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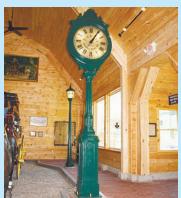


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An excerpt from Mike Pride's book on Harriet Dame's Civil War role

A lover of backyard hockey rinks explains the process and benefits

The inspiration for art: Inside the Concord studio of Ahmad Gazelle

The best of the region: A guide for some last-minute shopping

Cover photo of Ahmad Gazelle by Geoff Forester



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Aglow with winter vibes

New Englanders have a love/hate relationship with winter. We hate shoveling snow, scraping ice off the windshield and gray days with frozen mush on the ground.

Yet winter offers cleansing and warmth. A fresh blanket of snow creates a clean, crystalline landscape ripe with inviting opportunities, like skiing, snowshoeing and hiking. Despite the cold, nothing quite beats the glow of the wood stove, or the smell of the house around the holidays.

We complain about bugs all summer long and we forget to rejoice in the cold winter air when nothing but Jack Frost wants to bite you.

This edition of Around Concord explores some indoor and outdoor delights for your appreciation.

Learn how Ahmad Gazelle chooses his different glazes to make each piece of his pottery a handmade treasure.

Consider all the work – and fun – that goes into setting up your own backyard skating rink.

Read the backstory behind Maple Street Mercantile, which offers home goods and pastries from the heart of Contoocook. Did I mention fresh brewed coffee, cinnamon buns and oatmeal cream pies?

Spend some time with the words of the incomparable Mike Pride, former editor of the Monitor, whose book excerpt opens the world to the story of Civil War nurse Harriet Dame in "No Place for a Woman," which was published before his death earlier this year.

Most of all, find something new to love about winter. Before you know it, the mud will be here.

> Jonathan Van Fleet Editor

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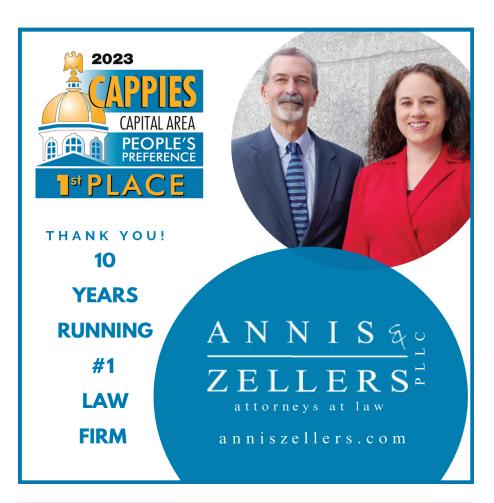


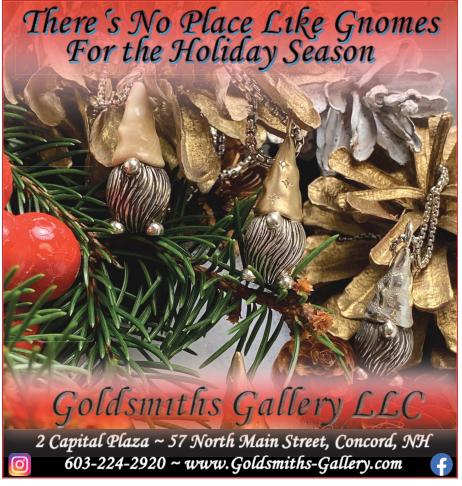
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Erik Hodges plays Scrooge in the Hatbox adaptation of "A Christmas Carol."

THROUGH DEC. 17

Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'

In this original adaptation of the holiday classic by Jill Pinard, Hatbox Theatre focuses on how the dreamlike qualities of the ghost story aspect of Dickens' work can bring about redemption. Is it "an undigested bit of beef" - a line in the original story that leads Scrooge to have bad dreams or is he really being visited by ghosts intent on helping him redeem himself. Audience members, too, will wonder if they are dreaming when they are immersed in sound, lights and projections that bring out these eerier aspects of Scrooge's fateful night. Fridays and Saturdays performances are at 7:30 p.m., Sundays performances at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$22 for students/seniors/members, and \$19 for senior members. Visit hatboxnh.com.

CENTER STAGE

DEC. 9

'The Nutcracker'

Celebrate the holidays with the tradition of "The Nutcracker" at 2 p.m. at the Concord City Audi (2 Prince St., Concord). Presented by Turning Pointe Dance, the family-friendly show is a wonderful kick-off to the holiday season that retains the classical, magical experience for all ages.

Tickets are \$23 and available at the dance studio (371 Pembroke St., Pembroke), or online at turningpointecenterofdance.com. For more information, call 485-8710.

DEC. 17

'The Nutcracker'

NH School of Ballet presents "The Nutcracker." Enjoy this Holiday classic of Clara traveling to the world of sweets with her prince. With a cast of more than 50, come watch the falling snow, the growing Christmas tree, and the wonderful dancers of NHSB dance this holiday tradition. Performance begins at 2 p.m. at the Concord City Audi (2 Prince St., Concord). Tickets are available at the studio (183 Londonderry Turnpike, Hooksett), and at the door. For more information, call 668-5330.

DEC. 16

John Denver Christmas

Musical duo Chris Collins and Bouder Canyon join to help you celebrate the holidays with your favorite John Denver hits and songs of the season. Collins and Canyon have toured internationally together delighting audiences with their talent, warmth and humor. Show times are at 2 and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16 at the Rex Theatre, 23 Amherst St., Manchester. Visit palacetheatre.org or call 668-5588.

DEC. 16

Mr. Aaron Holiday

Join Mr. Aaron, multi-instrumentalist performer and composer, to celebrate, dance, and sing along to all the holiday songs your kiddos love. The show begins at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16 at the Bank of NH Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord. Find tickets at ccanh.com/show/mr-aaron-holiday.

DEC. 17

'How the Grinch Stole Christmas'

The story of a lonely creature who tries to cancel Christmas by stealing gifts from the homes of the nearby town of Whoville on Christmas Eve. This ballet is full of laughter, romance, and an important lesson about the true meaning of the holiday season. "The Grinch" is a unique interactive experience for audience members of all ages and a learning opportunity that transforms our ballet stage into a vibrant classroom.

The performance is set to both classical music and contemporary holiday music and includes narration so each audience member has a clear understanding of the story while fully appreciating the artistry of the professional dancers. Performance begins at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17 at the Chubb Theatre at CCA, 44 S. Main St., Concord. Purchase tickets online at ccanh.com.

DEC. 22

A Charlie Brown Jazz Christmas

The Heather Pierson Jazz Trio, based in Conway, performs the entirety of the Charlie Brown Christmas album as recorded by the Vince Guaraldi Trio, as well as other Guaraldi compositions. The trio is comprised of Heather, piano and vocals; Shawn Nadeau, bass; and Craig Bryan, drums. The show begins Friday, Dec. 22, at 7 p.m. at the Bank of NH Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord. Visit ccanh.com for tickets.



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"We constantly find ourselves surrounded by these remarkable women and it's so easy to see how successful and driven and capable they all are. They all run these businesses so successfully and I think what makes it so successful is just this energy of wanting to collaborate and see each other grow."

MEREDITH LEE, market owner on collaborations with other ventures



This is just a sampling of some of the bakery items for sale at the Maple Street Mercantile in downtown Contoocook. While you might come in for the treats, you may leave with new homeware items for the holidays.

Geoff Forester

IN THE MARKET FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Hopkinton bakery collaborates with women entrepreneurs

By SRUTHI GOPALAKRISHNAN

Growing up in a household where the art of hosting parties and home decor held center stage, Meredith Lee saw no better venture than to open a homeware store in her beloved hometown of Hopkinton.

Lee opened Maple Street Mercantile in 2022 in the Contoocook Village, but her aspirations for the store were far grander than merely offering a place to buy seasonal dinnerware or throw pillows.

She yearned to infuse the essence of her family's passions into her establishment. Her mother, Margie Astles, is an artist and a natural entertainer, while a lineage of chefs also runs deep in her family's history.

Just a year after opening its doors, Lee made the inspired decision to open a bakery within the store's rustic confines.

"The intention was always to someday have homewares mixed with food in some capacity," explained Lee. "After crunching the numbers, we were like 'this is what the town really wants, they want a bakery."

This establishment is not just woman-owned and family-run. The bakery sources delicious baked goods from women entrepreneurs in New Hampshire.

Homemade bagels, blondies, sugar cookies, and more come from



Geoff Forester

Above: Meredith and Lucca Lee smile at four-month-old Cabot as BJ Lee holds their son as Maple Street Mercantile gets ready to open for the day in downtown Contoocook. Below: Margie Astles wraps up a bag for a customer.

talented women bakers at Sweet Gatherings, Buttercup Baking, and Bird Food Baking Co.

What's exciting is that the bakery's menu changes daily.

Working with women is an inten-

tional choice that Lee made.

"We constantly find ourselves surrounded by these remarkable women and it's so easy to see how successful and driven and capable they all are. They all run these businesses so successfully and I think what makes it so successful is just this energy of wanting to collaborate and see each other grow," said Lee.



Another womanowned business that Lee collaborates with is Witching Hour Provisions, a coffee roastery and refill store located just across the street from Maple Street Mercantile.

The coffee roastery crafted a special coffee blend exclusively for Lee's bakery.

Alyssa McKeon, owner of Witching Hour Provisions, affectionately calls her relationship with Lee, "neighbors in life." They have stores across the street from each other, live just houses apart and have kids of similar ages.

