



The Monadnock

AMERICAN HOME WEEK Special Pull-out Section Inside!

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SHOPPER NEWS

The Original Keene Shopper - "The Weekly with a Heart" - 68th Year of Community Service / April 8-14, 2026

Finn Property Maintenance, Building, And Remodeling "Caring For Yours Like It's Ours"



John Finnell of Finn Property Maintenance offers 25 years of experience in home building, remodeling, and landscaping. He's pictured working on a recent installation project.

By Lori Catozzi Cook

Home and property improvements are undertaken to increase property value, personalize a living space, and adapt to changing needs as we age.

Finn Property Maintenance, LLC is a locally owned and operated business dedicated to enhancing your home and property.

rapidly accelerated to a full-time business that included construction.

John Finnell, a seasoned professional dedicated to the property maintenance and construction industry, offers 25 years of experience in home building, remodeling, and landscaping.

Services offered include building and landscaping, kitchen and bath remodels, custom tile work, garages, decks, siding, windows, doors, patios, walkways, and more.

FINN, page 6

Award-Winning Heath Quartet Joins Ashuelot Concerts For Two Concerts

Three members of the acclaimed Heath Quartet will join Ashuelot Concerts founders Louisa Stonehill and Nicholas Burns for two concerts of Piano Quintets by Dvorak & Elgar.

The first concert will be held on Friday, April 10th at 7:30 p.m. at Stonewall Farm at 242 Chesterfield Road in Keene. The second concert will be held on Sunday, April 12th at 3 p.m. at The Park Theatre in Jaffrey.

Winners of the Gramophone Chamber Music Award and the Royal Philharmonic Society's Young Artists Award, the Heath Quartet regularly appear at prestigious concert halls around the world, such as London's Wigmore Hall, Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie, and Berlin's Pierre Boulez Saal.

"This is a very special program featuring two incredible works by Dvorak & Elgar," says Nicholas Burns.

CONCERTS, page 19



The Heath Quartet will join Ashuelot Concerts in a performance at Stonewall Farm in Keene and The Park Theatre in Jaffrey this weekend.

SuperHero SpotLight Recognizes Volunteers

Stark Level Solutions and The Monadnock Shopper News congratulate two SuperHeroes this month: Julie Dickson and Larry Michalov, both of whom are volunteers at the Keene Unitarian Universalist Church Breakfast Program.

Dickson, the coordinator for the Breakfast Program, views her position as one of relationship-building between the church and community.

SPOTLIGHT, page 22

Guitar Monsters Show Will Benefit Jaffrey Food Pantry



Willie J. Laws



Johnny A.



Jon Butcher

On Saturday, April 18th, at the Park Theatre in Jaffrey, Rockin' 4 Vets/Alive & Kicking Productions will present Guitar Monsters, a high-energy benefit concert featuring Jon Butcher, Johnny A., and Willie J. Laws.

Loaded with high-octane guitar rock, Guitar

Monsters is an explosive show. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 8 p.m. Ticket prices are \$34, \$39, \$44, and \$79 VIP (VIP includes early admission, front-row seating, pre-show Meet & Greet/photo opportunities with the artists, and an autographed event poster).

BENEFIT, page 19

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American Home Week... 7-18 Summer Camps... 21

Table listing various sections: BIRTHDAYS, ENTERTAINMENT, GREEN, MYSTERY PHOTO, CLASSIFIEDS, FAMILY, HEALING, PETS, COOKING, GARDEN, MONEY, REAL ESTATE.

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PET OF THE WEEK
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Angel And Bella



Angel and Bella returned to MHS as a cherished pair when their owner's health began to decline, and they are now looking for a quiet, loving home where they can settle in together. Angel, at 13 years young, is a gentle, sweet soul who truly shines once she feels safe and comfortable. She enjoys the simple things in life - sunny windows, soft blankets, and peaceful time spent near her people. With her calm demeanor and affectionate nature, she's the kind of companion who will happily keep you company during slow mornings and cozy evenings.

Bella, her devoted five-year-old sidekick, finds comfort in staying close to Angel and blossoms in a calm, low-stress environment. She is incredibly loving and enjoys being near her humans, whether that's lounging on the couch or quietly following you from room to room.

If you are looking for a wonderful pair of girls to warm up your home, then these two will be perfect!

The Adoption Center is located at 101 West Swanzey Road, outside of Keene on Route 10 South. It's open Thursday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Learn more at www.monadnockhumaneociety.org.

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DubHub's April Art Show Opens This Friday



Sarah Warren with a weaving



Walden Witham with his painting

communicate the peace, inspiration, and renewal that can be found in the natural world, constantly analyzing colors, patterns of light, and the angles of natural land and sky scapes, imagining how to turn what she sees into tapestry. All of her tapestries are woven with weft that she has dyed, using wool spun by Harrisville Designs. With a background in watercolor painting, knitting, and needlepoint, she quickly became enthralled with tapestry weaving. Warren has studied with master weavers who taught her design techniques based on sacred geometry, how to dye wool, and Navajo weaving techniques. Juried into the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen in 2007, she has exhibited in many of their galleries throughout the state and at their Annual Craftsmen Fair in Sunapee. She has won awards and exhibited throughout the United States, Great Britain, and Europe.

For more details, reach the Dublin Community Center at 603-563-8080 or find them online at info@dublincommunitycenter.org.

On Friday, April 10th from 5 to 7 p.m., the public is invited to attend a reception for an exhibition featuring paintings by Walden Whitham and weavings by Sarah Warren at the DubHub/Dublin Community Center, 1123 Main Street in Dublin. The exhibition runs from Wednesday, April 8th through the 29th. Items are available for viewing and purchase during the DubHub's normal hours and by appointment.

Whitham, of Richmond, is an educator, musician, storyteller, writer, and visual artist. He has always explored art in various forms, but it was during a graduate program in arts and education at Lesley College in 1996 that he started taking creating art more seriously. He finds most of his inspiration in the natural world, often capturing images with photography, traveling with watercolors for convenience, exploring painting first with monochromatic acrylics, and then with oils. Whitham has exhibited his art locally and in private homes in a half-dozen states.

Warren currently calls both the White Mountains and Dublin home. Her goal as a weaver is to

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Keene Quick Drops Offers At-Home Deliveries

Local Keene resident Kayla Figenbaum has launched a new home delivery service called Keene Quick Drops. "As a mother of five," she says, "I always seems to forget something at the store." With that in mind, she got to thinking: "There has to be a way to make home deliveries more affordable for everyone." And thus was born Keene Quick Drops, her answer to high-priced delivery apps. With the motto "From the Store to Your Door," Figenbaum offers fast and affordable delivery service for restaurant pickups, grocery store purchases (up to 10 items), prescription pickups, Walmart orders, Market Basket kitchen orders, as well as pickups from any other store in Keene.

The service operates Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday if need be (call for availability). Keene deliveries are flat rated at \$5 (\$8 for Swanzey, and can be paid in cash upon delivery, or with apps such as Cashapp, Venmo or Chime. For more details, Keene Quick Drops can be reached at 603-400-8297.

Dance Features "Champagne Jam" And Easter Surprise

Monadnock Tri-State Dance Club will hold a dance on Saturday, April 11th from 7 to 10:30 p.m. at ELMM Memorial Community Center at 21 Durkee Street in Winchester.

