

*Around*

WINTER 2024-25 VOLUME 17, NO. 4 \$4.95

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A black tray filled with several kimbap rolls, some cut to show the filling of rice, vegetables, and meat. The rolls are garnished with sesame seeds. A pair of chopsticks is tucked into the tray, and a decorative paper sleeve with orange maple leaf patterns and blue calligraphy is placed to the right. The background is a dark, textured surface.

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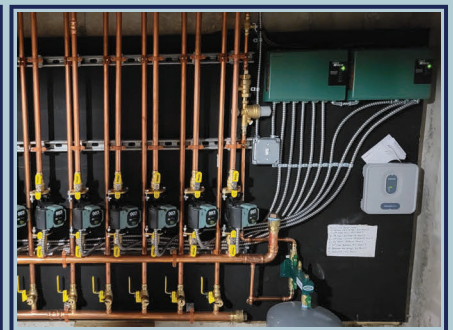
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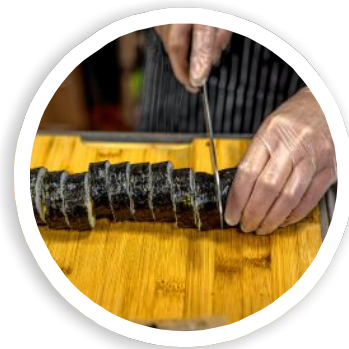
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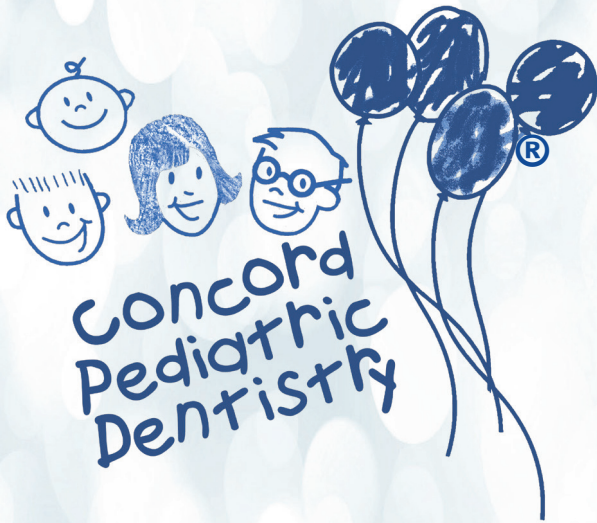
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Cover photo by Geoff Forester



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## THE TIP LIST

# Fast faves



Born and raised in Canterbury, **Madison Hendrick** knows all about the Capital Region of New Hampshire. This serves her well as manager of member engagement for the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce. Finding ways to get involved in her local community is a passion for Hendrick, and she wants others to experience the places she's come to love too. "Whatever it is that I am looking for – entertainment, a specific food, or a service like a hairdresser or auto service, someone is willing to give you a great referral and point you in the right direction." Here are her recommendations for all things Concord, from food to festivities.



### Savory soups

Soup season is a year-round event, and you'll find excellent onion soup gratinee from **The Red Blazer** or the tomato soup from the **110 Grill**.



**Chuck Nemiccolo** makes a coffee at **The Brothers' Cortado** coffee house at Bicentennial Square in Concord.

### The morning grind

Coffee is a must before running errands. **The Brothers' Cortado** and **Revelstoke** are two favorites. And you can't go wrong with an iced black coffee or by treating yourself to an iced vanilla chai latte!



A used high-end bag at Lilise Designer Resale, a vintage and designer consignment store on North Main Street.

## Giving clothes a second life

A new favorite find is **Capital Vintage**, a vintage clothing store on Pleasant Street. They have a little bit of everything, and it is neat to see the small pieces of history and know that they are finding a second life (like the vintage Miller Racing jacket snagged on a recent visit). Check out **Lilise Designer Resale** on Main Street too, another great consignment shop.



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Sing holiday classics with the cows at this family-friendly event. Peruse the German Christmas market featuring local vendors, and explore the farm store stocked with specialty items. Brookford Farm, 250 West Road, in Canterbury. Visit [brookfordfarm.com/events](http://brookfordfarm.com/events).



Marcel Ledoux

Dec. 7 and 8  
**Holiday Spectacular**

Concord Dance Academy presents "A Holiday Spectacular." This popular show at the City Auditorium opens with a kick line and includes Santa, photos, sweets, raffles, and gifts to community causes. Shows are at 1 and 6 on Dec. 7 and 1 p.m. on Dec. 8. Tickets \$25 at the box office on the show days. For info, call 603-26-0200 or at [office@concorddanceacademy.com](mailto:office@concorddanceacademy.com).

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Dec. 8

## Holiday Pops

Ring in the Holiday Season with the annual yuletide program featuring the Capital Jazz Orchestra and guest vocalists CJ & Laura Poole, along with narrator Laura Knoy, formerly of NHPR, who will be reciting two world premiere pieces based on "Silent Night" & "The Little Drummer Boy" as composed by CJO arranger and former leader of the US Navy Commodores Jazz Band, Jerry Ascione. The show begins at 4 p.m. and doors open at 3 p.m. on Dec. 8 at the Chubb Theatre at CCA, 44 S. Main St., Concord. ccanh.com.

Dec. 14

## Nutcracker tradition

Turning Pointe Center of Dance Presents "The Nutcracker" at 2 p.m. For 42 years, this family-friendly holiday treat directed by Lisa Drouin Goff has presented a magical experience for audiences of all ages. Tickets are \$23 in advance and \$25 at the door, and online at turningpointecenterofdance.com. For Info: 603-485-8710 or TPCD@comcast.net.

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## Mr. Aaron Holiday

Join Mr. Aaron on an adventure through the world of music. A long-time award-winning multi-instru-



Geoff Forester

mental performer, writer, and singer, he brings his years of experience writing and performing for musical theater. Mr. Aaron gets the crowd moving and singing with his fun story songs and new instruments. You'll hear the guitar, saxophone, live looping, and even collaborate to create an original song. This program is excellent for kids ages 1-10. Doors open at 10:30 a.m.; show begins at 11 on BNH Main Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord.

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Dec. 14

## The Nutcracker: Safe Haven Ballet



Safe Haven Ballet brings a spirited, full-length ballet of The Nutcracker to The Capital Center for the Arts. This dynamic performance includes all of your favorite characters including a strong-minded Clara to the eccentric Drosselmeyer, the spooky Rats, as well as the beloved Sugarplum Fairy danced by artistic director Lissa Curtis. In the Land of Sweets you will be introduced to a variation unique to Safe Haven Ballet called The Brave American. Bring energetic applause at 4:30 p.m., Chubb Theatre at CCA, 44 S. Main St, Concord.

Dec. 15

## '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. Safe Haven Ballet's performance is set to both classical music and contemporary holiday music and includes narration, so each audience member can fully appreciate the artistry of the professional dancers. The performance begins at 4:30 p.m. at the Chubb Theatre at CCA 44 S. Main St., Concord. Purchase tickets online at [ccanh.com](http://ccanh.com).

