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MARCH 26 - APRIL 1, 2026

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ON THE COVER

8 What foods do you turn to when you need a little culinary comfort? John Fladd asked folks in the food industry as well as others what they turn to for comfort and offers a few recipes to make your own comforting meal.

ALSO ON THE COVER John also talks to the folks at Sunflower Bakery and Cafe about their weekend business (page 14). Michael Witthaus talks to Dirty Cello ahead of their show in Concord on Sunday (page 20). And find more music this weekend in our Music This Week listings, which start on page 21.

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NEWS & NOTES

Scam warning

The Manchester Police Department sent out a March 18 press release about a “Fraudulent ‘Notice of Hearing’ Scam.” “The scam appears in the form of a very realistic-looking ‘Notice of Hearing,’ which falsely claims the recipient committed a traffic violation and owes a fine. The document also indicates a scheduled hearing date and offers an option to resolve the matter by paying the fine. These notices are not legitimate. The fraudulent documents include a QR code directing recipients to submit payment. Residents should not scan the QR code or send any money in response to these notices,” the release said. The documents include a misspelling of Hillsborough and an incorrect court seal, the release said. “Anyone who receives one of these notices should disregard it. If you believe you may have been a victim of this scam, please contact police at 603-668-8711,” the release said.

Taco Tour

Taco Tour Manchester has a 2026 date — the annual celebration of tacos will take place Thursday, May 28, from 4 to 8 p.m. in downtown Manchester. More than 100 restaurants will be selling tacos for \$3 each, according to tacotourmanchester.com, where you can find updates on the event.

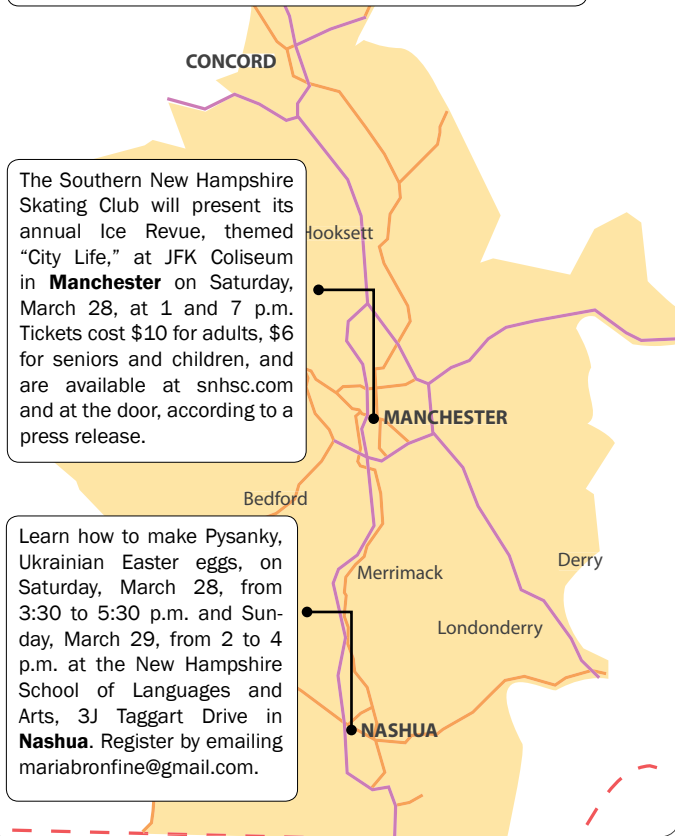
GenXpo

The band The Bald Eagles will be playing at the second annual GenXpo — described as “An expo in Nashua, N.H., for Generation X, Baby Boomers and beyond!” — on Saturday, March 28, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Nashua Senior Activity Center, 70 Temple St. in Nashua, according to the event’s Facebook page. The event is free to attend and will feature vendors related to “health and wellness, financial planning, home improvement and more to explore. There will also be short educational presentations,” the post said.

Rotating exhibit

The Art Gallery at Rivier University in Nashua is currently presenting “Pairings,” a rotating exhibition featuring two artworks of varying media presented side by side with a new pairing each week, according to a press release. The exhibition will run through May 1, the release said. “Drawing primarily from the University’s permanent collection, the exhibition welcomes visitors with two striking works displayed at the center of the gallery. ... A digital slideshow complements each weekly pairing, offering expanded context including artist biographies, insights into the creative process, and information on the techniques used to bring them to life,” the release said. The gallery is open to the public Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall on the Rivier University campus, 435 S. Main St. in Nashua. See rivier.edu/artgallery. 🗨️

The New Hampshire Boat Museum will host a workshop “Ready to Launch: A Woman’s Boating Class” at the Goodhue Boat Co. in **Wolfeboro** on Wednesday, May 20, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., designed for both novice and experienced boaters, according to a press release. Registration costs \$35; see nhbm.org.



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QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Turtle road

In a March 19 press release the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department announced that the Department's Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program was recently awarded a nationally competitive grant to build structures in four locations to help prevent turtles and other vulnerable wildlife from being killed in traffic. "The project will have multiple benefits including reducing wildlife mortality and improving habitat connectivity, safety"

QOL score: +1

Comment: *The announcement pointed out that turtle populations are especially vulnerable to traffic. "Turtles have a life history that includes low annual nesting success and hatchling survival, late age of initial reproduction (14-20 years), and lengthy adult survivorship (they can live for 70 years or more)," the announcement read.*

Slightly more potholes

A March 18 online article by the Concord Monitor reported that more than 1,300 potholes have been repaired in Concord's streets. While this seems like a huge number, the article reported, it is about the same as in previous years. "According to the Concord city database, from Jan. 1 to March 16, city crews filled 1,309 potholes," the article read. "Over the same period last year, they filled 1,262 of them. This year's tally is 3% higher than in 2025."

QOL score: -1

Comment: *In a March 18 online article, New Hampshire Public Radio quoted Gary Stanley, who owns and operates the pothole repair business Mr. Pothole: "'All these potholes, believe it or not, they start with one small, tiny crack,' he said. 'Such is life, is it not?'"*

Home heating expensive this year

A March 20 online article by WMUR reported that New Hampshire homeowners pay some of the highest prices in the country for home heating oil. "The New Hampshire Department of Energy says the state ranks second in the nation for heating oil use per capita, with 42% of homes relying on it as their primary heat source," the article read. WMUR quoted Patrick De Haan of GasBuddy, a popular mobile app that helps drivers locate the lowest gas prices using crowdsourced data: "\$5.50 a gallon is certainly possible in the next couple of weeks."

QOL score: -1

Comment: *As of Monday, March 23, the price of a gallon of home heating oil in the Concord-Manchester-Nashua area ranged from \$4.89 to \$5.49. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the average price for heating oil in New Hampshire in February was \$3.91.*

QOL score last week: 52

Net change: -1

QOL this week: 51

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

Let us know at news@hippopress.com.

75

50

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Baseball is back



The Big Story – Red Sox Season Opens:

It gets started Thursday, March 26, at the home of baseball's first organized team, the Cincinnati Reds. An interesting season lies ahead, in part because

of a change in team style to something Red Sox Nation is not accustomed to. We'll see if GM **Craig Breslow's** emphasis on improving the pitching and infield defense at the expense of adding the power most (including me) felt they needed will succeed. Or if passing on free agent slugger **Pete Alonso** (who'll be in the AL East with Baltimore) and jettisoning **Rafael Devers** last year was just the result of owner **John Henry** being cheap.

The other reason for excitement is being led into 2026 by a parade of blossoming young talent like **Garrett Crochet** and guys who came up big in the WBC: **Roman Anthony**, **Wilyer Abreu**, **Jarren Duran** and **Brayan Bello**. Should be fun.

Sports 101: Of the 33 who have 3,000 career hits, only four from the 20th century and beyond never had a 200-hit season. Name them.

News Item – March Madness Marches On: The opening weekend provided the usual thrills.

- **Best Individual Game:** UConn's **Tarris Reed** going for 31 points and 27 rebounds in a R1 win over Furman.

- **Biggest Upset:** 15-seed High Point taking out 2-seed Wisconsin. Iowa taking out defending champion Florida on a last-second shot by **Alvaro Folgueiras** wasn't far behind.

- **MIA Award –Rick Pitino:** Back in the Sweet 16 for the first time since 2015.

News Item – Proposed Trade for Eagle A.J. Brown: No way the Pats should give up what Denver did (first, third and fourth) to get **Jaylen Waddle** from Miami for Brown. They

have bigger immediate needs at OL and edge rusher and need to use the 2026 draft (or trades of them) to get them. If a trade for the speedy **Brown** can be done after June 1 for a 2027 second and 2028 third, done.

News Item – Red Sox Stories to Watch Roman Anthony: Will he live up to what runaway imaginations have him becoming?

The Outfield Jumble: They've got five guys to play the outfield and DH. Can **Alex Cora** find enough at-bats for everyone or is a trade coming?

Aroldis Chapman: At 38 can he possibly be as good as last year (32 saves, 1.17 ERA and 67 k's in 43 innings)?

Most Intriguing Prospect to Follow – Justin Gonzalez: Is the 6'6", 272-pound 19-year-old mountain of a man more **Aaron Judge** or **Wily Mo Peña**? What's most appealing are his New Age stats (that are actually useful) like his percentages on strikeouts and hard contact to at-bats. He starts his Year 2 in AA. Keep an eye on him.

News Item – Predictions for Red Sox 70 – combined homers from Anthony and Abreu.

180 – K's from 15-game-winner **Sonny Gray** to make it a record five teams he's done that for.

275 – league-leading K's **Crochet** whiffs on his way to winning the AL Cy Young Award.

Sports 101 Answer: The four with 3,000 career hits and no 200-hit seasons are **Dave Winfield**, **Eddie Murray**, **Rickey Henderson** and **Yaz**.

Final Thought – Red Sox Season Prediction – 92-70: I might be talking myself into it, but they're gonna be better than last year's 89-win team. If you're going to Vegas to bet, you should know I missed my Red Sox predictions in each of the last two years by one win because of the outcome of each season's final game. Email **Dave Long** at dlong@hippopress.com.



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THIS WEEK

BIG EVENTS

MARCH 26 AND BEYOND

Thursday, March 26



Retired Navy pilot Lynn "Skip" Carter will speak about his military flying career and other exploits, including his recent work as an author of histori-

cal fiction, in an "Exploring Aviation" presentation tonight at 7 p.m. at the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire (27 Navigator Road, Londonderry, 669-4820, aviationmuseumofnh.org). Tickets are \$10 per person.

Temple (1505 Elm St., Manchester). It will feature vendors, attractions, performers, food/drink and more. Visit lustshroometc.square.site.

Tickets are available through the SymphonyNH website.

Rebecca Lavoie at the Chubb Theatre (Chubb Theatre at CCA, 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com) tonight beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$39 through the Capitol Center website. (Admission includes a copy of Lawson's new book, *How to Be Okay When Nothing is Okay.*)

Sunday, March 29

Manchester emo power punk band **Time Eater** plays an afternoon show to celebrate the release of a new EP, *Depression Haver*, on a bill with Quickdraw and Fun City Fan Club. Catch them today at 2 p.m. at Candia Road Brewing Co., 840 Candia Road, Manchester, linktr.ee/timeeatermusic.

Wednesday, April 1

Gibson's Bookstore presents an evening with humorist and writer **Jenny Lawson** in conversation with



Save the Date! Saturday, April 4

Concord's **Giant Indoor Yard Sale** will take place Saturday, April 4, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Everett Arena (15 Loudon Road, Concord). Expect thousands of items from more than 100 sellers. Adult admission is \$5. Children 12 and under get in free. Visit facebook.com/CapitalEventsNH.

