



The Monadnock SHOPPER NEWS

The Original Keene Shopper – “The Weekly with a Heart” – 68th Year of Community Service / November 19-25, 2025

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Keene State College To Host Second Open House For Popular One-Year Precision Optics Certificate



Jim Kraly, the college's associate dean of academic programs, showing an ultra-precision lathe in the Kingsbury Center for Diamond Turning Excellence.
(Photo by Will Wrobel / Keene State College)

Enrollees in Keene State College's Precision Optics Certificate program are authoring tales of exciting change, new goals and career aspirations, and earning quick results and better pay as they chart new career paths with this innovative education option, which can be completed in just one year.

Precision optics companies are entrenched in the greater region, and optics technicians are in high demand.

So, if for those who want to engage their minds and their hands, work directly with industry and research-grade equipment, and avoid a years-long wait for certification, then check it out.

Keene State invites the community to the Precision Optics Open House: Information Session & Tour on Saturday, December 6th from 8:30 to 11:15 a.m. to learn about the program, but also about how optics technology is integral to countless modern innovations, from the cameras in smartphones to life-saving medical imaging devices and advanced space telescopes.

OPTICS, page 9

The Bridges Of Madison County At Redfern Theatre

The Bridges of Madison County will take place at the Redfern Arts Center Main Theatre on November 19th to 21st at 7:30 p.m. and November 22nd at 2 and 7:30 p.m.

Adapted from Robert James Waller's best-selling novel, The Bridges of Madison County brings to the stage a poignant story of romance, longing, and the quiet power of choice.

After leaving Italy at the end of World War II, Francesca Johnson begins a new life in Iowa with her American husband. Years later, her days revolve around her home and family – until a traveling photographer, Robert Kincaid, arrives to capture the covered bridges of Madison County. Their unexpected

encounter sparks a connection that alters both their lives in ways neither could have foreseen.

Featuring a Tony Award-winning score by Jason Robert Brown and a heartfelt book by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Marsha Norman, this production captures the bittersweet beauty of love, duty, and the roads not taken.

Tickets are \$15 general public, \$10 senior citizens and youth, and free for KSC students, faculty, and staff. Tickets may be purchased at the Box Office by calling 603-358-2168 from 12 to 5 p.m. or online at boxoffice@keene.edu.

For more details, visit <http://keene.presence.io/event/bridges-of-madison-county>.

Choir! Choir! Choir! Presents Holiday Sing-Along: Un-Silent Night At Colonial Theatre Friday, December 5th

Choir! Choir! Choir! is a fully interactive, participatory show that turns the audience into performers. Directors Daveed Goldman and Nobu Adilman will bring an interactive show, Un-Silent Night: An Epic Holiday Sing-Along, to The Colonial Theatre at 95 Main Street in Keene on Friday, December 5th at 7 p.m.

Goldman and Adilman have blurred the lines between performer and audience, traveling the world to create harmony with strangers and friends alike.

They've collaborated with renowned artists like Patti Smith, David Byrne, Brandi Carlile, Rick Astley, Rufus Wainwright, and even Kermit The Frog at New York's Lincoln Center, creating memorable videos that have garnered views in the millions.

They teach, the audience sings, and everyone wins!

For more details or to purchase tickets, call 603-352-2033 or visit www.thecolonial.org.



Choir! Choir! Choir! Directors (L to R) Daveed Goldman and Nobu Adilman.

Monadnock Perio And Implant Center In Keene And Peterborough Cutting-Edge Expertise, Local Commitment, Genuine Passion For Patients Well-Being



The highly-trained periodontists at Monadnock Perio and Implant Center include (L to R): Rahul Tase, D.M.D., M.S., B.S.; Tae Kwon, D.D.S., M.M., Sc.; and Jad Mourad, D.M.D., M.S.D.

By Mary Gamache

Since opening its doors, Monadnock Perio and Implant Center has established itself as the Monadnock Region's authority in advanced dental and periodontal care. With offices in Keene and Peterborough, the practice combines cutting-edge expertise, local commitment, and a genuine passion for patients' well-being.

Founded by Dr. Tae Kwon, a Harvard-trained periodontist, the center's mission extends far beyond treating gum disease and placing implants – it's about educating, empowering,

and elevating the entire dental community.

Leading Education in Dentistry
In 2017, Dr. Kwon founded the New Hampshire Study Club for Excellence in Dentistry, which has since offered more than 70 continuing education classes to dentists and specialists across the region. The study club covers a wide range of advanced topics – from dental implants and esthetic dentistry to complex case management – helping clinicians stay at the forefront of modern dentistry.

PERIO, page 8

Specialty Gelato Flavors For Thanksgiving At Frisky Cow

Frisky Cow Gelato is churning up some special Thanksgiving gelatos to complement holiday pies.

Thanksgiving flavors are: pear & ginger sorbet, caramel apple crisp, peanut butter pie, spiced pumpkin tiramisu, bourbon pecan pie, lemon cheesecake, and Madagascar vanilla.

The scoop shop will be open Thurs-

day through Saturday, November 21st to 23rd from noon to 6 p.m. (til 8 p.m. on Saturday). Folks can enjoy cups and cones of fresh scooped gelato or get a pint (\$13/pint) packed to take home. Pre-order pints on-line and save \$1/pint (\$12/pint) at: <https://friskycow-gelato.com/specialty-gelato-preorders>.

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PLAID FRIDAY... 16-21

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PET OF THE WEEK
from THE MONADNOCK HUMANE SOCIETY

Duke



Meet Duke! He's a nine-ish-year-old German Shepherd mix with a heart full of love and a few years of wisdom under his belt. Duke is the kind of dog who just wants to be near his people. He's incredibly sweet, gentle, and always ready for a cuddle or a quiet nap in a sunny spot. He does have a medical waiver for some ongoing skin and ear issues, in addition to a potentially cancerous spot, but he handles it all like a champ and never lets it dampen his friendly spirit. Duke is a social guy who gets super excited (think happy bounces and little whines) when he sees other dogs. He's also lived peacefully with goats, chickens, cats, and has had good experiences around kids. His absolute favorite thing in the world? A little green lizard stuffed toy – he's quite attached, so it'll be heading home with him when he finds his forever family. If you're looking for a mellow, loyal companion with a big heart and a gentle soul, Duke might just be your perfect match.

The Adoption Center is located at 101 West Swansey Road just outside of Keene on Route 10 South. Its open hours are Thursday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Learn more about the adoption process and about other adoptable pets at www.monadnockhumanesociety.org.

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Small Pond Productions’ “A Classic Christmas Jubilee 2025”



Walt Sayre and Traci Booth rehearsing for Small Pond Productions’ “A Classic Christmas Jubilee 2025.” (Photo by Maureen McHugh)

Small Pond Productions will present A Classic Christmas Jubilee 2025 on Thursday through Saturday, December 4th through 6th, at 7:30 p.m., and on Saturday and Sunday, December 6th and 7th, at 2 p.m. Performances will take place at the Community House of Marlborough, 160 Main Street (Route 101), Marlborough.

Directed by Traci Booth with music direction by Walt Sayre, A Classic Christmas Jubilee 2025 marks the return of Small Pond Productions’ annual holiday show.

Following the musical program, the company will present an original one-act play, *Traci’s Place*, written by Walt Sayre and directed by Bryan Hebert. Set in a local Southern New Hampshire tavern on Christmas Eve, the play follows a group of travelers who seek refuge from an approaching snowstorm.

The cast includes Barb Andrews, Matt Axsom, Rich and Traci Booth, Mark Brosseau, David Chase, Rich Clough, Andy and PJ Cooke, Jeannie Donohoe, Ren Doyle, Zoe Ferrin, Grace Fisher, Sarah Flower, Tara Gillard, Bryan Hebert, Emma Keating-Tuttle, Sonia Kibbee, Ray Mahoney, Sarah Manning, Lisa Perreault, John Sansone, Walt Sayre, Cassandra Schmitt, Kathlyne Sibley, and Casey Volikas.

Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for seniors and students. Seating is first-come, first-served unless special arrangements are required; such requests may be made when reserving tickets. To reserve, call 603-242-2314. Payment may be made by cash or check at the door; credit cards are not accepted.

For more details, visit www.smallpondpresents.org or the Small Pond Productions Facebook page.

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OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory **Ralph Donald Merchant, Jr.** *August 2, 1942 - October 25, 2025*

Ralph Donald Merchant Jr., beloved husband of Judith Merchant, crossed over on October 25, 2025 at 84 years of age. Proud veteran, avid hunter, father of three, grandfather of eight, and great-grandfather of eight, Ralph and Judith lived in Gilsum, NH, where they enjoyed a married life of 63 years. Ralph lost his brother, Ronald Merchant, in 2023 and is survived by his brothers Robert and Randall Merchant, his sister Cynthia Merchant, his daughters Robin and Rennae Merchant, and his son Ralph Merchant III. Ralph's second love was his guide service in Ashland, Maine, which he passionately built and participated in for over 25 years. His legacy will live on there for many years to come, extending his love of nature and all that the great woods provide and teach us. He was a huge presence to all who knew him, and he will be deeply missed. A celebration of life to be held in the spring of 2026 will be announced on Facebook (Rennae Merchant) for all of his family and many thoughtful friends. Foley Funeral Home of Keene, NH has been entrusted with the arrangements. To express condolences to the family or to share a photo or memory of him, please visit www.FoleyFuneralHome.com.

In Memoriam **Thomas Skylarr Concorde** **July 7, 1952 - November 2, 2025**



Thomas Skylarr Concorde, 73, died unexpectedly on November 2, 2025, at his home in Nelson New Hampshire with his wife Carol Jane Concorde at his side. He died peacefully in his sleep due to heart complications. He was born July 7, 1952, in New Britain Connecticut, the son of Stanley and Violet Chojnowski also of New Britain CT. Thomas attended New Britain High School where he graduated in June 1970. He then attended the CT

School of Broadcasting in Farmington CT. Tom's lifelong passion was writing original music lyrics and playing lead guitar. He was especially good at creating original rock music. In the early 1970s, Tom had the privilege of being asked to go on tour with the #1 rock band at the time: Pink Floyd. This tour was Pink Floyd's 'Dark Side of the Moon. Along with Dennis Marturano and Peter Sheridan, Tom was responsible for Pink Floyd's Special Sound Effects, Lighting and Pyrotechnics which are world-renowned.