Dec. 19

## Winter Solstice Soirée

The winter solstice marks the shortest day of the year. Say farewell to the longest evening of darkness, and light up the night with The Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire. The events will be held at their new offices, located inside The Hotel Concord. Drop-in any time between 4 and 7 p.m. for drinks, light appetizers and holiday cheer. The evening is open-house style and free (your first drink is on us, then cash bar). While not required, RSVP is welcome. Street parking is available on Main Street in Concord.

Dec. 22

## NH School of Ballet

The New Hampshire School of Ballet presents "The Nutcracker" at 2 p.m. A magical performance: the snow falls, the tree grows, and corps of talented dancers presents a classical take on the holiday treasure. A holiday gift for us all. Tickets are \$25 at the door. For Info: 603-668-5330.

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# THE SIT-DOWN



Geoff Forester

## QA

Kimball Jenkins' new executive director **Martha Lemire** shares her approach to guiding an iconic institution into the future

### By CATHERINE McLAUGHLIN

Originally from the Seacoast but coming to Concord after a 10-year stint with the Florida Ballet, Martha Lemire has spent her first months as the new executive director at Kimball Jenkins by immersing herself in what the historic estate and its programs mean to the city — and seeking to steady the helm.

The arts non-profit, occupying the 1877 Kimball Jenkins estate off North Main Street, has had a rocky year with both a budget shortfall and internal friction with outgoing staff over the direction and mission of the organization.

Around Concord sat down with Lemire to ask her how she's facing those challenges and what her vision is for the future. Her focus, she said, is on financial recovery — increasing revenue by adding more children's programs, expanding partnerships with local businesses and creating a

more robust marketing effort. She also wants to bring in more private events, more heavily utilizing the historic mansion.

**Around Concord:** How do you feel like Kimball Jenkins is different than, or similar to, things you've done in the past? What kind of lessons from that past work have you brought into your role here?

**Martha Lemire:** I've always been in the arts, just more so on the performing arts side. But, no matter if it's fine arts or performing arts, it's the arts, and we all know how much the arts can make a difference in people's lives and how important they are to the community and those we serve.

Leaving Florida, the hardest part was that I truly loved my job. I saw the organization grow from a \$250,000 annual budget, with one employee, renting 10,000 square foot facility to, by the time I left, having a 12-member professional dance company and purchasing our own building. My last performance with the or-

***“We have a beautiful campus, and I want to make sure that we're utilizing it to the best of our ability.”***

ganization was watching them perform with the Jacksonville Symphony. Being able to take the work that I did at Florida Ballet — from expanding programming, events, collaborations, partnerships, DEI work, just all of that — I'll be able to hopefully bring into Kimball Jenkins.

Here, we have the program, and we have events, we have exhibitions, we have a summer camp. There's a lot of different areas that we're trying to evaluate, see what's worked, and then move forward.

**AC:** You're starting alongside a lot of other new administrative staff. There has been turnover here in the

last year, as well as financial challenges. How did you understand the role that you were coming into and what you would need to do to be successful here?

**ML:** I have not focused too much on the past. I know there's been history, and I appreciate all the work that has been done by previous administrations here — wonderful, wonderful work. When I came in, it was my understanding that we were trying to move forward and come back as a stronger, more balanced organization.

My priorities right now are definitely financial. They have struggled with finances, but the board has also done a lot of work over the last six months to ensure that they could bring in an executive director and to stabilize the organization. My focus right now is revenue generating, trying to bring in different programming in different ways. I am also going to be writing quite a few grants in the next couple of months. We have a beautiful campus, and I want



to make sure that we're utilizing it to the best of our ability, as well as serving the community and what they need.

**AC:** Where are you looking, in addition to grants, to find that new revenue?

**ML:** Kimball Jenkins has been very much focused on the adult population; we haven't had a lot of youth programming besides the camp. So this year, we are bringing in a lot of different opportunities for children: we're expanding into puppetry and woodworking and metal working and watercolors for kids. This year, hopefully, we're going to offer a February and an April vacation camp for kids — which we've never done before.

We're trying to plan a little bit further down the road, so I could potentially go to different businesses and sponsors. We're looking at maybe branding a little bit differently, and we're going to be updating our website. We'll be having a gala in the spring of 2025, so that will be a big

revenue generating event for us as well.

**AC:** What do you see as the greatest strengths of Kimball Jenkins to move forward and to meet its financial challenges?

**ML:** I've heard so many times how important Kendall Jenkins is to the Concord community. There's a lot of people that truly love this establishment.

I think that we are known for being able to provide accessible arts education and giving kids those opportunities, and I do feel with the expansion of the programming that there will be a lot of different ways that kids can experience art here.

We're going to be able to cultivate further some of those partnerships that were already in place, and I think that's a strength too. This is a grant that was written prior to me — but we are going to be working on the New Hampshire Correctional Facility for women doing a theater program within the facility.

We don't really have an exhibition schedule in place past 2024 yet, but bringing art to the community is another strength. We'll be working with the Concord Women's Club for 'Art in Bloom' again in January.

**AC:** You've talked to community leaders about how Kimball Jenkins fits into Concord and its place in the city. What's your vision for what that will look like when you're meeting all these goals?

**ML:** I think my first impression when I came here was that it was just it was so empty. I want to fill it.

My vision is that we're going to have a vibrant campus with lots of different opportunities for all ages, all backgrounds, while still being able to provide those accessible arts experiences. I also want us to be an event space for people to be able to come and enjoy the beautiful estate that Carolyn Jenkins left for Concord to enjoy.

And I think we have a great possibility of getting there. ♦





# QUITE A LIFT

## The rebirth continues at Tenney Mountain ski area

By DAVID BROOKS

When Steven Kelly bought Tenney Mountain Resort in 2022 and looked at how to return the long-struggling ski area to past glory, he quickly found that his initial ideas needed updating.

“I’m a developer, a builder. When I first saw it I said, let’s build a big, sexy lodge,” he said. “Then I realized you can have the best lodge in the world and with these slow lifts, nobody will come, so we fixed the lifts. Then I realized you can have a new lodge and great lifts but nobody will come if there’s no snow, so snow-making became a priority.”

“One thing we realized last year, our first full season, was we really couldn’t get water to the top of the mountain due to the age of the infrastructure,” he said. Increasing the pressure enough to move water up the 1,400-foot elevation blew holes in some existing pipes.

Five miles of new snowmaking pipe and three new pumps were installed this



Geoff Forester file

Above and at left, Tenney Mountain has unveiled a host of recent changes.

year, along with 125 more snow guns, Kelly said, as Tenney Mountain launches its first back-to-back full seasons in more than a decade. The resort is also applying to build a new retention pond to store at least 10 million gallons of water.

“People think of coverage, how much of your trails are covered (with snowmaking),” he said. “That’s just one component. It’s not just coverage that matters but your capacity to put snow on that coverage. We’re going to be dramatically different than last year.”