Friday, March 27

Iconic New England band **Entrain** will perform live at the Tupelo Music Hall (10 A St., Derry, 437-5100, tupelomusichall.com) tonight at 8 p.m. See the website for tickets.

Saturday, March 28

The **Capital City Craft Festival** returns to Everett Arena (15 Loudon Road, Concord) today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and tomorrow, Sunday, March 29, until 4 p.m. There will be more than 125 juried artisans offering handmade arts, crafts and specialty foods. See castleberryfairs.com/capital-city-craft-festival for tickets.

Saturday, March 28

To Share Brewing (720 Union St., Manchester, 836-6947, tosharebrewing.com) will host a **Thrift Shop Prom and Ruth Release Party** tonight from 5 to 8 p.m. with music by DJ Shamblez, drag performances with Glamme Chowdah, tarot readings with Arkit Tarot, ear lobe piercings by The Terracotta Room, and vintage finds from Fishtoes Vintage. A portion of prom proceeds will benefit the Pink Boots Society NH Chapter.

Saturday, March 28

There will be a **Chamber Concert** featuring Symphony NH musicians tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Keefe Center For The Arts (117 Elm St., Nashua, 820-2666).

Friday, March 27

Acclaimed pianist **Teresa Walters** will perform "Liszt's Canticle of the Sun" and more at Dana Center (Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester) on tonight at 7:30 p.m., according to tickets.anselm.edu.

Saturday, March 28

The **Queen City Black Market** returns to Manchester today from 1:15 to 8:15 p.m. at the Masonic



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COMFORT ON A PLATE

FOODS THAT BRING US JOY



By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

Now is the long, damp, Mud Season of our hearts. The weather see-saws madly from promisingly sunny to biting cold, seemingly on a whim. We've been inside with the same faces for just a bit too long. The comments that seem so funny before you actually say them fall to the floor with a thud and win you hard looks from your loved ones.

At times like this, when your patience is short, and your hopes have been knocked around, while you wait for the first robins and tulips of spring, is there anything that can keep you marching resolutely forward?

Comfort food.

We all have a food that bypasses the thinking part of our brain and stimulates our lizard brain, whispering of love and safety, and yes, comfort. It might be something your grandmother made for you when you were little. It might be something your roommate in college brought you when your heart was broken and you wouldn't leave your bed for three days. It might be Champagne and smoked oysters to remind you that you deserve a little luxury in your life.

It might be toast and cold cereal.

What is your comfort food?

Macaroni and Cheese

"My personal go-to comfort food is served at my restaurant, mac and cheese. Mac and cheese. I love the way it feels in my stomach. I like the way it tastes. I like the fact that when I'm having a bad day it doesn't involve a lot of thought, a lot of really anything — just delicious and warm and cheesy. I always put several cheeses in it when I make it. I like to do a little pepper jack in mine. I believe that that little bite is nice. I always put a little bit of Gouda. Sometimes I do some fontina. I kind of play with the cheese. It depends on what looks interesting."

—MaryBeth Carcellino, co-owner, CodeX B.A.R., 29 Main St., Nashua

"I would have to say [my go-to comfort food is] mac and cheese, for sure. The best macaroni and cheese uses lots of different cheese combinations. And you have to put bacon in there,



Red Arrow's Macaroni and Cheese.
Photo by John Fladd.

because bacon makes everything so good."

—Krista Mellina, owner, The Twisted Mallow Marshmallow Co., 533-8455, twist-edmallowcompany.com

MAC & CHEESE

There are several approaches to homemade macaroni and cheese. Some of us are loyal to the boxed mac and cheese we had as children and swear by a stovetop version. For others only a baked, crusty-on-top version will do. This recipe takes inspiration from both schools, with a nod to southern-style mac and cheese, with a creamy, gooey interior but with a buttery, crumb topping.

10 ounces (285 grams) elbow macaroni — Yes, you can mix it up and go with a different shape of pasta (you could do a lot worse than radiator-shaped radiatori, in my opinion). But classics are classics for a reason, and you know that regular, bog-standard elbows will work perfectly. Now is not the time to play around experimenting with new pasta shapes.

4 Tablespoons butter
3 Tablespoons flour
2 Tablespoons dry mustard

Half a small onion — white or yellow, pureed. If you have a mini-blender for making smoothies, it is perfect for this job.

3 cups (24 fluid ounces) whole milk — Some purists will tell you to heat the milk up before adding it to the recipe, which is definitely a nice touch, but I have never done this, and the Pasta Police have never issued me a citation.

2 bay leaves — If you don't remember when you bought the bay leaves in your cupboard, throw them out and go buy some fresher ones.

1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
1 large egg
8 ounces (225 g) shredded cheddar cheese
8 ounces (225 g) shredded Velveeta cheese — Yes, I know. This seems tacky, but it is the key to southern-style macaroni and cheese. If you were to say anything

snarky about Velveeta at any church dinner in the South, you'd be chased out of town by a mob of angry women in large hats.

1 teaspoon salt
Freshly ground black pepper

Topping
3 Tablespoons melted butter
1 cup cracker crumbs — I like to use Cheez-Its

Preheat your oven to 350°F.

Boil the pasta in a large pot of salted water. On the box there will be a recommended cooking time. Boil the macaroni for the minimum suggested time — for instance, if it says, "eight to 10 minutes," take it off the heat after eight. It will cook more in the oven, so you want it a bit *al dente* at this stage. Drain it and set it aside. Its time will come.

To make the cheesy part of this mac and cheese, you're going to make what is called a béchamel sauce, a classic white cream sauce, then cheese it up. Start by melting the butter, then stirring it briskly with the flour and mustard powder until it darkens slightly. This is what fancy cooks call a *roux*. It will thicken the sauce.

Gradually stir in the pureed onion and the milk, then add the bay leaves and cook the mixture for 10 minutes or so, until the sauce thickens, then fish out the bay leaves and thank them for their service.

Beat the egg, then temper it into the sauce — this means to stir a spoonful of the hot béchamel at a time into the egg, slowly diluting it and bringing it up to temperature, without scrambling it. After a few spoonfuls of tempering, stir the eggy mixture into the sauce, and whisk it briskly, to make sure that it is distributed evenly throughout the sauce.

Stir in two thirds of each cheese, until it is combined and melted. Stir in the pasta.

Transfer the mixture to a large casserole dish, and top it with the remaining cheese.

Crush the crackers, then cook them in the melted butter until they start to smell nutty, then top the macaroni and cheese with them.

Bake the macaroni and cheese for 30 minutes, then remove it from the oven and let it cool for five to 10 minutes before serving.

A Smash-Burger

"My go-to comfort food would have to be a really good smash burger. ... Basically, it would be just a perfect burger, really seasoned well ... with various spices in it. I like to just throw in a kitchen sink of ingredients and some spices and see what sticks, then really smash it down, get a little crisp on it. There has to be caramelized onions as well. I sear it and watch it get juicy, then I put some nice cheese on it, some fresh cheese, a little bit of sliced Swiss cheese on it, but then also

followed up with a blend of shredded cheeses, like pizza shredded mix, and get a nice little melt on that, and finish it with a little tangy barbecue sauce.

"I like mild-flavored cheeses [on my burger], because I like the texture of the cheese but I don't want it to distract me from the flavor of the meat. I still want to get that good flavor of the meat itself with the spices that I mixed in, something like a Cajun spice mix. It's about letting just really the spice and the meat take over, but have that sort of a nice complement. It's usually on the weekend that I need a burger fix, usually when I'm watching sports — March Madness is coming up.

"One detail that some people overlook is the bun. It should be toasted, inside and outside. I do a little bit of butter and some garlic on it."

—Eric Lesniak, Manchester Economic Development Office

Dim Sum (A variety of Chinese dumplings)

"My personal go-to comfort food would have to be dim sum. I grew up in New York City and every Sunday we would take the train down to Canal Street and we would do our shopping and we would go and have dim sum. So I have a very strong childhood association with it."

—Caroline Arend, owner/chef, Caroline's Fine Food and The Pot Pie Bar, 649 Mast Road, Manchester, 432-1927, thepotpiebar.com

Pizza

"For me, the best comfort food is probably pizza. I prefer a thin crust. I like mushrooms on mine, so that's what I'll usually get, but sometimes sausages or pepperoni. My pizza story goes back a ways. When I went to law school in New York City, there was Ray's Pizza, which claimed to be the original New York pizza. (I think it's been copied, and now there's a battle over who's the original Ray's or whatever.) But nearby, there was Ray's, and you could get an everything piece of pizza. And at the time, it cost quite a bit. I don't know what that was, but it would be a meal to get one piece of Ray's everything. That has stuck with me.

"Beyond that, my daughter likes pepperoni, so that's what I end up getting a lot of the time."

—Jim Donchess, Mayor of Nashua

American Chop Suey

"I love the American Chop Suey from the Red Arrow Diner [112 Loudon Road, Concord, 415-0444; 137 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 552-3091; 61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118; 149 DW Highway, Nashua, 204-5088, redarrowdiner.com]. It has your tomato sauce, and macaroni, and beef — cooked, ground beef. When I am stressed out and super busy and super hungry, it just is a bowl of warmth and sustenance. It fills me up. I don't regret any bite that I take. And of course, there they serve it with garlic bread. And it's just, oh, it makes me think of my grandmother.

"My grandmother was not a very elaborate cook, but she had these basics that she relied on. And one of them was macaroni and whatever. And so I remember her making something along those lines. She would make macaroni and cheese, but she would put tomato sauce in it and she called it 'Blush and Bunny.' And so the American chop suey makes me think of Blush and Bunny."

—Lauren Cline, owner/operator, *Slightly Crooked Pies*, 1209 Elm St., Manchester, 661-4575, slightlycrookedpies.com



Red Arrow's American Chop Suey. Photo by John Fladd.

So when you eat it you kind of eat it all together. It always makes me think of a cold winter day back when I was a kid and my mom would put it on the table, and it would be hot and steamy while it was cold outside. To me, it's perfect."

—Byron Champlin, Mayor of Concord

SHEPHERD'S PIE

Shepherd's pie is infinitely adaptable. You can put as much effort into making it as you want, but it also lends itself to shortcuts, one of which is used in this recipe.

- 1 Tablespoon butter
- 1 pound ground beef, ground lamb, or plant-based "burger meat"
- Half a cup (a large handful) of chopped onion
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 Tablespoon dried herb mixture (optional)
- Another Tablespoon butter
- 1 16-ounce package of frozen corn
- More salt and pepper to taste
- 1 24-ounce container of frozen mashed potatoes — Ideally you'll have saved some homemade mashed



Shepherd's Pie. Photo by John Fladd.

potatoes, or you could make some from scratch now, but for this dish you will be just as well served by the pre-packaged prepared stuff from the supermarket.

- Three more Tablespoons butter
- Paprika — I like the smoked, Spanish stuff

Preheat your oven to 350°F. Melt a tablespoon of butter in a skillet, and cook the beef (or lamb, or Impossible Burger) and onion, stirring occasionally, until it looks like taco meat. Season it to taste. Transfer it to a casserole dish.

Melt another tablespoon of butter in the skillet, and cook the corn in it, until it has browned slightly and smells corny. Season it with salt and pepper, then transfer it to the same casserole dish, on top of the meat, building a second layer.

Prepare the mashed potatoes according to the instructions on the package, then transfer that to the same casserole dish, spreading it in an even layer over the corn. Top it with chunks of the rest of your butter, then sprinkle the top of the potatoes with paprika.