"It might seem counterintuitive because we're



across the street from each other," McKeon explained. "But we never planned to serve our coffee by the cup, yet it's a frequent request we get."

When customers buy their coffee blends, McKeon sends them across to enjoy a cup of freshly brewed coffee and explore homewares at Lee's store. This collaborative spirit extends throughout the town, with other businesses doing the same.

"It just shows how tight our little village is. It's just such a lovely little community of shops, where we all send folks around to all of our shops," said McKeon, highlighting the synergy that fuels the town.

Since the bakery opened in September, the homeware section of Lee's store has experienced a remarkable surge in business. But that's not the only success story here.

Lee's store has an entryway that connects to Indigo Blues and Co., a clothing boutique.

Ever since the bakery's launch, the next-door store has noticed a significant uptick in customer traffic, said Lee.

"To be able to give back to our fellow businesses by drawing people in and then everyone benefits from that is the best feeling. It is so rewarding," said Lee.

Meredith Lee with daughter, Lucca, husband BJ, and son Cabot at the entrance to their store.

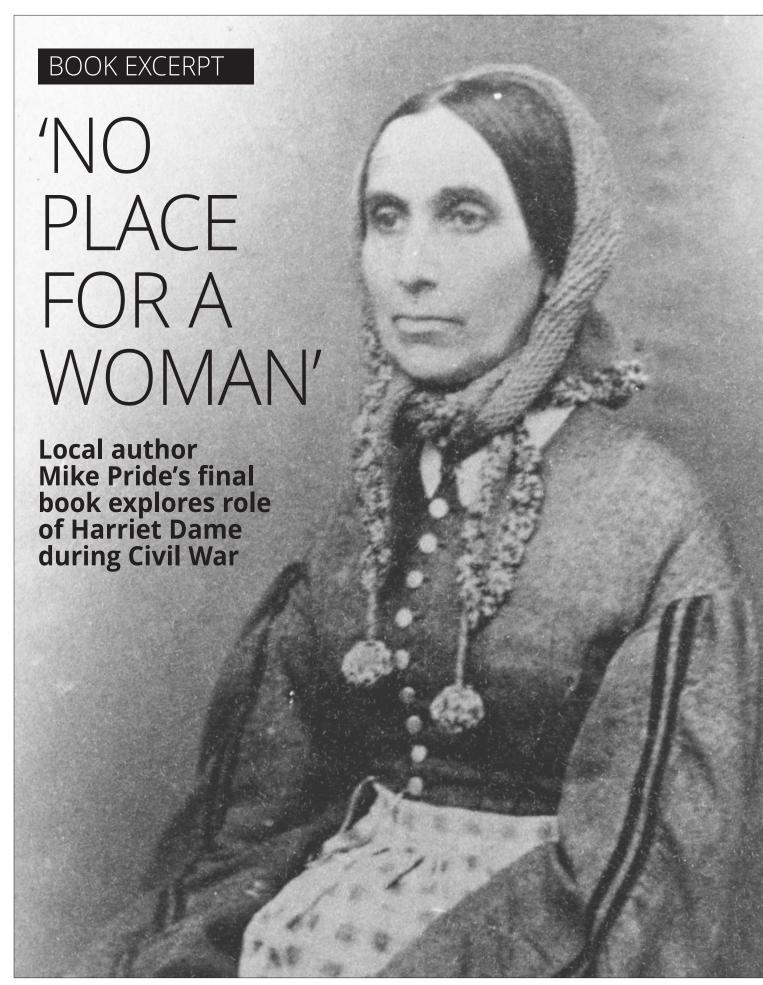




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By MIKE PRIDE

The summer of 1862 brought one trial after another for the Second New Hampshire Infantry. Harriet Dame was there for all of them. From the battles on the Virginia Peninsula through the regiment's return to Bull Run, she marched and camped with the men. "Sometimes I would go several weeks without any clothes but those I had on," she later recalled. "When we were marching, I could carry nothing but a haversack. When I could get a chance, I would go down to the creek, wash the clothes I was wearing and put them right on again without drying. There was no other way."

After nursing the sick at Yorktown and walking among the dead on the Williamsburg battlefield with her friend Dorothea Dix, Dame rejoined her regiment at Fair Oaks before all the dead of the June 1 battle there were buried. Later, the mere thought of the stink and the green flies on that campground made her ill.

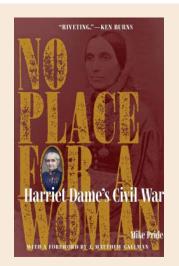
Peril always seemed near even though the rifle pits on the camp's perimeter lay some distance from the field hospital. Typhoid, diarrhea, and dysentery sent many men to the hospital and some to their death. Doctors believed foul air carried the germs that caused these diseases, but the real culprits were the green flies that Dame loathed and bacteria from the foul water supply. The flies picked up and spread germs from fecal matter and decaying flesh. The bodies of 3,000 soldiers and scores of dead horses had been haphazardly buried on the field at Fair Oaks. This "filled the air with noxious effluvium, and the only water was infiltrated with the decaying animal matter of the battlefield," an assistant surgeon remarked.

As the weeks passed, the men regularly encountered exposed body parts. One private awoke in his tent one morning to see a hand sticking out of the earth inches from his face. "It is very warm here now and you can judge for yourself that it ain't a very

sweet-smelling place," Pvt. Charles E. Jewett of the Second wrote home. He doubted the armies could "lay so snug together much longer without fighting."

Indeed, Robert E. Lee, the new Confederate commander, was plotting to exploit Union Gen. George B. McClellan's decision to park his army in place. Lee had taken over on June 1. McClellan, who knew Lee, expected him "to be timid and irresolute in action." With the gift of time, Lee instead built up the army protecting Richmond to 101,000 men and planned his attack. As the Union army dug in, Mc-Clellan harassed Washington for more troops, claiming that Lee's army was even larger than it was.

On June 23, Brig. Gen. Cuvier Grover, the Second New Hampshire's new brigade commander, led a mission into the woods beyond the Union rifle pits. As the men crawled toward the rebel picket line, the only exposed member of the brigade was Grover, who sat on his horse with his torso visible above the bushes. The men drove rebel pickets back and pushed on toward the main body of Confederate troops. Satisfied that he knew the enemy's position and had



Longtime Concord Monitor editor and former Administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes Mike Pride's most recent book is available at Gibson's Bookstore in Concord. He died in 2023.

tested its strength, Grover pulled his men back.

The Second joined a larger but similarly limited foray two days later. The men were to clear the way through a mass of trees known as Oak Grove to a staging point for an assault on Richmond. They entered a thick wood with orders to pick their way through, scatter the rebel pickets, and gain control of the open ground beyond. The regiment's sharpshooters, including Sgt. Thomas Leaver, whom Harriet Dame had known since he was a boy, took the lead as skirmishers. "The spiteful crack of their Sharp's rifles soon rose above the din of conflict," a private wrote. The fighting lasted for nine hours before the three Union brigades withdrew, having suffered 626 casualties.

Dame worked at the field hospital all day, caring for many men in the open air after the tents filled. She approached her task with confidence, cleaning and bandaging open wounds to stop the bleeding.

This task required lint, much of which soldier-aid groups formed by women back home had produced by fraying and scraping old linen. To induce clotting, Dame folded the lint to the proper size and spread a thin coat of astringent, a potassium compound, on one side. She pressed the lint gently into the wound and secured it with an adhesive. She gave her patients water if they could drink and food if she thought it would help them. She reassured all who were conscious. After she had done what she could, she passed many of them on to the surgeons. Because balls shattered bones, amputation was common.

At one point during the crush of work, Dame stepped away to lift a blanket that covered two dead soldiers. "My God! It is Tom Leaver," someone heard her say. He and the other man, Cpl. George Damon, were in the regiment's company from Concord, her hometown. Leaver had recently sworn that the body of any member of the company would be sent home for a proper funeral, but Dame's only option was to prepare the two corpses for burial on the field. She later watched their pine caskets being lowered

into a grave beneath an oak tree.

The battle at Oak Grove opened the Seven Days campaign. Lee attacked the next day at Mechanicsville and the day after that at Gaines' Mill. To strengthen his army, he left only Gen. John B. Magruder's thin line to defend Richmond, but demonstrations by these troops convinced Mc-Clellan he was out-manned. Had his force counterattacked on June 27, it might have captured the rebel capital. In his battle report, Magruder wrote that McClellan's "failure to do so is the best evidence that our wise commander fully understood the character of his opponent." McClellan informed Secretary of War Edwin Stanton that he had lost these battles because his force was too small, adding: "You must send me very large reinforcements, and send them at once." The Union retreat, which McClellan tried to sell as a "change of base," began the day after he made this demand.

When General Grover's brigade took up arms that morning, the men of the Second New Hampshire thought they were preparing for picket duty or a turn in the trenches on the camp's perimeter. To their surprise, they were ordered to strike their tents. As they headed away from Richmond rather than toward it, they saw that Union artillery crews had already left. They had left their camp to the enemy.

Dame was surprised too. She saw the movement for what it was, describing McClellan's army as "On Skedaddle." The order of Gen. Joseph Hooker, the division commander, to leave behind all sick men who could not march alarmed her. "The outlook was disastrous," she later said. "Before us lay unknown dangers, behind us an insatiable encroaching enemy, and in our presence death and suffering in the saddest phase." When many lame men vowed to walk with the retreating army, Dame decided to lead them. Col. Gilman Marston of the Second warned her that anything loaded onto the wagons "would never be seen

again." She and the stewards could not carry all the medicines or her personal belongings, but she took what she could.

