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10 Super stellar Friday
Weather balloonist to discuss re-
search and eclipse.



4 Bulletins
Discussion of
democracy and
more.



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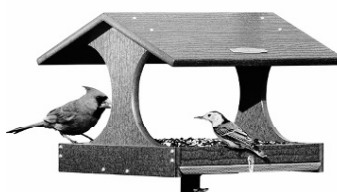
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author talk

Gibson hosts author, photographer Cooper

Margo Cooper visits Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., on Feb. 20 to share her stunning new book of photographs and interviews, *Deep Inside the Blues*. Cooper will be joined in conversation by Holly Harris, host and producer of *Spinning the Blues*, a radio show airing Saturday nights on WUMB. Margo and Holly's conversation will cover the musicians in the book, the music they made, the clubs in the Boston area, (including Harper's Ferry, the original House of Blues, and Johnny D's), and the clubs, picnics, and festivals in Mississippi and Helena, Arkansas they've attended, and Margo's photographs.

Deep Inside the Blues collects Margo Cooper's interviews with blues musicians,



most born in Mississippi, and is illustrated with over 160 of her photographs, many published here for the first time. For 30 years, Cooper has been documenting the lives of blues musicians, their families and homes, neighborhoods, festivals, and gigs. Her photographic work combines iconic late-career images of many legendary figures including Bo Diddley, Honeyboy Edwards, B.B.

King, Pinetop Perkins, and Hubert Sumlin with youthful shots of Cedric Burnside and Sharde Thomas, themselves now in their thirties and forties. During this time, Burnside and Turner families and other Mississippi artists such as T-Model Ford, James "Super Chikan" Johnson, and L.C. Ulmer entered the national and international spotlight, ensuring the powerful connection between the authentic Delta, Hill Country, and Piney Woods blues musicians and their audience continues.

The Feb. 20 event begins at 6:30 p.m. There is no registration required. Can't make this event? Order the book at gibsonsbookstore.com and leave your personalization/signing request in the order notes.

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bulletin

Civics lecture

Join New Hampshire Civics on Tuesday, Feb. 6 from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. for a virtual William W. Treat Lecture with Dr. Richard Haass. Dr. Haass and a panel of New Hampshire high schoolers will have a virtual discussion about what the American people can do – both individually and collectively – to ensure that American democracy not only survives, but thrives. NH Civics would like to thank New Hampshire Humanities and William W.



Peggo and Paul Hodes will lead a songwriting lecture on Feb. 8 at the music school.

COURTESY

Treat Foundation for making the Treat Lecture

Series possible. Registration is required at www.tinyurl.com/haasstreatlecture.

Music school happenings

On Thursday, Feb. 8 at 12:10 p.m., it's a free Bach's Lunch: Songwriting Lecture with Peggo and Paul. They've collaborated on numerous compositions and recordings, marriage and two kids for 45 years, including composing original

songs in family, folk, rock, jazz and acapella formats. They'll speak about the process and play examples at this lecture at the Community Music School. For additional details, call 603-228-1196 or visit www.ccmusic-school.org/event/bachs-lunch-songwriting-2024. Also at the Music School, Slide Guitar 101 Workshop, Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m., is for early intermediate to advanced guitar players who are interested in blues. Dive

deep into signature styles, learn the iconic riffs, elevate your playing and infuse your music with the soulful essence of slide guitar legends. This workshop will be at the Community Music School. The fee is \$25 per participant. Bring your guitar; slides will be provided.

Greek Meal to Go

Opa! You are invited to enjoy the February offering for the monthly Greek Meal to Go at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 68 North State St. This month's offering is Greek Meatballs with Salad and a Roll. Order Cutoff is Wednesday, Feb. 7, and Pickup is Sunday, Feb. 11 between noon and 1 p.m. The cost of the meal is \$20. To order, call 603-953-3051 or order by email: ordermygreekfood@gmail.com or go to www.holytrinitynh.org and click on the "contribute to Holy Trinity" link. Thank you for your support!