Bake until the potatoes have started to brown slightly, about 30 minutes, then remove it from the oven and let it cool for five to 10 minutes before serving on sepa-

Chocolate cinnamon cake

My chocolate cinnamon cake is absolutely one of the best things that makes me feel happy at all times. It's just absolutely delicious. It's actual, rich chocolate, it's got cinnamon in it, so it has a little bit of different flavor to it, and then a really creamy, fudgy cinnamon chocolate cream. It's not cream cheese, but frosting on the top. It's delicious. I'll have it for breakfast sometimes, if the day seems like it's going to be long, to get me through the day.

—Denise Nickerson, owner, *The Bakeshop on Kelley Street*, 171 Kelley St., Manchester, 624-3500, thebakeshoponkelleystreet.com

Shepherd's Pie

"What is my go-to comfort food? Definitely shepherd's pie. My mom used to make it when I was a kid, and I've always really loved it. I love the combination of meat, vegetables and potatoes. You know, I also like mashed potatoes. So shepherd's pie just appeals to me because it's kind of an efficiency meal. Everything is all right there in one place on the plate, rather than spread around.



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rate plates, or just eat it yourself with a fork, if it's been that kind of day.

Ice Cream Sundae

"I think when I'm really sad, what I like to do is I go get ice cream, and the more sad I am the more elaborate the sundae. Like, you know, if I'm just a little bit sad, maybe I'll just get like a little bit of hot fudge on there, and then maybe if I'm like in crisis I'm doing whipped cream, hot fudge and sprinkles, the whole thing, you know what I mean?"

—Nick Sands, comedian and host of the Nick Sands Presents podcast, youtube.com/@nicksandspresents

Chardonnay

"I'm firmly of the opinion that you can't go wrong with a taco, any type, any time, anywhere, but instead of comfort food, I think more of comfort wine. An oaky chardonnay is my go-to. If I need comfort, if I've had my heart broken, I'm thinking less of 'What am I going to eat?' and more of going straight to my wine fridge. That's where my emotional attachment is."

—Emma Stetson, owner, Wine on Main, 9 N. Main St., Concord, 897-5828, wineonmainnh.com

Popcorn

"Popcorn. It's all about popcorn for me. About 20 years ago my best friend passed away. She was my roommate as well, and she was killed in a car accident. A bunch of us all used to spend time together just watching movies and eating popcorn. And so now eating popcorn brings up important memories for me. I've learned how to make it at home really well. And there's just nothing that compares to it. I use coconut oil and pink sea salt. I like butter and nutritional yeast, but I couldn't care less if it's on my popcorn. I do have a weird habit, though — I like throwing some unsalted peanuts in there, and just kind of like ruffle it around. For some reason I don't like a lot of salt when it's just going to sting my tongue and my mouth and stuff, so that's also why I go with the unsalted peanuts, and the pink salt's already on the popcorn, so [the combination] is all good."

—Sarah Maillet, owner, 815 Cocktails & Provisions, 815 Elm St., Manchester, 782-8086, 815nh.com

Thanksgiving Sandwich

"My go-to comfort food would be a Thanksgiving sandwich with turkey and stuffing and cranberry sauce — the whole-berry kind — on a nice, thick, white



Welsh Rarebit. Photo by John Fladd.

bread. It's not tied to any particular memories; it's just very yummy."

—Kristi St. Laurent, President, Andres Institute of Art, 106 Route 13, Brookline, 673-7441, andresinstitute.org

Welsh Rarebit

"I've always told people

that my favorite comfort food is a grilled cheese sandwich, because of my warm memories of my mother making it for me with tomato soup when I was a child. But strangely, I just got off the phone with my mother back in the U.K., and she told me that she never made me a grilled cheese sandwich. She said that she made me Welsh rarebit, which makes a little more sense, because she's Welsh."

—Emma Round, owner, Unwined Bistro and Wine Bar, 1 Nashua St., Milford, 213-6703, unwinednh.com

Welsh rarebit is one of those dishes that, if you already know about it, you feel like everyone in the world knows about it, and then discover that it is new and exotic to the people you tell about it. It is a Welsh/sometimes British take on cheese fondue, served over the best toast you can make.

WELSH RAREBIT

- 4 Tablespoons (half a stick) butter
- 8 ounces (225 grams) grated cheddar cheese – I like a smoked cheddar, like Old Croc.
- 2 ounces (57 grams) grated Swiss cheese
- Half a teaspoon Dijon or whole-grain mustard
- ¼ cup (2 ounces) very dark beer – porter is good for this.

Toast

Five to six slices of Very Good Bread – sourdough, for instance, liberally buttered.

In a double boiler, melt half a stick of butter, then stir in the cheese, until it is thoroughly melted. Whisk in the mustard and beer, and stir until it has made a silky cheese sauce.

In a skillet, fry the bread, as if you were making a grilled cheese sandwich — one side only. In the U.K., people inexplicably only toast bread on one side.

Serve the toast, covered by a generous amount of cheese sauce. Be reminded that life is generally better than you give it credit for. 🍷

ARTS

Caring campers

SleepOut event helps unhoused youth

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

In 2015, Manchester social services organization Waypoint, then known as Child & Family Services, organized the first SleepOut event. On a snowy, subfreezing night, nearly 50 community members slept in Stanton Park to raise money and awareness of unhoused youth in the city. The effort netted over \$132,000 in donations and became an annual tradition.

However, the U.S. Supreme Court effectively ended the camper gathering with its 2024 *Grants Pass vs. Johnson* ruling that allowed municipalities to criminalize sleeping in public. As critics noted, though, homelessness can't be arrested away, so the problem continues, as does SleepOut. Participants now sleep outside on private lawns, porches and cars.

SleepOut 2026 begins Friday, March 27, with a sale of youth artwork made during a program hosted by Positive Street Art.

"All year long, they learn about art, they create it and teach other people," Mandy Lancaster, Waypoint's Homeless Youth Program director, said recently. "One hundred percent of the proceeds go directly to the young people."

Lancaster believes the art installation is a healing force for its participants.

"It also allows them access to community and a sense of belonging," she said. This is "probably more important than [what's] written on the goal plan. Change doesn't happen in a vacuum; it happens through connection and safe relationships, and this is part of that.

The works, she added, are impressive.

"I'm not an artist, but I'm continuously



SleepOut mural. Courtesy photo.

blown away by what these young people are producing. They have worked with a bunch of different mediums, like photography, mixed media, painting on canvas and illustration. It's really incredible."

Lancaster said the weekly program goes beyond an arts and crafts class; critical thinking is a key component.

"What is art and how do people perceive it, just these big, wonderful, bold questions that they're asking themselves and grappling with. They've taken field trips to museums. They're so contemplative and introspective. It's really special."

The gallery viewing will be followed by a solidarity gathering in Bronstein Park, across from the Waypoint Youth Drop-in Center. There will be speakers talking about both being unhoused and overcoming it. "Staff might share stories on their behalf," Megan Sampson of Waypoint wrote in an email. "It can be a difficult thing for youth [to discuss]."

During the SleepOut program in the park, there will be some soup and bread, and the artist gallery will stay open until 8 p.m. "Following that, participants will return to sleep out at their homes or other gatherings," Sampson said. Sleepers are spread across the state, so the speaking portion of

the event will also be livestreamed for those who can't attend. Lancaster urged the community at large to attend SleepOut 2026.

"I want to fill the park," she said. "At the end of the day it is a fundraiser, but not everyone has the financial means to do that. You can sponsor a sleeper or sign up and be a sleeper. You can bear witness to what is shared there, speak to young people, buy their art — there are many different ways to [show] support."

These are challenging times for Waypoint and other social services organizations. "Unprecedented decisions have been made that have directly threatened funding streams and/or the ability to provide supportive services to young people experiencing homelessness," she said. "It's like swimming upstream with a fast-moving current."

However, small victories buoy her spirits. "Twenty years ago when I was getting into homeless services, I really wanted to change the world; my perception has just changed so much," she said. "I really want to co-create meaningful relationships one person at a time. That's allowed me to stay in the work ... micro joy, micro moments, just connecting." 🌱

SleepOut 2026 Youth Art Gallery

When: Friday, March 27, at 5 p.m.

Where: Waypoint Youth Drop-in Center, 298 Hanover St., Manchester

More: Full SleepOut program begins at 6 p.m. in Bronstein Park (across the street)

Art

Exhibits

• **"Women Wize"** exhibit at Mosaic Art Collective, 66 Hanover St., Suite 201, in Manchester, mosaicartcollective.com. "This partnership exhibition between Mosaic Art Collective and Equality Health Center celebrates Women's History Month by inviting artists to share works that illuminate the stories, strength, and impact of women — across identities and generations," according to the website. The show will run through Monday, March 30.

• **"Flourishing: Paintings by Wendy Edwards"** is on display at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St. in Manchester, currier.org, through April 5. The Currier is open Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• **"Mixing It Up,"** featuring mixed media artists Anne Boedecker, Adele Sanborn, Becky Sawyer, Joy Malcolm, and Sandy Steen Bartholomew, will run through Saturday, April 25, at the Two Villages Art Society, 846 Main St. in Contoocook, according to twovillagesart.org. The Society's May show is "Boundless: Expansive Views of Land and Imagination," featuring photography by William Balsam, Tom McHugh, Lindsay Holmes and Jay Fitzpatrick and running May 2-30, the website said.

Theater

• **"Goosebumps The Musical: Phantom of the Auditorium"** presented by Actorsingers Jr. on Friday, March 27, and Saturday, March 28, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 29, at 2 p.m. at the Jan-

ice B. Streeter Theater, 14 Court St. in Nashua, according to actorsingers.org, where you can purchase tickets.

• **"High School Musical Jr."** presented by the Majestic Academy of Dramatic Arts, majestic.net, at the Derry Opera House, 29 West Broadway in Derry, on Friday, March 27, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 28, at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, March 29, at 2 p.m. See majestictheatre.net for tickets.

• **"Cinderella"** will be presented by Southern New Hampshire Youth Ballet as their spring show on Saturday, April 4, at 1 and 4 p.m. See snhd.org for tickets; the show takes place at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St. in Manchester, whose website says the show is 75 minutes long with a 15 minute intermission.

• **"Something Rotten!"** the musical comedy, will be presented by The Anselmian

Abbey Players on Fridays, April 10 and April 17, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, April 11, and April 18, at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 12, at 2 p.m., and Thursday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dana Center at Saint Anselm College in Manchester. See tickets.anselm.edu for tickets.

Classical

• **Celebration of Light Tour - Teresa Walters, Pianist** on Friday, March 27, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dana Center at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, according to tickets.anselm.edu, where you can purchase tickets.

• **Chamber Concert featuring Symphony NH musicians** on Saturday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m. also at the Keefe Auditorium, 117 Elm St. in Nashua. See symphonynh.org for tickets.

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Nagging light ruins glow of alternator repair victory



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:
I have a 2016 Toyota Highlander Limited with 166,500 miles on it. Recently, the alternator went bad, and being a 75-year-old guy who thinks he can do

most everything, I installed a rebuilt alternator I bought from Advanced Auto Parts. After 10 hours, I finally got the new one installed. I still felt good about it as the dealership wanted \$1,700 to do it. All is working well with a charge of 14.7 volts. Now the rub: The battery warning light stays on. No one seems to know the cause of the problem. It is the proper 150-amp unit. What am I missing? — Jim

What are you missing? Well, you're not missing \$1,700. At least not yet. So that's good. You say the new alternator is producing 14.7 volts. But are 14.7 volts getting to the battery? If you haven't done this already, put your multimeter on the battery terminals to see how much voltage is actually reaching the battery.