Tenney opened in 1960 along Route 3A just south of Plymouth, one of many New Hampshire ski areas started in the decades after World War II as the industry boomed. It thrived through the late 1980s but faltered as insurance costs and the public’s increasing demand for snowmaking took a toll.

Since the 1990s the mountain has gone through a succession of owners who made promises but rarely followed through. It has occasionally



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failed to open at all. Kelly says he realizes this is an obstacle.

“I know the public is going to be hesitant to trust Tenney ... because of the past,” he said. “For the people who question Tenney, just keep watching. We’ll continue to silence the critics every year.”

The state’s most notable ski rebirth was Crotched Mountain in Franconstown, which had to be rebuilt from scratch on an adjacent mountain that once held Bobcat/Onset before it could open again in 2003. However, Crotched had been shut for a decade. Tenney Mountain is in better shape, however, having gotten use in most years and receiving some investment from the most recent owner, Michael Bouchard.

But lots more is being done and more needs to be done, Kelly said. “It’s an evolution.”

He pointed to a variety of upgrades made this year to buildings, equipment and services, including a new



Geoff Forester

**Tenney Mountain lift mechanic Shane Coughlan re-grips a chairlift onto the steel cable as they prepare the upcoming season with new snowmaking and wider trails this summer.**

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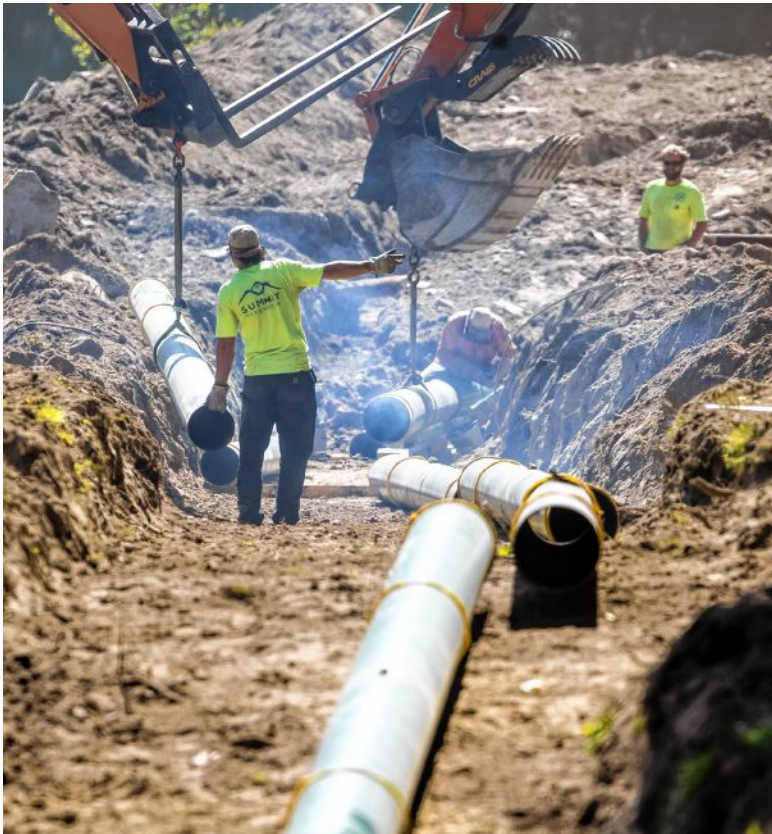
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Workers get ready to connect a 12-inch pipe for the snowmaking operation to the top of Tenney Mountain this past summer.

culinary team at the Backcountry Bar & Grill, as well as cutting bush and trees on ski trails that had become overgrown.

“We’re cutting back the trails to the original Tenney Mountain trails that you saw in the 1960s. ... In all that time, different ownership groups, a lot of the trail maintenance was neglected. Some folks on social media mention that they don’t want Tenney to change, they want the same old Tenney – we’re making it the same old Tenney again,” Kelly said.

Kelly, like some past owners, has long-term plans for developing the area around the ski area with homes, condos, hotels and commercial space, partnering with Plymouth State University to shape the local economy. The next step is to expand into a four-season resort with such things as mountain bike trails; as part of that, the chairlifts have been rated by downhill capacity, for the first time.

“Skiing is the anchor amenity. We’ll get that up and running, functional, competitive, before we go to four-season resort,” he said. “My bet is that in 20 years, central New Hampshire is doing extremely well, and what we’re doing at Tenney Mountain with PSU will be a big part of that.” ♦

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# THESE ROLLS HAVE A TWIST

Inside the Capitol Center for the Arts, you'll find Susan Chang and her South Korean kimbap rolls

**Photography by GEOFF FORESTER**



Susan Chung is the owner of Sue's Kimbap House, which is inside the Bank of New Hampshire Stage in downtown Concord. Here, she prepares a vegetable kimbap roll.

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Above: Susan Chung operates the new roller that she and her husband purchased for making Kimbap rolls.

Left: Chung shows the inside of a vegetable kimbap roll.



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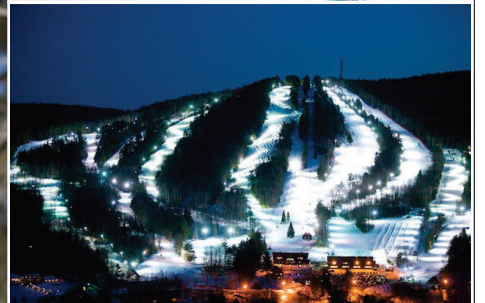


Sue's Kimbap House inside the Capitol Center for the Arts features South Korean cuisine, including kimbap rolls which, unlike traditional sushi, include cooked meats and vegetables. She also sells a beef bibimbap bowl.



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# FAMILY TREES



An inside look at  
the Christmas tree  
growing operation at  
**Grandpa's Farm**  
in Loudon

**Story, Page 32**





Three generations of Phillips men, (left to right) Chase, Rodney and Nate, walk through Grandpa's Farm in Loudon together, overseeing the growth of their Christmas trees on a cold and rainy fall morning.

Alexander Rapp



Alexander Rapp

Grandpa's Farm is home to over 4,000 Christmas trees, including Balsam Fir, Fraser Fir, Canaan Fir, Korean Fir and Meyer Spruce. The first trees were planted in 2012, and consistently planted every spring since then.

# The cut-your-own tradition

By **ALEXANDER RAPP**

When pulling up to Grandpa's Farm in Loudon each year to cut their own tree, families likely don't realize that the hardy Christmas fir they strap to the roof of their cars has

taken years to grow, and well, a lot of babying along the way to ensure it's ready to be the heart of the holiday season.

No one understands the business better than Rodney Phillips, the

grandpa on Grandpa's Farm. For the past 12 years, he has grown Christmas trees from seedling to full-grown, cut-your-own, size.

"They take seven to 10 years, roughly, and that's to get a marketable tree, so six to eight feet. The first step is getting good land. Not all land is good for Christmas trees, just like a lot of crops," said Phillips. "They don't like it too acidic. They like the right kind of soil to grow in. They also don't like it very wet. They like it moist but well-drained. So the key is your land, type of land, and then to get your soil nutrients just right before you plant."