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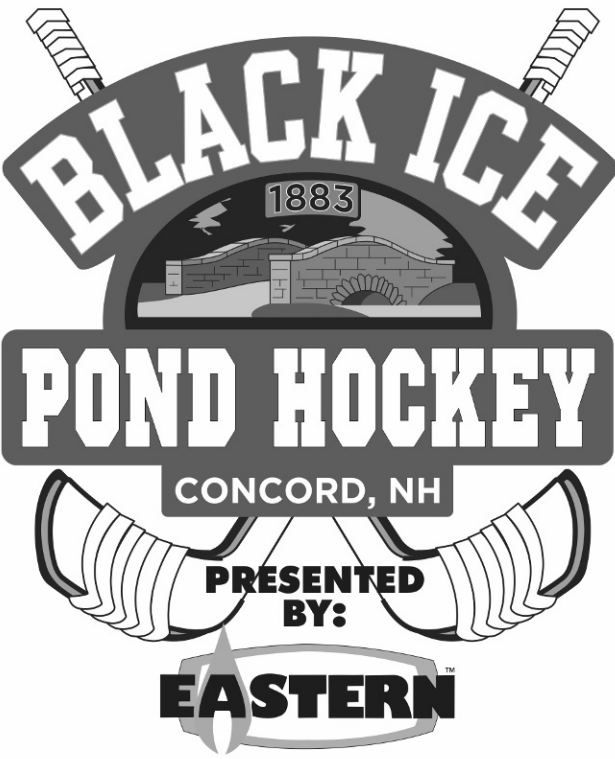
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'A great neighborhood activity'



Courtesy

Kids play on the outdoor hockey rink at the Philbrick house. Oct. 23, 2023.

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 unbelievable."

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.

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Courtesy

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

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

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

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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



COURTESY

Kids play on the Philbrick’s hockey rink during a snowstorm.

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 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

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COURTESY

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

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."

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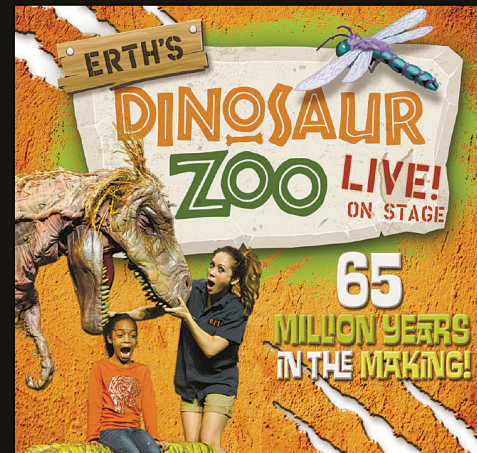
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super stellar friday

McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center event

The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center looks forward to welcoming Jacob Garside as our February 2024 Super Stellar Friday speaker. Jacob is currently a second-year student at Plymouth State University here in New Hampshire, pursuing a B.S. in Meteorology. He has been a part of the Nationwide Eclipse Ballooning Project since 2022. He was also a NASA Space Grant intern at the Discovery Center during the summer of 2023, and his

campers are well prepared for the April 8 eclipse.



During his presentation, Jacob will teach us all about solar eclipses and the Nationwide Eclipse Ballooning Project. These phenomena have puzzled humans for over ten thousand years, with most ancient cultures believing them to be the work of angry gods. Nowadays we can use science to figure out what's going on during solar eclipses, and can even use meteorology to gain a better insight into exactly

what the atmosphere is doing. The goal of the Nationwide Eclipse Ballooning Project is to create a high-resolution data set using weather balloon data collected during solar eclipses in 2023 and 2024. Using data taken in 2023, we can analyze and predict what the April 8 eclipse will look like. Jacob's talk on this subject will take place on Feb. 2, and doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with the presentation beginning at 7 p.m.

Super Stellar Friday is a monthly event hosted by the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center. Along with a guest speaker presentation, attendees can look forward to exploring the exhibits, watching our popular planetarium show, Tonight's Sky, and weather allowing, look at the stars with New Hampshire Astronomical Society.