If it's less than 14 volts, there's a nut on the alternator's B+ terminal that connects to a thick wire that transfers the power from the

alternator to the battery. If that nut is at all loose or corroded, it'll create resistance and could drop your voltage enough to trigger the light.

You'll also want to check the current, especially with a rebuilt alternator. You're getting 14.7 volts, but are you getting sufficient amps? We have an inductive ammeter we'll use. We'll rev the engine, and we should see 30-40 amps or more going into the battery.

The car might also register a lower voltage at the battery if one or more battery cells are weak or dead. If the battery can't accept 14 volts — even if the alternator is trying to send that much — that can also cause the battery light to come on.

Finally, there's something called the sense wire that could be the problem. There's a wire that connects to the back of the alternator that provides information about the battery's charge to the car's computer. If that wire or its dedicated fuse is not functioning, or got damaged during the repair, the battery light could come on.

It's probably worth spending \$100 at this point on a full charging-system diagnostic. A good shop will test your voltage and current at the battery and load test the battery for dead or weak cells. That would give you

a lot of information and could save you at least nine more hours of work.

Walk in with a limp, Jim, maybe they'll feel bad for you and only charge you \$75. Or

you can always opt for my late brother's preferred solution: A piece of black tape over the battery light.

Visit Cartalk.com. 🍷

INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

Hello, Donna,
I have several boxes of old bottles. They are dirty but otherwise in good condition. I think my uncle and dad dug them up years ago. Can you tell me what to do with them? Thank you.

Christine

Dear Christine,
First thing I would do is soak them in the sink with dish detergent. Don't scrub. Just get the dust and debris off. Letting them sit overnight sometimes helps with this. Bottle collectors will do the rest of the cleaning if deemed appropriate.

Old and antique bottles are in a field of their own. There are plenty of experts out there. They can help in the determination of values. Lots of the items have just a decorative value but some can be rare and in the thousands for resale. So before you just toss



them it's a good idea to have someone look at them.

Send group pictures to a bottle expert online. They can spot valuable ones even this way. Or bring them to your local antique shop and ask if they could peek at them. Either way, Christine, a quick check is always advisable with anything you have questions with.

Thanks for sharing with us. I hope you found a treasure!

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

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News from the local food scene

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

• **New pie:** The new brick and mortar iteration of Slightly Crooked Pies (1209 Elm St., Manchester, 661-4575, slightlycrookedpies.com) will open with a ribbon cutting Thursday, March 26, at 1 p.m. Pie will be served.

• **New Manchester liquor store:** In a March 12 press release the New Hampshire Liquor Commission announced the opening of a new Liquor & Wine Outlet in downtown Manchester. “The 12,000-square-foot Manchester Outlet offers more than 4,000 wines and spirits,” the announcement read, “after NHLC transformed the former Rite Aid building at 1631 Elm Street. This North End location is the third NH Liquor & Wine Outlet serving New Hampshire’s largest city.” This store replaces the NH Liquor & Wine Outlet previously located at 1100 Bicentennial Drive at North Side Plaza in Manchester.

• **Lions Club pancake breakfast:** On Sunday, March 29, the Amherst Lions Club will hold its 52nd Annual Pancake Breakfast at Wilkins School (80 Boston Post Road, Amherst) from 8 a.m. until noon. According to a March 12 press release, the breakfast will include a children’s coloring contest with prizes in three age groups, balloon creations by Pammy the Balloon Twister, visits from Amherst Fire & Rescue, Police and CERT, showcasing their vehicles, a spring raffle featuring a basket containing \$100 worth of scratch tickets, and free eye screenings offered to all ages. Visit e-clubhouse.org/sites/amherstnh.

• **Smoothing over a crumby Easter:** There will be a special Easter-themed cookie decorating workshop by Confections by Kate (723-5187, confectionsbykatenh.com) Wednesday, April 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Wine on Main (9 N. Main St., Concord, 897-5828, wineonmainnh.com). Learn the ins and outs of cookie decorating, while tasting four different wines. Tickets are \$71.21 through the Confections By Kate website.

• **Greek pastries from scratch:** Learn to make spanakopita and tyropitakia rounds by hand, Sunday, March 29, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Ya Mas Greek Taverna & Bar (275 Rockingham Park Blvd., Salem, 635-4230, yourmythbeginsatyamas.com). Tickets include samples of spanakopita and tyropitakia and a two-course brunch, and cost \$81.88 through eventbrite.com.

FOOD

Baking for the weekend

Sunflower Bakery offers sweet and savory treats

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

Brittani and Jake Randall own the Sunflower Bakery and Cafe in Nashua. They bake every day, but the bakery itself is only open on weekends. The couple are very deliberately building their business, one small step at a time. “We’ve had people try to bully us into opening during the week,” Brittani said, “but our attitude is ‘We’ll get there when we get there.’ Would we like to be open on Fridays? Sure, but we sell out of everything on Saturdays and Sundays already. We push ourselves as hard as we can all week to get ready just for the weekend, and then we are wiped out of everything. We probably work 17-hour days on Saturdays and Sundays, and that’s just restocking for the next day. So we’re working on [extending our opening hours],” but we don’t want to do it until we’re ready — until we can make sure that we’re putting out the same products, and people are happy. We’re being consistent.”

“So we’re going slow,” Jake said, “but I think we sell out a lot. But you know, I would rather sell out and have the quality be as top tier as possible than try to just be open more days, to get more product out, to try to get as much money as possible. The whole

Sunflower Bakery and Cafe

Where: 50 Broad St., Nashua, 505-0794, thesunflowerbakerycafe.com

When: open Saturdays and Sundays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

reason we wanted to do this was to try to provide quality food out in the community.”

“I think our biggest strength,” Jake continued, “our No. 1 item, is actually our range. A lot of people ask us, ‘What’s your signature product?’ And I will say, there’s some stuff we do that nobody around here does, that have gotten really popular, I think, for that reason. Like we do kouign-amann, which is essentially like a butter croissant but the last two layers are folded inward with a thin layer of sugar so it caramelizes a little bit.”

“So we do those,” Brittani said, “and we do bialys, which are like Polish bagels. They’re fermented and then boiled. They have caramelized onion in the middle, but they don’t have holes like a traditional bagel. We started making them because we had a person say, ‘Hey, I see you have bagels. Do you do bialys?’ And I was like, ‘I can look into it’. And then after that, people were obsessed with them. So I was like, ‘All right, I guess we’ll just keep doing them.’”

Like many bakeries, the Sunflower serves breakfast sandwiches, but only until they sell out, and not the same types of sandwiches that customers would be used to seeing.

“We change those every weekend,” Brittani said. “We do bring back a pulled pork one pretty often. We actually ran it during the Super Bowl, and people really liked it. So I brought it back, and it keeps selling out, which is great. So far, all the specials have been really well received, even when we get creative. I was surprised that one went because, you know, brie isn’t everyone’s favorite, and blueberry/red onion jam is like



Courtesy photo.

kind of out there. I didn’t think anyone was really going to be into it. But we sold out. I was like, ‘OK....’”

The Randalls said they spend the week leading up to Saturday and Sunday baking for a few wholesale accounts but mostly stocking up on baked goods for their weekend customers.

“We make pies,” Brittani said. “A lot of pies. We do fresh doughnuts; we have glazed and we do different filled ones. Sometimes we do a specialty one depending on how crazy the week is. We do a variety of different glazes and then we do yeasted filled doughnuts. We always do Boston cream and then our lemon curd lemon doughnut is super popular. Everything’s completely from scratch, including lemon curd. People often tell us it’s the best doughnut they’ve ever had.”

“I feel like the longer we’ve been here, the more our customers are willing to try stuff that they normally wouldn’t,” Jake said. “If you get here at the beginning of the day, you can have free rein of anything. But if you get here later and things are sold out, if you take a chance on something random, it’s still going to be really good.”

Giant pretzels for the win

Fisher Cats get ready for another season of baseball and eats

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

One of the most challenging aspects of being responsible for the food and drinks at a ballpark is to serve fun and surprising foods to the fans, but at the same time to make sure that the staff is never surprised themselves.

According to Brad McClennan, the Fisher Cats’ new Director of Food and Beverage, there has been a change to the team’s approach to feeding fans.

“We’ve had an opportunity to run our

Play ball, eat pretzels

The New Hampshire Fisher Cats will open the 2026 season on Friday, April 3, with a home game against the Binghamton Rumble Ponies beginning at 6:03 p.m.

production now ourselves,” he said. “We are part of DBH, Diamond Baseball Holdings, which is our ownership group. It is the largest minor league baseball owner in the country with 48 clubs, soon to be 49 actually. And many of the clubs this year have decided to produce our food in-house, so we are now a DBH concession.” He hopes having so many minor league clubs working together on their catering will mean the food at all the clubs will always be of a high standard. The hot dogs will always be good hot dogs. Popcorn will be consistently fresh, crisp and warm from the popper, regardless of which ballpark a fan visits.

Nobody is unhappy about getting consistently good food, McClennan said, but that creates its own challenges. How can a ballpark maintain its individuality and not serve

the exact same food as all the other teams in the same group?

The whole identity of a minor league team, McClennan said, is to make each team an expression of its home community. The individual food experience at each park is part of the local culture.

“The goal [of working together with other teams in the Fisher Cats’ group] from creation was always to create a network for resources and tools but to keep local local. The menus at different parks will be very different. There will be ballpark classics and staples at every park, of course. You never want to not be able to get a hot dog or a bag of peanuts somewhere — and a cold beer — in a game.” But at the same time the Fisher Cats want to be able to represent New Hampshire through the food at

CONTINUED ON PG 16 ▶

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FOOD

JOHN FLADD COOKS

Old-fashioned rice pudding

5½ cups (1,250 g) whole milk – We don't want this pudding to be too fatty or not fatty enough. Whole milk brings just the right amount. If you want to make a veg-an version of this, substitute a plant milk with around a 4 percent level of fat.

½ cup (99 g) sugar – This doesn't seem like enough. It is.

½ teaspoon salt

Heaping ½ cup (120 g) medium-grained rice – Why medium-grain? We're counting on the rice to throw off threads of starch to help give the pudding its texture. Short-grained rice – sushi or Arborio rice – would give off so much starch that the individual grains would start to collapse into mush. Regular jasmine or long-grain rice won't throw off as much starch as we're looking for, giving the final pudding a looser texture.

2 teaspoons vanilla – to bring depth and deliciousness

Ground cinnamon, or nutmeg, or cardamom to sprinkle on top (very optional)

In a large saucepan, bring the milk, sugar and salt to a boil, stirring occasionally.

Crash the heat to its lowest setting, and stir in the rice. This will cool the mixture down slightly, so stay with it, stirring occasionally, until it comes to a gentle simmer. This means that the surface of the liquid will be moving around, thinking about bubbling, but not quite committing to a full boil.



Rice pudding. Photo by John Fladd.

Leave the pudding to simmer for about an hour. If you're a nervous cook, go get a chair, and sit near the stove reading a martial arts magazine or doing a crossword puzzle. If you are more relaxed about such things, set a timer, and go into the next room to catch up on your binge-watching. Set a timer for about half an hour to remind you to go stir the pud-

ding, but otherwise leave it to find its own way.

After 50 to 60 minutes, check on the pudding. If it is still pretty liquidy, let it cook a little longer. Maybe goose the temperature a tiny bit. You are looking for a consistency like that of yogurt. If it seems thick enough, kill the heat, stir it once or twice, and leave it to cool.

Eventually, come back to your cooled pudding, and stir the vanilla into it. Because vanilla evaporates at fairly low temperatures, taking vanilla-y flavor compounds with it, you'll get more bang for your buck vanilla-wise if you add it to cool or cooling foods.