Tom married his long-time girlfriend, Elizabeth Burrows of Colchester, CT. They had a daughter on April 5, 1975, and named her Valerie. Tom truly loved being a father. Tom moved his young family to Newington, CT where he established his first recording studio in the basement of his large home. This enabled Tom, a very accomplished lead guitar player, to not only have his own band, but to write original music and record it. Tom had bi-weekly jam sessions in his basement/studio where he recorded some of his best original songs. The marriage ended when his daughter was approximately 16 years old; however, it was very important to Tom to keep a very close relationship with his daughter, his son-in-law and his two grandchildren, which he did until the day he passed away. Tom married Carol Burt on May 22, 1999, and they were married for 26 years. Tom and Carol lived in Colchester, CT, Palm Coast Florida and Nelson New Hampshire. They enjoyed their retirement together. Tom and Carol would garden, go to the beach, cook and take in the beauty of nature. Tom also enjoyed spending time with his grandsons. He talked with them about God, lifelong skills, family, music and preparing them for their bright futures.

While living in Newington, CT, Tom held the position of Department Manager for a large retail store in Newington, CT called Lechmere. Thereafter, he worked as an Account Executive for Audio Equipment Sales Company where he advised clients worldwide on what equipment was best for their purposes and sold it to them. This was followed by Tom establishing his own company called Thunder Lightning where he, once again, sold audio equipment to many large bands on a worldwide basis. In addition to his wife Carol (Burt) Concorde, Tom is survived by his daughter, Valerie Michelle Petocchi and her husband Raymond Petocchi of East Hampton CT. Tom also is survived by his two grandsons, Ryan Petocchi and Devin Petocchi of East Hampton CT. Lastly, he is survived by numerous nieces and nephews, offspring of his predeceased sister, Violet Balicheski of Palm City Florida.

All services are under the care of
Cheshire Family Funeral Chapel and Crematories
44 Maple Ave. Keene, NH. 03431. www.cheshirefamilyfh.com.

My Time, My Truth Book Talk In Keene Saturday

"Some stories don't just inspire they awaken something deep within you," said author C. Ayla Joyce Matheson.

My Time, My Truth, by Matheson, journeys through a modern-day love story of transformation, courage, and spiritual awakening. From a childhood shaped by missionary life during the 70s to a near-death experience that redefined everything she believed, Matheson's memoir is a raw, beautiful testament to healing, identity, and the power of

reclaiming one's truth.

Matheson will give a talk on the book Saturday, November 22nd from 11 a.m. to noon at Toadstool Bookshop at 12 Emerald Street in Keene.

"For anyone walking the path of self-discovery, this book is your reminder: it's never too late to find your way home to yourself," said Matheson.

The book is available now at <https://geni.us/MyTimeMyTruth/opt/0?iguid=kbEbKOdjK0mHkzYZbwUI>

Home Healthcare, Hospice & Community Services Names Karen Gomes As Interim CEO

Home Healthcare, Hospice & Community Services (HCS) has announced the appointment of Karen Gomes, RN, MS, COS-C as its new Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Gomes succeeds Maura McQueeney, MPH, DNP, who retires in November after seven years as HCS' CEO.

Gomes joins HCS with over 20 years of leadership across the continuum of care, including geriatric, home health, hospice, and population health management. She excels at turning big picture issues and strategic goals into specific action plans created with organizational situations, structure and challenges in mind.

Gomes' professional history recently includes her role as Owner and Founder of RN Answers, LLC, a consulting business for Home Health and Hospice companies across New England and New York; including HCS. Previously, she served as President and CEO of Tufts Medicine Care at Home.

"We are thrilled to welcome Karen to HCS," said Virginia Jordan, board chair of HCS. "Gomes' inti-

mate understanding of HCS' vision for growth puts her in a unique position to continue the work actively happening, ensuring a seamless transition without interruption to care. Her extensive experience and focus on quality care outcomes will continue HCS' reputation as the leader in compassionate, holistic home healthcare."

"I am grateful and excited to be joining the dedicated team at HCS. Through its many programs and services, HCS provides expert home and community-based care to the communities of southwestern New Hampshire, enabling people to remain in their own homes, where they most want to be," said Gomes.

Under Gomes' leadership, HCS will continue to grow and strengthen its programs – expanding access, enhancing patient experience, and addressing evolving healthcare and community service needs across southwestern New Hampshire.

To learn more about HCS, visit www.HCSservices.org.

Monadnock Peer Support Receives Grant For Veterans Breakfast Group

Monadnock Peer Support (MPS) has announced the receipt of a \$1,000 community grant from Service Credit Union and the Robert Irvine Foundation. This will support the launch of a new Veterans Support Group Breakfast, a program designed to bring together local veterans for connection, conversation, and community healing.

The group will meet regularly at the Monadnock Peer Support Center in Keene, with breakfast provided at no cost to participants.

"Veterans often face unique mental health challenges that can feel isolating," said Frank White, group facilitator and veteran himself. "This breakfast group isn't just about a meal, it's about creating a space where veterans can talk openly, laugh, share stories, and support one another."

More information can be found at Monadnock-PSA.org or by calling 603-352-5093.



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The Secret Lives Of Opossums An Educational Presentation At Blue Seal Farm & Home



Ruth Hart, wildlife rehabilitation with New England Opossum

This past July, Blue Seal Farm & Home in Brattleboro hosted New England Opossum for a successful educational event. Due to its popularity the event will be repeated Sunday, November 23rd. With a rise in deer tick populations and the spread of Lyme disease, opossums have become even more important, with a single opossum consuming an estimated 5,000 ticks per season. They also eat cockroaches, rats, and mice.

New England Opossum is a grassroots organization dedicated to educating the public, supporting wildlife rehabilitators, and promoting coexistence with one of nature’s gentle and beneficial nocturnal creatures.

“Come and learn how opossums benefit you, our environment, and how you can help them with little-to-no effort on your part,” says Ruth Hart, licensed wildlife rehabilitator. “During the event, members of New England Opossum will be available to answer

your questions and will have some surprises that are sure to delight kids and adults alike.”

This free presentation is ideal for those curious about local wildlife, animal rehabilitation, or seeking a fun and educational family outing. It takes place, rain or shine, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Blue Seal Farm and Home, located at 1277 Putney Road in Brattleboro. For more details about New England Opossum, or about opossums themselves, visit new-englandopossum.org.

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Artsy Garden Projects For The Winter Months

As we head toward winter, I like to plan ahead for artsy garden-related projects that I can accomplish indoors. These give me inspiration throughout the cold months and make me feel like I've got a head start on spring.

Before snow is on the ground, I'll go for a walk along the forest's edge and pull Bittersweet out by the roots. Cutting nice lengths of the twisty vines, I'll bundle them up and bring them home for projects. So as to not spread the invasive, I make sure to burn any extra roots or shoots I pull, as well as the berries. Once home, our daughter and I plop on the floor and begin to explore what these vines might want to be. Last year, she made a sweet little basket and I used the vines as a base for a wreath of dried flowers and pine cones. I've also seen someone twist the vines into a woman-like sculpture, letting the ends flow around the bottom of her like a large skirt. Pruners and gardener's wire can help, but aren't necessary. A good pair of scissors and baling twine will work.

Another tried and true project is painting ceramic pots. Anyone can be an artist and there's no shame in creating "unique" pieces. At home, we've painted flowers and suns, patterns of various shapes, and big smiley faces. The kids love this kind of project as much as I do. For a more lengthy endeavor, you could pick a theme – fruits and veggies, cartoon characters, holidays, or animal faces – and go for it! Even if my paintings come out wonky, I really enjoy the creative expression. Whatever type of paint I use, I have found it's best to put a layer of Mod Podge or varnish on top before putting them outdoors. You can fill them with easy-to-grow cat grass or just wait until the spring to use them.

Various vessels can work as pots, too. Old teacup collections, tin cans, or even random boots all look uplifting when filled with good soil and a perky, little plant. I love growing succulents because they are easily divided. One leaf stuck in the soil and watered regularly will become a whole new plant.

Additionally, little Primroses will bloom through most of the winter and can be replaced with Johnny Jump-Ups come spring.

More homemade projects include making mosaic stepping stones or building a bug and bee house or a bird feeder. The simplest of all these is a feeder made from rolling a pine cone in peanut butter and bird seed. I love tying them in the kitchen garden, so I can see the birds nourish themselves while I wash dishes. Maybe it doesn't quite count as art; but it's close enough.

Woods and Gardens

with Yedida Landis



For inspiration beyond what is in my own brain, I turned toward my trusty garden magazines. *Fine Gardening* had a feature on Chanticleer Gardens near Philadelphia, PA. It turns out the gardeners find themselves quite busy through the winter, not only with routine maintenance to trails and trees, but also in the time they take to build garden structures and create garden art. These gardener artists weave, tie, or nail together branches to make trellises or upright tripods as focal points for the gardens. They hand-paint chairs and benches, not to mention do metalworking and make stained glass.

I don't think I'll set my sights that high; but, it's comforting to know that, from whimsical sculptures to a more practical trellis or even a tiny painted pot, there are plenty of garden art projects when the ice has settled.

Yedida Landis has been teaching organic gardening to children for over 20 years and is Lead Gardener at MacDowell.

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“Unhung Heroes” Art Exhibit Closing Event November 28th



Beatrix Thorne - Oil on Canvas



Jane Thorne - Oil on canvas

The November art exhibit at the DubHub/Dublin Community Center at 1123 Main Street will feature a new collection of “Unhung Heroes” – art pieces provided by art collectors and supporters of the DubHub that are looking for new homes. The original paintings and limited-edition prints will be sold “silent auction” style.

Clipboards for bidding will remain in place until a closing event on Friday, November 28th, from 10 a.m. to noon, after which the winning bidders may take home their acquisitions. Proceeds from this fundraiser will support the DubHub.

For more details, contact the DubHub at 603-563-8080 or see <https://www.dubhub-nh.org/calendar>

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E-Cycling

Tech Talk

with Greg Pratt



When your computer – or any other home electronic device – has reached the end of its useful life, what should you do with it? Turn it in to a local business that does e-cycling! E-cycling is the process of dismantling electronics and separating out their parts and components so that the dangerous materials – lead, cadmium, mercury, lithium, chromium – don't end up in a landfill somewhere, leaching into the groundwater. Instead, the components are sent off to facilities where they are carefully broken down and their materials – especially the rare earth materials inside – can be re-used, keeping us from having to mine for them. Your dead computer or laptop battery could one day become a new electronic device, living another life of service!

Until next time, be well, be kind, and be curious. Gregory Pratt is the head bench technician of TheStiltskin Computer Services, located at 1 Elm Street in Keene, where they offer free-of-charge e-cycling. If you have a question, email help@thestiltskin.com.