Phillips plants up to 1,200 seedlings in the spring, does the maintenance and upkeep, and gets them ready to be cut and sold after Thanksgiving

**"Growing and selling Christmas trees certainly isn't something that just happens, and realizing an income isn't going to begin right away."**



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and before Christmas. Fortunately for this grandpa, he has family to help.

Rodney's son Nate — a firefighter in Belmont — and his son, Chase, are regulars at the farm and help out wherever they can. The whole family becomes consumed by the Christmas spirit when the farm opens its gates for three days in late November. They sell each tree for \$60, which includes the equipment, the experience of cutting it, free coffee and snacks and other activities for families.

“My favorite part of this farm is being able to run around the farm. Me and my sister play around it all the time. I have a walkie-talkie, so we just use the walkie-talkies to talk to each other,” said Rodney’s young grandson, Chase.

Rodney manages the farm year-round in his green Grandpa’s Farm sweatshirt, and the logo is a caricature of his father’s portrait, Wilbur Phillips, whom the farm is named in honor of. His father owned Phillips

Farm Produce in Tilton.

Much more goes into growing Christmas trees than just watering them. Any multitude of things can go wrong in the process, from deer eating the leaves poking through the snow and fungi destroying trees to droughts and floods affecting their growth.

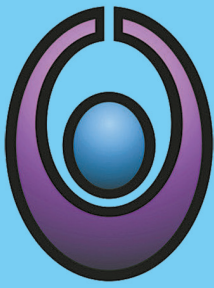
“Growing and selling Christmas trees certainly isn’t something that

just happens, and realizing an income isn’t going to begin right away. This is especially true if you are starting a new tree farm right from the seedlings. This is going to require a significant commitment of time, energy, and money to get to that marketable product designed to entice people to come to your farm,” wrote Ray Berthiaume, the Coos County forester and field specialist for the

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Rodney Phillips

**Grandpa's Farm goes all out to make the cut-your-own Christmas tree experience a welcoming and festive one. They have signs and instructions, wreaths, jams, syrups, tree stands and wrappers, ski wreaths and small wooden reindeer decorations.**

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University of New Hampshire's Cooperative Extension, in an article about growing Christmas trees.

Phillips is a former software developer, and he's partnered with the UNH Extension to understand his farm better and provide valuable information for agroforestry research in the state. The weather station in the field of trees sends information right into the home for up-to-date tracking of conditions and data collection.

"If everything goes well, and you don't have to have a lot of expenditures, and again, I've got a lot of stuff in place now for selling," said Rodney Phillips. "We convert the workshop into a Christmas shop, and that's when we decorate all our wreaths, and so we hold wreath decorating classes. We have a lot of stuff now, but something pops up, like a \$16,000 repair on a tractor, and it goes to your home, a huge chunk of your yearly revenue."

Last year, Phillips said he lost

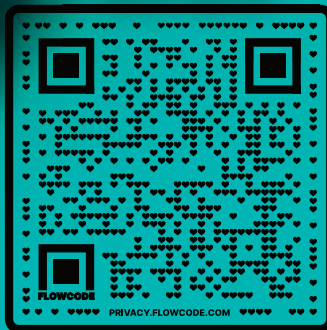
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around 50% of his crop of blueberries, which grow near the trees. Moreover, the Christmas tree industry is not the most profitable business — especially when selling for only three days a year before stock runs out.

Phillips quoted an old saying.

“If you want to make a million dollars farming, start with \$2 million, because you’re going to lose in farming. You don’t make a lot of money farming, and I will never make back all the money I’ve put into it before I sell it,” he said.

However, Rodney Phillips did not seem particularly shaken or upset by this prospective future. He’s happy with the freedom the farm lifestyle provided after stepping away from his desk job, allowing him to hike and serve as search and rescue personnel in the Lakes Region.

Currently, the farm sells about 300 trees per season and Rodney wants to scale it up year-over-year. On top of the coffee, cocoa, cookies, jam, syrups, and wreaths that the family sells from their shop during the three-day cut-



Alexander Rapp

Rodney Phillips in his field of Christmas trees on Grandpa's Farm in Loudon.

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Rodney Phillips

**Nate Phillips (center) put his son, Chase, through the tree wrapper to demonstrate how it works.**

your-own tree frenzy that occurs, they also offer “marriage saving tree stands,” which have a peg in the middle of the base to place your tree with a drilled hole.

“You buy the stand, but we’ll drill it for free. So we have people coming back now every year because they bought the stand,” said Nate Phillips.

When asked about what he enjoys most, Rodney Phillips said, “I’m gonna have to pick two things, the smell and the family part of it, because when I’m shearing trees in the summer, it smells like Christmas. The selling is the culmination of all the work. So to have the family here doing it, and I couldn’t do it without them.” ♦



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# Best of Concord

## ANNUAL READER SURVEY OF TOP PLACES IN AND AROUND THE CITY

# 2024

### 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

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#### 55+ Communities

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- 2. John H. Whitaker Place, Concord
- 3. Granite Ledges of Concord

#### Assisted Living

- 1. Havenwood Heritage Heights, Concord
- 2. John H. Whitaker Place, Concord
- 3. Presidential Oaks, Concord

#### Home Health Care

- 1. Granite VNA, multiple locations
- 2. Age At Home, Concord
- 3. Visiting Angels, multiple locations

#### Retirement Homes

- 1. Havenwood Heritage Heights, Concord
- 2. Presidential Oaks, Concord
- 3. Granite Ledges of Concord
- 3. Merrimack County Nursing Home, Boscawen



Courtesy

The hiking club at Havenwood Heritage Heights.

#### Senior Center

- 1. Good Life Programs, Concord
- 2. White Birch Center, Henniker
- 3. Suncook Senior Center

#### Senior Transportation Service

- 1. HHH Transportation Van
- 2. Concord Area Transit
- 3. Friends Program, Concord

### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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#### After Hours Hangout sponsored by Cheers Grille & Bar

- 1. Cheers, Concord
- 2. Beanie's Bar & Grill, Loudon
- 3. El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant, Concord

#### Art Gallery

- 1. Currier Museum of Art, Manchester
- 2. Two Villages Art Society, Contoocook
- 3. Twiggs Gallery, Boscawen

#### Birthday Party Venue

- 1. Beech Hill Farm, Hopkinton
- 2. Chuckster's, Chichester
- 3. Concord Parks and Recreation

#### Brewery

- 1. Concord Craft
- 2. Feathered Friends, Concord
- 3. Litherman's Limited, Concord

#### Cocktails

- 1. Revival Kitchen & Bar, Concord
- 2. El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant, Concord
- 3. Hermanos Cocina Mexicana, Concord

#### Comedy

- 1. Capitol Center for the Arts, Concord
- 2. Scenic Theater, Pittsfield
- 3. Hatbox Theatre, Concord