At this point the pudding will have a firm, proud texture. It would welcome being eaten right away but would also be perfectly happy to be chilled. It depends on whether you are a warm rice pudding person, a chilled rice pudding person, or somewhere in between.

When you are ready to serve the pudding, you might want to stir in a small amount of additional milk to loosen it up. Or not. Rice pudding wants what you want. It only seeks your comfort and happiness. 🍷

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG14

Delta Dental Stadium.

"You'll see a much better tie-in to some of our local [beer] distributors, for instance," McClennan said, "like Amoskeag and Kettlehead. You'll also start to see some products from LaBelle Winery, which we're very excited about. On the food side you'll see some fun new desserts. We're keeping most of the specific items close to the vest, but one item that we're proud of is a 24-ounce Bavarian pretzel that's the size of a large pizza. We want people to see it and gasp. It is going to be a showcase; I personally can't wait to see a 10- or 12-year-old walking around trying to eat that whole thing. ... It's really, really cool."

There are plans underway to have food and drink specials specific to particular

celebrations or to reflect visiting teams, McClennan said.

"We definitely take into consideration our opponents," he said, "because I think there's some really fun, natural synergies you can promote with, especially with some of our local rivals, like right up the road in Portland. It's kind of fun to have such a team that close; it's a blast." There will be food and drink specials to reflect games played by the Fisher Cats' alter egos, the Chicken Tenders or the Space Potatoes.

"There are a lot of different synergies with the Tenders, of course, but we'll also have Brandon and Lauren from [Manchester restaurant] The Potato Concept back this year again. They'll be joining us back again for Space Potato weekends, which will be ... kind of spread out throughout the year." 🍷

POP CULTURE

MUSIC, BOOKS, MOVIES AND MORE

Flesh Field, *On Enmity* (self-released)



Some of you may remember the goth phase I was processing in these pages back in the Aughts. In those days I was always thrilled to get a new pile of CDs from Metropolis Records, until I wasn't, when the same-sameness of the label's artists began to wear me out. Unfortunately for this guy — an American industrial DJ who (and I didn't know this until just now) earned a master's degree in international policy studies with a focus on counter-terrorism (!) — his 2004 album *Strain* came in for review when I was kinda sick of goth. Not that the album was bad, it simply didn't have quite enough sonic variety for it to stand out. This one, however,

is different. The ideas are similar, borrowed from the usual suspects, such as Gravity Kills, Rammstein and of course Depeche Mode, but there's some pretty cool experimentation afoot. Opener "Omnicide" gallops and rolls in the vein of Marilyn Manson but actually harder, whereas tracks like "Indestructible" lean on sounds made famous by Trent Reznor while nevertheless sounding fresh. I'd expect the folks at Manchvegas' Resurrection "goth night" show at Jewel nightclub would be into this (yes, I'll be checking that place out hopefully soon, so stay tuned). A+ —Eric W. Saeger

Big Harp, *Runs to Blue* (Saddle Creek Records)



Prior to bringing their act (and marriage) to Los Angeles, this alt-country duo had been active in bands on the Omaha, Nebraska, indie scene: Chris Senseney was in the group Art in Manila, while Stefanie Drootin played with names that were more household-y, including none other than Bright Eyes, Azure Ray, and She & Him. Their approach is low-key and intimate, focused on poignant songwriting that centers on Senseney's unstressed, bottom-dwelling baritone, whilst Drootin supplies the helium with bluegrass-tinted harmonies. I could tell you that it's lazy campfire-oriented stuff, but remember that they've been in the big

leagues for a while, so their past cover of The Cure's "Boys Don't Cry" wasn't out of the question for their repertoire, nor was it too Los Angelized. No, the net effect here is basically like having Josh and Jennifer Turner serenade you in their living room while something pleasantly slow-cooks in the oven. Definitely manna for the Bonnaroo crowd. A+ —Eric W. Saeger

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Onward, my trolls, to Friday, March 27, and its slate of new rock 'n' roll albums, for all you "coolios" out there, or however you identify yourselves these days! At this writing we just survived the 70-degree days of "fake summer" and are presently watching the snow melt Up To A Point as winter resurfaces like Jason from *Friday The 13th*, bringing abject despair back to our hinterlands, so some decent music jump-scaring everyone from the blackness of our great cultural Crystal Lake would be great for taking the edge off, wouldn't it? And look at that, a new album from **José González**, titled *Against The Dying Of The Light*, is on the docket, so I am mildly excited, or at least not completely disappointed. Maybe you know this soft-voiced Swedish singing man from his solo hits, like "Heartbeats," or perhaps when he was in the band Junip, but to me, he'll always be associated with Zero 7, when he sang a few tracks on their 2006 album *The Garden*; its music was like a cross between Massive Attack and whatever that meatless yacht rock stuff was that used to play over K-Mart's loudspeakers during the 1970s and '80s. Do you remember the weird smell in those K-Mart stores? It smelled like a mixture of melted Barbie dolls and human desperation, but nevertheless I miss having other stores besides Walmart or Target to visit when I needed to buy something I knew nobody would have, back when there were other retail choices before Amazon.com took over all of U.S. retail except for those two stores. Those were the days, weren't they, boomers and X'ers, with Bradlees and Ames and whatnot, but no more, now everybody just buys everything online from Jeff Bezos, the actual real-life Grinch, who refuses to let his Amazon delivery drivers eat any hobo beans until they've made sure everyone on their route has had all their floofloovers, Who-hoopers, and trum-tookas delivered straight to their door instead of having to go outside and touch grass and maybe even accidentally see their neighbors for the first time in months, which would of course pose the mortal danger of citizens actually talking to each other, whereupon the question of whether or not we actually like never having to leave the house for any reason whatsoever might come up. But I digress, because there are column inches to be fouled with nonsense, so, circling back to José González, I assume most of you young twerking coolios have never even heard of Zero 7 and instead know him from some other project, but I'll bet you the title track from this album sounds either like Zero 7 or "Heartbeats" and — yup, it's a warm, mellow song with a psychedelic Spacemen 3 chorus. There's nothing wrong with it; you may take that as a breathless rave from this correspondent.

- **Flea** is the bass player from Red Hot Chili Peppers, a band that, I was delighted to find recently, has a lot of fellow haters with whom I developed fast friendships. But rather than dwell on that, let's see if I can stomach "Traffic Lights," from his upcoming new album, *Honora!* Ack, The bass work is fine, and there are random Vegas-jazz horns, but Thom Yorke from Radiohead is singing, which would ruin any decent vibe.
- **The New Pornographers** are an indie band from Vancouver, which is promising. Their new LP, *The Former Site Of*, features "Vote," an interesting little tune that combines Guided By Voices with literally any electro band that's more interesting than Guided By Voices (that's all of 'em Katie). They'll be at The Wilbur in Boston on April 22.
- Lastly it's Swedish electro-popper **Robyn** with her new *Sexistential* album! The title track is bratty and sexy and threatens to drop-explode like Orbital's "Wonky" but basically gives up and just sits around being, you know, bratty and sexy, big whoop. —Eric W. Saeger

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POP CULTURE

Books

Author events

- **Kurt Springs**, a local author, will talk about his novel *Price of Vengeance* on Saturday, March 28, noon-4 p.m. at Barnes & Noble (1741 S. Willow St., Manchester, bn.com).
- **Jenny Lawson** will talk about her latest work, *How to Be Okay When Nothing is Okay*, on Wednesday, April 1, at 7 p.m. at the Chubb Theatre (44 S. Main St., Concord). Tickets are \$39 for one admission plus one book or \$49 for two admis-

sions and one book, via ccanh.com.

Book events

- **Bookish Bliss book bus** visits Sunstone Brewing Co. (298 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, sunstonebrewing.com) on Sunday, March 29, 1-4 p.m.
- **Bookish Bingo** with Bookish Bliss Books (bookishblissbooks.com) on Wednesday, April 1, 6-8 p.m. at Back Hill Beer Co. (73 Pickering Road, Rochester). Prizes include special-edition books, bookish merch, gift baskets and

more. \$25 entry includes all 10 games played. 21+.

History, stories, discussions & lectures

- **Winter Mammal Tracking in NH** talk with Harris Center naturalist Susie Spikol on Tuesday, March 31, 7-8:30 p.m. at Fox Forest's Baldwin Environmental Center (309 Center Road, Hillsborough). The event is free to the public. RSVPs are strongly encouraged; visit forestsociety.org or contact tripley@forestsociety.org.

Film

- **18th annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival**, runs through Sunday, March 29, with screenings around the state. See nhjewishfilmfestival.com
- **Project Hail Mary** (PG-13, 2026) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, March 26, 3:45 & 7 p.m.; Friday, March 27, through Saturday, March 28, at 12:30, 3:45 & 7 p.m.; Sunday, March 29, at 7 p.m.; Monday, March 30, through Thursday, April 2, at 3:45 & 7 p.m. (plus 12:30 on April 1).

- **Hoppers** (PG, 2026) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, March 26, at 4 p.m.; Friday, March 27, through Sunday, March 29, at 1, 4 & 6:45 p.m.; Monday, March 30, through Tuesday, March 31, at 4 & 6 p.m.
- **Sirat** (R, 2025) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord, Thursday, March 26, at 4:15 & 7:15 p.m.
- **Pillion** (R, 2025) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Friday, March 27, through Saturday, March 28, at 1:30, 4:15 & 7:15 p.m.; Monday, March 30, through Thursday, April 2, 4:15 & 7:15 p.m. (plus 1:30 p.m. on April 1).

- **My Undesirable Friends: Part I — Last Air in Moscow** (2024) will screen Saturday, March 28, at 2 p.m. in Sweeney Hall at NHTI in Concord (park in lot C). Admission costs \$15 at the door, cash or check.
- **Safety Last** (1923) a silent comedy film, will screen Saturday, March 28, at 7 p.m. with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis at the Blazing Star Grange Hall, 15 North Road in Danbury.
- **Ben-Hur** (1959) will screen via Fathom Entertainment on March 29, March 30, April 1 and April 2. See fathomentertainment.com.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

KIDDIE — POOL —

Family fun for whenever

Egg-citement

• Charmingfare Farm, 774 High St. in Candia, will host an **Egg-citing Egg Hunt**, geared toward egg hunters ages 2 to 12, Saturdays and Sundays, March 28-29 and April 4-5, with entry times from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., according to visitthefarm.com. Participants can visit with the farm animals, including some spring baby animals; meet the Easter Bunny, collect a dozen eggs and more, the website said.

• The **Easter Bunny** will arrive at the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire, 27 Navigator Road in Londonderry, aviation-museumofnh.org, via student-built airplane on Saturday, March 28, at 11 a.m. with free admission to the museum and activities for

kids until 1 p.m., according to a museum press release. Families are asked to arrive by 10:30 a.m. to witness Easter Bunny's outdoor arrival, after which the Bunny will pose for photos, talk with fans and hand out candy, the press release said.

• The Saint Anselm College Alumni Association will hold its annual **Easter Egg Hunt** on Sunday, March 29, at 12:30 p.m., with registration starting at 11:30 a.m., in the courtyard behind Alumni Hall, according to alumni.anselm.edu/easter-egg-hunt-2026.

Admission costs \$25 per family, according to the website, where you can purchase registration in advance.