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Keene Holiday Craft Show November 29th



Briana Fino (L) and Alesha Kimball

Thyme To Cook will be among the vendors at the Keene Holiday Craft Show at Keene High School from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 29th.

Fitzwilliam Community Church Christmas Fair & Bake Sale

This year, like past years, the Fitzwilliam Community Church Christmas Fair & Bake Sale will feature a wide assortment of beautiful and unique Christmas and holiday crafts and many items specially created by church members. Visitors can stop by and pick up some gift items, and browse their well-known baked goods selections. Folks can pick up a dessert

Nestled on a 120-acre off-grid homestead in Acworth, Thyme To Cook is where small-batch craftsmanship meets heartfelt tradition. Founded and operated by Briana “Bri” Fino, the business specializes in jams, jellies, marmalades, salsas, sauces, and more, all made with clean, simple ingredients and a commitment to local, sustainable sourcing.

What began as a simple garden project with her mother quickly grew into something much larger. “We started with just a small garden, but before long, we had more produce than we could possibly use,” Fino explains. “So, we began turning it into something better: pepper jelly from our peppers, relish from our squash, salsa and marinara from our tomatoes. When we discovered wild berries growing all over our property, that’s when things really took off.”

Today, many of the ingredients in Fino’s products are grown right on the family’s land, with additional produce sourced from local farmers she’s met through area markets.

“At the end of the day, my goal is simple,” Fino says. “To create food that’s honest, local, and made with love.”

for Thanksgiving dinner or breakfast goodies for visiting guests.

The event will take place Saturday November 22nd from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Fitzwilliam Community Church at 85 Route 119 West (at the end of the common) in Fitzwilliam.

For more details, call 603-585-3352.

Used Book Sale & More At Dublin Church

A Used Book Sale & More will be held at the Dublin Community Church Hall on Friday, December 5th and Saturday, December 6th from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, December 7th from 1 to 3 p.m.

Book donations can be dropped off ahead of time in the shed east of the church. Another interest is donations of old calendars, maps, games, movies, music, puzzles, and stationery.

For those who need items picked up, call 603-831-1360.

Gilsum Church Holiday Fair At Church And Library Saturday, November 22nd

The Gilsum Church Holiday Fair will be held on Saturday, November 22nd at the church at 13 Main Street from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and at the library at 650 Route 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This event includes pies, donuts, and other baked goods for sale; raffles; a cozy cafe at the church; and handcrafted gifts and stocking stuffers for sale.

Besides baked goods, the library will have a tent sale, book sale, and take-out lunch items (soups and sandwiches).

Holiday Fairs In Walpole On Saturday, November 22nd

Fairs will be taking place on or adjacent to the Walpole Common on Saturday, November 22nd from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visitors can walk to all venues from one parking spot.

Outside on the Common there will be a Thanksgiving Market with local vendors selling fresh produce, meat, prepared food and crafts, plus local nonprofits. At the Congregational Church, the Mistletoe Mart will have baked goods, homemade candy and crafts. They serve lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At St. John’s Church their Holiday Fair features assorted cookies by the pound, sweet and savory goods, baked pies, home goods, wreaths, birdhouses plus free coffee, tea, cider in their cafe. On two floors of the Walpole Town Hall, the Firefighters Auxilliary is hosting a variety of vendors and a quilt raffle plus breakfast and lunch options.

At The Gathering Place, the Sending Sunshine hostess has cards made by local artists to buy plus a place to sit and write or create cards to mail.

Westmoreland Ladies Aid Bazaar November 22nd

The Westmoreland Ladies Aid Bazaar will take place on Saturday, November 22nd, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fellowship Hall, 9 South Village Common in Westmoreland.

The event will feature handicrafts, baked goods, a cookie walk, fresh greenery arrangements, books, and unique treasures. A quilt raffle drawing will be held at 1 p.m. A soup-and-sandwich luncheon will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Santa will be on hand for photos throughout the day. The venue is handicapped accessible.

Christmas Fair In Swanzey November 21st, 22nd

The First Congregational Church of Swanzey will host a Christmas Fair on Friday, November 21st, from 4 to 6 p.m., and Saturday, November 22nd, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 679 Old Homestead Highway in Swanzey.

The fair will feature wreaths, swags, and holiday décor, along with a bakery, Christmas Caffè, raffle baskets, and Christmas crafts. The event is handicapped accessible.

For more details, contact the church office at 603-352-6689 or office@swanzeyucc.org

Storytime With Author And Artist Lita Judge

The Keene Public Library will host author and illustrator Lita Judge for a special storytime on Saturday, November 22nd, from 11 a.m. to noon at 60 Winter Street in Keene.

Judge will read from her newest picture book, Old Blue Is My Home, a heartfelt story about a young girl and her family living in their van, finding love and security wherever they are together. The book offers a gentle and dignified look at housing insecurity through the eyes of a child and features Judge’s signature warm, expressive illustrations.

Lita Judge is the author and illustrator of more than 30 fiction and nonfiction books, including The Red Sled, Flight School, One Thousand Tracings, and Beatrix and the Unicorn.

For more details, call 603-352-0157 or email akraemer@keenenh.gov

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Federated Church Of Marlborough Holly Berry Fair This Saturday

The Federated Church of Marlborough will hold its annual Holly Berry Fair on Saturday, November 22nd from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the handicap accessible Community House, 160 Main Street in Marlborough.

For years, the highlight of the event has been the wide selection of greens – wreaths, swags, berry bowls, and table arrangements – all of which will be available again this year.

“Grandma’s Attic” will have a wide array of items suitable for gifting. The food tables will be brimming with homemade goodies including pies, cookies, breads, and fudge. Attendees should prepare to be tempted by the many appealing raffle items. The upstairs auditorium will hold all the treasures of many local crafters. Visitors can browse the art, jewelry, wooden objects, unique paper products, and other surprises.

Folks should come early for the best selection, have coffee, and stay for lunch.

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National Average Ticks Up, Remains Lower Than Last Year

Gas prices remained relatively stable as November kicked off. The national average for a gallon of regular went up nearly five cents since last week to \$3.08. Refinery maintenance in California is part of the reason for the increase: when refineries pause production, gas prices in the area temporarily go up. Still, the national average is lower than it was this time last year, and gas prices should remain on a quiet path as we get closer to Thanksgiving.

Today's national average: \$3.084
One week ago: \$3.038

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One month ago: \$3.133
One year ago: \$3.107

Maine's average current price is \$3.02 per gallon, which is two cents higher than one week ago, and four cents lower than a year ago.

New Hampshire's average current price is \$2.94 per gallon, which is two cents higher than one week ago, and four cents lower than a year ago.

Vermont's average current price is \$3.09 per gallon, which is the same price as one week ago, and four cents lower than a year ago.

According to new data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), gasoline demand decreased from 8.92 million b/d last week to 8.87 million. Total domestic gasoline supply decreased from 210.7 million barrels to 206 million. Gasoline production increased last week, averaging 9.8 million barrels per day.

Oil Market Dynamics

At the close of Wednesday's formal trading session, WTI fell 96 cents to settle at \$59.60 a barrel. The EIA reports crude oil inventories increased by 5.2 million barrels from the previous week. At 421.2 million barrels, U.S. crude oil inventories are about four percent below the five-year average for this time of year.

EV Charging

The national average per kilowatt hour of electricity at a public EV charging station went down by 1 cent this past week to 37 cents.

State Stats

Gas

The nation's top 10 most expensive gasoline markets are California (\$4.69), Hawaii (\$4.47), Washington (\$4.25), Nevada (\$3.98), Oregon (\$3.85), Alaska (\$3.80), Arizona (\$3.36), Idaho (\$3.33), Illinois (\$3.30), and Pennsylvania (\$3.24).

The nation's top 10 least expensive gasoline markets are Mississippi (\$2.60), Tennessee (\$2.61), Oklahoma (\$2.62), Louisiana (\$2.62), Texas (\$2.64), Arkansas (\$2.67), Alabama (\$2.68), Missouri (\$2.71), Kentucky (\$2.72), and South Carolina (\$2.75).

Electric

The nation's top 10 most expensive states for public charging per kilowatt hour are West Virginia (53 cents), Alaska (50 cents), Hawaii (48 cents), South Carolina (45 cents), Louisiana (43 cents), Tennessee (42 cents), Alabama (42 cents), New Jersey (41 cents), Montana (41 cents), and Oklahoma (41 cents).

The nation's top 10 least expensive states for public charging per kilowatt hour are Kansas (25 cents), Nebraska (26 cents), Missouri (27 cents), Wyoming (27 cents), Maryland (30 cents), Utah (30 cents), Vermont (31 cents), Iowa (32 cents), Delaware (33 cents), and District of Columbia (33 cents).

Drivers can find current gas and electric charging prices along their route using the AAA TripTik Travel planner.

Monadnock Perio And Implant Center In Keene And Peterborough Cutting-Edge Expertise, Local Commitment, Genuine Passion For Patients Well-Being

PERIO, Continued from page 1

That same year, Monadnock Perio and Implant Center launched a local Dental Hygiene Study Club, dedicated to empowering hygienists through knowledge and collaboration. Over 25 continuing education sessions have been offered, focusing on early detection of periodontal disease, implant maintenance, and team-based patient care.

Recognized Regionally and Internationally

Beyond the Monadnock Region, Dr. Kwon lectures extensively both in the US and abroad. His academic contributions include a guest lecturer at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine and the University of Pennsylvania, a clinical instructor at the University of Michigan, as well as international presentations in Australia, Canada, and New Zealand.

He was also honored as an invited speaker at the New Hampshire Dental Society Annual Meeting in Concord – one of just three presenters selected to educate dental professionals statewide.

An Academic Center of Excellence

Monadnock Perio and Implant Center is proud to serve as an affiliated training site for the Harvard Dental School's Advanced Graduate Education Program in General Dentistry. Every year, Harvard residents spend several months at the Keene office, observing advanced treatments and learning firsthand from Dr. Kwon and his team about the integration of science, skill, and compassion in patient care.

Scientific Leadership and Editorial Roles

A respected researcher, Dr. Kwon has published numerous scientific articles in peer-reviewed dental and medical journals, with a focus on periodontics, implantology, and oral surgery. He also serves on the editorial boards of several leading journals, including the International Dental Journal, Quintessence International, and the Journal of Dental Traumatology.

Patient-Centered, Quality-Driven Care

At Monadnock Perio and Implant Center, clinical excellence meets human connection. The practice is home to Dr. Kwon, Dr. Rahul Tase, and Dr. Jad Mourad, a team of highly-trained periodontists who live locally and are deeply invested in the community.