#### Community Event

- 1. Market Days, Concord
- 2. Midnight Merriment, Concord
- 3. The Exchange, Andover

#### Live Theatre

- 1. Capitol Center for the Arts, Concord
- 2. Concord City Auditorium
- 3. Scenic Theater, Pittsfield

## Margarita

1. Hermanos Cocina Mexicana, Concord
2. El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant, Concord
3. Margaritas Mexican Restaurant, Concord

## Movie Theater

1. Red River, Concord
2. Chunky's Cinema Pub, Manchester
3. Smitty's Cinema, Tilton

## Museum

1. New Hampshire Telephone Museum, Warner
2. McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, Concord
3. Strawberry Banke, Portsmouth

## Music Venue

1. Bank of NH Stage, Concord
2. Bank of NH Pavilion, Gilford
3. Capitol Center for The Arts, Concord

## Night Club

1. Tandy's, Concord
2. Makris, Concord
3. The Audi, Concord

## Winery

1. Flag Hill Distillery & Winery, Lee
2. LaBelle Winery, Amherst/Derry
3. Hermit Woods Winery, Meredith

## AUTOMOTIVE

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## Auto Body

1. Guimond's Auto Body, Concord
2. Above All Collision, Concord
3. Weed Family Automotive, Concord

## Auto Detailing

1. Concord Auto Spa
2. Agoubi Auto Detailing, Franklin
3. Concord Car Care

## Auto Parts

1. Sanel Napa Auto Parts, Concord
2. Batteries Plus Bulbs, Manchester
3. Gilbert Driveline Service & Supply, Inc., Manchester

## Auto Repair

1. Weed Family Automotive, Concord
2. German Autowerks, Concord
3. TC's Service Center, Pittsfield

## Car Wash

1. Concord Auto Spa
2. Thirty Pines Car Wash, Concord
3. Washville Car Wash, Concord

## New Car Dealership sponsored by Capital City Subaru

1. Capital City Subaru, Concord
2. Grappone Automotive Group, Bow
3. Banks Chevrolet, Concord

## Oil & Lube

1. Weed Automotive, Concord
2. TC's Service Center
3. Grappone Honda, Bow

## RV Dealership

1. Bill's RV Service, Chichester
1. Cold Springs RV, Weare
3. Camping World, Chichester

## Tires

1. Northeast Tire, Belmont
1. Town Fair, Concord
3. Weed Automotive, Concord

## Used Car Dealership

1. Tim's Truck Capital, Epsom
2. Banks Chevrolet, Concord
3. Grappone Toyota, Bow

## DINING

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Alan's of Boscawen

## Asian Food

1. Szechuan Gardens, Concord
2. Chen Yang Li, Bow
3. Tea Garden, Concord

## Barbecue

1. Washington Street Cafe, Concord
2. Smokeshow Barbeque, Concord
3. Georgia's Northside, Concord

## Breakfast Fare

1. Shirley's Kitchen, Pembroke
2. Tuckers, Concord
3. The Post, Concord

## Buffet

1. Alan's of Boscawen
2. Red Blazer, Concord
3. Hart's Turkey Farm, Meredith

## Dinner

1. Casa Amigo, Concord
2. Revival Kitchen & Bar, Concord
3. Red Blazer, Concord

## Family Friendly sponsored by Cavern Sports Bar & Grill

1. Cavern Sports Bar & Grill, Pembroke
2. Beefside, Concord
3. Alan's of Boscawen

## Fine Dining

1. Revival, Concord
2. Angelina's, Concord
3. O's Steak & Seafood, Concord

## Italian

1. Angelina's, Concord
2. CC Tomato's, Concord
3. Fratello's, Manchester

## Lunch fare

1. Washington Street Café & Catering, Concord
2. Beefside, Concord
3. Constantly Pizza, Concord

## Mexican Restaurant

1. El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant, Concord
1. Hermano's, Concord
3. Casamigos, Concord

## Outdoor Dining

1. Cheers, Concord
2. El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant, Concord
3. Makris, Concord

## Romantic

1. Angelina's, Concord
2. O Steak & Seafood, Concord
3. Revival Kitchen and Bar, Concord

## Seafood

1. Weathervane, Chichester
2. Johnson's Steak & Seafood, New Durham

3. Makris, Concord

## Steakhouse

1. O Steak & Seafood
2. Longhorn, Concord
3. Texas Roadhouse, Concord

## Take-Out

1. Washington Street Cafe, Concord
2. Beefside, Concord
3. The Works, Concord

## Vegetarian Fare

1. Washington Street Cafe, Concord
2. Curryleaf, Concord
3. Live Juice, Concord

## FUN FOOD

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Constantly Pizza

## Bakery

1. Cake Mama, Hillsboro
2. Wyatt's Wicked Goods, Chichester
3. Bread and Chocolate, Concord
3. Crust and Crumb, Concord

## Burgers

1. The Barley House, Concord
2. Vibes, Concord
3. Five Guys, Concord

## Chicken Wings/Tenders

1. The Puritan, Manchester
2. Cavern Sports Bar & Grill, Pembroke
3. T-BONES Great American Eatery, Concord

## Coffee sponsored by Brothers Cortado

1. Brothers Cortado, Concord
2. The Bean & Bakery, Concord
3. Revelstoke, Concord

## Dessert

1. Cake Mama, Hillsboro
1. Wyatt's Wicked Goods, Chichester
3. Bread and Chocolate, Concord

## Donuts

1. NH Doughnut Co., Concord
2. Brother's, Franklin
3. Market Basket, Multiple locations

## Fried Food

1. Beefside, Concord
2. High Tide Take Out, Hillsboro
3. Johnson's Dairy Bar, Northwood

## Ice Cream

1. Frekey's Dairy Freeze, Penacook
2. Arnie's, Concord
3. Granite State Candy, Concord

## Pizza

1. Constantly Pizza, Concord/Penacook
2. Sour Joe's, Concord
3. Tilton House of Pizza

## Subs

1. Constantly Pizza, Concord/Penacook
2. Nadeau's Sub Shop, Multiple locations
3. Jersey Mike's Subs, multiple locations

## Sushi

1. Moritomo Japanese Steakhouse and Sushi Bar, Concord
2. Ichiban, Concord
3. Chen Yang Li, Bow

## HEALTH & BEAUTY

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## Barber Shop

1. Buzz Ink, Concord
2. Lucky's, Concord
3. South Mane, Concord

## Gym sponsored by The Zoo Health Club

1. Thrive Group Fitness / Jazzercise of Concord
2. 2 Home Fitness, Concord
3. Capital Fitness, Concord

## Hair Salon

1. Chrome, Concord
2. Flora's Hair Salon, Concord
3. Euphoria Hair Salon, Concord

## Manicure/Pedicure sponsored by Roy Nails

1. Roy Nails, Concord

2. Glow Nails & Beauty, Concord
3. Paull Nails, Concord

## Massage Therapist sponsored by Chichester Massage & Bodywork Center

1. Chichester Massage & Bodywork Center
2. Beki Essig LMT, Concord
3. Buzz Ink Beauty Bar, Concord

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1. SansAge Medical Aesthetics, Concord
2. Arndt Aesthetics, Concord