• **Dave & Buster's**, 1500 S. Willow St. in Manchester, will hold a **Bunny's Breakfast Bash** on Sunday, March 29, at 9 a.m. (doors open at 8:45 a.m.). The event will feature two egg hunts (one for ages 6 and under, and another for ages 7+), as well as a breakfast and more, according to prekindle.com/event/74539-bunnys-breakfast-bash-2026-manchester, where you can see and purchase the different ticket options. 🐰

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Weekly comedy nights

- **Wednesdays** Ruby Room at the Shaskeen, Manchester, 9 p.m.
- **Thursdays** Laugh Attic at Strange Brew, Manchester, 8:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

- **David Drake/Sam Mangano** Music Hall Lounge, Portsmouth, Saturday, March 28, 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
- **Billy Gardell** Nashua Center for the Arts, Saturday, March 28, 7 p.m.
- **Joe Fenti** Flying Monkey, Plymouth, Saturday, March 28,

7:30 p.m.

- **Mark Riley** Headliners, Manchester, Saturday, March 28, 8 p.m.
- **Joey Carroll** Chunky's, Manchester, Saturday, March 28, 8:30 p.m.
- **Karen Morgan** BNH Stage, Concord, Thursday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.

Events

- **Juston McKinney** Park Theatre, Jaffrey, Friday, March 27,

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THE ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Songstress:** After dueting with Shawn Colvin in the mid-1980s NYC folk boom, **Lucy Kaplansky** pivoted to earning a doctorate in clinical psychology and starting a private practice, but continued to sing. She added harmonies to Colvin's debut album *Steady On*, backed Nanci Griffith on a couple of songs, and finally released her first solo LP, *Flesh and Bone*, in 1996. Thursday, March 26, 7:30 p.m., Flying Goose Brew Pub, 40 Andover Road, New London, \$30, 526-6899.

• **Convincing:** The journey to channeling Johnny Cash began when **Shawn Barker** walked into auditions for the rock 'n' roll origin musical *Million Dollar Quartet* with a rockabilly haircut and his eyes on the Elvis Presley role. The director had different ideas, though, and his decision pointed Barker to a new path and a multi-decade career starting in his tribute act, *The Man In Black*. Friday, March 27, 7:30 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts, 201 Main St., Nashua, \$25 and up, etix.com.

• **Rocktivists:** Now that Rage Against the Machine is off the road, bands like **Evil Empire** continue to carry the torch. The Connecticut act re-creates the group's politically charged rap-metal sound, including Tom Morello's hypnotic guitar and Zach de la Rocha's frantic vocalizing. They're joined by Lounge Fly, a tribute to Stone Temple Pilots, another band that sadly also won't be touring again. Saturday, March 28, at 8 p.m., Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St., Derry, \$44, tupelohall.com.

NITE

Not a mellow cello

Rocking up a staid stringed instrument

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

According to common wisdom, one way to deal with stage fright is to imagine the audience is naked. But what if they're in the buff already? That's what cellist Rebecca Roudman and her bandmates in Dirty Cello were thinking when they played at a nudist resort a few years back.

The Northern California quartet has toured the world with a revved-up brand of rock, blues and bluegrass that's driven by Roudman's cellist talents. Songs like "Dream On" by Aerosmith and AC/DC's "Long Way to the Top" are transformed into grassified booty-shakers, and their originals are also stellar.

Luckily for the naked crowd that day, Roudman was the opposite of shy, as she worked her carbon fiber cello like Hendrix on a Strat. Nonetheless, guitarist Jason Eckl, who's also Roudman's husband, recalled in a recent Zoom interview with the couple that the gig was still a bit distracting.

"We're playing our groovy music and people are dancing, which is funny," he said. "Then all of a sudden without thinking about it I call out a very fast bluegrass song, and the

dancing just kicks into high gear. The hula hoops are coming out, and Rebecca's giggling through the whole thing."

The gig was one of the few available during the social distancing days of the pandemic, but it put Dirty Cello on a special speed-dial list.

"We keep getting hired to go play at naked people places," Eckl said. "But we always like to say we keep our clothes on."

Roudman had a lifetime playing classical music in symphony orchestras when she decided to push the cello's boundaries.

"I wanted to let my hair down, do something else," she said. "I'd started performing with a blues band, and one day they asked me to solo and improvise on the blues. I didn't know how, and I realized this is a skill that I wanted to learn."

While her cello-playing stays front and center, Roudman has a powerful voice, one reason why Dirty Cello convincingly rocks songs like Led Zeppelin's "Black Dog." But she never planned on being a singer, and deflected a compliment that compared her vocal style to Heart's Ann Wilson.

"I always consider myself just a cellist but thank you very much," she said, explaining that the band hired a singer or two, but none of them could keep up. "Jason encouraged me. He said, 'Look, you can sing, you should sing with the band.' I was very stubborn, but after a while I was like, 'OK, well



Dirty Cello. Courtesy photo.

I guess I've got to do it.' ... Now I'm very comfortable."

Beginning with the 2018 release *By Request*, Dirty Cello has made five albums; the latest, *By the Seat of Our Pants*, came out in late February. Cello-fied covers include a version of "Sympathy for the Devil" with a female Lucifer, Guns N' Roses' "Sweet Child of Mine," and "Run Through the Jungle," a Creedence Clearwater Revival deep cut.

They balance the record out nicely with solid songs of their own. Despite its title, "Go Slow" moves along at a heady clip, while "Feelin' Frisky in Frisco" is a nod to the band's home base. "Further Down the Road" closes out the album. A blues rocker that also ends many of their shows, it's a barn-burner.

Though cellists like Rushan Eggleston and Ben Sollee have redefined the instrument in the recent past, Roudman didn't look to them for cues when pivoting from classical to more raucous, rousing music. "I wanted to be completely different," she said.

With Dirty Cello, Roudman decided to "focus more on rock and blues, and maybe throw in some bluegrass and Americana ... be the Swiss Army knife of cello-playing. So when people come to our shows, they're going to hear a whole bunch of stuff reimagined on the cello. We wanted to stand out and be unique, and it's been working for us."

Dirty Cello

When: Sunday, March 29, at 3 p.m.

Where: BNH Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord

Tickets: \$34 at ccanh.com

Concerts

• **Teresa Walters** Friday, March 27, 7:30 p.m., Dana Center, Saint Anselm College, Manchester

• **The Man in Black** (Johnny Cash tribute) Friday, March 27, 7:30 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts

• **Robbie Fulks** Friday, March 27, 7:30 p.m., Rex, Manchester

• **Songs of a Natural Woman: A Car-**

ole King Tribute Friday, March 27, 7:30 p.m., and March 28, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Palace, Manchester

• **Entrain** Friday, March 27, 8 p.m., Tupelo, Derry

• **Rust Never Sleeps** (Neil Young/Bob Dylan tribute) Saturday, March 28, 7:30 p.m., Rex, Manchester

• **Gipsy Kings** Saturday, March 28, 7:30 p.m., Chubb Theatre, Concord

• **Evil Empire** (Rage Against the Machine tribute)/**Lounge Fly** (Stone Temple Pilots tribute) Saturday, March 28, 8 p.m., Tupelo, Derry

• **Celtic Angels Ireland** Sunday, March 29, 2 p.m., Palace Theatre, Manchester

• **Dirty Cello** Sunday, March 29, 3 p.m., BNH Stage, Concord

• **The Afternotes/Stonehenge**

Wednesday, April 1, 7 p.m., Concord City Auditorium

• **NH Ukuladies** Thursday, April 2, 7:30 p.m., Concord City Auditorium

• **Chris Thile** Thursday, April 2, 7:30 p.m., Chubb Theatre, Concord

• **Urgent** (Foreigner tribute) Thursday, April 2, 7:30 p.m., Palace, Manchester

• **Adam Ezra Group** Thursday, April 2, 7:30 p.m., Rex, Manchester

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ingham Road, 622-6564

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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 Bar-
becue & Tequila Bar 99
Route 13, 721-5000

Concord
The Barley House 132
N. Main St., 228-6363
The Forum Pub 15 Vil-
lage 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,

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

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

Farmington
Hawg's Pen 1114 Route
11, 755-3301

Goffstown
Village Trestle 25 Main
St., 497-8230

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

Londonderry
Coach Stop Restaurant
& Tavern 176 Mam-
moth Road, 437-2022
603 Brewery & Beer
Hall 42 Main St., 404-
6123
Stumble Inn 20 Rock-
ingham Road, 432-3210

Manchester
Backyard Brewery
1211 S. Mammoth Road,
623-3545

Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth
Road, 623-2880
The Foundry 50 Com-
mercial St., 836-1925
Fratello's 155 Dow St.,
624-2022
The Goat 50 Old Gran-
ite St.
Great North Aleworks
1050 Holt Ave., 858-
5789
KC's Rib Shack 837
Second St., 627-RIBS
Pizza Man 850 E.
Industrial Park Drive,
623-5550
Salona Bar & Grill 128
Maple St., 624-4020
Shaskeen Pub 909 Elm
St., 625-0246
Shorty's Mexican
Roadhouse 1050 Bicen-
tennial Drive, 625-1730
South Side Tavern 1279
S. Willow St., 935-9947
Stark Brewing Co. 500

Commercial St., 625-
4444
Strange Brew 88 Mar-
ket St., 666-4292

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

Spyglass Brewing 306
Innovative Way, 546-
2965

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

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

Plaistow
Sweet Hill Farm 82
Newton Road, 974-7279

Salem
Copper Door 41 S.
Broadway, 458-2033
Dreo 254 N. Broadway,
824-6337

Tilton
Dox on Winnisquam
927 Laconia Road, 527-
8381

Greenside Lochmere
Country Club, 360 Laco-
nia Road, 528-7888

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

Windham
Windham Restaurant
59 Range Road, 870-
9270

Thursday, March 26

Amherst
LaBelle: Redneck Castaway
Band, 7:15 p.m.

Auburn
Auburn Pitts: open jam, 7 p.m.

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

Concord
Hermanos: Brian Booth, 6:30 p.m.

Derry
LaBelle: The Eagles Experience,
7:15 p.m.

Epping
Telly's: Stephen Decuire, 7 p.m.

Farmington
Hawg's Pen: open mic, 7 p.m.

Hudson
Luk's: Mike Ketti of Over The
Bridge, 6 p.m.
Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George
Bisson, 8 p.m.

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon: karaoke w/DJ
Jason, 7 p.m.

Londonderry
Stumble Inn: Doug Mitchell Duo,
7 p.m.

Manchester
Fratello's: Peter Pappas, 5:30 p.m.
Goat: DJ Prodigy, 9 p.m.

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

Merrimack
Homestead: Justin Bethune, 5:30
p.m.
Tomahawk Tavern: Chad
LaMarsh, 6 p.m.
Tortilla Flat: Ralph Allen, 6 p.m.

Nashua
Casey Magee's: open mic, 7:30
p.m.
Fody's: DJ Rich karaoke, 9:30 p.m.

Pembroke
Pembroke City Limits: Rocka-
holics Trio, 7 p.m.

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

Salem
Copper Door: Clint Lapointe, 7
p.m.

Tilton
Dox: Justin Jordan, 6 p.m.

Warner
The Local: Frontwoods, 5 p.m.

Friday, March 27

Auburn
Auburn Pitts: Dog House, 6:30
p.m.

Bedford
Murphy's: Ryan Williamson, 6 p.m.

Brookline
Alamo: Dalton Sayball, 6 p.m.

Concord
Forum Pub: Emily Jayne, 8 p.m.
Hermanos: Craig Fahey, 6:30 p.m.

Epping
Holy Grail: Peter Pappas, 6 p.m.
Telly's: Lewis Goodwin Duo, 8
p.m.

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

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon: DJ Will B,
8:30 p.m.

Londonderry
Coach Stop: John Chouinard, 6
p.m.
Stumble Inn: 12 Barz, 8 p.m.