Because it was summer with temperatures reaching 90, Dame normally wore only her hoop, a long cotton dress, and her "chemistry," as she called cosmetics. For the skedaddle, she put on layer upon layer of clothing: drawers, her "old, pathetic corset," a cotton dress with a Victorian support skirt known as a Balmoral over it, a flannel garment, a dress that the regiment's major had given her, and her shawl. She carried a haversack with bread, butter, and condensed milk and a bundle in which she had tied her best dress, a change of shoes, a coffee pot, and coffee. "It was no small load," she assured Anna Berry in a letter. She was glad a box of dresses sent by Concord friends had yet to arrive because she could not have carried it. Dame, the stewards, and the sick squad departed

amid the din of rattling wagons. They traveled at such a glacial pace that she feared the Confederates might capture them all, but she faced this danger with stoicism and even a touch of humor. "Well, let them come," she wrote Anna Berry. "We have a long time been talking about going to Richmond. If they overtake us, of course, we'll know the shortest route."

What she witnessed that first day on the road - the great fires, the dreary slog of man and beast, the vastness of the retreating army - appalled and astounded her. "Oh Anna," she lamented, "you can never dream of the horrors I have seen & it is well you don't know what we do." She could not bear the suffering of horses and mules that pulled supply wagons, cannons, and ambulances through the hot, dusty air. They had "little to eat & muddy water to drink [and] hardly a breath of air."

She pitied the soldiers with her, too, especially after she and the men



covered only three and a half miles the first day. "Poor fellows," she wrote. "It makes my heart ache to see them parading so sick." While she had marveled at the flickering evening lights of a 50,000-man encampment at the start of the campaign in April, the actual size of McClellan's entire army astonished her. "In all my life I never saw anything like the teams and troops," she observed. "Really did not know we had a tenth part as many in the whole army. It is one of the grandest sights I have ever seen."

On June 30, the party of sick men that Dame called her "little forlorn hope" stayed behind as their regiment joined the fight against the pursuing rebels at Glendale. When they reached that town, night had fallen and only the wounded, dead, and dying occupied the battlefield. Stopping at a farm, Dame scrounged cornmeal, milk, gruel, and meal cake for the men in her care. By midnight she was exhausted and "generally in need of reconstruction," but the white women in the house said there was no place for her. A short time later, a young Black man found her a room with a bed in the house.

The same man woke her in the morning. "You'd better get up," he said. "They're going to fight." While rushing to her sick soldiers, she saw that most of the teams were gone. Someone had left her and her party a wagon and ordered a sick rebel officer who was under guard to guide them to the best road to the James River.

The wagon joined an ambulance train, but when bursting shells panicked the animals pulling the wagons, she and her comrades stalled in a cornfield. Dame borrowed the teamster's knife and began cutting corn and filling empty space in the wagon with it. "If Nero could fiddle in sight of burning Rome," she decided, she could surely harvest corn under cannon fire. After the wagon started up again, she enjoyed a "short interval of peace and beauty" in a field of flowers before the driver halted again. Suddenly, Dame found herself staring into the eyes of a rebel picket. He tried to interrogate her, but when she evaded his questions, he marched her and her party off to his commander.

It is fair to ask whether her conversation with her captor was as spirited as she recalled it, but her account is typical of the spirit she projected throughout the war. "Got too far into Dixie, hey?" the Confederate officer asked. "No," Dame answered, "not as far as I'm going." "How far might that be?" "As far as Richmond." He thought he had her now: "And going as a prisoner?" "No," she said, "I am going under the old flag." She correctly guessed that the Confederates had no secure place for prisoners. In the end, she and the others slipped away in the chaos of two armies on the move.

Dame soon reached the crowded camp where the Army of the Potomac was gathering to recuperate at Harrison's Landing on the James. Of the sick men she had led across the Peninsula, only one died along the way. In the view of one private in her regiment, "it was to her devotion and inspiring courage that most of them owed their liberty and some their lives." ◆









HOME E

'A great neighborhood activity': Outdoor hockey and nearly two decades of memories in Concord

By ERIC RYNSTON-LOBEL

Tom Philbrick's basement has become something of a hockey sporting goods warehouse. Goalie equipment, sticks, skates, pucks - you name it, it's probably down there.

Oh, and don't forget about all the hockey pucks not in the basement.

"Hundreds of pucks around the neighborhood," Philbrick said. "You find pucks from 10, 15 years ago stuck. I found them on my roof, found them on my neighbor's roof. It's unbe-

It's a little more believable when you find out that every winter for the last two decades or so, the outdoor hockey rink in his yard in Concord's South End has held as many as 25 kids on it at once, including the entire Concord High boys' hockey team.

Roughly 50 feet wide and 80 feet long, Philbrick's gearing up for what could be his final winter setting up the slab of ice in his yard. He acquired the boards from Concord boys' hockey coach Dunc Walsh about 18 years ago, and then held them together with rebar. A couple years later, Philbrick bought a bunch of plywood to frame the boards.

On the inside, a large sheet of plastic lines the surface like a pool. Every year around Thanksgiving, Philbrick brings out the hose, turns it on and lets it run, usually for at least three straight days. The ice needs to be thick enough to safely skate on.

The biggest challenge: getting all that water to freeze solid.

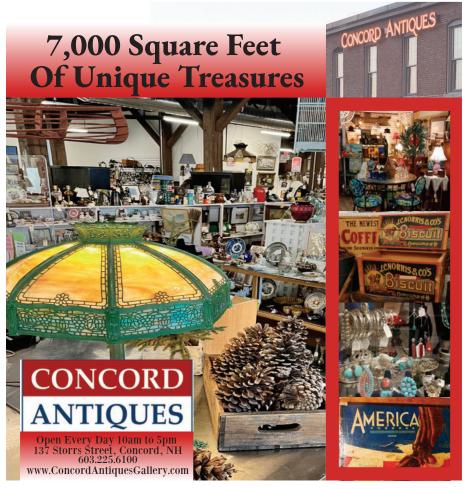
"You kind of hope you have a real cold spell where it just freezes solid



Courtesy

because the hardest time is when it's not sturdy enough to hold you to go clear it off," Philbrick said. "You just kind of let it go until it's totally frozen, and you can get on there and people can stand on it."

Once the ice freezes, though, it's usually solid until mid-to-late March.







Courtesy

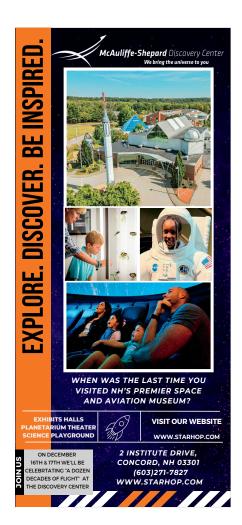
A tractor clears the ice on Tom Philbrick's outdoor hockey rink.

Maintenance of the surface also takes quite a bit of work. The rink has a tractor gate for one of Philbrick's neighbors to ride over the surface with his tractor and snowblower to

clear it off, especially after big storms.

On more typical days, Philbrick will shovel the ice off after the kids skate on it, and at night, he'll run more water over the surface.

"I've been out there on a lot of cold nights just going back and forth," Philbrick said. "I've had all kinds of different contraptions over the years, like hand-held Zamboni things. Now,





it's basically just me out there with traditional hose and nozzle, or just free pouring right out of the hose."

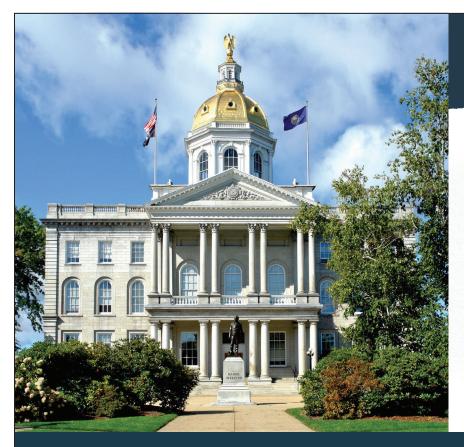
For Philbrick's three kids, now 25, 22 and 19 years old, the rink has always been a sanctuary for them and their Concord hockey teammates. Even for the kids in the neighborhood who didn't play hockey competitively, it's always been a lower-stakes way for them to try skating and shooting some pucks on net.

"It was never like hockey training camp," Philbrick said. "It was just, go out and have fun, keep the adults off the ice and have the kids just go out and play with a puck, tennis ball, whatever."

But now, with Philbrick's three sons getting older, the next year or two could be it for the family rink. He's keeping it running this winter for certain, hoping to provide opportunities for the younger kids in the neighborhood to come try it out.

"It's been a really cool rink, and it





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was very traditional for people just to come over and skate on it," he said. "For my kids' age, I'm probably the last of the guys that are still doing it. I think everybody else is smarter than me, and they gave it up."

March 2024 could be the end of Philbrick's rink, but it's undoubtedly served its purpose over the years.

"It's a lot of fun, and I certainly encourage people to do it because it's great having kids spend the whole winter outside on their own," Philbrick said. "It was never about an activity to make them better at hockey, but naturally you do get better at it. I think it's a nice change from the formality of going to hockey practice to just going out back and having fun." •

Tom Philbrick's yard in the South End is where many young skaters learned the fundamentals and the fun of hockey.