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CONCORD MONITOR

history

Feb. 1, 2003: News spreads through Concord that the space shuttle Columbia has exploded, reminding many of the space shuttle Challenger. "It's amazing how it brings those feelings right back," says state Rep. Jim MacKay, who was the city's mayor when the Challenger exploded 17 years ago with Concord teacher Christa McAuliffe on board.

Feb. 1, 1971: The New York Times reports rising concern among some New Hampshire officials that booming tourism will despoil the state's natural beauty. About 140 developers are currently investing millions in seasonal and year-round recreational developments.

Feb. 1, 1859: The Concord Railroad passenger station, including the offices of the Concord, Montreal and Northern railroads, the telegraph office and Depot hall, is destroyed by fire.

Feb. 2, 1894: Just before it

is to be dry-docked for preservation as a national landmark, the Portsmouth-built USS Kearsarge, of Civil War fame, sinks in the Caribbean.

Feb. 2, 1996: President Clinton visits Concord's Walker School and speaks to students at the Capitol Center. He praises Concord schools for innovative use of computers in the classroom.

Feb. 3, 2002: With just seconds left to break the tie, Adam Vinatieri kicks a 48-yard field goal to give the Patriots their first Super Bowl victory in their 42-year history. They beat the St. Louis Rams, 20-17. Rundlett Middle School student Derek Graham, 11, will reflect the next day, "(Tom) Brady's still my favorite player, but that Adam

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*my
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Vinatieri dude's coming up. I never really cared about the kicker before, but now I guess I better."

Feb. 3, 1943: The New Hampshire House considers a bill to allow women to sit on juries. All eyes are on the votes of the first couple ever to serve together in the House, Miles and Margaret Dustin of Rochester. She votes yes and he votes no - to a rousing round of applause. The bill fails 273-93.

Feb. 3, 1943: Authorities warn that the war board's demands for white pine cannot be met without stripping the northern forest of every marketable tree now standing.

Feb. 5, 2000: Concord Coach #425, built at the Abbott-Downing Co. in Concord in 1874, is headed on a new journey, the Monitor reports. The New London Historical Society is sending the coach out for a refurbishing. Unlike its original travels, which were powered by four or five horses, this one is taking place inside a moving van.

Feb. 5, 1853: Thomas Francis Meagher, the famed Irish exile and itinerant lecturer for Irish independence, speaks at Concord's Depot Hall. Among his listeners is President-elect Franklin Pierce.

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NEW 2023 LINCOLN NAUTILUS

Stock # PLT034

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\$5,497

OFF MSRP

Lease for only

\$482

For 24 Months

PLT034. MSRP (\$58,120) 24 mo. lease, 7,500 miles/yr. Lease with \$7,982 due at signing. \$6,156 Cash or Trade Equity plus dealer fee, 1st payment & \$650 acquisition fee due at signing. No sales tax for NH residents. Please contact the dealer for complete details. VIN# 2LNPM8K80PBL18716. Expires 1-31-2024.



NEW 2023 LINCOLN CORSAIR

Stock # PLT041

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\$4,794

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PLT041. MSRP (\$48,760) 24 mo. lease, 7,500 miles/yr. Lease with \$7,899 due at signing. \$6,156 Cash or Trade Equity plus dealer fee, 1st payment & \$650 acquisition fee due at signing. No sales tax for NH residents. Please contact the dealer for complete details. VIN# 5LMCJ1DA2PUL25117. Expires 1-31-2024.