Manchester
Backyard Brewery: Willy Chase,
6 p.m.
Derryfield: The Strip Band, 8:30
p.m.
The Foundry: Dave Zangri, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Chris Cavanaugh, 5:30
p.m.
The Goat: Jump The Line, 9 p.m.
Revo: karaoke w/ DJ George Cox,
9 p.m.
Shaskeen: FOO!, 8 p.m.
South Side Tavern: Cox Karaoke,
9 p.m.
Stark Brewing: Friday's Alibi, 6:30
p.m.
Strange Brew: Johnny and the
Two-Timers, 7 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Jessica Olson, 5:30
p.m.

Milford
Riley's: Bone Shakerz, 8 p.m.

Nashua
Lost Cowboy: Troy Caruana, 7:30
p.m.

New Boston
Molly's: Rich Wallace, 6 p.m.

Pembroke
Pembroke City Limits: Mikey G,
7 p.m.

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

Pittsfield
Over the Moon: Darla Dee, 6 p.m.

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

Salem
Dreo: Stephen Decuire, 7 p.m.

Tilton
Greenside at Lochmere: Ryan
Allen Meier, 6 p.m.

Saturday, March 28

Bedford
Murphy's: Tyler Levs, 6 p.m.

Bow
Chen Yang Li: Dave Zangri, 7
p.m.

Brookline
Alamo: Bella Perrotta, 6 p.m.

Concord
Forum Pub: acoustic circle, 2
p.m.; sea shanty night, 8 p.m.
Hermanos: John Franzosa, 6:30
p.m.

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

Epping
Holy Grail: Jodee Frawlee, 6 p.m.
Telly's: Jonny Friday Duo, 8 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Wood Wind &
Whiskey, 7 p.m.

Hudson
The Bar: Time Bomb, 8 p.m.
Luk's Bar: Shakedown Station,
6 p.m.

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon: Pick 6, 8:30
p.m.

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Joe McDonald, 6 p.m.
Stumble Inn: Blue Collar Ram-
blers, 1 p.m.; Casual Gravity, 8 p.m.

Manchester
Backyard Brewery: Chris Lester,
6 p.m.
Derryfield: Small Town Stranded,
8:30 p.m.
Fratello's: Paul Gormley, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: 7 Day Weekend, 9 p.m.
Great North Aleworks: Matt
Litzinger, 4 p.m.
Pizza Man: NKM, 5:30 p.m.
Revo: DJ Sha-boo, 9 p.m.
Shaskeen: Overtime LNTRNS,
Southgate, Bug, 8 p.m.
Stark Brewing: Lichen, 7 p.m.
Strange Brew: Racky Thomas
Band, 9 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Jordan Holmes, 5:30
p.m.

Milford
Riley's: Zepphalen, 8 p.m.

Nashua
Casey Magee's: Boom Lava
Band, 8 p.m.

Fody's: Dis n Dat, 10 p.m.
Peddler's Daughter: The Ruckus,
9:30 p.m.

New Boston
Molly's: Lewis Goodwin, 6 p.m.

Pembroke
Pembroke City Limits: Keith
Sanders & Wade Jubinville, 3 p.m.;
Benjamin Harris, 7 p.m.

Pittsfield
Over the Moon: Rust & Pine, 6
p.m.

Plaistow
Sweet Hill Farm: Stephen
Decuire, 6 p.m.

Salem
Dreo: Paul Lussier, 7 p.m.

Windham
The Windham Restaurant: Brian
Walker, 5 p.m.

Sunday, March 29

Bedford
Copper Door: Steve Aubert, 11
a.m.

Brookline
Alamo: Jodee Frawlee, 5 p.m.

Concord
Hermanos: Glenn Paladino, 5:30
p.m.
Lithermans: Caylin Costello, 1:30
p.m.

Contoocook
Contoocook Cider Co.: Willy
Chase, 1 p.m.

Hudson
Lynn's 102: Mikey G, 4 p.m.

Londonderry
Stumble Inn: Rob & Jody, 4 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.



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APR 18



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APR 19



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NITE MUSIC & EVENTS

Manchester

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: Jenni Lynn, 4 p.m.

Nashua

Spyglass: Gary Smith (solo 8-string guitar), 2 p.m.

Pembroke

PCL: Jody Robichaud, 3 p.m.

Salem

Copper Door: Nate Comp, 11 a.m.

Tilton

Dox: Justin Jordan, 5 p.m.

Monday, March 30

Hudson

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

Manchester

The Goat: 603 line dancing, 7 p.m.
Salona: music bingo with Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.

Nashua

Fody's: karaoke night, 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 31

Concord

Barley House: Irish session, 6 p.m.
Hermanos: Chris Bonoli, 6:30 p.m.
Tandy's: open mic, 8 p.m.

Londonderry

603 Brewery: Jenni Lynn acoustic duo, 6 p.m.

Manchester

Fratello's: Chris Lester, 5:30 p.m.
KC's Rib Shack: Paul & Nate open mic, 7 p.m.

Merrimack

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

Nashua

Fody's: music bingo, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, April 1

Atkinson

Merrill's Tavern: Lou Antonucci, 8:30 p.m.

Barnstead

JJ Goodwin's: Good Vibes Music Bingo w/ Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.

Concord

Hermanos: Kid Pinky, 6:30 p.m.
Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.
Uno Pizzeria: Chris Lester, 6 p.m.

Derry

Fody's: karaoke, 7 p.m.

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: Musical Bingo Nation, 6:30 p.m.

Manchester

Fratello's: Justin Bethune, 5:30 p.m.
Stark Brewing: Cox karaoke, 8 p.m.
Strange Brew: open mic w/ Jordan Quinn & Scott Armstrong, 8 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Dave Clark, 5:30 p.m.

Milford

Riley's: karaoke, 7 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: village acoustic community jam, 4 p.m.

Seabrook

Chop Shop: DJ Manny karaoke, 7:30 p.m.
Red's: Fred Ellsworth, 7 p.m.

Warner

The Local: Anthony St. Peter, 5 p.m.

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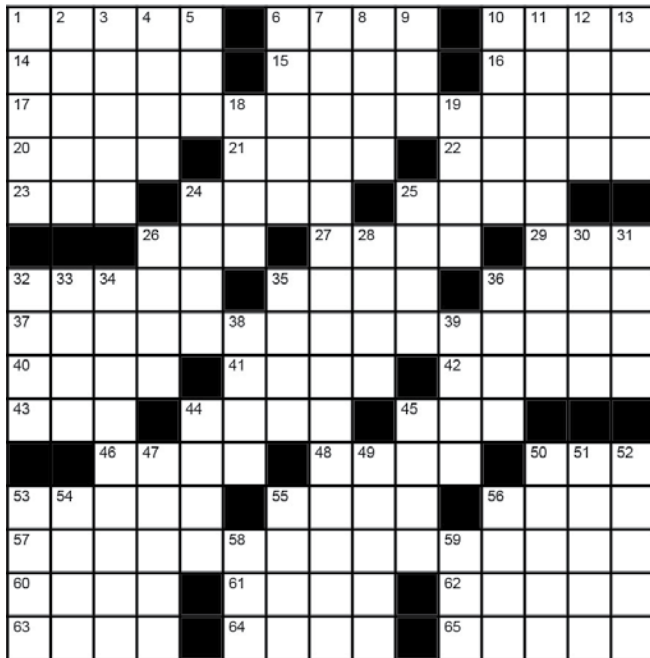
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Across

- 1. Gene Simmons onstage persona
- 6. Child star/singer Lovato
- 10. Make fun of, as in a comical and fake documentary
- 14. Katy Perry "Living our lives through ___" (1,4)
- 15. '00 MxPx album 'The ___ Passing Moment'
- 16. Default didn't want to 'Live ___' so finally confessed (1,3)
- 17. Jamiroquai smash video (7,8)
- 20. Tim McGraw said to move on: 'Let ___' (2,2)
- 21. Guitarist Cline of Wilco
- 22. Prince 'When ___ Cry'
- 23. Snider of Twisted Sister
- 24. Don Henley 'You Don't ___ Me At All'
- 25. Part of Guns N' Roses hit, w/"You Could Be"
- 26. One Way 'Cutie ___'
- 27. Practice space is in a rehearsal one
- 29. Music feed format
- 32. Robin Thicke "You're a good girl, can't let ___ past me" (2,3)
- 35. Untrusting Neil Young mis-spells 'Can't Believe Your ___'

- 36. Bobby Vinton 'To Know You ___ Love You' (2,2)
- 37. '95 single by Live not meant for dark talks? (5,10)
- 40. Where Mariah Carey gets her 'Honey'?
- 41. Atlas Genius song for "in that case" (2,2)
- 42. '6 Underground' Sneaker ___
- 43. Song at the top
- 44. Rolling Stones "I ___ red door and I want it painted black" (3,1)
- 45. Gov. standards for tour bus
- 46. Apple product that changed listening
- 48. Repeated word in Damned song for tidiness?
- 50. Lemonheads 'Big ___ Heart'
- 53. Survivor '84 album '___ Signs'
- 55. Hawthorne Heights 'Where Do I ___ Myself In The Ears'
- 56. '01 Fun Lovin' Criminals album for bonkers
- 57. Led Zep 'What ___ Never Be' (2,3,4,6)
- 60. Bozzio of Missing Persons
- 61. Like primo drummer

Sudoku Answers from pg 27 of 3/19

Puzzle A

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

Difficulty: ★

- 62. Eddie Cochran 'Am ___?' (1,4)
- 63. Offspring "I have a feeling ___ be a long time"
- 64. Drift around a show or do this
- 65. Hot pop star side-gig

Down

- 1. Pink Floyd's Gilmour
- 2. Crème de la crème
- 3. Prominent NC label
- 4. Lita Ford/Ozzy "So hard to hold ___ my dreams" (2,2)
- 5. '66 Cream hit
- 6. Stone Temple Pilots guitarist Dean
- 7. "My house is dark and my pots are cold" song and band (4,4,7)
- 8. Break room for guys at show
- 9. Agcy. that seized Willie Nelson s assets
- 10. Kristian Matsson or The Tall-est ___ Earth (3,2)
- 11. The xx singer/bassist (6,3)
- 12. In rock journalism you quote or do this
- 13. Piano has white and black ones
- 18. Hathaway in Les Misérables
- 19. '98 Sarah McLachlan hit
- 24. Toy with a tail U2 sang of
- 25. A star looks at a pricey one at dinner
- 26. Libertines Doherty
- 28. Half of Gerardo hit, w/"Suave"
- 30. "Halt" scream from security
- 31. 'I Will Wait' Mumford & ___
- 32. Tom Jones "___ have nothing, I who have no one" (1,3)

- 33. Jamiroquai "How coul your love become so paper ___"
- 34. Kiss "Tonight...I wanna ___ to you" (4,2,3)
- 35. '68 Sly And The Family Stone album not called "Death"
- 36. Kenny Loggins hit 'This ___' (2,2)
- 38. Jim Carroll 'People Who ___'
- 39. Advance for a guitar, slangily
- 44. Jamiroquai "If they had been told that day, that they would be ___ this way"
- 45. Small amounts, as hair gel before show
- 47. Battle Of The Bands jury is also called this
- 49. '86 David Lee Roth album '___ And Smile' (3,2)
- 50. Bassist Billy of Faith No More
- 51. A lost Dramarama 'Haven't Got ___' (1,4)
- 52. Alpine call
- 53. Hives hit album 'Veni ___ Vicious'
- 54. Queens Of The Stone Age '___ By The Ocean' (1,3)
- 55. "Get out of here!" exclamation from producer working in studio
- 56. '09 Eels album 'Hombre ___'
- 58. Combat, as contestants' fight to win The Voice
- 59. 'Better Off With ___' by rock band 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 XX.