Courtesy











Ahmad Gazelle begins to shape a bowl on his potter's wheel at his studio on Airport Road in Concord. Gazelle finds a spiritual component to being a potter and ever since college, he has been known for his colorful pottery.

'It's a lot of work being a potter. I would say that I put my soul into it.'

By GEOFF FORESTER and JONATHAN VAN FLEET

Ahmad Gazelle was like a soft lump of clay when he made his first bowl by hand at age 8.

The small bowl crafted inside a little pottery studio in the Boys and Girls Club in Philadelphia solidified his artistic and professional future.

"I say that children and pottery have a lot in common," said the Concord artist and owner of Rainmaker Pottery. "They're both very impressionable."

His pottery teacher glazed and fired his first bowl a brilliant cobalt blue. To this day, Gazelle's cobalt blue pottery is his most popular.

Over the years, he's become a master at his trade, traveling around the world to observe different techniques, study different pottery styles, and learn about every type of clay and glaze he could find.



Geoff Forester
Some of Ahmad Gazelle's pottery in his studio on Airport Road in Concord. His pottery is known for vibrant colors.





He has lived in Mali, Senegal, Gambia, Turkey, Morocco, Malaysia, and Mauritania to name a few. When he was in Turkey he visited the historic town of Iznik, renowned for its finely detailed ceramic art.

He's known for his unique style, which stands out wherever he goes.

"What people like about my work and they've said it for 25 years that I've been doing it - they literally say it's the colors," he said. "That's what they used to say back in the 90s when that started, and they still say it now, it's the colors."

He strives to create majestic colors that are bright like the morning sun in spring. He uses different glazes to bring to life earthy colors, like the fading daylight touching autumn leaves. He uses his kiln, and different temperatures to conjure the colors he sees in his mind.

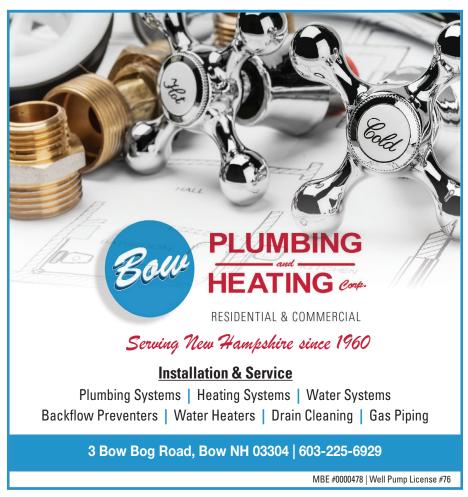
"It's a combination of knowing your clay knowing your glaze and knowing your kiln," he said about his



Ahmad Gazelle, the owner of Rainmaker Pottery, uses the motto "Earth, Wheel

work. "There's a Japanese saying, 'Know your kiln like you know your children.' That's because the kiln has temperaments. There are different atmospheres and temperatures inside

the kiln. It might be there's a sweet spot. There's a cool spot and there's a hot spot and it depends on what you're doing, what kind of clay you're using, what kind of glaze you're us-









Ahmad Gazelle has traveled around the world to observe different techniques, study different pottery styles, and learn about every type of clay and glaze he could find.

ing."

Not long after his youthful talent as a potter hardened his resolve to keep pursuing his art, he took more pottery classes in college. The professor told him he was a natural. He didn't choose pottery as much as it chose him.

"It was God's will that I ended up being a potter," he said. "It's a lot of

work being a potter. I would say that I put my soul into it."

Gazelle has given others their first chance to shape their own piece of pottery just like he did all those years ago, including a session at Future In Sight, formerly the New Hampshire Association for the Blind.

The workshop confirmed his belief that "You don't need to see to do very

symmetric work with clay," he wrote on his website.

He remains mindful and deliberate about his work and thinks back to a poem he learned about in college called "Centered."

"Any piece, you start with a ball of clay, but you can't shape into a vase, a cup or a bowl until it's centered," he explained. "And the analogy is that





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Ahmad Gazelle says, "It was God's will that I ended up being a potter. It's a lot of work being a potter. I would say that I put my soul into it."

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Ahmad Gazelle holds one of his creations before it has been put in the kiln.

you can't do anything with your life until you've centered yourself. You must center yourself first before you really can organize and develop

The principles of that metaphor – and his motto, "Earth, Wheel and Fire" – invisibly guide his hand and his mind as he works. It guides his life too.

For more information, go to www.rainmakerpottery.com. ◆





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Brussel's journey from food truck to festive catering includes holiday tips for hosting a dinner party

By SRUTHI GOPALAKRISHNAN

From its humble beginnings as a food truck stationed on Main Street in Hopkinton during the start of the pandemic, The Brussel, Emily Knowlton's catering venture, has now blossomed into a thriving business.

The family-run operation initially started as a once-a-week offering of pre-ordered meals and has evolved into a catering service, extending its culinary delights to weddings, holiday events, baby showers, corporate gatherings, and beyond.

With a degree in nutrition from the University of New Hampshire and a passion for cooking, Knowlton paved the way for this family-run enterprise.

"We are a family that loves food," she said, reflecting on their passion for exploration — be it in trying new restaurants, delving into diverse ethnic cuisines, or embarking on culinary adventures during their travels. That's our favorite thing."

Knowlton leads the charge alongside her "best chef" mother and sister.

The hallmark of The Brussel lies in its ever-evolving menus, individually tailored to each client's desires. The versatility is striking — comforting Mac n Cheese for rustic venues, farm-to-table concepts for summer outdoor affairs — The Brussel adapts seam-



Courtesy The Brussel

lessly.

Amid their repertoire of culinary delights, the miso soy salmon stands out as a crowd-pleaser, said Knowlton.

The culinary journey at The Brussel spans the globe, offering flavors from Italian and Middle Eastern to Asian Fusion and African cuisines.

Knowlton understands that events can be unpredictable, but one thing she guarantees is delicious food. "The best part of doing this is when people are so appreciative and happy about your food," she says, emphasizing the joy of being part of those moments.

With the holiday season approaching, Knowlton shares her tips for a stress-free and fun party.

Cook in advance

Preparing dishes in advance can significantly reduce the stress of cooking, allowing you to enjoy the company of your guests, says Knowlton. Dishes like braised meats, pasta, or vegetables are heartier and hold well when made ahead of time, giving you more flexibility in managing your time on the day of the event.

Try something different

Creating platters with various options, like a snack platter, is a creative and social way to serve food. It adds variety and allows guests to sample different flavors. This approach can also be less time-consuming than preparing a traditional three-course meal, giving you more time to socialize and enjoy the occasion.

"Do not be afraid to do something different," said Knowlton.

Avoid complicated dishes

Many individuals often opt for new recipes when hosting a party in an attempt to impress their guests. However, Knowlton suggests that sticking to family recipes can be a smart move, as you're already comfortable with the process and flavors. There is a low possibility of mishaps.

"These recipes have some emotion tied to it," explained Knowlton. "There's nostalgia and that always comes out better than something you've never tried before."

Use local ingredients

Incorporating local ingredients not only supports local farmers and businesses but also enhances the overall quality of your dishes. Local produce is often fresher and more flavorful, allowing you to create delicious meals without the need for excessive seasoning or elaborate cooking techniques.

Ask for help

Preparing a full spread for several guests from your kitchen can be a daunting and overwhelming task. So, Knowlton suggests people ask for help to make the cooking process more manageable.

"I think people try to do it on their own and I couldn't do what I do without help," said Knowlton. "I have a ton of help in the kitchen."

THE BEST EVER PASTA BOLOGNESE

Ingredients:

1 onion

1 celery stalk

1 carrot

½ to ¾ cup finely

chopped pancetta

Olive oil

1 lb ground beef (80/20)

0.5 to 0.75 lb ground

porl

Salt and pepper to taste White wine (dry)

¹/₃ to ¹/₂ cup tomato paste

1 bay leaf

Pinch of nutmeg

Chicken stock

1 cup milk

Long noodles or pasta of your choice



Courtesy The Brussel

- Add Pancetta to the pot and brown for approximately 6 minutes. Once browned, add the chopped vegetable mixture and cook until slightly softened (about 5-10 minutes).
- Return the browned ground beef to the pot.
 Deglaze the pot with white wine, scraping the bottom to loosen any brown bits.
- Add tomato paste, nutmeg, and bay leaf to the pot. Mix well.
- Pour in the chicken stock, and milk, and season with salt and pepper to taste.
- Cook the mixture over very low heat for 2½-3 hours. Ensure it's a slow

simmer, not boiling. The sauce should thicken and become rich.

- The final sauce should have a thick, meaty consistency.
- Serve the Bolognese sauce over your favorite long noodles. Enjoy your flavorful and hearty Bolognese! ◆

Directions

- Pulse onion, celery, and carrot in a food processor until finely chopped.
- In a large pot, brown the ground beef over medium heat, breaking it into small chunks. Once browned, remove the beef from the pot.





Best of Concord

ANNUAL READER SURVEY OF TOP PLACES IN AND AROUND THE CITY

2023

ABOUT THE CAPPIES

We all have our favorite spots in the city. Each spring, the Concord Monitor asks the community to weigh in on the best Concord has to offer across a host of categories. We thought it'd be helpful for our Around Concord readers to use this as a guide for their holiday shopping and their year-end financial planning.