Before the dance, there will be a potluck at 5:30 p.m.

The dance will feature live music by Champagne Jam. There will be an Easter surprise, free refreshments, a 50/50 raffle, and all are welcome. Admission is \$12.

For more details, call Barbara at 603-392-0447.

Celebrate Spring This April

April in New Hampshire is a season of transition – messy, unpredictable, and full of small surprises that make it perfect for family adventures. The snow is retreating, the air feels a little warmer, and the outdoors is beginning to reopen for exploration. While the weather is fickle and unpredictable, there is still a clear movement away from the harshness of winter.

Although March is the start of maple sugaring, April is still a great time to visit one of the many sugar houses in the region. It can be an exciting and educational experience to observe the process of turning sap into maple syrup. And the flavor of the maple products is such a treat.

In April, the natural landscape is transformed. Melting snow adds to the rivers and streams, allowing hikers to observe some spectacular waterfalls. Just be prepared for the areas where ice and snow may still make the trails slippery and muddy. I recall an early spring hike that ended in sliding down a muddy bank. It was definitely a memorable (and messy) experience.

If you are looking for a smoother hiking experience, there are many rail trails that offer flat and accessible trails for exploration. Whether you decide on a more challenging hike or a smoother path, you can turn the experience into a fun scavenger hunt for signs of spring.

With the unpredictable April weather, there will be days where getting outside isn't so feasible. On those rainy or super blustery days, you can look for indoor opportunities. There are a variety of museums and science centers that offer some indoor exhibits to spark the interest of children of a variety of ages. There are also places for painting and other crafts to spark your children's creativity. Or simply get out the arts and crafts supplies and let your kids' creativity shine.

Local schools have a break in mid to late April, making it a great opportunity to visit kid friendly spots to get the most out of the spring. Check out a farm or bring the kids to a park on a sunny afternoon. There are many local opportunities or opt for a day trip to one of the other great regions of New Hampshire or venture across the border into Vermont, Massachusetts, or Maine for a change of scenery.

Earth Day falls on Wednesday, April

22nd. Make an effort to find ways to take care of the earth. You could plant something outside, start more tender plants inside, or make an effort to reduce, reuse, and recycle. You could even start a compost pile in your backyard for food scraps that can support your garden plants.

Monadnock Family
with Sheri Lapointe



As the weather is beginning to warm, some of the local seasonal ice cream shops are beginning to open for the season. These fun businesses offer delicious and often locally made treats to savor. You can support local small businesses and sample a variety of different options around the region.

Get outside on some of those warmer days and blow bubbles, fly kites, or even splash through puddles after a spring rain. Take a walk through your neighborhood to see what is starting to grow in the gardens around your home. Sometimes the simplest activities can bring the most joy.

April in New Hampshire can be unpredictable. The weather won't be perfect and may require some planning to manage the inconsistencies. It's a mix of sun, rain, mud, and occasionally snow. The mornings may start of chilly and warm up to mild afternoons. Living in New Hampshire means you don't know what to expect from one day to the next, but that is part of the charm. Take April one day at a time, and enjoy what treasures it has to offer on any given day. April requires some flexibility, creativity, and a sense of adventure. Despite the unpredictable nature (remember all the spring rain last year?), the days are getting longer, the weather is starting to be warmer, and there are many signs of spring and new growth. Spring is a new beginning. Get out and enjoy it!

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. Send comments to her at The Monadnock Shopper News, P.O. Box 487, Keene, NH 03431.

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from HANNAFORD'S SUPERMARKETS

April 8, 2026
 Jasper Scobi, son of Michelle Nowill & Rick Scobi, Keene, 4
 Brooke Miller, daughter of Kayla & Jason Miller Jr, Gilsum, 4

April 9, 2026
 Levi Adams Byrnes, son of Amy & Brad Byrnes, Keene, 1

April 11, 2026
 Emmett Ball, son of Hanna & Garrett Ball, Surry, 9
 Lillian Stohr, daughter of Michael Stohr of Troy and Kristina Panek of Fitzwilliam, 12

April 13, 2026
 Joseph Sullivan, son of Stephanie Florio, Keene, 11
 Aspen Kingsbury, daughter of Justin Kingsbury & Amanda Marie, Walpole, 9
 Lyndzey Serpico, daughter of Kaylee Serpico, Keene, 8
 Graycen Ellis, daughter of Tasha & Chris Ellis, Peterborough, 5
 Hayes Rancourt, son of Teagan Rancourt and Liz Anderson, Spofford, 5

HANNAFORD'S BIRTHDAY CAKE
 This Week's Winners



Lillian Stohr, Troy, 12
 Emmett Ball, Surry, 9


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New Artist's Reception At Walpole Artisans Cooperative

On Sunday, April 12th, Louise Slayton, Kris Stewart, Marie Sakellarion, and Kathy Kemp will be introduced as the newest members of the Walpole Artisans.

Slayton creates her own knitting patterns and makes wearable art in the form of hats, fingerless gloves, cowls of various sizes, headbands, and leg warmers. She also weaves heirloom overshot patterns to create functional art, such as table runners, hand towels, placemats, and potholders.

Stewart is an oil painter who has trained with such notable artists as Qiang Huang, Dave Santillanes, Carol Marine, and Hugh Greer, among others, creating original paintings and offers prints of her work on coasters, matted prints, and note cards which evoke a sense of "being there" within her viewers.

Sakellarion creates original acrylic paintings, both on canvas and on treasure boxes. She also makes warm fleece-lined, wool mittens from repurposed sweaters. She brings her unique touch to a wide variety of surfaces such as canvas, wood, metal, and fabric with subject matter that reflects her deep appreciation for the natural and domestic world. Her works capture landscapes, animals, plants/flowers, and even detailed home portraits.

Kemp, who studied at Massachusetts College of Art and Design, creates assemblage artworks using time-worn wood, industrial remnants, and found objects, bringing them together in new relationships. Her modern compositions explore balance, contrast, and quiet tension. Antique hardware, salvaged wood, and other overlooked materials often find their way



Shown (l-r) are Marie Sakellarion, Kathy Kemp, Kris Stewart, Louise Slayton.

into her work, where their textures and histories help shape the final form.

The reception will be held from 4 to 6pm at the Walpole Artisans shop, located at 52 Main Street. Light refreshments and drink will be served. "This is a perfect opportunity to stop by, meet our newest artisans, and learn about their individual artistic journeys," says Josiah Beer, Walpole Artisans exhibiting artist and board member.

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Finn Property Maintenance, Building, And Remodeling – "Caring For Yours Like It's Ours"

FINN, Continued from page 1

Finnell also works with Every Home Solutions – a local business that supports aging adults and individuals with disabilities in staying safe, independent, and comfortable in their homes.

"I know our name sounds like a landscape company. We were when we started, but have evolved into a full-service builder, remodeler, and hardscape company," Finnell says, and adds that changes to the business name are presently in the works to reflect just that.

His father was a contractor, so Finnell grew up in the business. In his youth, he received lots of hands-on experience. That is also where he learned that the "old school" way – doing things in-person, attentive customer service, standing by your word and delivering as promised – is the real way to run a successful business.