## Spa category sponsored by Spa Specialist Beauty Within

1. Spa Specialist Beauty Within, Concord
2. Serendipity Day Spa & Float Studio, Pembroke

## Tanning sponsored by Turbo Tan

1. Turbo Tan, Concord
2. Planet Fitness, Concord
3. Sun Tan City, Concord

## Tattoo Parlor

1. Buzz Ink, Concord
2. Gardens of Ink, Manchester
3. Midnight Moon Tattoo, Meredith

## MEDICAL

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## Acupuncturist

1. Trend Acupuncture, Concord
2. Concord Family Acupuncture
3. Five Seasons Acupuncture, Concord

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1. Better Hearing Center LLC, Concord
2. Alliance Hearing Center, Concord
3. New England Audiology, Concord

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1. Payson Center, Concord Hospital
2. Dana Farber, Londonderry
3. The Elliot, Manchester

## Cardiac Care

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2. Dr. Gutierrez - Concord Hospital



# CAPPIES 2024: ANNUAL READER SURVEY OF THE BEST OF CONCORD

3. Dr. Newton – Concord Hospital

## Childbirth

1. The Family Place - Concord Hospital
2. Concord OB/GYN
3. Catholic Medical Center, Manchester

## Chiropractor

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2. Splendore Chiropractic & Wellness Center, Dr. Donna Splendore
3. Sellar Chiropractic

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2. Laurie A. Rosato, DMD
3. Orzechowski and Arndt Dental

## Emergency Care

1. Concord Hospital
2. Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
3. Convenient MD

## Eye Doctor

1. Eyefix
2. Sacco Eyecare

3. Concord Eye Care

## Hospital

1. Concord Hospital
2. Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
3. The Elliot

## Medical Imaging

1. Concord Imaging Center
2. Derry Imaging
3. Imaging services at the Elliot

## Orthodontics

1. Generations Dental, Concord
2. Luba Richter, Concord
3. Moin Orthodontists, Manchester

## Pediatric Care

1. Concord Pediatrics
2. Concord Family Medicine
3. Dartmouth Clinic Concord

## Pediatric Dentistry

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2. Laurie A. Rosato, DMD
3. Concord Pediatric Dentistry

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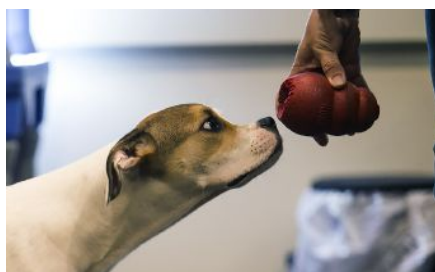
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1. Wine'ing Butcher, Pembroke
3. Concord Beef and Seafood

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2. R.S. Audley Incorporated, Bow
3. Jasmor Properties, Concord

### Credit Union

1. New Hampshire Federal Credit Union
2. Granite State Credit Union
3. Service Credit Union

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1. Shaker Road School, Concord
2. Eastside Learning Center, Concord
3. Merrimack Valley Day Care, Concord

### Dry Cleaner

1. Cleary Cleaners
2. Arno's Cleaners

### Electrician

1. O'Keefe & Flanagan Electric
2. Heritage Home Service
3. Irish Electric

### Financial Advisor

1. Ledyard Financial Advisors
2. NH Trust
3. Bill Kearney

### Flooring

1. ADF Flooring
2. Floorcraft, Wilmot
3. Concord Carpet

### Funeral Home

1. Roan Family Funeral Home
2. Phaneuf's
3. Bennett

### Greenhouse

1. Flora Bella
2. Cole Gardens
3. Black Forest Nursery, Boscawen

### Hotel sponsored by Hotel Concord

1. Hotel Concord
2. Holiday Inn
3. Centennial Hotel

### HVAC

1. Live Free Heating & Cooling, Concord
2. Heritage Home Service
3. Braydin Plumbing & Heating

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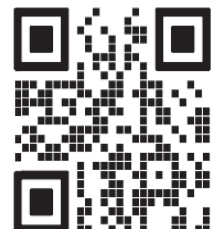


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2. Braydin Plumbing & Heating
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2. Concord Masiello Group
3. Century 21 North East

**Real Estate Agent**

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2. Kelli York
3. Susan Roemer

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- 2. Concord Antiques
- 3. DIY Craft and Thrift, Concord

**Beer/Wine  
Specialty Store**

- 1. Wine on Main, Concord
- 2. Capital Beverages, Concord
- 3. Smoke N Barley, multiple locations

**Book Store**

- 1. Gibson's Bookstore, Concord
- 2. Main Street Bookends, Warner
- 3. BAM, Concord

**CBD Store**

- 1. Your CBD Store, Concord
- 2. Natural Wellness Corner, Concord
- 3. Clearly Balanced Days, Belmont

**Chocolate/Candy Store**

- 1. Granite State Candy, Concord
- 2. True Confections Candies & Gifts, Concord
- 3. Kellerhause, Laconia

**Clothing**

**Alteration/Tailor**

- 1. Britches of Concord
- 2. Seams to Fit, Concord
- 3. Susana's, Concord

**Clothing Store**

**sponsored by  
Fabulous Looks Boutique**

- 1. Fabulous Looks Boutique, Concord
- 2. Artisan's, New London
- 3. Indigo Blues, Concord

**Consignment Shop**

- 1. HillTop Consignment, Concord
- 2. Lilise, Concord
- 3. M&C Clothing and Gifts, Amherst

**Furniture Store**

- 1. Cheney's Apple House Furniture, Concord
- 2. Endicott Furniture, Concord
- 3. Harris Family Furniture, Chichester



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# CAPPIES 2024: ANNUAL READER SURVEY OF THE BEST OF CONCORD

## Gift Shop

1. The Viking House, Concord
2. True Confections Candies & Gifts, Concord
3. The Paper Store, Concord

## Gourmet Food

1. Monadnock Oil & Vinegar, Amherst
2. The Viking House, Concord
3. Celeste Oliva, Concord

## Grocery Store

1. Market Basket
2. Concord Food Co-op
3. Trader Joe's

## Home Décor

1. Budget Blinds of Concord & Hanover
2. Homebody, Concord
3. Company C, Concord

## Natural Supplements Store

1. Natural Wellness Corner, Concord
2. Concord Co-op
3. Granite State Naturals, Concord

## Shoes

1. Joe King's, Concord
2. Simply Birkenstock, Concord
3. Alec's Shoes, Nashua

## Skincare Shop

1. Beeline LLC, Henniker
2. BonaFide, Concord

## Sports Equipment

1. S&W Sports, Concord
2. Runners Alley, multiple locations
3. Dick's, Concord

## Bowling Alley

1. Boutwell's, Concord
2. FunSpot, Laconia
3. Yankee Lanes, Manchester

## Campground

1. The Friendly Beaver, New Boston
2. Jellystone, Glen Ellis
3. Cascade, Loudon

## Farm Stand

1. Apple Hill Farm, Concord
2. Pumpkin Blossom Farm, Warner
3. Concord's Farmers Market

## Fitness Center

1. Thrive Group Fitness / Jazzercise of Concord
2. 2 Home Fitness, Concord
3. Worthy Mind & Movement, Concord

## Golf Course

1. Beaver Meadow, Concord
2. Den Brae Golf Course, Sanbornton
3. Pembroke Pines

## SPORTS & REC

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1. Downtown Concord
2. McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, Concord
3. Beech Hill Farm, Hopkinton