Their shared philosophy emphasizes continuity of care – a key to successful outcomes in periodontal and implant treatment. Patients are cared for by the same trusted specialists at every stage, ensuring consistency, comfort, and trust.

"Whether it's a complex reconstruction or a same-day emergency, we meet our patients where they are," says Dr. Kwon. "Our team's goal is to provide care that is not only clinically excellent but also deeply personal."

The practice is also known for its flexibility and compassion, offering evening and weekend hours and making every effort to promptly accommodate emergency and new patients.

Dentistry as a Family

One of the most rewarding experiences for Dr. Kwon is collaborating with other dental professionals to manage both simple and complex periodontal cases. This includes working alongside his wife, Dr. Jihae Yang, a general dentist and owner of Our Town Dental in Peterborough. Dr. Kwon has always dreamed of working together with his wife to help people in their beautiful community. In fact, he jokes that he married Dr. Yang so they could talk about dentistry all the time!

About Monadnock Perio and Implant Center

With locations in Keene and Peterborough, Monadnock Perio and Implant Center is the Monadnock Region's only periodontal specialty practice. The team provides comprehensive treatment in periodontics, dental implants, and gum disease management with a focus on patient comfort, education, and long-term success.

For more details or to set up an appointment, call 603-215-5800, visit www.monadnockperio.com, or follow Monadnock Perio and Implant Center on social media.

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Freedom

Freedom. A national principle according to our founding founders. One expression of our freedom is our love affair with automobiles. Cars are often promoted as our ticket to the freedom of the open road. Even if you don't have a car or like your car, you appreciate the freedom of mobility a car provides.

That freedom you feel on the open road with no traffic is enhanced by the performance of the car. Superior performance starts with better balance. I'll take the battery weight evenly spread between the four wheels over an engine block standing up in the front end. This improves traction and limits rollover risk. The added direct torque and control of an electric motor improves handling and traction. Electric vehicles (EVs), even those without higher torque, offer exhilarating driving. (Torque is the twisting force generated by a car's motor, responsible for a vehicle's ability to accelerate and perform hard work.)



For the last 100 years, that freedom has been driven by gasoline. We are totally dependent on oil companies and gas stations for a highly refined, flammable product that has volatile prices. We don't really have much choice while oil companies are raking in billions of dollars each in profits, from Texas to Russia.

With an electric vehicle (EV), there is more freedom in where the electricity comes from, and there's a much more decentralized network of sources creating and supplying that electricity. Most EV charging is done at home, which I really appreciate, especially when I get free fuel from my solar power system. Electricity prices are more stable and gasoline costs almost double, \$3.37/gallon vs \$1.85/e gallon

(calculated equivalent) based on 2023 NH statistics. Public EV charging is getting much better as more chargers are installed. I've seen it over the last seven years and friends who travel a lot share stories of how easy charging on the road is getting. How about the freedom to have AC electricity from your vehicle while on the road or camping or during a power outage? Many EVs have an outlet (Vehicle-to-load plug) to provide 120 Volt AC power, some E trucks also provide 240 Volt AC.

A freedom some will appreciate more than others is the freedom from maintenance an EV provides. Maintenance savings start with EVs having 90 percent fewer moving parts to wear out. The electric motor is more reliable than the internal combustion engine, brakes last longer thanks to regenerative braking, which charges the battery while slowing the vehicle. There are no transmissions, exhausts, or oil changes to deal with either. Other than tires, I had no maintenance for the four years driving my first EV and for three years on this one.

A freedom we take for granted is clean air. Unfortunately, we overlook the toxic gasses from burning gasoline. Two of the most dangerous tailpipe gasses are carbon monoxide which is deadly in concentrations of about 400 PPM. The carbon dioxide (CO2) is making the planet hotter as a greenhouse gas trapping heat. For tens of thousands of years, atmospheric CO2 levels averaged 280 PPM. It has risen rapidly since the 1950s, now exceeding 425 ppm and rising steadily. Now talking of 'sure things' like death and taxes, we can add hotter temperatures.

I appreciate the freedom from guilt. While I'm enjoying the freedom of the open road, I'm not polluting our air and making the world hotter. May the torque be with you.

John Kondos has been harvesting free fuel from the sun for five decades and is enjoying the freedom, performance and ease of ownership of an EV.

Jaffrey Civic Center Presents "Palette Of Prestige: Signature Members In Pastel"



By Terri Brooks

Jaffrey Civic Center is hosting the Palette of Prestige: Pastel Society of NH Signature Members exhibition through December 20th. This exhibition of

pastel features award winning artists that belong to the Pastel Society of New Hampshire. Featured artists include: Sharon Boisvert, Terri Brooks, Carol Corliss, Keith Demanche, Mary Ann Eldred, Wolfgang Ertl, Joelle Feldman, Paula Fraser, Susanne Larkham, Shuk Susan Lee, Mena Levit, Maryann Mullett, Lisa Regopoulos.

This exhibition is a unique blend of work in soft pastel including a variety of subject matter including landscape, animals and nocturnes. There are 25 pieces in the show, all of which are for sale.

This show features award winning artists, some of which are Master Circle Members of IAPS (International Association of Pastels), Pastel Society of America members, and have been featured in art magazines and have received awards in the highly competitive Pastel 100 Art Magazine Competition.

Keene State College To Host Second Open House For Popular One-Year Precision Optics Certificate

OPTICS, Continued from page 1

Attendees can tour the college's new dedicated precision optics lab, meet faculty, discover career prospects, and learn about financial aid options and how to apply for the program.

Keene State's one-of-a-kind program is supported by national and regional industry partners and federal funding, and is a direct response to a red-hot and vital market demand in the Monadnock Region.

A one-year pathway to degree completion is just part of all that there is to be excited about, said Dr. Sarah McGregor, director of the optics program and chair of the Physics Department at Keene State.

"What's been so inspiring about our first cohort is the range of learners it's brought together," McGregor said. "Unlike traditional technical or science fields that often attract students who already see themselves as 'math' or 'science' people, we're looking more deeply at curiosity, creativity, and a willingness to learn. We're drawn to those who like to work with their hands, who want to understand how things fit together. The artist, the mechanic, the creator, all have a place here."

Precision optics companies are thrilled that Keene State has started this program, said Jim Kraly, the college's associate dean of academic programs. "The local industry network understands how important this type of education and training is to our region's future. Our partners are eager to host program interns and hire skilled certificate completers, and they are eager to show the range of fascinating careers the precision optics industry can offer."

Nine people are enrolled in the current short-

program model, which is designed to accommodate individuals who need to work part-time while pursuing their certificate.

Two unique areas within precision optics are highly specialized in the region but critical to national and international markets: Diamond turning machining, and thin-film coatings for precision optics lenses and components. These areas, too, Kraly said, are defining strengths and core topic areas of the college's precision optics curriculum.

Tuition reductions and a growing market need mean, "There is no better time than now to consider pathway offerings like precision optics at Keene State," Kraly said.

To sign up for the Precision Optics Open House and learn more, visit keene.edu/optics.

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Listings At Close of Market November 14, 2025 • Courtesy of RBC Wealth Management					
Dow Jones Closed 47,147.48 160.38 • Prime Rate 7.00% (0.00)					
	Close	Week's Change		Close	Week's Change
Honeywell (Allied Signal)	199.04	4.97	Danaher Corp. (Kollmorgen)	221.21	11.27
Becton Dickinson (C.R. Bard)	193.04	15.20	Merck (Hubbard Farms)	92.92	6.64
Toronto Dominion Bank (TD Bank)	81.35	0.45	Deluxe (NEBS)	20.21	(0.49)
PC Connection	58.99	0.91	Teleflex (Jaffrey)	107.00	(2.40)
Bank Of America (Fleet)	52.61	(0.59)	Timken (MPB Corp.)	76.41	(2.58)
Corning Inc.	82.06	(3.42)	M&T Bank Corp. (People's United)	186.96	1.10
Ametek, Inc. (Precitech)	193.36	(2.93)	Dover Corp. (Markem)	183.12	2.79
PRECIOUS METALS			COMMODITIES		
	Close	Week's Change		Close	Week's Change
Silver (\$ per ounce)	50.53	2.23	Wheat (cents per bushel)	541.00	14.00
Gold (\$ per ounce)	4,085.80	73.30	Corn (cents per bushel)	444.00	17.25
Platinum (\$ per ounce)	1,542.95	(5.58)	Soybeans (cents per bushel)	1,122.50	5.25
			Cattle (cents per pound)	219.18	(8.07)
			Crude (\$ per barrel)	59.90	0.09

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Why Market Pullbacks In 2025 Have Been Shallow And Short

Market corrections often present chances to acquire quality assets at attractive valuations. Hence, “buy the dip” has long been a mantra for many investors. Historically, market pullbacks have offered attractive entry points for those willing to lean into volatility. However, following this April’s trade policy induced correction, those opportunities have been scarce. In what’s been characterized as a risk-on, high-beta market rally off the April lows, the brevity of such “dips” has stood out to investors and asset allocators. Here, we examine both the depth and duration of these dips.

Since the end of April, the largest dip the S&P 500 has offered was just 4.2% off its all-time highs. Said differently, starting May 1, if an investor wanted to get the most optimal buying opportunity off the most recent highs, and was able to time the market perfectly, they’d only receive a 4.2% discount. Not only that, but that 4.2% opportunity only materialized just recently, on November 7. If an investor had a buy limit order that was set to trigger at 5% below the last high, they’d still be holding cash.

Putting this into context, between 2020 and 2024, there were three occurrences of the S&P 500 being at least 10% below all-time highs. On average, during that time frame, when discount buying opportunities occurred, the average drawdown was 7.8%, but since April of this year that number has been 1.1%. So, if you were to pick days on which the market traded at a discount to the previous high, and through divine strokes of serendipity, happened to pick the lowest possible entry point on each of those days, you’d get just a 1.1% discount.