"Customers appreciate the old school way. I get a lot of repeat customers, so that tells me everything," he says.

Sue Benik of Nye Hill Farm has this to say about her experience using the services of Finnell Property Maintenance: "When we made the decision to gut and redo our home, we relied on recommendations for the work that needed to be done. From the moment I met John, I knew he was the right person for the job. He met with us at our home and listened to our visions for the new spaces. John then met us at the tile store and directed us as to what would work best. He offered creative design options for each room, which we would never have thought of. John's attention to detail and pride in his craft became immediately apparent. His step-by-step communication with the other on-site contractors and us was incredible. John's precise work was that of a true craftsman. The end result – magazine worthy spaces!"

The team at Finn Property Maintenance pride themselves on transforming spaces – whether indoors or out – through skill, dedication, and outstanding craftsmanship. They work closely with their clients to understand their vision and bring it to life with precision and care.

"Most important is our commitment to quality and customer satisfaction. We work with our clients to make their dreams come to reality," adds Finnell.

With combined experience of over 50 years, Finn Property Maintenance strives to deliver the absolute best quality workmanship at a fair price.

"I have known John of Finn Property Maintenance for many years," says Hans Koester. "He has always done a wonderful job each time he has worked for us. He works hard, is on time, and gets the job done in a timely and professional manner. I highly recommend Finn Property Maintenance for all your general repair and construction needs."

Another customer, Patti Kasal, says: "When I saw some of his creations, I knew Finn Property Management was going to build our new sunroom and deck that I had always dreamed of having. Jay and I were in sync with John from the beginning. We had the same taste in decor, and every day was a new experience."

"We stand by our work, and we ensure all clients are completely satisfied and willing to refer us, before we ever leave a project," Finnell adds.

"John Finnell has been our trusted go-to property maintenance person for 10-plus years of TLC for our office building in Keene," writes Dave and Sharon Ward in a testimonial. "He takes care of all mowing, landscaping, hedge and bush trimming, as well as spring and fall clean-up. In the winter he handles plowing, sanding, and salting reliably and on time. John's skills and experience go far beyond landscaping and snow removal. He has professional-level carpentry and builder skills, and has done roof work, window replacement, and finish work for us as needed. Most importantly, our relationship with Finn Property Maintenance has afforded us peace of mind."

"We will care for yours like it's ours," Finnell sums up.

For more details or to set up a free consultation, call 603-892-1192, email john@finnpropertymaintenance.com, or visit www.finnpropertymaintenance.com.

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Special Pull-out Section!



American Home Week

Blue Seal Farm & Home: Big And Getting Bigger



Shown (l-r) are: Angelo Ambrosio, Jay Pomponio, Tina Proulx, Peter DeMello, Larry Earle, Vicci Tarr, Peter Kelleher, Matt Wasserloos.

The nursery at Blue Seal Farm & Home in Keene is "on the grow." The former Achille Agway store has expanded its garden center to include a wide variety of trees, shrubs, fruit trees, hardy perennials, native plants, colorful annuals, and herbs and vegetables. And there's more on the way. "We're focusing on using local growers as much as possible to source our plant materials," says Matt Was-

serloos, garden center lead. With over 30 years of experience in the horticultural industry, he brings a wealth of knowledge to the store and has already begun to set up various free seminars on related topics.

In addition to plant material, the expanded nursery stocks seed, fertilizer, plant health care supplies, and garden tools.

BLUE SEAL, page 14

March Electric Offers Classic Values And Current Solutions For Home And Business

With the winter season safely behind us, now is the time to plan ahead for summer projects and address much-needed repairs or upgrades to electrical systems.

With over 30 years experience in the electrical field, Rob March, owner of March Electric, advises customers not to wait too long to get on the schedule for anything from safety related repairs and maintenance, temperature-managing ceiling fans, thermostats and mini splits, to service upgrades that increase the power availability in your home or business.

"These days, many people are adding or altering living spaces to accommodate elderly parents, which requires a number of upgrades," says March, "while others are dreaming of landscape lighting to create 'resort style' ambiance in their yards, or improving lighting in shops or outbuildings."



Rob March, owner of March Electric

MARCH, page 14

Happy Customers Pleased With Drywall, Painting And More



Homeowner Anthony Tyler, right, thanks Dale Blanchard of Dale Blanchard Drywall for a job well done. Blanchard did all the drywall work and painting for every room and the garage for this new home construction in Troy.

Blanchard is available for a variety of drywall needs in the Monadnock Region, from new construction to additions and renovations, or repairing damage from water or other causes. He has more than 40 years of experience. For more details or to book a job, call 603-499-2006.

WASTE, page 14

Free Household Hazardous Waste Collections

The dates for Spring Household Hazardous Waste Collections in area towns have been announced. This is an opportunity to clean out toxic wastes from basements, work benches, garages, and cupboards.

All collections will be held at the Keene Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, located adjacent to the Keene Recycling Center at 55 Old Summit Road in Keene from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The dates are Saturdays, April 18th, May 9th, May 30th, and June 13th; and Wednesdays, April 15th and May 13th.

People from the following towns may participate: Acworth, Chesterfield, Dublin, Gilsum, Greenfield, Hancock, Harrisville, Jaffrey, Keene, Marlborough, Marlow, Nelson, Peterborough, Richmond, Stoddard, Sullivan, Surry, Swanzey, Walpole, and Westmoreland.



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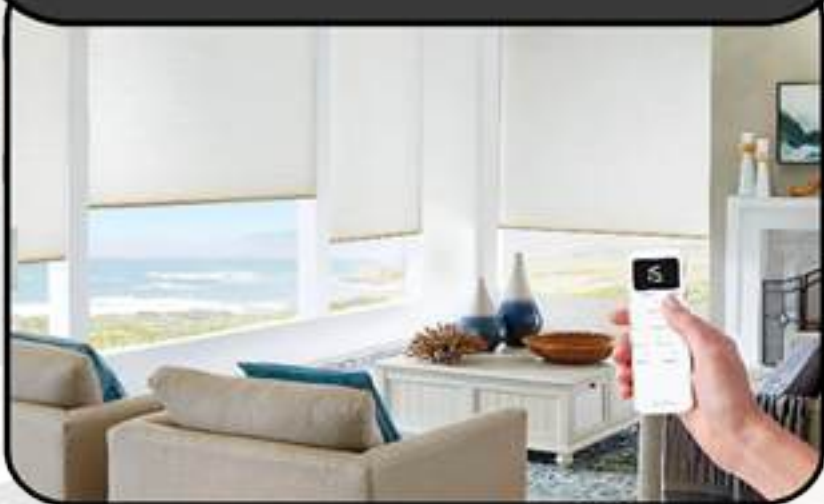
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Dublin Town Clean-Up Day & Second Foam Drive Set For April 18th

The annual revitalized Clean-Up Day in Dublin is set for Saturday, April 18th from 9 a.m. until noon, with lunch provided by the DubHub afterwards. The Community Center, the Waste Reduction and Recycling Committee and Conservation Commission are co-sponsoring this event.

At the same time, they will hold their second Styrofoam drive. Folks can bring rigid Styrofoam to the Transfer Station the same day, April 18th. The group's first foam drive was a success - they collected two giant bags of foam and delivered them to the state's only foam recycling center in Gilford.