ACTIVE AGING

Sponsored by Havenwood Heritage Heights

55+ Communities

- 1: Havenwood Heritage Heights
- 2: John H. Whitaker Assisting Living
- 3: Granite Ledges of Concord
- 4: Presidential Oaks
- 5: Riverwoods Manchester

Assisted Living

- 1: Havenwood Heritage Heights
- 2: John H. Whitaker Assisting Living
- 3: Granite Ledges of Concord
- 4: Presidential Oaks
- 5: Riverwoods Manchester

Home Health Care

- 1: Granite VNA
- 2: Home Instead
- 3: Granite Ledges of Concord
- 4: Franklin VNA and Hospice
- 5: Visiting Angels



Carter Hill Orchard in Concord did well with voters in the Pick-Your-Own category as well as Farm Stand. Read that category on Page 52.

Retirement Homes

- 1: Havenwood Heritage Heights
- 2: John H. Whitaker Place
- 3: Granite Ledges of Concord
- 4: Presidential Oaks
- 5: Merrimack County Nursing Home

Senior Center

- 1: GoodLife Programs & Activities
- 2: Concord Community Center
- 3: Slusser Senior Center
- 4: Suncook Senior Center

Senior Transportation Service

- 1: Concord Area Transit
- 2: HHH buses

ART & **ENTERTAINMENT**

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After Hours Hangout

- 1: El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant
- 2: The Common Man
- 3: Alan's
- 3: Cheers
- 5: Chuck's Barbershop

Art Gallery

- 1: Currier Art Museum
- 2: League of NH Craftsman
- 3: Kimball Jenkins
- 4: Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum
- 5: NH Telephone Museum

Birthday Party Venue

- 1: Funspot
- 2: Boutwell's Bowling
- 3: Chucksters
- 4: McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center
- 5: Beech Hill Farm

Brewery

- 1: Concord Craft
- 2: Kettlehead
- 3: Feathered Friend
- 4: Lithermans Limited
- 5: Henniker Brewing Co.

Cocktails

- 1: El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant
- 2: Barley House
- 3: Chuck's Barbershop
- 3: 0 Steaks
- 5: Red Blazer

Comedy

- 1: Capital Center for the Arts
- 2: Hatbox
- 3: Rex
- 4: Doris Ballard
- 5: The Colonial

Community Event

- 1: Market Days
- 2: Disability Justice Parade
- 3: The Exchange Andover
- 4: Concord Farmers Market
- 5: Midnight Merriment

Live Theatre

- 1: Capital Center for the Arts
- 2: Hatbox
- 3: Palace Theater
- 4: Colonial Theatre Laconia
- 4: The Flying Monkey

Margarita

- 1: El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant
- 2: Hermanos
- 3: Margaritas
- 4: La Caretta's
- 5: Casamigos

Movie Theater

- 1: Red River Theater
- 2: Hooksett Imax
- 3: Chunkys
- 4: BarnZ's Meredith
- 4: Regal
- 4: Smitty's

Museum

- 1: McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center
- 2: Currier Art Museum
- 3: NH Telephone Museum
- 4: Mt Kearsarge Indian Museum
- 5: Canterbury Shaker Village
- 5: Children's Museum of New Hampshire

Music Venue

- 1: Bank of NH Stage
- 2: Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion
- 3: Hatbox
- 4: Tupelo Theater
- 5: Lakeport Opera House

Night Club

- 1: Strange Brew
- 2: Area 23
- 3: Chuck's Barbershop
- 3: Tandy's

Winery

- 1: Labelle
- 2: Hermit Woods Winery
- 3: Gilmanton Vineyards
- 4: Crazy Cat
- 5: Zorvino Vineyards

AUTOMOTIVE

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Auto Body

- 1: Guimond's Autobody
- 2: Above All
- 2: Key Collision of Concord
- 4: American Brake Service
- 5: J. Schoch & Son
- 5: Jelleys

Auto Detailing

- 1: Concord Auto Spa
- 2: Drew's Design & Detailing
- 3: Gunnars Auto Detailing
- 4: Come To You
- 5: Driveby Suds

Auto Parts

- 1: Sanel
- 2: Batteries Plus Bulbs
- 3: AutoZone
- 4: Gilbert Driveline Service & Supply, Inc
- 5: Advanced Auto

Auto Repair

- 1: Carlson's Motor Sales
- 2: Weed Family Automotive
- 3: Next Level Auto
- 4: Grappone
- 5: Village Street Garage

Car Wash

- 1: Golden Nozzle
- 2: Concord Auto Spa
- 3: Integra
- 4: Black Dog Care Wash
- 5: 30 Pines Car Wash

New Car Dealership

- 1: Grappone
- 2: Nissan
- 3: Banks
- 4: Lovering Auto
- 5: Autofair

Oil & Lube

- 1: Carlson's Motor Sales
- 2: Next Level Auto
- 3: Grappone
- 4: Prompto 10 Minute Oil Change-Concord
- 5: T Cs
- 5: The Car Doctors
- 5: Village Street Garage

RV Dealership

- 1: Campers World
- 2: Cold Springs RV
- 3: Northwood RV
- 4: Outdoor sports center
- 5: Campers Inn

Tires

- 1: Carlson's Motor Sales
- 2: Next Level Auto
- 3: Tire Warehouse

- 4: Weed Family Automotive
- 5: Townfare Tire

Used Car Dealership

- 1: Carlson Motors
- 2: Tim's Truck Capital
- 3: Grappone
- 4: Nissan
- 4: Nucar Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Tilton

DINING

Sponsored by the **Washington Street Cafe**

Asian Food

- 1: Ichiban Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Bar
- 2: Moritomo
- 3: Tea Garden
- 4: Szechuan Gardens
- 5: Siam Orchid

Barbecue

- 1: Smokeshow Barbeque
- 2: Washington Street Cafe
- 3: Smoke Shack, Boscawen
- 4: Georgia's Northside
- 5: Beefside

Breakfast Fare

- 1: Tuckers
- 2: Hanna's 1950's Diner
- 3: Red Arrow
- 4: Post
- 5: Windmill

Buffet

- 1: Red Blazer
- 2: Alan's
- 3: Tilt'N Diner
- 4: Kellerhaus
- 5: Cannoli Shop

Dinner

- 1: Revival Kitchen & Bar
- 2: Red Blazer

- 3: El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant
- 4: Puritan Backroom
- 5: T-Bones

Family Friendly

- 1: Kimball's Cav'ern
- 2: T-Bones
- 3: Alan's
- 3: Cheers
- 5: Red Arrow Diner

Fine Dining

- 1: Angelina's
- 2: O Steak & Seafood Concord
- 3: Red Blazer
- 4: Revival Kitchen & Bar
- 5: Copper Door

Italian

- 1: Angelina's
- 2: Fratellos
- 3: CC Tomatoes
- 4: Villagios
- 5: Olive Garden

Lunch fare

- 1: Washington Street Café & Catering
- 2: In A Pinch Cafe & Bakery
- 3: Beefside
- 4: Red Blazer
- 4: Smokeshow Barbeque

Mexican Restaurant

- 1: El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant
- 2: Hermanos
- 3: Casamigos
- 4: La Caretta
- 5: Margaritas

Outdoor Dining

- 1: El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant
- 2: Cheers
- 3: Margarita's
- 4: Barley House
- 4: Tandy's

Romantic

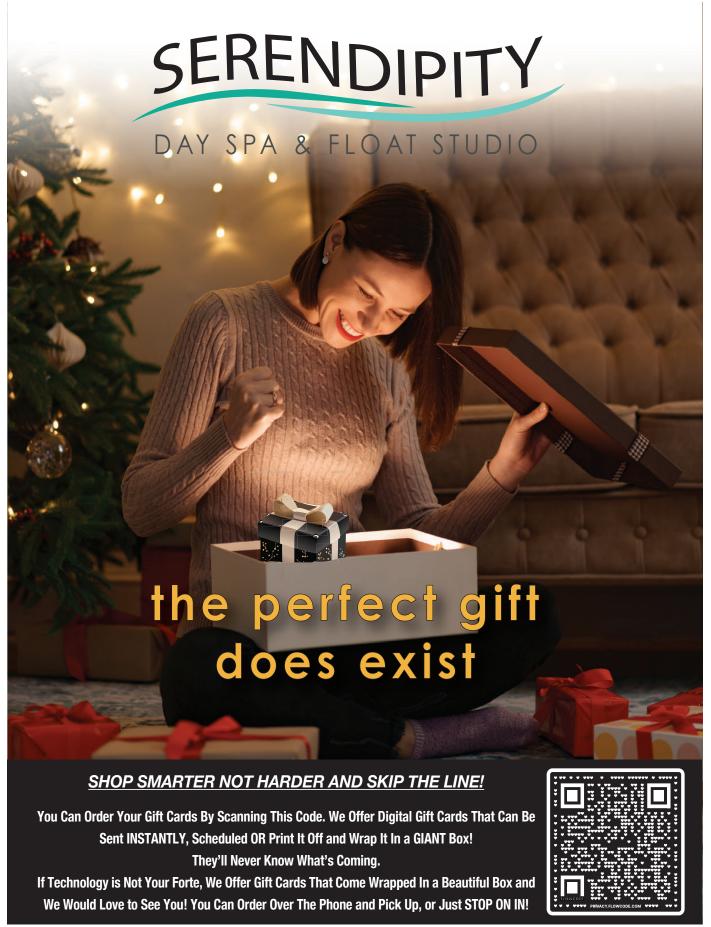
- 1: Angelina's
- 2: Bedford Village Inn
- 3: Red Blazer
- 4: Revival Kitchen & Bar
- 5: Centennial Inn