Not only has the depth of drawdowns been shallow since April, but the duration has been short-lived. New highs have been ubiquitous. The longest period during which the S&P 500 didn’t register a new high was just 10 trading sessions (as of market close on November 11, 2025), with the average length of drawdowns being just over 3.5 days. Yet, between 2020 and 2024, there were 14 instances where it took at least 10 sessions for the market to re-capture previous highs, and the average length of drawdowns was over 15 days.





with Josh Houle

Why Pullbacks Have Been Scarce

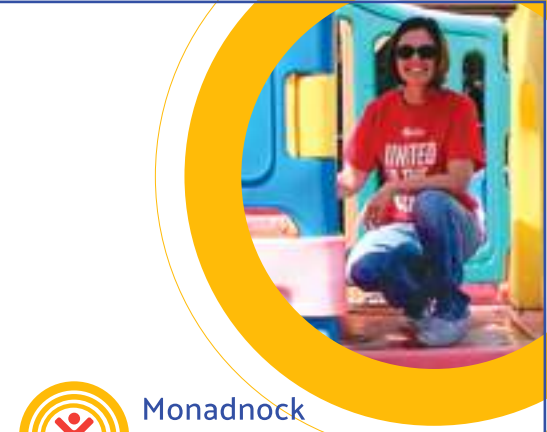
Resilient economic data, resilient earnings, easing trade tensions, and abundant liquidity have fueled the almost relentless high-beta rally since “liberation day.” Investor sentiment remains risk-on, and technical momentum has amplified gains, leaving little room for prolonged drawdowns. Ironically, retail investor psychology of “dip buyers” may be helping to shorten the dips. Fear of missing out on gains keeps retail buyers engaged, and the quick rebounds condition these investors to “buy immediately,” shortening dips.

Conclusion

So, what can an investor do? The simple answer is to stay disciplined and remain invested with a thought-out approach to asset allocation. The pragmatists among us at this point would have concluded that minimal drawdown pain has meant attractive capital appreciation, if invested, which is exactly right. A regular investment regime may provide some dollar cost averaging opportunities and have a plan in place to execute a rebalance or asset allocation update when the opportunity arises.

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Joshua I. Houle, CFP is Founder and Wealth Manager of Houle Wealth Management at 143 West Street in Keene. He can be reached at 603-352-0222/ josh.houle@lpl.com.



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Raising Grateful Kids In A World Of Indulgence

Parenting today often feels like a balancing act between wanting our kids to have the best and teaching them to appreciate what they already have. Media teaches kids to want more and to think they need the next best thing. Gratitude can get lost in the desire to chase that next whim for the newest toys, best technology, and keeping up with the latest trends. Gratitude can sometimes feel like an old-fashioned idea, but it's a skill children need to grow into happy, grounded adults.

Gratitude isn't just about saying "thank you." It's a mindset that helps children find joy in everyday moments and see life through a lens of appreciation rather than entitlement. Children who learn to practice gratitude tend to have higher self-esteem, healthier relationships, and greater resiliency when faced with challenges and disappointments. People who focus on gratitude tend to learn empathy and avoid comparing themselves to others in a manner that leaves them feeling lacking in some way.

Teaching kids gratitude is a lasting gift. Gratitude is an inner strength that children can use regardless of their circumstances. The ability to appreciate the positive aspects on one's situation can elevate one's sense of a rich and full life even when experiencing life's challenges.



Cultivating gratitude is an ability that strengthens over time. Start by modeling gratitude, because children learn more from what parents do than what they say. Thank the clerk at a store, note how pleased you are to have the whole family home for a meal, and thank children for completing their chores or doing something kind for a sibling. Children will begin to identify gratitude as a normal part of their day and this will become habitual.

Create routines to reinforce the concepts. At meal-times, ask everyone to note a positive thing about their day or ask about who showed them kindness that day. They will learn to identify these small positives in their day.

Encourage children to go beyond identifying what they are thankful for and help them reflect on why they appreciated these things. When writing thank you notes, encourage them to be specific and descriptive. Rather than simply thanking grandma for the birthday money, they might note how they

have been saving for a specific item and the money will go toward that goal.

Learning gratitude can help children develop a new perspective. Gratitude can be even more meaningful when kids can identify the positive in a negative situation. Teaching gratitude can help kids manage frustration more productively when they can recognize that even difficulties can have positive aspects. If a child's team had a bad season, they may recognize the friendships gained in their teammates or new skills that are developing through the practice. Or if your child forgets to bring a snack, perhaps a friend shared something with them.

Create some visible reminders of gratitude. Start a gratitude jar where family members can jot down things they are feeling grateful about and drop into the jar. Every few weeks, take some out and read them aloud. This is also a great way to get family members to practice expressing positives about each other so when the notes are read, the person the note is about will feel appreciated.

Or hang a whiteboard or corkboard so anyone can post a note of appreciation for another family member. A simple thank you for helping with the dishes or "I loved hanging out with you after school today" can mean a lot.

Extend the gratitude beyond your family. Encourage kids to help a neighbor shovel their walkway, or bring cookies to a friend who worked on a school project with them. Write a thank you note to their teacher. The more that expressing gratitude becomes habit, the more these actions will also bring a sense of joy to your kids.

Gratitude helps kids manage stressors more effectively. Focus on what is positive in their lives versus what is difficult. Help them see their lives in a new light. Parents can model this by openly expressing their own gratitude when things are difficult. When preparing for a big holiday event, note how you appreciate the help in getting the house clean before family arrived.

Gratitude is something that develops over time. It's not a one-and-done sort of lesson. Parents may notice a subtle shift in attitude with kids being more cooperative and seeming to be more confident as they learn to practice gratitude more often.

Sheri Lapointe is a licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor with a Master's Degree from Antioch New England University. She works as a behavioral health clinician for the Granite State Children's Alliance. She also has many years of experience teaching in local schools. Send comments to her at The Monadnock Shopper News, P.O. Box 487, Keene, NH 03431.

Keene Alpine Ski Team Annual Ski Sale

The Keene Alpine Ski Team will hold its annual Ski Sale on Saturday, November 22nd, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Keene High School.

The event features a ski sale and winter gear swap to support the Keene High School Alpine Ski Team.

For more details, contact the Keene Alpine Booster Club President, Anna Sommer-Cutts, at keenealpineboosters@gmail.com.

Kids STEAM: Magic Fairy Lights November 20th

The Keene Public Library will offer Kids STEAM: Magic Fairy Lights on Thursday, November 20th, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at 60 Winter Street in Keene.

Susie Spikol, author of *Forest Magic for Kids* and *The Book of Fairies*, will lead a hands-on workshop where children can design and create their own fairy lights

using small glass jars, tissue paper, and glue. The program is designed for ages six to 12 and encourages imagination and creativity.

For more details, call 603-352-0157 or email akraemer@keenenh.gov

Block Printing In Repeat Workshop In Jaffrey

On Saturday, November 22nd, the Block Printing in Repeat Workshop with Kristen Dettoni will be held at the Jaffrey Civic Center from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Participants will create block print designs and repeating patterns to make unique, one-of-a-kind textiles. The workshop includes carving block stamps, experimenting with color and composition, and printing directly onto a tea towel. It is suitable for both

beginners and experienced printers and will cover the basics of designing in repeat and exploring patterns. Attendees should bring an idea for their block and will leave with a finished block and a printed tea towel. All materials are provided; participants are asked to bring a bag lunch.

For more details, contact Jaffrey Civic Center, 603-532-6527.

Dinosaur Footprint Fossil Show & Tell With Willis McCumber

Geology enthusiast Willis McCumber will present a show and tell of some dinosaur tracks and other trace fossils he's collected in VT/MA over the last few years. He will show slides and actual specimens and do a Q&A with this all-ages program Tuesday, November 25th at 6:30 p.m.

McCumber is a slate roofer who explores fossils, rocks, and dinosaur tracks in his spare time. He

lives in Turners Falls, MA, on sediments and lavas that flowed into a rift valley when the Appalachian Mountain Belt was breaking up 250-190 million years ago. He can be found on YouTube talking about rocks and plants: @WillisMcCumber.

The event will take place at Putney Public Library at 55 Main St. in Putney, VT. This event is free and open to the public.

Swanzy Community Power Renewed Until December 2027

Swanzy has announced the renewal of its Swanzy Community Power program, with new prices for the period December 2025 until December 2027.

Swanzy Community Power is a group purchasing program which provides electricity supply options to help residents and businesses manage costs and increase renewable energy use.

All new Swanzy Community Power prices will be fixed for the 24 months. The Swanzy Community Power program will be served by the supplier, Direct

Energy. Current participants do not need to take any action to remain in the Swanzy Community Power program and receive the new pricing.

People may switch to another Swanzy Community Power option at any time. To switch options, call Direct Energy at 866-968-8065 or submit a request at www.SwanzyCommunityPower.com. If not currently participating in Swanzy Community Power, submit a request on the website.

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A Turkey Raffle Supper will be held on Friday, November 21st at the Keene VFW at 459 Winchester Street with appetizers at 5 p.m. and raffle beginning at 6 p.m. Take chances to win a turkey or a full turkey dinner. Following the raffle, a complimentary dinner will be served to participants. For more details, call Gloria at 603-352-4046.

Gratitude For Thanksgiving Side-Dishes

“Life does not move so fast,” wrote Ralph Waldo Emerson, “that there is not time for courtesy.”

Thanksgiving and other seasonal holidays are about sharing and traditions. And what better dishes to share than an assortment of old and new favorite side-dishes. Whether it’s a new stuffing/dressing or a favorite green bean casserole, side-dishes offer something for everyone. Whatever your personal favorites, we hope you’ll enjoy sampling some of this week’s recipes for side dishes for your special holiday meal. And let there always be time enough for sharing and gratitude. Happy Thanksgiving.



with Nancy Adams



Mashed Potatoes, Parsnips, And
Caramelized Onions

Three favorites combined in a dish for six to eight.

Ingredients:
3 tablespoons butter, divided
2 medium onions, halved and thinly sliced
1 teaspoon sugar
2 tablespoons chopped fresh rosemary or 2 teaspoons dried
6 parsnips, peeled and sliced
4 large russets potatoes, peeled and sliced
1 cup milk, heated (add a bit at a time until consistency desired)
salt and freshly ground black pepper

Melt 1½ tablespoons butter in a heavy, large skillet over medium-low heat. Add onions and sugar; cook until golden, stirring often, until nicely caramelized, 20 minutes. Add rosemary. Bring large pot of water to boil. Add parsnips and potatoes; boil until tender, about 20 minutes. Drain well, return to pot and mash. Add warm milk and remaining butter; mash until smooth. Stir in onion mixture; season to taste with salt and pepper. This dish can be made a day ahead and refrigerated. Rewarm over medium heat, stirring frequently and adding more milk if too dry.

Thanksgiving Stuffing

Sometimes simple is better and this versatile stuffing/dressing can be piled into a casserole dish and refrigerated for a day before baking. This makes enough to fill an 11- to 12-pound turkey if you prefer to cook it in the bird in your customary manner. I tend to think of stuffing as cooked inside the bird, and dressing as cooked in a casserole dish.