NEW 2023 LINCOLN AVIATOR

Stock # PLT029

SAVE UP TO

\$3,789

OFF MSRP

Lease for only

\$671

For 24 Months

PLT029. MSRP (\$70,685) 24 mo. lease, 7,500 miles/yr. Lease with \$8,171 due at signing. \$6,156 Cash or Trade Equity plus dealer fee, 1st payment & \$650 acquisition fee due at signing. No sales tax for NH residents. Please contact the dealer for complete details. VIN# 5LM5J6XC3PCL23093. Expires 1-31-2024.

book of the week

'Annihilation,' by Jeff VanderMeer

(2014, 195 pages, Genre: Science Fiction / Horror)

"The map had been the first form of misdirection, for what is a map but a way of emphasizing some things and making other things invisible?" This is an excerpt from the journal of the biologist, the otherwise unnamed main character in Jeff VanderMeer's first installment of his Southern Reach trilogy. For over thirty years, a government agency called The Southern Reach has been sending small groups of people into a mysterious, forbidding tract of wilderness called Area X. Many of these participants have either never returned, come back with troubling psychological or physical conditions, or have killed each other while inside the borders of Area X. Stories have spread of strange new flora and fauna, and of occurrences and objects that defy explanation. The map mentioned in the biologist's journal does not account for these unsettling idiosyncrasies. Along with three other women, the biologist is part of the twelfth expedition into this abandoned landscape. Her compatriots are a surveyor, an anthropologist, and their leader, a psychologist.

The four women undergo months of grueling training

to prepare themselves for life in Area X. The biologist feels compelled to join the mission because her husband had been part of the eleventh expedition, and he, like many others, returned somehow not himself. Her once affable husband is simply a husk of his former self, and later develops terminal cancer, a fate shared by an alarming number of those returning from Area X.

Propelled by grief and a fierce need to quantify and objectively understand the type of environment that would transform her husband so dramatically, the biologist plunges into Area X, although like all other members of each expedition, she

vaguely aware that the psychologist hypnotized them to alleviate any fear they may have about entering this landscape. They struggle to make sense of their environment, not adequately aided by the obsolete, inadequate equipment they were provided before entering Area X. After four days of trekking across the land from the border, they discover a structure buried many feet beneath the soil. The biologist insists it is a tower, while the others call it a tunnel. After much de-

cannot recollect how she manages to breach the border or what said border was like. The biologist, the surveyor, and the anthropologist are

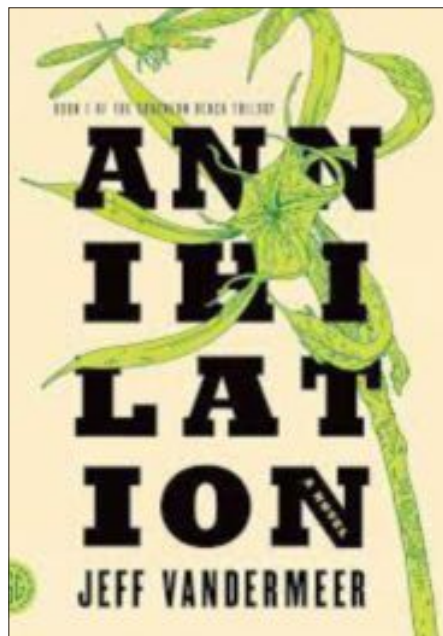
liberation, they decided to enter the tunnel, and begin to make their way down its winding staircase. They observe cryptic, seemingly unending text along the wall, and when the biologist leans in to get a closer look, she realizes the letters are formed from tiny, moving lifeforms. She accidentally inhales minuscule spores being released by these lifeforms, and the effects of this reverberate throughout the rest of the book.

As the group descends

further into the tower/tunnel, what they encounter and experience becomes weirder and weirder. If you've seen the incredible film adaptation of this book starring Natalie Portman, you will still find surprises in this novel, as there are quite a few details and plot points that differ greatly from the movie.

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Social Media Safety Day

Friday, Feb. 2



64% of adolescents are "often" or "sometimes" exposed to hate-based content through social media

1/3 of teen girls feel addicted to certain social media platforms

Social media use of three hours or more doubles the risk of depression and anxiety

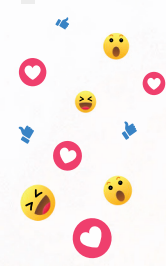


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For a FREE online parent course go to SocialMediaSafety.org

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