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# CAPPIES 2024: ANNUAL READER SURVEY OF THE BEST OF CONCORD

## Golf Equipment

1. Den Brae Golf Course – Sam Read
2. Beaver Meadow Golf Course – Phil Davis
3. Golf & Ski Warehouse, Hudson

## Indoor Sports Center

1. Concord Parks and Rec
2. YMCA of Concord
3. X-Golf Bedford

## Marina

1. Fay's, Gilford
2. Irwin, multiple locations
3. Granite State Dock & Marine, Derry

## Martial Arts

1. SDSS Martial Arts of Concord
2. Body Works Karate, Concord
3. Tokyo Joe's, Hooksett

## Pool Dealer sponsored by Paquette Pools & Spas

1. Paquette Pools & Spas, Hooksett
2. Empire Pools, Manchester
3. Blue Dolphin Pools & Spa, Bedford

## Pick-Your-Own Farm

1. Apple Hill Farm, Concord
2. Pumpkin Blossom Farm, Warner
3. Carter Hill Orchard, Concord

## Riding Stables

1. Townsend Training Farm, Pembroke
2. Wind Hill Farm, Loudon
3. Serenity Stables, Belmont

## Ski Resort

1. Pat's Peak, Henniker
2. Ragged Mountain, Danbury
3. Gunstock, Gilford

## Summer Camp

1. Shaker Road School, Concord
2. YMCA of Concord
3. Concord Parks and Rec

## Yoga Studio

1. Thrive Group Fitness / Jazzercise of Concord
2. Worthy Mind and Movement, Concord
3. Sharing Yoga, Concord

## WEDDINGS

Sponsored by Nicole's Greenhouse & Florist

## Bridal & Formal Wear

1. Britches, Concord
2. Arnaldo Joseph, Concord
3. A Day to Remember, Concord

## Caterer

1. Washington Street Café & Catering, Concord
2. The Brussel Custom Catering, Hopkinton
3. Alan's of Boscowen

## Florist

1. Lily Flower Floral Designs, Suncook
2. Cobblestone, Concord
3. Sweet Lavender Floral Design, Concord

## Jeweler sponsored by Goldsmiths Gallery

1. Capital Craftsman Jewelers, Concord
2. Goldsmiths Gallery, Concord
3. Foster's Fine Jewelry, New London

## Limousine

1. Primo Limousine, Concord
2. Grace, Manchester
3. Lakes Region Airport Shuttle, Northfield

## Photographer sponsored by Creative Focus Photography

1. Creative Focus Photography
1. Robin Easler
3. CLC Photography

## Wedding Cake sponsored by Susie Q's Cakery

1. The Brussel
2. Jacques Pastry Shop, Suncook
3. Susie Q's Cakery, Deerfield

## Wedding Venue

1. Barn at Bull Meadow, Concord
2. Castle in the Clouds, Moultonborough
3. Pembroke Pines

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CHECK IT OUT



Monitor file

The 1883 Black Ice Pond Hockey Tournament has pushed back to Feb. 7-9 at White Park.

# WARMING UP TO WINTER

Whether you're a fan of artwork, outdoor hockey, food trucks or chainsaw-wielding sculptors, there will be plenty to keep you busy during the frigid depths of winter.

The festivities come in two parts. In late January, you can attend The Concord Garden Club's 22nd Annual Art and Bloom exhibit at the Kimball Jenkins Estate. That same weekend, enjoy a host of events as Concord rolls out its annual January tradition – Winter Fest. And in February, head out to White Park for the 14th annual 1883 Black Pond Ice Hockey Tournament.



Courtesy

The annual Art and Bloom exhibit pairs artwork with floral arrangements.

## Art and Bloom

Concord's mid-winter event pairs works of art with floral interpretations inspired by those works. This year, the club is partnering with the Kimball Jenkins Estate and the Women's Caucus of Art, NH Chapter to create a memorable display of local creativity. "As always, Art and Bloom gives us all a breath of fresh air and sunshine when we need it most," said Millie LaFontaine, chair of this year's Art and Bloom event and longtime

gardener.

Art and Bloom will run Jan. 23-25 at the Kimball Jenkins Estate at 266 N. Main St., Concord. Exhibit hours are

Thursday, Jan. 23, 2-7 p.m., with an opening reception from 5-7; Friday, Jan. 24 from 10-6; and Saturday, Jan. 25, 10-4.






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Monitor file

**Concord NH Winter Festival, hosted by Intown Concord and The Hotel Concord, is a family-friendly celebration of NH's coldest season. The event includes a competition between some of New England's most talented ice carvers.**

### Winter Fest

The Hotel Concord and Intown Concord keep expanding Winter Fest, which is now in its seventh year. New this year is the addition of a Food Truck Festival. Note that this is an outdoor event, so come dressed for

the winter weather.

On Friday, Jan. 24, check out sponsored ice carvings on the State House lawn from 3 to 9 p.m. Come back at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25 for the start of the Food Truck Festival and the ice-carving competition, which runs until

about 3. Find out more at [intownconcord.org](http://intownconcord.org).

### Black Pond Ice Hockey Championships

The tournament, which has recently been challenged by warmer-than-normal January weather, has pushed back its tournament to Feb. 7-9 at White Park. There, you'll find eight rinks with games featuring players of all ages from across the region.