Ingredients:
8 cups assorted dry bread, coarsely crumbled
¾ pkg. frozen Jimmy Dean regular sausage, thawed
1 stick butter
2 ribs celery, coarsely chopped
1 large shallot, coarsely chopped
3 large mushrooms, coarsely chopped
2 teaspoons Bell’s poultry seasoning
2 large eggs
1/2 cup turkey broth, plus more for moistening stuffing later

Put coarsely crumbled bread in a bowl and set aside. In a large skillet, fry sausage until done; set aside to cool. In the same skillet, add butter to melt, then add chopped celery, shallot, mushrooms, and poultry seasoning. Add vegetables to the bowl of bread; add the cooled sausage and mix. In a separate bowl, whisk eggs with half a cup turkey broth, then add to bowl of stuffing. Mix to combine, adding additional turkey broth as needed to make stuffing as moist as desired. Bake stuffing/dressing in large casserole dish at 350 degrees for 45 to 55 minutes.

Cider-Roasted Vegetables

This dish bursts with flavor due to the trick of reducing the apple cider and white wine before using the mixture to coat and cook the vegetables. If you like, substitute beets for the sweet potatoes or make other switches as desired. Serves six to eight.

Ingredients:
3 cups apple cider or juice
1 cup semisweet white wine (like a Riesling)
2 tablespoons butter
1¼ lbs. each parsnips, carrots, sweet potatoes and red-skinned potatoes
salt and pepper

Boil apple cider and wine in heavy saucepan until reduced to three-fourths cup, about one half

to three fourths hour; whisk in butter. Peel and cut vegetables into one half-inch pieces. Put vegetables in large roasting pan; pour apple cider mixture over vegetables and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Roast in preheated 425 degrees oven until vegetables are tender and golden in color, stirring occasionally and watching they don’t burn, about 45 minutes.

Variation on a Green Bean
Casserole

This tasty version of green beans omits the canned soup. It takes a bit longer to make but it can be made a few days ahead and refrigerated. When ready to bake, top with some canned onion rings if desired – after all, it is traditional at many holiday tables! Makes six to eight servings.

Ingredients:
1 small onion, minced
1/2 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
1 tablespoon fresh parsley, minced
2 tablespoons butter
1/4 teaspoon salt
freshly ground black pepper
1 tablespoon flour
1 tablespoon grated lemon zest
1 cup full-fat sour cream
1 (20-ounce) package frozen French green beans, cooked per package directions; drained
1/2 cup sharp cheddar cheese, grated
1/2 cup bread crumbs or French fried onion rings, optional

In medium, heavy saucepan, over low heat, sauté onions, thyme and parsley in butter for five minutes. Blend in salt, pepper, flour and lemon zest. Add sour cream and cook on low for three minutes. Grease a medium/large casserole dish with butter; add cooked and drained beans to the dish. Pour sour cream mixture over beans; stir gently to coat. Sprinkle with grated cheese and bread crumbs, or the optional fried onion rings, over the top of the dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes, until lightly browned.

Roasted Squash with Sage
Crumbs

Sage tempers squash’s sweetness in this simple dish.

Ingredients:
1 (3-5 lb.) Kabocha squash, halved crosswise and seeds discarded
soft butter for squash surface
salt and ground black pepper as desired
2 cups fresh bread crumbs
4 tablespoons melted butter
2 tablespoons chopped, fresh sage

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Rub each half of squash with some softened butter and season with salt and pepper. Put on baking sheet, cut side up, cover with foil and roast until tender, about one hour. Meanwhile, in a bowl combine bread crumbs, melted butter, chopped fresh sage and additional salt and pepper to taste. Uncover squash, divide mixture between halves, and roast until golden, 15 to 20 minutes more. Serves six to eight.

Yellow Squash Casserole

To change this up for an entree, use zucchini squash instead, and add one or two cups cooked, crumbled hamburger or sausage before pouring into casserole dish.

Ingredients:
1 cup mayonnaise
1 small onion, chopped
salt and pepper to taste
¾ cup parmesan cheese, or substitute shredded Cheddar
2 large eggs, lightly beaten
2 lbs. yellow squash, cooked just till tender and well-drained

Mix mayonnaise, onion, salt and pepper, cheese, and eggs. Add squash to mixture and stir gently. Pour into a lightly greased one and a half quart casserole dish.

For a topping: Mix one quarter cups each bread crumbs and Ritz cracker crumbs with 1 tablespoon melted butter; sprinkle over casserole.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until nicely browned and set. Six servings.

Nancy Adams is a native of Peterborough and resides in Hancock. She and her husband, Bud, have raised four sons. Nancy welcomes suggestions – send them to: Nancy P. Adams, 22 Birch Road, Hancock, NH 03449.

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ENTERTAINMENT

and DINING

Wednesday, Nov. 19

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

The Bridges of Madison County 7:30-9:30pm. Redfern Arts Center, Main Theatre, Keene State College. Based on Robert James Waller's best-selling novel, The Bridges of Madison County is a musical that breathes romance, desire, and sacrifice. \$15/\$10 seniors & youth/free for KSC students. **603-358-2168**.

LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

Drinking Liberally 7:30pm. Margarita's, Main Street, Keene. Meet-up for left of center political discussion and other current events. No RSVP needed; just ask for them at the reception desk. **603-352-1707**. keene@drinkingliberally.org. www.livingliberally.org/chapter/nh/keene.

MISCELLANEOUS

Antrim Al-Anon Family Group's Meeting 6pm. First Presbyterian Church of Antrim, 73 Main St. Meet every Wednesday evening. Park and enter in the back.
Storytelling & Spoken Word Circle 6:30-8:30pm. Dublin Community Center, 1123 Main St., Dublin. **603-563-8080**. info@dublincommunitycenter.org. www.dubhub-nh.org/calendar.

Thursday, Nov. 20

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Misery 7:30pm. The Edge Ensemble Theatre Company, 310 Marlboro St., Suite 112, Keene. Based on the Stephen King novel. \$20/seniors & students \$18. For reservations call **603-352-5657**. www.EdgeEnsemble.org.
The Bridges of Madison County 7:30-9:30pm. Redfern Arts Center, Main Theatre, Keene State College. Based on Robert James Waller's best-selling novel, The Bridges of Madison County is a musical that breathes romance, desire, and sacrifice. \$15/\$10 seniors & youth/free for KSC students. **603-358-2168**.

FAMILY FUN

Kids STEAM: Magic Fairy Lights 3:30-4:30pm. Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St., Keene. For ages 6-12. Join Susie Spikol, author of "Forest Magic for Kids" and "The Book of Fairies," for an afternoon of designing and creating a set of little fairy lights. Amy Kraemer: **603-352-0157**. akraemer@keenenh.gov.

MISCELLANEOUS

Cheshire Village at Home 1:30pm. Keene Senior Center, HCS, 312 Marlboro St., Keene. Taste a variety of non-traditional pies. For info and to register **603-903-9680**.
Infinite Worlds Book Club: Alternate History 6-7:30pm. Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St., Keene. A non-traditional book club for adults focusing on speculative fiction. Members are encouraged to pack a dinner to munch during discussion, and the library will provide dessert. Katelyn McStravick: **603-352-0157**. kmcstravick@keenenh.gov.

Friday, Nov. 21

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Misery 7:30pm. The Edge Ensemble Theatre Company, 310 Marlboro St., Suite 112, Keene. Based on the Stephen King novel. \$20/seniors & students \$18. For reservations call **603-352-5657**. www.EdgeEnsemble.org.
The Bridges of Madison County 7:30-9:30pm. Redfern Arts Center, Main Theatre, Keene State College. Based on Robert James Waller's best-selling novel, The Bridges of Madison County is a musical that breathes romance, desire, and sacrifice. \$15/\$10 seniors & youth/free for KSC students. **603-358-2168**.

DINING PLEASURES

Turkey Raffle Supper 5pm. VFW Post 799, 459 Winchester St., Keene. Take chances to win a turkey or full turkey dinner. Raffle followed by a delicious complimentary dinner served to participants. Appetizers at 5 pm, raffle start at 6. Gloria: **603-352-4046**.

FAIRS & SALES

Christmas Fair 4-6pm. First Congregational Church of Swanzey, 679 Old Homestead Hwy. Wreaths, swags, decor & other decorations. Basket raffle & holiday bakery. Christmas cafe. **603-352-6689**. office@swanzeyucc.org.
Winter Crafts Fair 7-9pm. Gathering Waters Charter Public School, 98 South Lincoln St., Keene. Artisan and craft vendors, raffle, food, and live music. Adults.

MISCELLANEOUS

Antique Roadshow & Raffle 5:30-8:30pm. Woodbound Inn, Rindge. Silent Auction, 50/50, music, cash bar, artwork, raffle, and entertainment. All proceeds benefit Shelter From The Storm. \$35 per ticket - admits 1. \$50 per ticket - admits 2. Call for tickets at **603-532-8222**. www.shelterfromthestorm.org.
Fred Marple Reads From "Udder Nonsense" 6:30-7:30pm. Dublin Community Center, 1123 Main St., Dublin. Yankee humorist Fred Marple (aka Ken Sheldon) will read from his new book, "Udder Nonsense: More Tales from Frost Heaves." **603-563-8080**. info@dublincommunitycenter.org.

Saturday, Nov. 22

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

The Bridges of Madison County: Matinee 2-4pm. Redfern Arts Center, Main Theatre, Keene State College. Based on Robert James Waller's best-selling novel, The Bridges of Madison County is a musical that breathes romance, desire, and sacrifice. \$15/\$10 seniors & youth/free for KSC students. **603-358-2168**.

Monadnock Tri-State Dance Club 7-10pm. ELMM Community Center, 21 Durkee St., Winchester. Live music by 'Boys From '69'. Everyone welcome. \$12. Refreshments available, 50/50 raffle. Rich: **603-398-8539**.

Misery 7:30pm. The Edge Ensemble Theatre Company, 310 Marlboro St., Suite 112, Keene. Based on the Stephen King novel. \$20/seniors & students \$18. For reservations call **603-352-5657**. www.EdgeEnsemble.org.

The Bridges of Madison County 7:30-9:30pm. Redfern Arts Center, Main Theatre, Keene State College. Based on Robert James Waller's best-selling novel, The Bridges of Madison County is a musical that breathes romance, desire, and sacrifice. \$15/\$10 seniors & youth/free for KSC students. **603-358-2168**.

DINING PLEASURES

Feast of Kings: Medieval Drag King Dinner Theater 7pm. Madame Sherri's Restaurant & Cabaret, 82 Main St. Doors open at 5 for dinner. Medieval-themed dinner theater showcasing an all-star lineup of local drag king talent: Them Brûlée, King Cocktail, Christien Sidehug, Luke Laroe, Bobby Bratworst, and Pepper Soulless. Full buffet banquet. 18+ event. **603-354-3377**.