Dublin's elementary school children (grades K-5) are invited to make some

sort of poster or other design (two-dimensional) on the theme of Earth Day and/or Dublin Clean-Up Day. These will be collected from the schools on Friday, April 17th and displayed at the Community Center. Home school families are welcome to join, too; drop off children's posters at Dublin Consolidated School or at the Dublin Community Center on April 17th before 3 p.m.

Families can come to the Hub starting at 9 a.m. to pick up trash bags and sign up for one of the town roads. Everyone will disperse to clean roadsides and gather back at the Hub at noon for hot dogs and prizes for posters and interesting trash. And, the group hopes to break their foam record.

Skywalker HVAC Delivers Service That Goes Above And Beyond

It all began with a partnership. In 2022, after spending decades in the HVAC industry, Ryan Walker and Tom Moore joined forces to create Skywalker HVAC. Their goal was simple: be different.

"We wanted to serve the community with a streamlined approach because we felt that many bigger companies were losing that small-business touch," explains Walker. In other words, they'd be that friendly team that customers knew on a first name basis. It was a

simple and old-school approach to running a business that, along with a 100 percent satisfaction guarantee, would result in the greatest benefit to the customer - above and beyond service.

Through the years their business has grown to include installation and service of gas furnaces or

boilers, ducted heat pump systems, ductless mini split systems, ducted heat pumps and central AC systems, water heaters and heat-pump water heaters, humidifiers, energy recovery ventilator (ERV) and heat recovery ventilator (HRV) systems that provide balanced ventilation, replacing indoor air with fresh outdoor air while saving energy.

For more details about the company and the services they offer, Skywalker HVAC can be reached at 603-554-2559. Visit them at www.skywalkerhvac.com.

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Gardening Goals At A Relaxed Pace

This is the time of year to get ready for another growing season! I've put it off until now (I've been busy), but the tasks can no longer be ignored. The half-broken bee balm stems, the washed out pathway, the tomato seeds that really do need to be started... these are just a few of the items on the list. But I am taking a new approach this year. It's a concept well known amongst Bulgarians – ailyak. It means that everything that needs to get done, will get done in its own time and there is, therefore, no need to worry or stress about it. Perhaps my husband is laughing at me a little bit (because he knows what a stress ball I can be) and I'd call that fair. But here it is, a personal gardening goal: to methodically go through as much as I can in the time I have to do it and then (this is key to the concept of ailyak), let the rest go. (I'll let you all know how the experiment went.)



Writer Yedida Landis with Grey Striped Mammoth

Woods and Gardens
with Yedida Landis

Other personal goals for this season are to make a more efficient composting system, actually install the drip line I purchased and talked about so much last autumn, and plant as many flowers as possible. First, the compost. We prefer a three-year rotation system.

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That means that what we spread on the garden was our weeds and food scraps three years ago. Waiting this long is not necessary, especially if it's not used on food beds, but it does ensure any untoward bacteria is not present. We have three compost locations around the back edge of the field, none of which are near a garden and each of which is built of a leftover material we had lying around. As an alternative, a landscape design friend suggested using pallets – three across the back, one on each side, three half pieces across the front and two as dividers on the inside. This creates a rectangle with three equally sized squares in the inside. She suggested beginning on one end – filling through the season with layers of weeds, kitchen scraps, hay, and lawn detritus. It's best to turn compost throughout the season to allow for aeration and faster composting (but if you don't, it's not a big deal). Then, just before winter sets in, move that first pile into the middle bin and begin again in that first square with a new pile. Placing this near a garden makes tossing weeds in and shoveling compost out much more convenient.

Okay, second project: the irrigation. I don't know why I've been procrastinating with irrigation, but I think it has to do with digging a trench across the lawn to connect the drip line in the kitchen garden to the spigot on the house. Sometimes external motivation is best. I can probably trick myself into thinking it's fun by inviting friends over for a little work party followed by a bounteous summer lunch: fresh salad, basil pesto lamb kebabs, crusty bread, and a lemon thyme cake. That's one of my favorite meals and something to look forward to. All in the name of doing things at a relaxed pace, with confidence that they will get done when they need to (and hopefully before the 100 degree days in August).

The last project is also the easiest to accomplish – plant a plethora of flowers! Over the years, I've accumulated a variety of flowers that work well to save their seeds. Heirloom varieties tend to be best for seed saving and there are four that I can rely on every year. The sunflowers work best direct-seeded after the last frost; I'll start the rest indoors soon (hopefully).

Cosmos – the "Sensation" mix
Sunflower – "Mammoth Grey Striped"
Zinnias – "Benary's Giants" and "Oklahoma Salmon"

Marigolds – "Pinwheel" and "Crackerjack" mix
Here's to a great season ahead! I'd love to hear what your gardening goals are, and I hope that whatever projects you choose to take on will happen just at the right time, without stress or worry... ailyak!

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More Affordable EVs Are Coming

The lack of choices and high prices have held back EV adoption. That's about to change in some very exciting ways.

So far, most EVs have been on the expensive side due to smaller production runs and battery costs. These new EV choices are more affordable as battery technology advances while production expands. The upgraded Chevrolet Bolt returns to join the Equinox as an affordable pair of EVs. Subaru has improved the Solterra and is adding the Trailseeker as a larger option and the Uncharted as a compact, sporty cross-over. Toyota will have two similar new options to add to the bZ, since they're from their joint venture. The Woodland will feature 375 HP and 281 miles of range while the C-HR cross-over coupe is projected to cost under \$40,000.



The new EV I'm most excited about is the Rivian R2, a midsize SUV. It is positioned to challenge the EV sales leader – the Tesla Model Y. The R2 leads the others in off-road credibility, building on the R1 series. Rivian has produced pricy "adventure" vehicles on the start-up production line in Illinois. Earning very high customer satisfaction ratings. In over three years, I've enjoyed 30,000 miles with no maintenance other than tires, while this R1T keeps getting better with over-the-air updates.

Lucid is another American EV startup currently offering larger more expensive EVs adding mid-size vehicles starting with the Cosmos, an aerodynamic, on-road, performance-oriented vehicle expected before year end.

Perhaps the most revolutionary innovation in the entire automotive industry is the Slate truck scheduled to debut this year. The Slate truck breaks a lot of auto industry "rules," it's designed to be a low-cost new vehicle, which bucks auto industry trends. I've been waiting for lower cost EVs and I feared they would come from China, but Slate is an American company with a factory in Indiana.

Since EVs have fewer parts, as battery prices have come down, affordability improves. Slate has designed a low-cost manufacturing process; for example, it comes in one color which saved the company millions of dollars on a paint shop. You can acquire wraps to make it colorful and distinctive – one example of the extensive customization focus. To achieve the \$25,000 base price, which is half the average new car price, this vehicle is available as a bare bones truck, which can be customized as your budget permits by the factory, a local auto shop, or DIY (do-it-yourself). The truck can be easily converted to an SUV initially or years later as you wish. Safety is another high priority; they're striving for a 5-star crash rating. Slate even plans to let owners do warranty repairs, unheard of in the auto industry today.

At a time when fuel price volatility is a threat to budgets, this is the time to explore new and used electric options. A recent report by RMI stated that switching to an EV can reduce your operating costs by 40 to 65%, as maintenance and fueling cost less and are easier. They are also safer, quieter, cleaner, smoother, and fun to drive. Many EVs have the ability to provide power in an outage or wherever you go.