The event, which has become one of the state's largest outdoor winter events, hosts 95 teams and close to 700 hockey players. But it's not all hockey. You'll also find an array of family activities, including interactive games, a rock wall, bonfires, live entertainment, fireworks, food trucks and ice and snow sculptures. Visit [blackicepondhockey.com](http://blackicepondhockey.com). ♦

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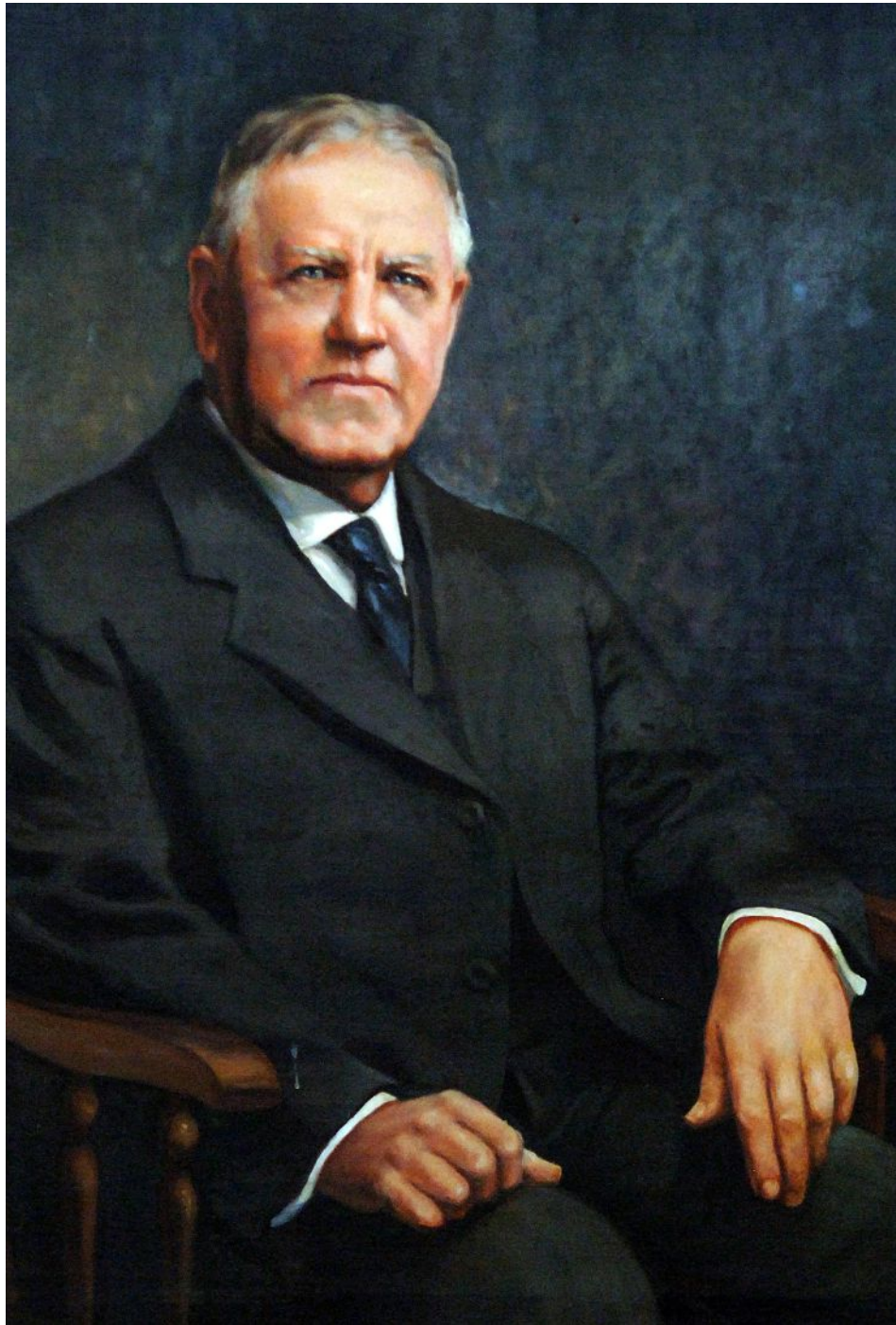
# The 'Duke' behind Rundlett

Louis John "Duke" Rundlett served as superintendent of schools from 1885 until 1934. He rose to the head of the district after a mere four years teaching in Penacook. He opted for a career in education even though his athletic ability could have taken him into professional baseball. His influence in the district was enormous and could be seen for years after his tenure ended. Rundlett was always willing to recognize progress, but seldom was he satisfied.

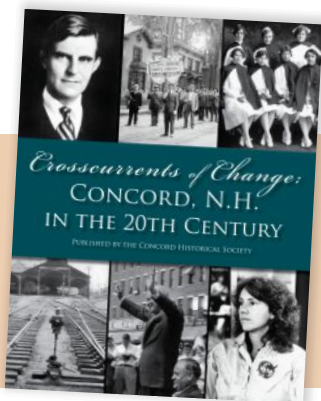
Duke Rundlett died in 1934. He was remembered as a disciplinarian "setting the feet of children in the way they should go ... Yet he had no patience with the goose step as the pace for progress in education. He saw the difference between intelligent order and autocratic regimentation." But students would recall a large man with a gruff voice who roamed classrooms with gummed stars in his pocket and pasted them on schoolwork that impressed him.

Following Rundlett's death, the new junior high was named in the superintendent's honor.

*This excerpt written by Cheryl Bourassa comes from the chapter "Repeating the Course" in "Crosscurrents of Change."*



Concord School District superintendent's office



## 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](http://concordhistoricalsociety.org/store).

## THE SCENE



Geoff Forester / Monitor staff photos

Beech Hill Farm owner Hannah Kimball (left) and server Meghan Reynolds dressed up for Halloween to help serve one-dollar scoops of ice cream on Oct. 31, the last day of the season. The ice cream store was also selling pints and quarts at reduced prices on Halloween.

# Sentimental snapshots



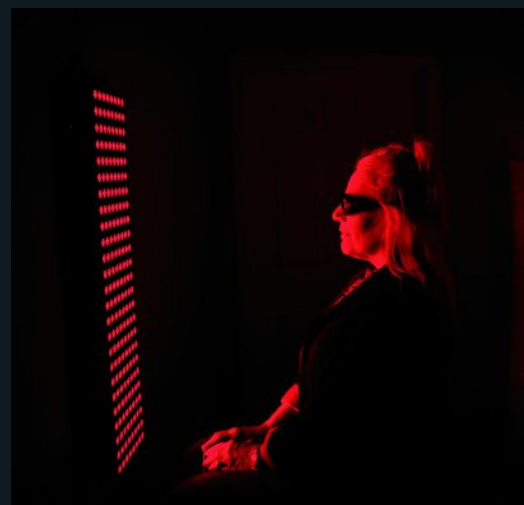
TOP: Concord Public Properties crew member Mike Pickering sets up the American flags inside The Barn at Bull Meadow on Bog Road as the crews prepare for the Ward Two voting place on Nov. 4.

LEFT: Michael Herrmann of Gibson's Bookstore looks at the store's cooking section selections on October 30. Herrmann won 2024's New Hampshire Retailer of the Year.





Jeanne North plays the harmonica every other Friday morning at the Citywide Community Center in Concord for a Musical Jam session, featuring violinists, a guitarist and several other musicians.



Melynda Parks of Salt Spa Concord LLC, uses Red Light Therapy at her new business. At the Salt Spa, clients can unwind in a variety of serene, salt-filled environments. RLT is a therapeutic technique that uses low level wavelengths of red light to help treat skin conditions, such as wrinkles and psoriasis.

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# A THOUSAND WORDS



A reader took this photo while kayaking on the Winnepesaukee River heading toward Silver Lake this past September. You can enter the river via an easy-to-access boat launch by the Holiday Inn Express in Tilton where the water is shallow but deep enough to paddle.

## 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](mailto:editor@aroundconcord.com).

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