FAIRS & SALES

Gilsum Holiday Fair Gilsum Church, 13 Main St., 9-2. Gilsum Library, 650 Route 10, 10-2. This event includes pies, donuts, and other baked goods for sale; raffles; a cozy cafe at the church; and handcrafted gifts and stocking stuffers for sale. Besides baked goods, the library will have a tent sale, book sale, and take-out lunch items (soups and sandwiches).
Winter Crafts Fair 7-9pm. Gathering Waters Charter Public School, 98 South Lincoln St., Keene. Artisan and craft vendors, raffle, food, and live music. Children's activities.
Holiday Fair 9am-2pm. Gilsum Church, 13 Main St., Gilsum. Pies, donuts, other baked goods; cozy cafe; raffles; handcrafted gifts & stocking stuffers. Gilsum Library will have a tent sale, book sale, baked goods, & take-home soup and sandwiches.

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Holiday Bazaar
SATURDAY, NOV. 29

9 am-2 pm • Santa will be here 9-11 am!

Over 40 tables of handcrafted items, art & local product vendors
lunch concessions • bake sale • raffles
For more info, contact vfwaux5613holiday@gmail.com
VFW Hall • 12 Hathorn Rd. • Jaffrey, NH



Kiwanis
CLUB OF KEENE

Tree Lighting Celebration

Friday, November 28th • 5:00pm-8:00pm
Central Square, Keene, NH

• **Entertainment & Singalong**
• **Enjoy Cocoa & Cookies**
• **Visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus**
• **Reading of 'Twas the night before Christmas**



Dance Features "Boys From '69" This Saturday

Monadnock Tri-State Dance Club will hold a dance on Saturday, November 22nd from 7 to 10:30 p.m. at ELMM Memorial Community Center at 21 Durkee Street in Winchester.

The dance will feature live music by Boys From '69. There will be free refreshments, a 50/50 raffle, and all are welcome. Admission is \$12.

For more details, call Rich at 603-398-8539



Please,
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newspaper.

Christmas on the Pond and Christmas around the Bend

Saturday, Nov. 22nd

9-3 • Marlow, NH

Join us for shopping
in historic Marlow!

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FREE SHUTTLE BETWEEN FAIRS

Live holiday music Throughout The Day • Silent Auction & raffle Luncheon available at Aaron's Specialty and the school
For more info: **603-446-4383** or **499-6061**
Follow us on Facebook: Christmas on the Pond, Christmas around the Bend & Aaron's Specialty

GILSUM CHURCH HOLIDAY FAIR

Saturday, Nov. 22nd • 9am-2pm

GILSUM CHURCH

Pies, donuts, other baked goods; cozy cafe; raffles; handcrafted gifts & stocking stuffers.

GILSUM LIBRARY

10am-2pm

Tent sale, book sale, baked goods, take-home soup and sandwiches.

Read the MSN online:
www.shoppernews.com

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Individual Plates with all the fixings!

Tossed salad, traditional stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, whipped butternut squash, cranberry jelly, dinner rolls • **Plus apple or pumpkin pie for dessert!**

SEATING IS LIMITED • DON'T DELAY!!

For reservations call: 603-398-2446 • Order by Friday, Nov. 21st!

Holly Berry Fair

Federated Church of Marlborough

Saturday, Nov. 22nd

9 am - 2 pm • Community House

160 MAIN STREET • MARLBOROUGH

Featuring our famous greens (wreaths, bowls, arrangements), Grandma's Attic (items suitable for gifting), crafts, vendors, Lunch-to-Go, assorted baked goods.

Raffles: 60" x 44" Quilt and many other items!



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A Classic Christmas Jubilee 2025
Directed By Traci Booth • Music Director Walt Sayre



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FAIRS & SALES
Westmoreland Ladies Aid Bazaar 9am-2pm. Town Hall and Fellowship Hall, 9 So. Village Common, Westmoreland. Baked goods, cookie walk, quilt raffle, & fresh greenery arrangements. Santa Claus will be strolling about and will be available for pictures. Drawing for quilt will be held at 1pm.
Christmas on the Pond, Christmas Around the Bend Holiday Fair 9am-3pm. Marlow. Over 80 vendors will be set up and selling their wares in the historic buildings and up the road at Perkins Academy. The village luncheon of homemade soups, breads, and holiday desserts and Christmas Around the Bend will offer a luncheon of macaroni and cheese, chili, and chicken and rice from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more details call **603-446-4383** or **603-499-6061**.
Christmas Fair 9am-1pm. First Congregational Church of Swanzey, 679 Old Homestead Hwy. Wreaths, swags, decor & other decorations. Basket raffle & holiday bakery. Christmas cafe. **603-352-6689**. office@swanzeyucc.org.
Hinsdale Indoor Farmer's & Craft Market 9am-1pm. Hinsdale Community Center, 19 Main Street, Hinsdale. Farms, crafts, food, organic produce, and more. farmers-marketofhinsdalenh@gmail.com.
Federated Church of Marlborough Holly Berry Fair 9am-2pm. Community House, 160 Main St., Marlborough. Greens, crafters, baked sweets, gifts, & light lunch.
Five Holiday Fairs in Walpole 9am-2pm. Walpole Common, Congregational Church, St. John's Church, Walpole Town Hall and The Gathering Place for holiday food whether baked goods, candy, produce or meat, gifts, crafts, and treasures. info@stjohnwalpole.org.
Christmas Fair & Bake Sale 9am-1pm. Fitzwilliam Community Church, 85 Route 119 West, Fitzwilliam. Christmas & holiday crafts, baked goods and items specially created by church members. **603-585-3352**.

LECTURES & WORKSHOPS
Building Community in Trying Times 10am-12pm. Keene Public Library, Heberton Hall, 60 Winter St., Keene. Through conversation and small-group activities, share stories, uncover what's working, and identify real actions to take to make our community more welcoming and resilient. Snacks. All ages. info@mdeib.org.
Block Printing in Repeat Workshop with Kristen Dettoni 10:30am-4pm. Jaffrey Civic Center, 40 Main St., Jaffrey. Create block print designs and repeating patterns to make unique, one-of-a-kind textiles. All materials are provided, and please bring a bag lunch. Jaffrey Civic Center: **603-532-6527**.

MISCELLANEOUS
Peterborough Holiday Stroll 9am-2pm. Stroll Downtown Peterborough Churches. Participating churches will be identified with red, white, and green balloons. Each venue has different offerings including crafts for children, baked goods, handmade gifts, and refreshments. A map can be found at www.facebook.com/peterboroughholidaystroll.
Storytime with Author & Artist: Lita Judge 11am-12pm. Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St., Keene. Judge to read aloud her newest picture book, 'Old Blue is My Home'. Children ages 4-8 will enjoy this story about home is what you make it, and for everyone that can be something different. Amy Kraemer: **603-352-0157**. akraemer@keenenh.gov.

MYSTERY PHOTO

from THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHESHIRE COUNTY

The first person to answer the question correctly **at 9:30 a.m. or after on Friday** will receive a certificate for \$25 to The Pub. Call The Monadnock Shopper News, West Street in Keene, at 603-352-5296. You may win only one contest every three months. Only one call per person per week. No walk-ins, please.
(Prepared by the Historical Society of Cheshire County)



On what Keene Street was this photo taken?
(Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Cheshire County)



The winner of last week's Mystery Photo contest was Mike Giacomo of Keene. The Keene High School band was prepared to play on Main Street for a visit from President Bill Clinton.

Madame Sherri's Restaurant & Cabaret Spectacular Shows, Cabaret Icons, And Holiday Magic

Madame Sherri's Restaurant & Cabaret at 82 Main Street in Keene will unveil an electrifying lineup of theatrical, musical, and seasonal entertainment through March. From medieval feasts to Dolly Parton tributes and legendary drag icons to immersive movie nights and a glittering New Year's Eve celebration, this season promises unforgettable nights out for every taste.
On Saturday, November 22nd at 7 p.m., Feast of Kings, a medieval-themed dinner theater, will showcase an all-star lineup of local drag king talent: Them Brûlée, King Cocktail, Christien Sidehug, Luke Laroe, Bobby Bratworst, and Pepper Soulless.
Prior to the show, at 5 p.m., guests will enjoy a full buffet banquet including roast chicken, mac and cheese, loaded baked potatoes, maple-glazed carrots, soup, salad, and banana pudding.
This is an 18+ event. For more details or tickets, call 603-354-3377 or visit www.madamesherris.com/events.

THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY

Book by Marsha Norman
Music and Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown
Based on the novel by Robert James Waller

Tickets:
FREE - KSC Students/Faculty/Staff
\$15 - General Admission
\$10 - Seniors/Youth/Non-KSC Student with ID
Box Office: 603-358-2168 boxoffice@keene.edu

November 19-21 at 7:30pm
November 22 at 2:00pm & 7:30pm
Red Fern Arts Center, Main Theatre
90 Wyman Way - Keene, NH 03435

Directed By Kirstin O'Brien

Music Direction By Deanna Fiske
ROSEMANS BRIDGE
Choreography By Riley Lynch



ARTS
RED FERN
ARTS CENTER
Keene

The Keene Chorale
Jonathan Colby, Director

Rejoice and be Merry!

Sunday, December 7, 2025 ~ 3:00 PM
United Church of Christ
23 Central Square ~ Keene, NH

Vivaldi: Gloria
Rutter: Rejoice and Be Merry
Thompson: Choose Something Like a Star
Piano solo by Vladimir Odinkikh

Tickets: www.keenechorale.org, Toadstool Bookshop, Keene, NH
\$25-Adults; \$22-Senior or Veteran; \$10-Student (under 18) or Child

Learn more - scan the QR code to view our website.



Off The Cuff Featured At Dublin Coffeehouse/Open Mic



Off the Cuff, featuring Jonas Taub, left, and Pamela Smith and Andy Chapman.