To check out EVs locally, the annual Monadnock EarthFest on Saturday, April 25th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Monadnock Food Co-op includes a Drive E expo in the Whitney Brothers lot. See for yourself and ask questions of local EV owners and dealers including a used EV dealer. May the torque be with you.

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A Love Of Growing At Allen Brothers Farm

The greenhouses at Allen Brothers Farm, located on Rt. 5 in Westminster, VT, are bursting with color. This year's early crop includes 6,000 hanging baskets, 10,000 four-inch annuals, and 8,000 six-inch annuals, along with pansies, cold-crop vegetables, herbs, perennials, and some new surprises.

Joseph Mclynch, crop grower at Allen Brothers Farms.



Monadnock Farm And Community Coalition Rebrands As Monadnock Grown Coalition

Monadnock Farm and Community Coalition (MFCC) will rebrand as the Monadnock Grown Coalition in 2026. The new name reflects a renewed commitment to strengthening the region's food identity and deepening community connections to local agriculture.

"The Monadnock Grown name helps build a strong regional identity that reflects the incredible diversity of farm products available here," says Roe-Ann Tasoulas, MFCC director. "We want consumers to more easily recognize and support Monadnock Grown farms and distinguish them from products labeled simply as 'local.'"

The Monadnock Grown Coalition will continue advancing farm viability through collaborative initiatives in farm-to-school programming, food access, infrastructure development, and policy.

The Coalition will launch a redesigned, user-friendly Monadnock Grown website. The platform will allow users to quickly find local food products, as well as connect with farms, farm stands, farmers markets, restaurants, and retailers. The site will also highlight options for community members to access food at free or reduced cost when eligible.

For more details, email coordinator@mfccoalition.org.

Free Household Hazardous Waste Collections

WASTE, Continued from page 7

The average household throws 15.5 pounds of hazardous materials into the trash each year. Household hazardous materials are disposed of in other ways too. Certain products, such as used oil, are sometimes poured down storm drains and many products end up going down the sink drain into septic systems or sewers.

Flammable or reactive household chemicals can release toxic fumes or even explode if they are mixed together in the trash, causing fires or injuries. Dumping solvents into septic systems or landfills may contaminate ground and surface waters, ruining drinking water and killing fish and wildlife. Pesticides can damage sewage treatment plants, and oil poured into storm drains can flow directly into streams and ponds.

The collection takes around 10 minutes, and is sponsored by the City of Keene. Do not mix products, and the limit is 10 gallons per household per collection.

Bring products marked toxic, poison, corrosive, irritant, hazardous, flammable, or danger. If you think it's hazardous, bring it.

Do not bring empty containers (can be recycled), latex paint, ammunition, fireworks, radioactive materials, make-up, medications, and toiletries.

Containers must be labeled as to their contents. No containers larger than 10 gallons will be accepted.

While they are there, folks can check out the reuse center for items such as good quality paint or various cleaning products. These are perfect for small jobs and are free. For more details, call 603-352-5739.

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Blue Seal Farm & Home: Big And Getting Bigger

BLUE SEAL, Continued from page 7

Of course, no home and garden center would be complete without statuary, fountains, bird baths, patio furniture, grills, and accessories. "With the return of Matt Wasserloos, we've doubled down on our nursery offerings with everything you need for your home and garden," says store manager Larry Earle. "What's more, customers can join our rewards program and save on pet food, nursery items, wild bird feed, garden accessories, and much more."

For more details, Blue Seal Farm & Home is located at 80 Martel Court in Keene. They can be reached at 603-357-5720.

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MARCH, Continued from page 7

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To learn more, March Electric can be reached at 603-336-6026. Visit them online at march-electric.com.

MARCO POLO GARDEN
MYSTERY PHOTO

The first person to answer the question correctly at 9:30 a.m. or after on Friday will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Marco Polo Garden on Main Street in Keene. 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)



This is a photo of a Methodist Church in what Cheshire County village?



The winner of last week's Mystery Photo was Justin Wilson of Keene. The early 1900s photo is a view of Granite Lake.

Nutrition And Cooking Classes In Jaffrey

Nutrition and cooking classes from the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine's Food for Life program will be held at the Jaffrey Civic Center at 40 Main Street.

The instructor is Nora Hanke. Each two-hour class includes a lecture, discussion, cooking demonstrations, and food sampling.

"Tackling Menopause" class takes place on Wednesday, April 15th, followed by "Foods for a Healthy Heart"

on Saturday, May 2nd. The latter offers an overview of plant-based foods for a healthy cardiovascular system, benefiting disorders of the heart, brain, low back and sexual function. "Kickstart Your Health" is a five-week series starting May 9th.

For more details and to sign-up, visit <https://jaffreyciviccenter.com>. For the kickstart program, discounts are available for recipients of Medicaid, SNAP, WIC, or fuel assistance.

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New England Outdoor Furnaces Is Now A Vendor Of Wood Stoves

New England Outdoor Furnaces, a small family-owned outdoor wood boiler business, has recently expanded into selling wood stoves, building on its reputation for reliable, wood-based heating solutions. Interested readers can now visit them in their newly opened showroom located in Newport.

While the long-standing company has been helping customers to heat their homes primarily with outdoor systems, the new owners recognized a growing interest in indoor alternatives that offer both efficiency and a cozy atmosphere. By adding several lines of high-quality wood stoves, the business can now serve a wider range of needs – from whole-property heating to supplemental warmth inside the home. These stoves appeal to customers not only for their practical benefits – such as lower heating costs and reduced reliance on electricity or traditional fossil fuels.

According to Matthew Pikus, one of the owners, “When energy prices skyrocket, and temps drop, there is one constant source for heat that remains unshakable: wood. We understand that it’s the most attractive option for both our environmentally and economically conscious homeowners.”

New England Outdoor Furnaces’ new expansion allows them to leverage their existing expertise in wood fuel,




Matthew Pikus, one of the owners of New England Outdoor Furnaces, is shown at the Newport business.

system efficiency, and customer service while giving homeowners more flexible, cost-effective options for staying warm through the colder months.

For more details, reach New England Outdoor Furnaces at 603-863-8818, via their website at newengland-outdoorfurnaces.com, or visit them at 877 John Stark Highway in Newport.

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Rindge Earth Day Trash Collection

On Saturday, April 25th, people are invited to bring their blue Earth Day bags filled with roadside trash to the Rindge Transfer Station from 8 a.m. to noon.

Each filled bag will entitle the person

to one raffle ticket. There will be four prizes of \$50 each: two for adults and two for children. Prizes will be awarded at noon on that day. For more details, email Rindgewomansclub@gmail.com.



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Aloha To Offer Day Of Self-Care This Sunday



Aloha will offer a day of self-care for yourself this Sunday, April 12th. The day will begin at 8 to 9:15 a.m. with Yoga with Gentle Assists led by Becky Barrett. Then after a little break, there will be Satsang with Robert Moses from 10 to 11 a.m. From 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Jahna Moncrief will guide attendees through Resonance and Renewal.