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Seafood

- 1: Makris Lobster & Steak House
- 2: Johnson's Steak & Seafood
- 3: Weathervane
- 4: Dipsey Doodle Dairy Bar
- 5: Beefside
- 5: Newicks

Steakhouse

- 1: Tuckaway Tavern
- 2: Longhorn
- 3: O Steak & Seafood
- 4: Chop House
- 5: Texas Roadhouse, Manchester

Take-Out

- 1: Constantly Pizza
- 2: Washington Street Café
- 3: Tilton House of Pizza
- 4: Beefside
- 5: Red Blazer

Vegetarian Fare

- 1: Washington Street Café & Catering
- 2: Concord Co-Op
- 2: The Kitchen Warner

- 4: Col's Kitchen
- 5: Live Juice

FUN FOOD

Sponsored by Constantly Pizza

Bakery

- 1: Wyatt's Wicked Goods
- 2: Bread and Chocolate
- 3: Crust & Crumb
- 4: Red Blazer
- 5: Jacques

Burgers

- 1: Tuckaway Tavern
- 2: The Kitchen Warner
- 3: Barley House
- 4: 5 Guys
- 4: Vibe

Chicken Wings/Tenders

1: Puritan Backroom - Manchester, NH

- 2: The Kitchen Warner
- 3: Flannel Tavern
- 4: Cavern
- 4: Red Blazer

Coffee

- 1: Revelstoke Coffee
- 2: Dunkin
- 3: True Confections Candies and Gifts
- 4: White Mountain
- 5: Brothers Cortado

Dessert

- 1: Wyatt's Wicked Goods
- 2: Red Blazer
- 3: Crust and Crumb
- 4: Bread and Chocolate
- 5: Cannoli Stop

Doughnuts

- 1: Brothers
- 2: NH Donut Co.
- 3: Chichester Country Store
- 4: Dunkin
- 5: Market Basket





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Fried Food

- 1: Beefside
- 2: Makris Lobster & Steak House
- 3: Flannel Tavern
- 4: Arnie's
- 5: Beach Plum

Ice Cream

- 1: Frekey's Dairy Freeze
- 2: Beech Hill Ice Cream Barn
- 3: Jordan's
- 4: Arnie's
- 5: True Confections Candies and Gifts

Pizza

- 1: Constantly Pizza
- 2: Sal's Pizza
- 2: Tilton House of Pizza
- 4: Riverside Contoocook
- 5: New Hampshire Pizza Co.

Subs

- 1: Constantly Pizza
- 2: Nadeau's
- 3: Chief's Place
- 4: Tilton House of Pizza
- 5: Moe's subs

Sushi

- 1: Ichiban
- 2: Moritomo
- 3: Splendid Sushi
- 4: Market Basket
- 5: Concord Food Coop

HEALTH

Sponsored by Serendipity Day Spa

Barber Shop

- 1: Buzz Ink
- 2: Big House Barber
- 3: Lucky's
- 4: American Barber
- 5: South Mane

Gym

- 1: Thrive Group Fitness/Jazzercise of Concord
- 2: Capital Fitness
- 3: Kyle Brown Performance
- 4: The Zoo
- 5: Ascent Training and Performance

Hair Salon

- 1: Jane Sylvia Salon
- 2: Flora's Hair Salons
- 3: From the Top
- 4: Euphoria
- 4: Simplicity

Manicure/Pedicure

- 1: Serendipity Day Spa
- 2: Roy Nails
- 3: Strength and Power Massage
- 4: Pure Indulgence Day Spa
- 4: Signature Nails

Massage Therapist

- 1: Bodywork by Beki Beki Essig
- 2: Chichester Massage & Bodywork Center
- 3: Body Shifts Massage
- 4: Serendipity Day Spa
- 5: Strength and Power Massage

Spa

- 1: Serendipity Day Spa & Float Studio
- 2: SansAge Medical Aesthetics
- 3: Spa Specialist Beauty Within
- 4: Kelly Chace
- 4: Pure Indulgence Spa

Tanning

- 1: Turbo Tan
- 2: Serendipity Day Spa
- 3: Erin Hallgren Spa Studio
- 4: Misty's Magic Mist
- 5: Sun Tan City

Tattoo Parlor

- 1: Buzz Ink
- 2: Arrows and Embers
- 3: Capital City
- 4: Midnight Moon
- 5: Blood Oath Tattoo
- 5: Eternal Alchemy Tattoo

MEDICAL

Sponsored by **Trend Acupuncture**

Acupuncturist

- 1: Trend Acupuncture
- 2: Amy Grant Concord Family Acupuncture
- 3: 5 Seasons Acupuncture
- 4: Alternative pain management

Audiologist

- 1: Better Hearing Center LLC
- 2: Alliance Hearing Center
- 2: New England Audiology
- 4: Audiology Specialists LLC

Cancer Care

- 1: Payson
- 2: Dana Farber
- 3: Dartmouth Hitchcock
- 4: Brigham and Woman in Dover
- 5: Elliot Solinsky Center

Cardiac Care

- 1: Concord Hospital Cardiology
- 2: Catholic Medical Center
- 3: Dr Moossavi
- 4: Dr. Dillon
- 5: Chodosh

Childbirth

- 1: The Family Place at CH
- 2: Elliot Hospital
- 3: The Moms Place @ Catholic Medical Center

Chiropractor

- 1: Crossroads Chiropractic
- 2: Splendore Family Chiropractic
- 3: Precision Chiropractic
- 4: Sellar Chiropractic
- 5: Susan Burpee

Dentist

- 1: Generations Dental Care
- 2: Dr. Greg Hillary
- 3: Dr. Orzechowski and Dr. Arndt
- 4: Grace Family
- 5: Caring Family Dentistry

Emergency Care

- 1: Concord Hospital
- 2: Convenient MD
- 3: Elliot Hospital ER
- 4: CMC
- 4: Elliot Rivers Edge

Eve Doctor

- 1: EYEFIX Family Optical LLC
- 2: Sacco Eyecare
- 3: Concord Eye
- 4: Apex Eye Care
- 5: Hogan Eye Associates

Hospital

- 1: Concord Hospital
- 2: DHMC
- 3: Elliot
- 4: CMC
- 5: MGH

Orthodontics

- 1: Generations Dental
- 2: Luba Richter
- 3: Vermette
- 4: Dr. Jon Samaha
- 5: Dr. John E. Beinoras, D.D.S.

Pediatric Care

- 1: Generations Dental Care
- 2: Concord Pediatrics
- 3: DH Concord Pedi
- 4: Crossroads Family Medicine
- 5: Concord Family Medicine

Pediatric Dentistry

- 1: Generations Dental Care
- 2: Concord Pediatric Dentistry
- 3: Grace Family Dentistry
- 4: Lakes Region Children's Dentistry
- 4: Linder Dental

Physical Therapist

- 1: Ross Childs, PT
- 2: Progressive Therapy Services
- 3: Concord Ortho
- 4: Coppola
- 5: CPTE

Physician

- 1: Amichai Kilchevsky
- 2: Dr. Nicole Varasteh
- 3: Concord Family Medicine
- 4: Concord Internal Medicine
- 5: Family Tree Healthcare- Hopkinton

PETS

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Boarder

- 1: No Monkey Business Dog Training
- 2: Canine Cottage
- 2: Finlayson's Pet Care Center
- 4: Barn Dog Inn
- 4: Pembroke Animal Hospital

Groomer

- 1: Natural Instincts Holistic Pet Spa
- 2: Pawtopia
- 3: Mutt Hutt
- 4: A Furry Affair
- 5: Bark Now
- 5: Finlayson's Pet Care Center

Pet Supply

- 1: Rue Bakers Pet Supply
- 2: For the Love of Dogs Everywhere
- 3: Sandy's Pet
- 4: Chewy
- 5: Osborne's Agway Concord

Trainer

- 1: No Monkey Business Dog Training
- 2: Finlayson's Pet Care Center
- 3: Inspire K-9's Training Center
- 4: Doggonit Training
- 5: Domestic Dog Training
- 5: Sit Means Sit

Veterinarian

- 1: Pembroke Animal Hospital
- 1: Russell
- 3: Deerfield Veterinary Service
- 4: Cilley
- 5: Blackwater

SERVICES

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Bank

- 1: Merrimack County Savings Bank
- 2: Ledyard National Bank
- 3: TD Bank
- 4: Citizens Bank
- 5: Bank of New Hampshire
- 5: Franklin Savings Bank

Best Place to Work

- 1: The Rowley Agency Inc
- 2: Shaker Road School
- 3: Roan Family Funeral Homes
- 4: Amoskeag Beverages
- 5: Carlson's Motor Sales

Butcher Shop

- 1: The Wine'ing Butcher
- 2: Tuckaway

- 3: Concord Beef and Seafood
- 4: Hannaford
- 4: Lemay & Sons Beef Packaging House

Contractor

- 1: R.S. Audley Incorporated
- 2: Cobb Hill Construction
- 3: Aspen Ridge Builders
- 4: Jim Duval Building & Remodeling
- 5: JH Spain