On the third Saturday of each month, there is a combined Coffee House & Open Mic at the Dub-Hub/Dublin Community Center at 1123 Main Street in Dublin, from 6 to 9 p.m. Coffee and snacks are available. Attendees are also welcome to BYOB and dinner/snacks. A featured performance takes place for about 60 minutes, with open mic slots available

both prior and after. This month, the center will feature Off The Cuff, an acoustic instrumental and vocal group featuring Pamela Smith (vocals, guitar, and harmonica; Jonas Taub (vocals and guitar); and Andy Chapman (vocals, clarinet, penny whistle, and mandolin). Off The Cuff plays at the crossroads of American music, where bluegrass meets swing, jazz meets blues, and folk, rock, and country become pals, blending these elements with tight vocal harmonies and instrumental arrangements. Their set at the DubHub will feature traditional and contemporary jazz and swing songs from The Great American Songbook and beyond, a hundred years of song from the 20s to the 20s. Email info@dublincommunitycenter.org to reserve a spot on the open mic sign-up, or just show up that evening and hope there's an available slot. A suggested donation starting at \$5 (or more) may be given at the door to help offset costs, and a hat will be passed during the performance for contributions for the featured performers. For more details, visit the website at https://www.dubhub-nh.org/calendar.

Christmas On The Pond And Christmas Around The Bend Holiday Fairs In Marlow This Saturday

Christmas On The Pond And Christmas Around The Bend Holiday Fairs will take place on Saturday, November 22nd from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Marlow. Over 80 vendors will be set up and selling their wares in the historic buildings and up the road at Perkins Academy. There will be a free shuttle between sites. This event includes over 80 vendors selling hand-made items such as candles, artwork, jewelry, hand-carved items, hats, signage, soaps, holiday greenery, metal work, Christmas crackers, yard reindeer, wood-working, sewn items, blacksmithing, felted items, rag rugs, pottery, bird houses, cupcakes and other goodies, and many more unique hand-crafted gifts.

The buildings will be decorated for the holidays and there will be a fire pit with seating to warm people up, sip cocoa, and rest. The Tin Shop Brass will play holiday music and there will be a silent auction and raffle. The library will have a book, yarn, and pie sale. The village luncheon will be hosted by Aaron's Specialty located on Route 10 and offer homemade soups, bread, and desserts for sit down or take-out. Christmas Around the Bend will offer a luncheon of macaroni and cheese, chili, and chicken and rice from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more details, call 603-446-4383 or 603-499-6061.

Sunday, Nov. 23
ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Misery 2: pm. The Edge Ensemble Theatre Company, 310 Marlboro St., Suite 112, Keene. Based on the Stephen King novel. \$20/seniors & students \$18. For reservations call 603-352-5657. www.EdgeEnsemble.org.

MISCELLANEOUS
Sound Bath: Rev. Priscilla Gale 4-5:30pm. Aloha Keene Yoga Studio, 83 Court St., Keene. Sound Baths are an invitation to unplug and slip into a deeper consciousness to gain perspective on what's going on within you. \$35. Reservations & info at 603-762-3129. www.vagaro.com/alohakeene.
Al-Anon Meeting: Help and Hope for Friends and Families of Alcoholics 5pm. St. James Episcopal Church, 44 West St., Keene. For questions call or e-mail 603-369-6930. district7@nhal-anon.org. www.nhal-anon.org.

RELIGIOUS
Worship With Us 10am. First Congregational Church of Swanzey, 679 Old Homestead Hwy. 603-352-6689. office@swanzeyucc.org. www.swanzeyucc.org.

Monday, Nov. 24
MISCELLANEOUS

Al-anon Zoom Meeting 12-1pm. Keene. Check out Al-Anon's free service to friends and families who suffer from the impact of a loved one's drinking. Meeting ID: 825 6820 3953. Passcode: Keene. To join by phone use same ID and password 480560 and dial 646-876-9923.

Tuesday, Nov. 25
ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Cheshiremen Chorus: Weekly Meeting & Singing 6:30pm. United Church of Christ-Keene, 23 Central Square. For over 72 years, enriching lives through barber-shop harmony! All men welcome. Use Vernon St. entrance. 877-312-7467. www.cheshiremen.org.

DINING PLEASURES
Community Vegan Dinner 5-7pm. Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 42 Forbush Lane, Swanzey. RSVP by text, phone, or e-mail. 603-762-2252. peggy@countryliferestaurant.com.

MISCELLANEOUS
Dinosaur Footprint Fossil Show & Tell: Willis McCumber 6:30pm. Putney Public Library, 55 Main St., Putney, VT. A show and tell of some dinosaur tracks and other trace fossils. McCumber will show slides and actual specimens and do a Q&A for this all-ages program.
Zumba Gold 10:45-11:45am. Keene Rec. Center, 312 Washington St. Zumba Gold meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, November 13 - Dec. 23. Dances will be taught to holiday, Zumba and pop music. Classes are open to seniors and adults. 603-357-9829.

Wednesday, Nov. 26
MISCELLANEOUS

Red Cross Blood Drive 9am-1:30pm. Historical Society of Cheshire County, 246 Main St., Keene. To make appointment call 800-733-2767. www.redcrossblood.org.

SWINGING DANCE PARTY with the LIVE MUSIC of the 'BOYS FROM '69' November 22nd • 7-10:30PM @Monadnock Tri-State Dance Club ELMM Hall, Durkee St., Winchester \$12, free refreshments, 50/50 Raffle All ages welcome, Info: Rich 603-398-8539

Cheshire Village at Home Nov. 20th • 1:30pm Taste a Variety of Non-Traditonal Pies Keene Senior Center 312 Marlboro Street 603-903-9680 for info and to register

\$10 OFF DINNER*

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SEE CALENDAR FOR ALL SCHEDULED EVENTS!

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The Edge Ensemble Theatre Company presents

Misery

By William Goldman

Directed by Kim Dupuis

based on the novel by Stephen King

November 14, 15, 20, 21, 22 @ 7:30 PM
and November 16, 23 @ 2:00 PM

THE EDGE THEATRE
310 Marlboro St, Suite 112, Keene, NH
General Admission \$20
Seniors & Students \$18 (cash or checks only)
Reservations: 603-352-5657 ~ EdgeEnsemble.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

from HANNAFORD'S SUPERMARKETS

November 20, 2025
Logan Nikiforakis, son of Jim & Melissa Nikiforakis, North Swanzey, 10

November 25, 2025
Adeline Croteau, daughter of Savanna Croteau, Keene, 3

HANNAFORD'S BIRTHDAY CAKE

This Week's Winners

Adeline Croteau, Keene, 3
Logan Nikiforakis, North Swanzey, 10

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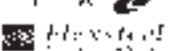
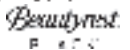
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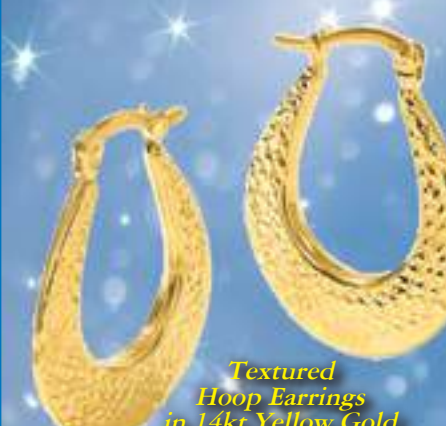
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Spiritual Finance

Recently, I have taken a course on spiritual finance. This is looking at our finances from a spiritual perspective – trying to align the use of money with our core values. Core values may be different from person to person. The course has been the impetus for me to do a bit of thinking on this topic. Maybe you too might gain a new perspective to think this way. Money is a taboo topic in our culture. We avoid talking about it. Let's ponder a few questions for a moment.

Healing Perspectives

with Josephine Russell

Take two ideas: money or finance and spirituality. With these topics how would you describe them? What does money mean to you? What does spiritual mean to you? As you ponder, do they line up to be similar in feeling? Usually not. Would you consider your use of money to be a spiritual practice? Is finance an easy topic for you? Does it make you feel good? Spirituality – does this topic give you that feel-good quality? Does it uplift you? Does it give you meaning and purpose? Does your spiritual life align with your core values? And, what about money, does your use of money align with your core values?

What are your core values? Get to know who you are and align with what you feel to be meaningful and useful. Use your core values to guide you through life, especially with your use of money. Each time you spend money ask yourself, does this line up with my values?

Try this exercise: Take a certain amount of money in cash. Spend it according to what makes you feel happy and satisfied and has meaning.

Try this exercise: Imagine that you have just come into a million dollars. How would you spend it? Be specific. Think and ponder truly what you would do with this windfall. Would you spend it foolishly? Would you spend it for the greater good? Would you spend it responsibly? Would you give it away? Would you spend it on yourself? Would you spend it on others? Would you spend it on a dream of yours? The big question is: Would your plan to spend it align with who you are and your core values?

These are just ramblings of my mind that I wish to share as we move into the holiday season of gift giving. For me, and everyone is different, gift giving is an opportunity to share some of my core beliefs. For example, I feel that there is greater value in experiences than in material possessions. So I often give a gift card to a friend or family member with a gift of time on it. Let's go to a movie together. Let's go for an excursion to the beach for the day. Let's have a pedicure together and go to lunch. My treat since it is my gift. Also, dear to my heart, is giving to others in need. (I did not consider my children to be in that

category. They were/are surrounded by abundance.) When I first became a yoga teacher, I decided to give away 20 percent of anything I earned. I have kept to this for 30 years plus. Now I give away 100 percent of all that I earn. To encourage this idea for my children, on the Christmas tree each year I would put a card on the tree for Christmas morning with their name and a \$20 bill, or a \$50 bill as they got older. The instructions were to save it until they could give it away to someone or a cause to help others. I hope they got the message. That it is more satisfying to give than to receive.

I suggest to examine our financial spending as the year grows to a close. This includes bills, mortgages, food bills, heating, etc.

Josephine Russell has been traveling around this amazing earth since the 60s. It was during her early travels abroad that she took her first yoga class while on a slow boat to India. Josephine has been on the path of yoga since that time. She is owner of Aloha Keene, a Healthy Living Center, at 83 Court Street. You can contact her at josephine@alohakeene.com.

Sound Bath At Aloha November 23rd



Priscilla Gale at Aloha with her Large Bowls.

Folks can experience the soothing songs of Crystal Singing Bowls with Rev. Priscilla Gale Sunday, November 23rd from 4 to 5:50 p.m. at Aloha at 83 Court Street in Keene.

Attendees will float blissfully into a deep meditative state where the stresses of everyday life are cleared, cleansed, and washed away. Sound baths are an invitation to unplug, slip into a deeper consciousness to gain perspective, and remove the blocks that restrict creativity and visions. Clinical studies have shown that sound vibration boosts the immune system, lowers blood pressure, reduces chronic aches and pains, bringing balance, renewed feelings of well-being along with peace, joy, confidence, and clarity of thought.

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This hands-on workshop will explore ways to strengthen connection and belonging in workplaces, schools, and neighborhoods. Through guided conversation and small-group activities, participants will share stories, highlight what is working well, and identify practical actions to make the community more welcoming and resilient.

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