King Classic Sudoku

Puzzle A

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

Difficulty: ★

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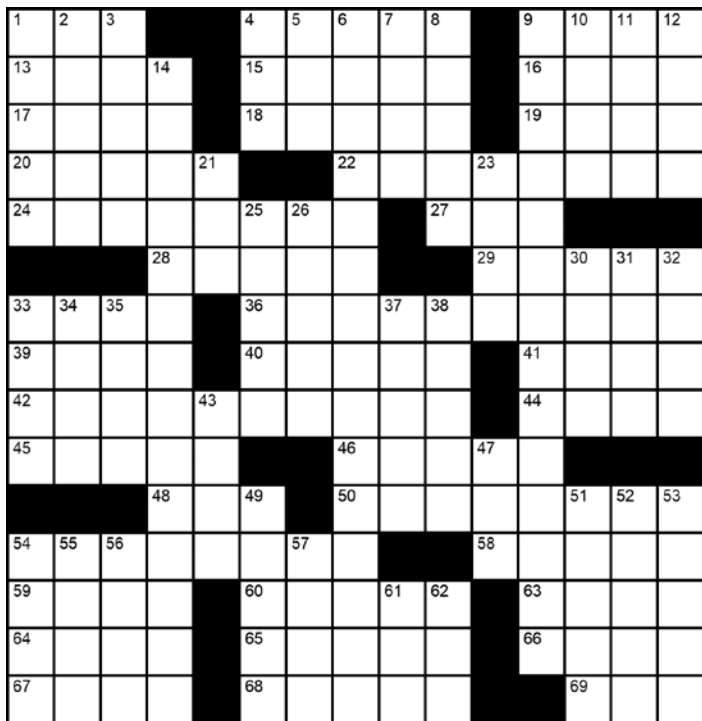
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"Rows and Columns"—really, more of the latter.



Across

- 1. Halloween mo.
- 4. Sauce on some pizzas
- 9. Eyelid nuisance
- 13. "Avatar" language
- 15. Drink, cat-style
- 16. Henchman
- 17. Ticklish Muppet
- 18. Assigned duty
- 19. Croatian currency
- 20. Not together
- 22. "I did perfectly!" (even if not)
- 24. City southeast of Los Angeles
- 27. Traffic jam ingredient
- 28. Band of schemers
- 29. Calculator component
- 33. "It's ___ vu all over again"
- 36. Decorative
- 39. Racetrack shape
- 40. Renaissance Faire title
- 41. "___, Interrupted" (1999 drama)
- 42. 1991 Red Hot Chili Peppers hit
- 44. Out on the briny
- 45. ___SmithKline (pharmaceutical company now known by its initials)
- 46. "Bed" or "home" ending

- 48. Cute animal reaction
- 50. Andes dweller, maybe
- 54. Undeveloped expanse
- 58. In a suitable way
- 59. Bugs Bunny antagonist Elmer
- 60. Energetically excited
- 63. Reach by phone
- 64. Compulsion
- 65. Michelangelo work in St. Peter's Basilica

- 66. 2025 Pixar film
- 67. One with a crystal ball
- 68. Rescue shelter resident
- 69. Japanese bread?

Down

- 1. Shaq's surname
- 2. Lily variety
- 3. Lois Griffin or Marge Simpson
- 4. "Thx" preceder
- 5. Grab a bite
- 6. Publication with a lot of backbone?
- 7. Fish in a flat can
- 8. Concerning sight
- 9. "Keep your hands at ten and two," say?
- 10. Dull sound from a weight
- 11. Space pioneer Gagarin
- 12. Elton John achievement
- 14. Hamilton, when focused on molecular particles?
- 21. Time period for Taylor Swift
- 23. Put cargo on
- 25. Like ___ from the blue
- 26. Cartoon spun off from "Beavis and Butt-head"
- 30. Elevator company
- 31. Challenge
- 32. Jazz singer Fitzgerald
- 33. Rap's Snoop ___
- 34. Wicked (and not for good)
- 35. Coffee
- 37. Marbled stone
- 38. "Twilight" author Stephenie
- 43. State home to Blank Park Zoo
- 47. "___ Wiedersehen!"

- 49. Tortilla-based sandwiches
- 51. "Boot" of Europe
- 52. "Hyperbole and a Half" writer/illustrator Brosh
- 53. 1930s DuPont fabric invention
- 54. "The Last ___"
- 55. Unadulterated
- 56. Jigsaw starting point, maybe
- 57. Release
- 61. Incoming train stat
- 62. When it's light out

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Jonesin' answer from pg 28 of 3/19



WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Five parts of the eye □□□□
- Four U.S. states □□□□
- Three evergreen trees □□□
- IRS: Internal _____ □□
- Two forms of matter □□

Last Week's Answers: OTTOMAN DRESSER TABLE CHAIR DESK SOFA / CRITIC COSMIC CIVIC CUBIC CYNIC / HARP TUBA OBOE DRUM LUTE / STEVIE / BIONIC

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1/12



EASY

2÷		6+	4
12×	4		
		4+	1-
1	2÷		

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CHALLENGING

15×	11+			10+
	7+		19+	
	5	40×		
2÷			8+	5-
24×		9+		
6			12+	

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RULES

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

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

5+	1-	2-
1 4 2 3		
2÷	6×	
4 2 3 1		
2 3 1 4	2÷	
4+	4	
3 1 4 2		

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SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *Heart. Life. Music.*, by Kenny Chesney, born March 26, 1968, with Holly Gleason.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *It was my stage, my sound, my name on the ticket — and my show to do.* So do it.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *When you're the smallest one, you're struggling to keep up. You don't want to be the one who blows it. Then when you play with people your own age, it's a whole other thing because your skills are sharper.* Little fish, new pond.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *Even when I wasn't there, the islands colored my writing.* And got sand in your underwear.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *With a Greatest Hits heading for its third million, people were realizing 'I know that song.'* Now they needed to know that singer. Did they, though?

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *I was consumed with sports. We had the best basketball hoop in the neighborhood, and I also played Pee Wee Football. Baseball, though, was the sport I had the best chance of playing, because being smaller wasn't as much a factor.* There's a sport for you.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *I didn't want to sit still; I wanted to play and get better.* Keep

moving.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *Every day was a new day. ... No two alike, show up or you miss it. I still didn't recognize an album was brewing.* Enjoy the day.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *Some people thought I was recharging, but it was more opening up and letting go.* First, spring cleaning.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *Summer and sports run together, measured as much by the bands we loved — Steve Miller..., Skynyrd and AC/DC..., going to see this new country traditionalist Randy Travis....* Old sounds and new sounds will set the tone.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *When I was seven or eight, Mom ... put me in Little League. ... Suddenly, I had friends who didn't go to Luttrell Elementary.* This could be a good time to make new friends.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *If you want to hold the room, knowing what to say between songs is everything. It was all on me, sustaining the people over four hours, not a song or two.* Don't promise what you can't deliver.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *Sometimes we'd go to movies, see the pictures people were talking about. Smokey and the Bandit was one of our favorites.* Just wait till you see the sequel. 🐉



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What's in a Name?

It's election time in the town of Arcis-Sur-Aube in France, where the office of mayor is up for grabs. Metro News reported on March 19 that the burg's 2,785 people will have a choice between Charles Hittler, the incumbent, and Antoine Renault-Zielenski, the 28-year-old far-right candidate. Hittler isn't a fan of the fuss: "If people were talking about the town and our policies, that would be one thing," he said. "But all they're interested in is our names." He said his father considered changing his name after World War II, but it would have been too expensive. The election is scheduled for March 22. *Metro News, March 19*

Field Report

On March 10, a man and woman from Germany, who had been trying to ski 104 miles across a frozen lake between Finland and Sweden, had to be rescued after the ice around them broke up, the New York Post reported. They had been camping on the Gulf of Bothnia, which typically is frozen for much of the year, when almost all of their equipment went into the water. Finnish border guards received a distress signal and sent out a search plane and hovercraft. Fortunately, the couple had spelled out SOS with ice blocks and were rescued about five hours

after their ordeal began. They were "of course cold" but were unharmed. *NYPPost, March 17*

Ewwww

If you're wondering where all your hair ties go, maybe check in with your family feline. United Press International reported on March 17 that the HALO No-Kill Rescue Shelter in Sebastian, Florida, recently took in Midnite, a cat who had been diagnosed with an intestinal blockage and marked for euthanasia at another facility. When Midnite underwent surgery, doctors found the cause of the blockage: 26 hair ties. "This is an important reminder that small objects around the house can be incredibly dangerous for pets," the shelter posted on Facebook. Midnite is recovering and displaying a healthy appetite. *UPI, March 17*

The Tech Revolution

A 70-year-old woman in Macau, China, went to the hospital after being startled by a 4-foot-4-inch robot on March 5, the Macau Post reported. As the woman walked along the street around 9 p.m., the bot followed her; she turned around and shouted, "You're making my heart race! You've got plenty to do, so what's the point of messing around with this?" Two police officers escorted the

bot away; they later discovered it is owned by a tutorial center in the neighborhood, and the man operating it remotely said he was testing it. The bot, a Unitree G1, retails for about \$13,000. The woman was released from the hospital. *Macau Post, March 11*

The Entrepreneurial Spirit

Talk about making lemonade. Javier Yat, a 23-year-old mechanic in Brooklyn, New York, is lining his pockets with cash after setting up a tire station next to a huge pothole, the New York Post reported on March 17. Yat works out of his van and typically runs out of replacement tires each night. "I have to pay a runner to go back and forth to the shop for me and pick up what I need," Yat said. "I think the pothole is approximately 60 square inches and 12 inches deep," he said. He arrives in the area around 12:30 a.m. and stays until 10 a.m., changing 15 to 20 tires each night and charging between \$150 and \$300 per tire. "One man's

misfortune is another man's blessing," Yat said. *NY Post, March 17*

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

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 immense (7)	_____
2 stuck in a snarl (7)	_____
3 delusional (10)	_____
4 French stewed vegetable dish (11)	_____
5 dizzying confusion (7)	_____
6 in the dark (8)	_____
7 Moroccan port city (10)	_____

NIC	LED	CL	NG	UE
MOO	VERT	ILLE	UCK	BLAN
TITA	NSTR	IGO	SS	ATOU
TA	CASA	CA	RAT	LE

Last Week's Answers: 1. CROISSANT 2. ECLAIR 3. STRUDEL, 4. DANISH 5. CANNOLI 6. BERLINER 7. PROFITEROLE

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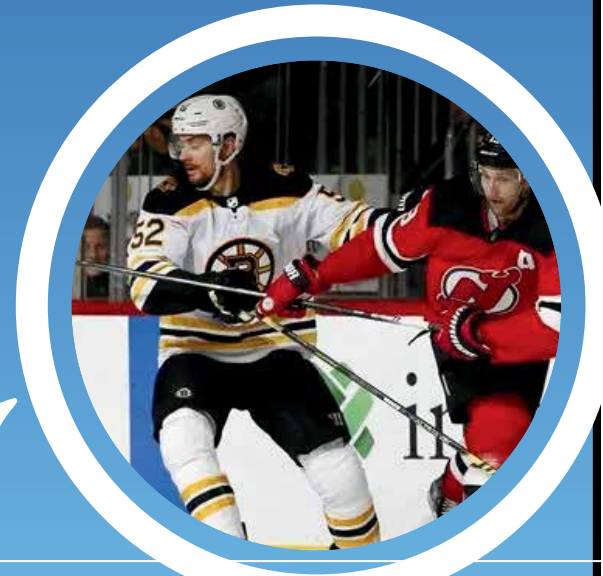
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