Credit Union

- 1: New Hampshire Federal Credit Union
- 2: Granite State Credit Union
- 3: Service Credit Union
- 4: Northeast Credit Union
- 5: Triangle Credit Union

Daycare

- 1: Shaker Road School
- 2: Woodside
- 3: East Side Learning Center
- 4: First Start/Second Start
- 4: YMCA

Dry Cleaner

- 1: Cleary Cleaners
- 2: Arnos

Electrician

- 1: O'Keefe & Flanagan Electric
- 2: Live Free Heating Cooling Electric
- 3: Heritage Home Service
- 4: Irish Electric Corp.
- 5: Blay Electric

Financial Advisor

- 1: Ledyard Financial Advisors
- 2: NH Trust
- 3: Ron Valpey
- 4: Fidelity
- 5: Shawn Millerick

Flooring

- 1: ADF Flooring
- 2: Bailey's Custom Carpet
- 3: Konopka Flooring
- 4: Karpets by Kerry
- 5: New London Floorcraft

Funeral Home

- 1: Roan Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services
- 2: Phaneuf Funeral Homes & Crematorium
- 3: Bennett Funeral Home



- 4: Waters
- 5: Chadwick's Funeral New London

Greenhouse

- 1: Nicole's Greenhouse & Florist
- 2: Flora Bella
- 3: Murray's Greenhouse
- 4: Black Forest
- 5: Cole Gardens

Hotel

- 1: Hotel Concord
- 2: The Centennial Hotel
- 3: Hampton Inn Concord/Bow
- 4: Adventure Suites
- 5: Holiday Inn

HVAC

- 1: Heritage Home Service
- 2: Live Free Heating Cooling Electric
- 3: Desmaris
- 4: Minery Heating and cooling
- 5: Bow Plumbing and Heating
- 5: Paul The Plumber

Insurance Agency

- 1: The Rowley Agency Inc
- 2: Davis & Towle
- 3: State Farm
- 4: The Davis Agency
- 5: Comparion Insurance Agency

Kitchen & Bath

- 1: Shapiro Bathrooms
- 2: Vintage Kitchens
- 3: All About Kitchens
- 3: Belletetes

Landscaper

- 1: Tasker Landscaping LLC
- 2: Saucier Scapes
- 3: Thomson Lawn Care
- 4: Brochu
- 5: Belknap Lanscaping

Law Firm

- 1: Annis & Zellers PLLC
- 2: Greenblott & O'Rourke PLLC
- 3: Shaheen & Gordon, PA

- 4: Devine, Millimet & Branch
- 5: McLane Middleton

Plumber

- 1: Heritage Home Service
- 2: Bow Plumbing and Heating
- 3: Braydin Plumbing and Heating
- 4: Leonard's plumbing and heating, Loudon
- 5: Al Terry
- 5: Legendary P&H

Power Equipment

- 1: Concord Tractor
- 2: Chappel
- 3: Greenlands
- 3: MB Tractor & Equipment
- 5: Knoxland

Private School

- 1: Shaker Road School
- 2: St. John Regional School
- 3: Bishop Brady High School
- 4: Tilton School
- 5: Concord Christian Academy

Real Estate Agency

- 1: Century 21 Circa 72, Inc.
- 2: April Dunn & Associates
- 3: BHHS Verani Realty- Concord
- 4: Kelli York BHHS Verani Realty
- 5: BH&G The Masiello Group

Real Estate Agent

- 1: Kathleen Gallagher Family Team
- 2: Casey Destefano
- 3: Kelli York BHHS Verani Realty
- 4: Terrence Murphy at Granite Life Realty
- 5: Suzanne Zellers

Roofer

- 1: F.B.I. Contracting
- 2: New Heights Roofing
- 3: Queen City Roofing
- 4: Jasmor Properities
- 5: Colby Roofing
- 5: Therrian
- 5: Vaillencourt

Septic Service

- 1: Best Septic
- 2: St. Onge Septic
- 3: Felix Septic Service
- 4: Byron's Septic
- 5: Henniker Septic Service



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Travel Agency

- 1: Terrapin Tours
- 2: AAA
- 3: Penny Pitou Travel Agency
- 4: New England Coach, Raymond, NH
- 4: Vacation by Donna Pelletier

SHOPPING

Sponsored by Apple House Furniture

Antiques

- 1: Concord Antiques
- 2: The Exchange Andover
- 3: Hilltop
- 4: Parker French
- 5: Junction 71

Beer/Wine Specialty Store

- 1: NH State Liquor Store
- 2: Wine On Main
- 3: Capital Beverages
- 4: Concord Food Co-op
- 5: Oddball

Book Store

- 1: Gibson's Bookstore
- 2: MainStreet Bookends
- 3: BAM
- 4: Innisfree Bookshop
- 5: Concord Antiques

CBD Store

- 1: Your CBD Store
- 2: Clearly Balanced Days
- 3: Concord Food Co-op
- 4: Natural Wellness Corner

Chocolate/Candy Store

- 1: Granite State Candy Shoppe
- 2: True Confections Candies and Gifts
- 3: Van Otis
- 4: Kellerhause
- 5: Lickee's & Chewy's Candies & Creamery

Clothing Alteration / Tailor

- 1: Britches of Concord
- 2: Seams to Fit
- 3: Susana's
- 4: Arnos
- 5: David's Bridal Nashua

Clothing Store

- 1: M&C Clothing and Gifts
- 2: Gondwana
- 3: JC Penney
- 4: Marshalls
- 5: Fabulous Looks
- 5: LDR Lilise Designer Resale

Consignment Shop

- 1: M&C Clothing and Gifts
- 2: Hilltop
- 3: Lilise
- 4: Corey's in Hooksett
- 5: Dandelion Children's Consignment

Furniture Store

- 1: Cheney's Apple House Furniture
- 2: Endicott Furniture
- 3: Harris Family Furniture
- 4: Concord Antiques
- 5: Grevior Furniture

Gift Shop

- 1: True Confections Candies and Gifts
- 2: The Paper Store
- 3: Viking House
- 4: Capitol Craftsmen
- 5: Calef's Country Store

Gourmet Food

- 1: Copper Door
- 2: Monadnock Oil & Vinegar
- 3: Viking House
- 4: Calef's Country Store
- 5: 0's

Grocery Store

- 1: Market Basket
- 2: Hannaford
- 3: Concord Food Coop
- 4: Aldi's
- 5: Shaw's

Home Décor

- 1: Budget Blinds of Concord & Hanover
- 2: Cheney's Apple House Furniture
- 3: The Exchange Andover
- 4: Home Goods Concord
- 5: Cobblestone

Natural Supplements Store

- 1: Granite State Natural Foods
- 2: Concord Food Co-op
- 3: Natural Wellness Corner

- 4: Whole Health Concord
- 5: Sunflower Natural Foods

Shoes

- 1: Joe Kings
- 2: Millenium Running
- 3: Runners Alley
- 4: Simply Birkenstock
- 5: Red Shoe Barn

Skincare Shop

- 1: Serendipity Spa
- 2: Concord Food Co-op
- 3: Clearly Balanced Days
- 4: Concord Med Spa
- 5: A Newfound Spa

Sports Equipment

- 1: Dicks Sporting Goods
- 2: S & W Sports
- 3: Piche's Sports
- 4: Capital Sporting Goods
- 5: Ken Jones

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Sponsored by YMCA of Concord

Best spot to take visitors

- 1: Downtown Concord
- 2: McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center
- 3: Franconia Notch
- 4: The Exchange Andover
- 5: M/S Mount Washington

Bowling Alley

- 1: Boutwells
- 2: Lakeside Lanes
- 3: FunSpot
- 4: Yankee Lanes

Campground

- 1: The Friendly Beaver
- 2: Bear Brook
- 3: Moose Hillock Camping Resort
- 4: White Lake
- 5: Lazy River
- 5: Lost River

Farm Stand

- 1: LaValley Farms
- 2: Apple Hill Farm
- 3: Concord Farmers Market
- 4: Carter Hill
- 5: Moulton Farm

Fitness Center

- 1: Thrive Group Fitness/Jazzercise of Concord
- 2: YMCA of Concord
- 3: Worthy Mind & Movement
- 4: Ascent Training and Performance
- 5: Planet Fitness

Golf Course

- 1: Angus Lea golf course
- 2: Duston Country Club
- 3: Beaver Meadow
- 4: Concord Country Cub
- 5: Bolduc Park
- 5: Canterbury Woods

Golf Equipment

- 1: Dicks
- 2: Beaver Meadow Golf Course
- 3: Piche's Sports
- 4: Canterbury Woods

Indoor Sports Center

- 1: YMCA of Concord
- 2: NH Sports Dome
- 3: Elite Sports Academy
- 4: Milford

Marina

- 1: Winnisquam Marine
- 2: Irwin
- 3: Fay's
- 4: Green's Marine
- 4: Paugus Bay Marina

Martial Arts

- 1: Steve DeMasco martial arts
- 2: Bodyworks
- 3: NH Kicks
- 4: White Tiger Karate Tilton

Pool Dealer

- 1: Paquette Pools & Spas
- 2: Blue Dolphin Pools
- 3: Empire Pools

PYO Farm

- 1: Carter Hill Orchard
- 2: Apple Hill
- 3: Meadow Ledge Farm
- 4: Gould Hill
- 5: Rossview
- 5: Stone Mountain Farm