Folks are invited to walk downtown for a bit of lunch and exercise, then return at 3 p.m. for Restorative Yoga with Michelle Davis or an experience of Zen Tangles. Then they can finish the day with Goddess Yoga at 6 p.m. Attendees can pick and choose activities, do it all, or take time to journal in the tea room at Aloha along with a cup of tea anytime.

Aloha is located on Court Street in Keene.

Jahna Moncrief, a musician, a Reiki master, and trained in Tuning Forks.

Planning A Medicinal Herb Garden Workshop At Monadnock Food Co-op

The Monadnock Food Co-op will host a free medicinal herb garden workshop on Saturday, April 11th, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Co-op Community Room at 34 Cypress Street in Keene.

Local herbalist Dr. Linda Kingsbury will lead the session, covering garden planning and easy-to-grow herbs for family wellness.

RSVPs are encouraged. For more details and to register, visit monadnockfood.coop/event or contact outreach@monadnockfood.coop.

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Keene Family YMCA Hosts Free Healthy Kids Day Event

The Keene Family YMCA is hosting the Y's annual Healthy Kids Day on Saturday, April 18th from 1 to 4 p.m. at their facility located at 200 Summit Road in Keene. This free, annual event features a variety of family-friendly activities to encourage healthy kids, healthy families and a healthy start to the summer season.

Healthy Kids Day will prepare Monadnock Region families for a safe, healthy, and fun summer. Some featured activities include program demos, swimming, gymnastics, ninja, and more.

"It is so important for kids to stay active over the summer, both physically and mentally," said Kelly Fleurette, senior program director at the Keene Family YMCA. "At the Y, we believe in providing resources for families to create healthy habits, no matter the time of year. Healthy Kids Day is a fun, free community-wide event that encourages families to take advantage of all the great summer activities

the Y has to offer." In honor of its 175th anniversary in the United States, YMCAs nationwide are expanding their commitment to nurturing healthy, confident kids through their annual Healthy Kids Day celebration. The Keene Family YMCA has been serving the Monadnock Region for 141 years.

For more details, contact the Keene Family YMCA at 603-352-6002 or visit <https://keeneymca.org/hkd>.

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Heath Quartet Joins Ashuelot Concerts For Two Concerts

CONCERTS, Continued from page 1

"Not only were these composers largely self-taught, they each left an indelible mark on the musical history of the USA."

"It will be an honor to perform with the Heath Quartet this weekend," says Louisa Stonehill. "They are incredibly sensitive and communicative artists, with a rare ability to capture the audience's heart."

Online booking for concerts is encouraged in advance as Ashuelot Concerts events often sell out. Tickets and full program information are available at ashuelotconcerts.org.

Guitar Monsters Show Will Benefit Jaffrey Food Pantry

BENEFIT, Continued from page 1

Guitar Monsters features two Grammy nominees, one New England Music Hall of Fame inductee, and one Boston Music Hall of Fame inductee.

The Jaffrey Food Pantry is a nonprofit organization serving the Monadnock Region, dedicated to collecting, storing, and distributing nutritious food to individuals and families facing food insecurity.

The Park Theatre is located at 19 Main Street.

For more details or to purchase tickets, go to www.Rockin4Vets.com/tickets.

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Thursday April 9th
Advance Registration Required

www.millhollowworks.org

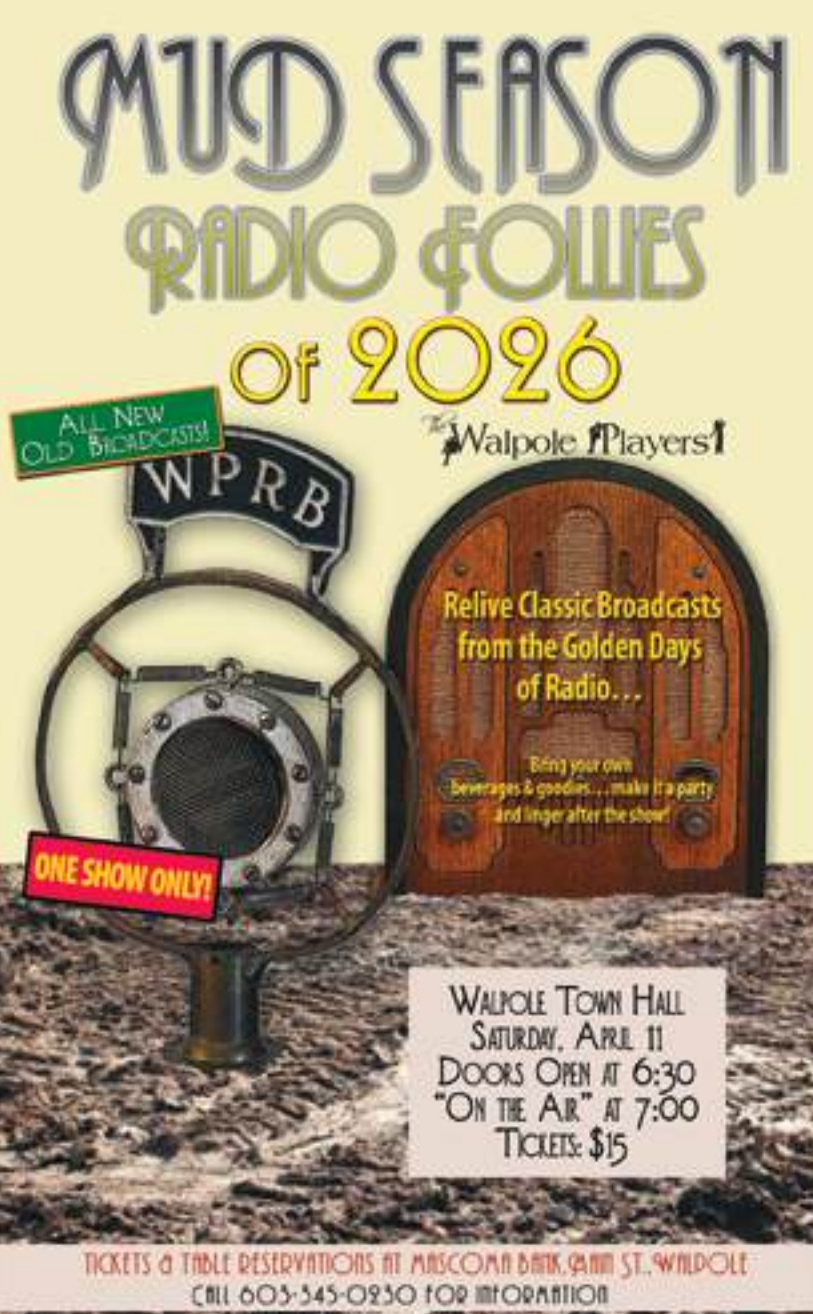


Piano Quintets with the Heath Quartet

April 10 at 7:30PM
Stonewall Farm - Keene, NH

April 12 at 3PM
The Park Theatre - Jaffrey, NH

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Silent Auction At Hillsboro Christian School Saturday, April 18th

A Silent Auction for Hillsboro Christian School will be held on Saturday, April 18th at noon, with viewing at 11:30 a.m. The school is located at 337 2nd NH Turnpike in Hillsboro.

The auction items include gift cards, themed gift sets, experiences, handmade items, and more. Food and drinks will be available.

