

Peabody Home Annual Pie Social

Tuesday, November 15 at 1:30 P.M.

Peabody Home. 603-934-3718.

Peabody Home is a not-for-profit, private pay Senior Living Community in Franklin NH, offering Independent Living, Assisted Living, Nursing Care, Memory Care, Respite Stay, Adult Day Care, and Hospice. With a 24 hour on-site licensed nursing staff and physician partnership, for all residents, Peabody Home ensures the entire family has peace of mind.

Press release

Please Join Peabody Home for the Annual Pie Social! Thursday, November 15 at 1:30 P.M. Choose from many different delicious pies, or if you would like to bake a pie please let us know.

RSVP by Monday, November 13 to Angela Mundy, Activities Director at

Lead Paint Information for Families, Property Owners, Contractors

Info session November 9, at 4 P.M. at FSB in Tilton

ards, cases that have gone to trial and Environmental Protection Agency enforcement. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

Press release

Exposure to lead can harm adults, children and can even affect babies before they are born. Lead exposure can come from paint, dust and contaminated soil. How does this affect contractors and investment property owners? What should families look for?

These questions will be discussed at an informational presentation by Christopher J. Seufert, Esquire of Seufert Law. Seufert will present information on the ramifications of lead paint haz-

Light refreshments will be served.

The presentation will take place at Franklin Savings Bank Community Learning Center, 61 Laconia Road, Tilton, NH.

The presentation is provided free of charge as a service of Franklin Savings Bank.

Space is limited. Call or email to RSVP to Sarah Stanley, at (603) 934-8343 or sarah.stanley@fsbnh.bank by Wednesday, November 8.

Foodstuffs: His Name is Kevin Roark...Prepare to Dine

Andover resident takes waiting tables to new level

Peter Biello, N.H. Public Radio

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Kevin Roark waits tables at the Barley House in Concord. On this day, he stands at the host's station, greeting guests as they walk through the door.



Kevin Roark, who lives in Andover is often referred to as "that little funny guy" by diners at the Barley House in Concord.

Photo: Peter Biello, NHPR

"Two?" Roark asks a pair of women who have come in for lunch.

These women don't seem to recognize Roark. But he has a reputation among the regulars here. You may have encountered a server like Roark at other restaurants. A little theatrical or over the top.

"We have a phenomenal, house-made red sangria," Roark tells the women once they've been seated in a booth. "Should we skip the waiting process and get two sangrias?"

When they agree, Roark smiles. "Exceptionally difficult!" he says.

Regulars at the Barley House sometimes request Roark as their server this way.

"Is that little, funny guy here today?" Roark says. "Come on, I'm the only dude who's this short and this weird, so I know when I'm being talked about when they say 'the little funny guy'."

Roark is 26. He lives in Andover. He's on the short side, thin, and wears a beard. And if he's your waiter, he'll bring more than just sweet potato fries and sangria to the table. Expect a quick wit, a sense of humor, and a quote from a film like Top Gun or The Princess Bride.

"My name is Inigo Montoya. I search for the six fingered man!" is how Roark often introduces himself. Sometimes he busts out a foreign language.

He knows bits of German, French, Spanish, and Japanese. His performance calls to mind an actor starving for attention, but he's not a theater guy.

In fact, big crowds aren't his thing.

"You get me in front of a group of people, I clam up. 'My name's Jeffy and I like apples. Uh, hi.' 'Kevin, your name's not even Jeffy and you don't like apples.'"

He prefers the intimacy of a small group gathered around a table, and he uses humor to pry his way into a better understanding of what his guests need.

But beyond making him more effective as a server, he uses humor for a more noble purpose: In an age when you can order your food with an app or on a screen mounted to your table, Roark wants to use humor to humanize the job of serving customers.

"I think it would probably be a pleasant change from the, 'Hi, I'm so-and-so. If you need anything, just press the button on the computer if you need my help.' What's the point of that?"

But Roark's approach can be polarizing, and this fact is not lost on him. So when he says, for example, "My name is Inigo Montoya, I search for the six-fingered man," he's telling a joke, but he's also reading your response.

"Because if someone catches it and says, 'You killed my father, prepare to die!' or they hold up their hand and say, 'Only five fingers, I swear!' That's when I know we're having a good time."

Sometimes the jokes don't work the way he intends. Sometimes the joke is a dud. But sometimes guests aren't in the mood for Roark's strong personality. If he gets a bad vibe, he dials it back.

"There was a time I was cracking jokes with my guest and one woman came up to me and said, 'Look, I genuinely appreciate your personality, I'm just having a very bad day.'" I said, 'I'll turn it off.' And she goes, 'Thank you very much.'"

On this day, everyone seems to be enjoying him, including Irene Oriani, who ordered one of those sangrias. She's a former bartender, and she says anyone can serve a drink, "but you have to it with some finesse. I'd say he's a good time. I'd say he's unique, but in a good way, and he's going to give you a great experience."

That great experience is Roark's singular focus. He's even concerned about my experience as I follow him around with a microphone.

"I do my best for you, Peter," Roark says, in an accent. "I just wanna make you happy and your listeners happy as well. Don't you know that's all I care about? It's all I ever wanted."

And then, in his own voice, he says: "It's a good time. Just try to have fun."

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