Riding Stables

- 1: Back in the Saddle
- 2: Townsends in Pembroke NH
- 3: Wind Hill Farm
- 4: Paradis Farm
- 5: Thorberchon Farm

Ski Resort

- 1: Pats Peak Ski Area
- 2: Ragged Mountain
- 3: Gunstock
- 4: Cannon Mountian
- 4: Sunapee

Summer Camp

- 1: Shaker Road School
- 2: Concord Parks and Rec
- 3: Boy's & Girl's Clubs
- 4: Lego your Mind

Summer Camp 4: Wanakee

Yoga Studio

- 1: Thrive Group Fitness/Jazzercise of Concord
- 2: Worthy Mind & Movement
- 3: Sharing Yoga
- 4: Blossom Yoga
- 5: Hot House NH Yoga and Pilates

WEDDINGS

Sponsored by Nicole's Greenhouse and Florist

Bridal & Formal Wear

- 1: A Day to Remember
- 2: Britches of Concord
- 3: Country Bridal

Caterer

- 1: The Brussel Custom Catering and Events
- 2: Washington Street Café & Catering
- 3: Red Blazer
- 4: Smokeshow Barbeque
- 5: Portsmouth Catering (Salisbury, NH)



Courtesy

Barn at Bull Meadow

Florist

- 1: Lily Flower Floral Designs
- 2: Nicole's Greenhouse & Florist
- 3: Cobblestone
- 4: Sweet Lavender Floral Desgin
- 5: Marshalls

Jeweler

- 1: Capitol Craftsman
- 2: Goldsmiths Gallery
- 3: Belman's
- 4: Speer's Fine Jewelry
- 5: Tates Gallery

Limousine

- 1: Grace
- 2: Primo Limousine
- 3: Executive
- 4: Lakes Region Airport Shuttle Services

Photographer

- 1: Creative Focus
- 2: Robin Easler Photography
- 3: Hinesight Photography
- 4: A Thousand Words Photography
- 4: Courtney Heath

Wedding Cake

- 1: Jacques Pastry Shop
- 2: Red Blazer
- 3: Sweetened Memories Bakery
- 4: Fredericks
- 5: Wicked Good Bakery

Wedding Venue

- 1: Barn at Bull Meadow Weddings & Events
- 2: Dell Lea
- 3: Kimball Jenkins
- 4: Pats Peak Banquet Center
- 5: Castle in the Clouds

POETRY

Where Dairy **Cows Grow**

dairy cows wait, lined up in a row in a barn, on the farm, where dairy cows grow; they wait for the farmer to bring them outdoors to a sky without walls, to a field without floors;

they live on a hill where their view is unmatched the mountains are glued to the meadow that's patched with buttercups, dandelions, big black-eyed susans; to think that these cows have it rough – a delusion!

they are loved by their farmer in rain, snow, and gale, no matter the volume that fills the milk pail; hear the loud bellows when farmer appears, watch them dash to the meadow, devoid of all fears:

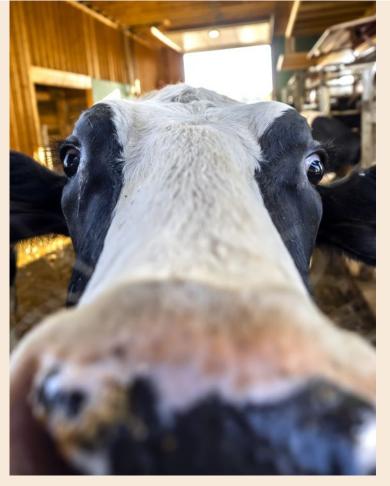
dairy cows wait, lined up in a row pleased to live on the farm where dairy cows grow; they wait for the farmer to bring them outdoors to a sky without walls, to a field without floors...

- Thom Smith

This poem is reprinted from "Visual Verse: Rooted in New Hampshire: Farming in the Lake Sunapee Region" (2022). Thom Smith of New Hampton is a teacher for the Kearsarge Regional School District, in New London. His latest poetry collection is "Breaking Formation: A Flock of Visual Verse," an artistic poetry book about New England birds with illustrations by Heith Vierow.

Milking cows at the Barlett Farm Dairy on Josiah Bartlett Road in East Concord.

Geoff Forester file photos







Share with us >>

Do you have poetry or scenic images you'd like to share? Send them to editor@aroundconcord.com.



Swenson Granite Works

Swenson Granite Company employees march along Pleasant Street in 1915 to celebrate Concord's 150th anniversary.

The company we keep

"While some of the industries of our city are in fairly good condition, there are a few which have had a hard struggle for existence during the business depression of the last few years. It is to be hoped that this struggle is now over and that they will enter upon a period of long-continued prosperity."

- Mayor Harry G. Sargent, 1901

Mayor Harry G. Sargent had great hopes for Concord on the fourth

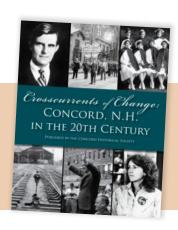
Tuesday in January 1901, and perhaps the most important hope was that the country had recovered from the economic panic of 1893. Prosperity of the city, Sargent said in his mayoral address, depended upon the "success, comfort and prosperity of the workingmen."

The previous year had been difficult. The Abbot-Downing Company, crafters of the Concord Coach, suddenly and without explanation, transferred the ownership of the company. Concord Land and Water Power Company was in receivership, never able to recover from the floods of 1895 and 1896 and other fiscal strains. Although both forged forward into the twentieth century, two powerhouses of the community had faltered. One succumbed. The other stood witness to the century.

Learn More

'Crosscurrents of Change" Concord, N.H. in the 20th Century'

This 400-plus page hardcover edition introduces you to the people who helped shape a city, and it takes you through tragedy and triumph with some of the defining moments in Concord history. To purchase a copy or to learn more, visit concordhistoricalsociety.org/store.





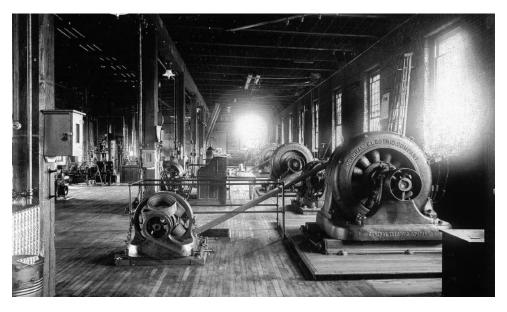
New Hampshire Historical Society

This famous painting by John Burgum depicts the transportation of 30 Concord Coaches to Omaha, Nebraska.

Concord was affected by the twentieth-century global expansion of technology, transportation and communication. Electricity became available for commercial use in Concord before 1900 and spurred technological advancements in the production of goods. The increased productivity stimulated the local economy. Advancements in transportation lowered costs. Concord's proximity to rail lines, the airport and interstate highways all further enhanced its evolution. The expanded availability of raw materials allowed ingenuity to blossom. Finally, nothing could have been produced and distributed without communications linking everything together.

Mayor Sargent may never have envisioned a century that changed everything. Innovations emerged in science, medicine, religion, politics, technology and culture. Society shifted and adapted. And through every minute of these hundred years, Concord toiled.

This excerpt written by Jennifer Kretovic appeared in Chapter 16 of "Crosscurrents of Change."



The interior of Concord Electric's original powerhouse at . Sewalls Falls Dam first opened in 1894. The General Electric three-phase generators used leather belts manufactured by Page Belting Company.

Unitil Corporation

THE SCENE



Geoff Forester photos

Mark Wunschel packs up to deliver Meals on Wheels from the distribution site on Commercial Street in Concord on Oct. 17. Meals on Wheels is looking for drivers in several locations, including the Concord area.

They're standing out





Helen St. Pierre of Old Dogs Go To Helen rescue holds Fletch, the oldest dog she takes care of. Fletch is blind and deaf and is one of 13 animals she is currently taking care of at her Epsom farm.

LEFT: Lillia Burtt, 5, of Webster walks up the aisle inside the Boscawen Congregation Church during their second annual Trunk or Treat on Oct. 30.



Mary-Ann Juma, left, and Ines Ouedraogo dance at the annual Multicultural Festival at Keach Park in Concord.





ABOVE: Third grade teacher Elizabeth Duclos of Pembroke Hill Elementary School has been named NH Teacher of the Year.

LEFT: It was another terrific turnout for the annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Concord.

RIGHT: 2021 Bow High graduate Colby Rousseau was recognized among the best Mazda technicians in the country.



A THOUSAND WORDS



Alex Bienieck of Wentworth works on an ice sculpture of the Old Man on the Mountain on the State House lawn during the ice sculpture competition during the annual Winter Fest in Concord.

Warm up your winter

For at least one weekend in January, Concord is taken over by hockey enthusiasts and those looking to celebrate all things winter. This year, that weekend is Jan. 26-28. Intown Concord's 6th annual Winter Festival is highlighted by an ice carving competition Jan. 26 and 27 that draws visitors downtown. The 13th annual Black Ice Pond Hockey Championships brings players and families to White Park for three days of action on Jan. 26-28, weather permitting.

Contribute

Welcome to 'A Thousand Words,' a quarterly feature that ends the magazine with an iconic photo. Share your image with us, and we may be able to use it in a coming issue. Only high-resolution photos are accepted, and despite the intent of the feature, we will need to accompany your image with a few words. So please send your photo and a brief description to editor@aroundconcord.com.





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