Garden Planning Workshop

A Garden Planning Workshop will be held in Heberton Hall at Keene Public Library on Winter Street on Tuesday, April 14th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants will learn some tips and tricks for planning a garden. Call 603-352-0157 to register.

Easter Surprise!
Dance to the Live Music of Champagne Jam
April 11 • Potluck 5:30, Dance 7PM
Monadnock Tri-State Dance Club
ELMM Hall, Durkee St., Winchester
\$12, free refreshments, 50/50 Raffle
All ages. Info: Barbara 603-392-0447

Wednesday, Apr. 8 MISCELLANEOUS

Home Healthcare Hospice & Community Services: Walk-in Wednesdays-By Appointment HCS Charlestown, 33 Arborway. Confidential, free discussion of services available. **603-352-2253**. www.HCSservices.org.

Walk-in Wednesdays 1-3pm. Family Resource Center at HCS, 312 Marlboro Street, Keene. Confidential, free discussion of services that are available. From Healthy Starts to Hospice care. **603-352-2253**. www.HCSservices.org.

Home Healthcare Hospice & Community Services: Walk-in Wednesdays 1-3pm. HCS Peterborough, 454 Old Street Road Medical Arts Building, Suite 208. Confidential, free of charge discussion of services that are available. **603-352-2253**. www.HCSservices.org.

Teen Sit & Scribble 5:30-6:30pm. Booras Room, Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St., Keene. Judgment free writing group. Share stories & ideas in a creative space. Eleanor Green: **603-352-0157**. egreen@keenenh.gov.

Companion Planting: Nicole & Jack Lamont 12pm. First Congregational Church of Swanzey, Friendship Hall, 679 Old Homestead Hwy. Program starts at 1pm, meeting starts at noon for those considering joining the club. www.oldhomesteadgardenclub.org/.

Thursday, Apr. 9 ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Romance & Spring 6:30pm. Spring Hill Studio, 358 Spring Hill Road, Sharon. Violinist Elisabeth Small & pianist Mary Towse-Beck. The program length will be an hour with no intermission. Reception to follow with Prosecco and cupcakes. \$30 general/\$15 member.

Wild Goose Players: Cabaret 7:30pm. Bellows Falls Opera House, 7 Village Square, Bellows Falls, VT. Book tickets at **802-463-3964**. www.wildgooseplayers.com/tickets.

FAMILY FUN

Book time with Babies and Toddlers 10:30-11:15am. Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St. Share books, rhymes, music, puppets, more. Every Thursday through May 14th. Amy Kraemer: **603-352-0157**. akraemer@keenenh.gov.

LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

Visiting Artist to Teach Pysanky: Jenny Santa Maria 10am-12:30pm. The Craft School Mill Hollow Works, 149 Hurricane Rd., Keene. Traditional folk practice in which designs are drawn on an egg with hot beeswax and built up through successive layers of dye. Session 2 1:30 to 3. Register at www.millhollowworks.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

Tech Talk: Phishing 6-7pm. Masiello Classroom, Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St. Discussion and hands on training to improve tech skills. Free, open to all. Followed by time for practice and questions. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own devices. Limited tech tools are available. Amy Kraemer: **603-352-0157**. akraemer@keenenh.gov.

THE DOLPHINS QUARTET



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Friday, Apr. 10 ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Art Reception: Featuring Paintings by Walden Whitham & Weavings by Sarah Warren 5-7pm. Dublin Community Center, 1123 Main St., Dublin. **603-563-8080**. info@dublincommunitycenter.org.

Ashuelot Concerts: Piano Quintets with the Heath Quartet 7:30pm. Stonewall Farms, 242 Chesterfield Rd., Keene. Free-\$50. Tickets at www.ashuelotconcerts.org.

Wild Goose Players: Cabaret 7:30pm. Bellows Falls Opera House, 7 Village Square, Bellows Falls, VT. Book tickets at **802-463-3964**. www.wildgooseplayers.com/tickets.

FAMILY FUN

Kids Comic Club 4:30-5:30pm. Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St. For comic fans ages 8-12. Create together, discuss graphic novels, and watch interviews and tutorials from favorite artists. Registration appreciated. Parker Goodreau: **603-352-0157**. pgoodreau@keenenh.gov.

Homeschool Library Day 11am. Conant Public Library, 111 Main St., Winchester. Make a craft, check out a book, and hang with other homeschool families. Every other Friday, open to all homeschoolers. **603-239-4331**. www.conantlibrary.org/.

MISCELLANEOUS

Heart Centered Kirtan 7pm. Aloha Keene, 83 Court St., Keene. Enjoy this modern adaptation of Bhakti tradition which weaves ancient musical styles for an accessible and inspirational experience. \$20-\$30 suggested donation.

13th Anniversary Celebration 11am-3pm. Monadnock Food Co-op, 34 Cypress St. Free cookies (while supplies last), samples from local vendors, and flash sales. outreach@monadnockfood.coop.

Red Cross Blood Drive 12-4:30pm. Spagnuolo Hall, 40 University Drive, Rindge. Call or visit to schedule appointment at **800-733-2767**. www.RedCrossBlood.org.

Saturday, Apr. 11 ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Musical Film Screening and Sing-along 1-4:30pm. The Keene Public Library, Cohen Hall, 60 Winter St. Screening of the original cast production of one of America's favorite Broadway musicals, released on DVD in 2020, featuring talents of Lin Manuel Miranda, Leslie Odom Jr, and Phillipa Soo. Registration at www.keenepubliclibrary.org/.

Wild Goose Players: Cabaret 2pm. Bellows Falls Opera House, 7 Village Square, Bellows Falls, VT. Book tickets at **802-463-3964**. www.wildgooseplayers.com/tickets.

Peterborough Folk Music: Tom Pirozzoli & Willy Porter 7pm. Bass Hall at Monadnock Center, 19 Grove St., Peterborough. \$25. **603-318-9196**. www.pfmconcerts.org.

Walpole Players Presents: Mud Season Radio Follies 7pm. Walpole Town Hall, 34 Elm St., Walpole. One show only. Tickets & table reservations at Mascoma Bank, Main St., Walpole. Doors open at 6:30. **603-345-0230**.

Monadnock Tri-State Dance Club 7-10:30pm. ELMM Community Center, 21 Durkee St., Winchester. Featuring 'Champagne Jam'. There will be an Easter surprise, free refreshments, a 50/50 raffle, and all are welcome. Admission is \$12. Barbara: **603-392-0447**.

Pete Francis 7:30-9:30pm. Showroom, 20 Commercial St., Keene. Pete Francis is a singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist known for blending eclectic genres and dynamic live performances. \$25. **603-352-2033**. boxoffice@thecolonial.org.

Special Events at the DubHub:

Art Reception

Friday, April 10 • 5-7pm

Featuring paintings by Walden Whitham & weavings by Sarah Warren

Coffee House & Open Mic

Saturday, April 18 • 6-9pm

Feature: Volkert Volkersz & Friends

Cosy Sheridan Concert


Saturday, April 25 • 7pm

Contact info@dublincommunitycenter.org for ticket information



Dublin Community Center

1123 Main St., Dublin, NH
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ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Wild Goose Players: Cabaret 7:30pm. Bellows Falls Opera House, 7 Village Square, Bellows Falls, VT. Book tickets at 802-463-3964. www.wildgooseplayers.com/tickets.

