9/29

Puzzle C

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

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More Bang for the Buck

An Austin, Texas, resident got a little more than they bargained for after purchasing a few boxes at an estate sale. The Houston Chronicle reported that on Oct. 12, the buyer opened the boxes to discover grenades and called the police, who confirmed via X-ray examination that the grenades were live and active. As seen in a photo shared on social media by the Austin Police Department, police cordoned off portions of the neighborhood with yellow caution tape and safely removed the grenades. "No crime here, just a great reminder," the Austin Police Association said in the social media post, "If you ever come across old military ordnance (grenades, shells, mortar rounds, etc.), even if you think it's inert, don't touch it, don't move it, and call 911. Let the experts handle it." *Houston Chronicle, Oct. 13*

Locked In

Tia Chandler of Keene, New Hampshire, called 911 after being locked in an urgent care facility, WMUR reported on Oct. 13. Chandler was seeking treatment for an asthma attack and received a steroid shot. The staff member who administered the shot said they would be right back, but never returned. Chandler left the exam room hoping to find even a cleaning crew, but the office was empty. When she tried to leave the building, she inadvertently set an alarm off. She ended up calling her husband, who called the police to let her out. "I can't believe this just happened to me," Chandler said, "because literally when I was thinking in my head ... 'They would never lock me in there. That's crazy talk. That only happens in movies or on a show, not in real life.'" A spokesperson for the urgent care says they have apologized to Chandler and "taken steps to ensure this won't happen again." *WMUR, Oct. 13*

Least Competent Criminals

A man who shattered the window of a Tempe, Arizona, business around 2 a.m. on Oct. 4 took off with dozens of Mac Mini computer boxes that turned out to be empty, Fox 10 Phoenix reported. The computers themselves were right next to the boxes. "They stole empty boxes. Everyone was laughing about it," employee Curran Rose said. "I'm just glad no one was hurt." The company filed a report with the police, and the business owner is offering a $1,500 reward to anyone with information that leads to the identification and arrest of the person seen in security footage. *Fox 10 Phoenix, Oct. 6*

Mission Impossible

In a move straight from "Mission: Impossible," four thieves were arrested in France after conducting literal highway robbery, AFP reported on Oct. 6. The robbers leapt onto trucks in transit, going at speeds as high as 56 mph, and threw $225,000 worth of electronics to a trailing vehicle before jumping back in their getaway cars. Surveillance video and detective work led French authorities to the thieves, who were hiding out in Angers. The four are charged with aggravated theft, criminal damage and criminal association and could face up to seven years in prison. *AFP, Oct. 6*

Dangling Opossum

A person visiting South Fork Trail in Lincolnton, North Carolina, spotted an opossum dangling from a tree by a fishing hook and called the Carolina Wildlife Conservation Center, reported WWAY 3 on Oct. 7. Upon arrival, a manager from the wildlife center climbed the tree to save the marsupial. After an exam and X-rays, the opossum was found to have a fishing hook embedded beneath its tongue, and the fishing line was still attached. The animal was emaciated and dehydrated, leading experts to believe it had been trapped in the tree for more than 24 hours. The wildlife center shared in a social media post that the hook was removed and the opossum is now safe. *WWAY 3, Oct. 7*

Silly Old Bear

A library in Mammoth Lakes, California, is going viral after sharing their video of a bear ambling among the books, KTLA reported. Security footage from Oct. 14 — coincidentally the 100th anniversary of Winnie-the-Pooh, whose first collection of stories was published on the same date in 1926 — shows the bear wandering in before the library opened or any staff arrived. It took a few moments to peruse the stacks before leaving the premises. Authorities are unclear how the bear got into the library, but it was long gone by the time staff clocked in. *KTLA, Oct. 15*

New Neighbors

A family of barn owls has taken up residence in Manhattan's Upper West Side, the Associated Press reported on Oct. 15, much to the delight of New Yorkers, ornithologists and owl enthusiasts alike. Andrew Farnsworth, a migration ecologist, says there hasn't been a barn owl nest in Manhattan in, well, ever. "Having one barn owl is a rarity, but it's not national news. Having a family, for the first time ever, breeding in Manhattan in recorded history, that's special news," local birder David Barrett said. Visitors have been flocking near Central Park, where the owls have made their home in a water tower. The state's Department of Environmental Conservation says that New York is at the very edge of the barn owl's known habitat range and that its population has been declining, making this owl family's move into the neighborhood even more surprising. *AP, Oct. 15*

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