DINING PLEASURES

\$8 Takeout Ham Dinner 4-6pm. Samuel E. Paul Community Center, 61 South Street, Troy. Ham, potato, vegetable and a roll. 603-313-2243. troytownrec@gmail.com.

Roast Beef Supper 5pm. United Church of Bernardston, MA, 58 Church St. Second seating at 6:15. Roast beef with gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetable, rolls, baked dessert. \$15. Call for reservations or to reserve take-out meals. 413-648-9306.

LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

Planning Medicinal Herb Garden 10-11:30am. Monadnock Food Co-op, Community Room, 34 Cypress St. Free. Explore fun garden plans and easy-to-grow herbs for family wellness, lead by local herbalist, Dr. Linda Kinsbury. RSVP at www.monadnockfood.coop/event/.

MISCELLANEOUS

Red Cross Blood Drive 9am-2pm. Monadnock Covenant Church, 90 Base Hill Road, Keene. Call or visit to schedule appointment at 800-733-2767. www.RedCrossBlood.org.
Keene Home Expo 2026 10am-4pm. Keene Ice, 380 Marlboro St., Keene. 100+ booths, give-aways, and demonstrations. 603-903-4228. www.keenehomeexpo.com.

Sunday, Apr. 12

ARTS, MUSIC, THEATER

Wild Goose Players: Cabaret 2pm. Bellows Falls Opera House, 7 Village Square, Bellows Falls, VT. Book tickets at 802-463-3964. www.wildgooseplayers.com/tickets.

Ashuelot Concerts: Piano Quintets with the Heath Quartet 3pm. The Park Theatre, 19 Main St., Jaffrey. Free - \$50. Book tickets at www.ashuelotconcerts.org.

New Artist Reception 4-6pm. Artisans Gift Shop, 52 Main St., Walpole. Meet Louise Slayton (fiber artist), Kris Stewart (painter), Marie Sakellarion (fiber artist & painter), and Kathy Kemp (mixed media assemblage).

MISCELLANEOUS

Restorative Yoga with Michelle Davis/ Zen Tangles with Gracie 3pm. Aloha Keene, 83 Court St., Keene. Take a day of self care. www.vagaro.com/alohakeene.

Goddess Yoga 6pm. Aloha Keene, 83 Court St., Keene. www.vagaro.com/alohakeene.

Yoga with Gentle Assists: Becky Barrett 8-9:15am. Aloha Keene, 83 Court St., Keene. www.vagaro.com/alohakeene.

Sunday Satsang: Robert Moses 10-11am. Aloha Keene, 83 Court St. Meditation, mantra repetition and discussion on living a conscious life, fostering a supportive environment for spiritual exploration. Donations accepted. www.vagaro.com/alohakeene.

Keene Home Expo 10am-3pm. Keene Ice, 380 Marlboro St. 100+ booths, Vendor Give-A-Ways, and demonstrations. 603-903-4228. www.keenehomeexpo.com.

Resonance and Renewal Sound Healing Session 11:30am-1pm. Aloha Keene, 83 Court St., Keene. For inner peace, clarity, and growth. Come tune your nervous

system and immerse yourself in healing frequencies and reiki life force energy. \$40. www.vagaro.com/alohakeene.

Tues., Apr. 14

LECTURES/WORKSHOPS

Garden Planning Workshop 11am-1pm. Heberton Hall, Keene Public Library, 60 Winter Street. Lite lunch provided. Amy Kraemer: 603-352-0157. akraemer@keeneh.gov.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Basics of Estate Planning: Ed Dimayuga 6:30pm. Putney Public Library, 55 Main St., Putney, VT. Attorney walks through the basics of wills, trusts, and estate planning. Free and open to the public.

Wed., Apr. 15

FAIRS & SALES

Career and Job Fair 8:30-11:30am. Keene High School, 43 Arch St., Keene.

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New Artisan Reception at the Walpole Artisans
Sunday, April 12 from 4-6pm
 Enjoy light refreshments, free parking, and meet:
 fiber artist, Louise Slayton; painter, Kris Stewart;
 fiber artist and painter, Marie Sakellarion;
 and assemblage artist, Kathy Kemp.
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STOCK WATCH

Listings At Close of Market April 2, 2026 • Courtesy of RBC Wealth Management
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	Close	Week's Change		Close	Week's Change
Honeywell (Allied Signal)	229.45	6.33	Danaher Corp. (Kollmorgen)	191.12	9.60
Becton Dickinson (C.R. Bard)	154.51	0.00	Merck (Hubbard Farms)	120.87	1.24
Toronto Dominion Bank (TD Bank)	95.22	3.85	Deluxe (NEBS)	27.67	0.68
PC Connection	59.60	2.46	Teleflex (Jaffrey)	117.81	1.59
Bank Of America (Fleet)	49.38	2.41	Timken (MPB Corp.)	98.92	1.36
Corning Inc.	147.92	11.11	M&T Bank Corp. (People's United)	210.16	9.23
Ametek, Inc. (Precitech)	218.29	9.05	Dover Corp. (Markem)	205.38	(1.22)

PRECIOUS METALS	Close	Week's Change	COMMODITIES	Close	Week's Change
Silver (\$ per ounce)	72.46	2.49	Wheat (cents per bushel)	599.00	(5.75)
Gold (\$ per ounce)	4,676.10	141.10	Corn (cents per bushel)	453.25	(8.50)
Platinum (\$ per ounce)	1,985.80	117.35	Soybeans (cents per bushel)	1,163.00	3.50
			Cattle (cents per pound)	246.25	7.50
			Crude (\$ per barrel)	111.50	10.97

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What's Driving Gold's Stumble?

As the U.S.-Iran conflict and de facto closure of the Strait of Hormuz enters its fourth week, market participants continue to search for some blue sky through the fog while remaining sensitive (in both directions) to fluid headlines flowing out of Washington and the Persian Gulf. While likely not comfortable for most investors, capital markets have generally reacted as one would expect given the major factors of the event – global equities faced downward pressure as oil prices surged, and sovereign bond yields have moved higher as a result of energy-driven inflation worries. Yet an unlikely surprise has been gold.

Not Solely Trading on Geopolitical Headlines

While the metal does have some well-known historical tendencies, at times, it can break free of these longstanding patterns and trade to its own tune, reflective not in surface-level drivers but the deeper plumbing of the market. The effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, combined with surging crude oil prices and rising inflation fears, lifted U.S. Treasury yields, pushed out expectations for rate cuts, and strengthened the U.S. dollar, a move amplified by last week's hawkish-leaning Federal Reserve press conference. The collision of these dynamics makes for a notable headwind in gold's relative attractiveness, which experiences a rising opportunity cost when expectations of higher-for-longer rates increase (gold doesn't pay interest). Simultaneously, dented risk appetite stemming from the inflation and economic growth angst pushed traders to cover their losses in other areas of the market, meet margin calls, triggered stop-loss levels, and sparked a broad dash for cash via locking in gains from profitable positions in technically overbought gold after a record setting 2025 and start to 2026.



The yellow metal is widely regarded as a favorite among safe haven and inflation hedges, but after ending February just shy of \$5,200/ounce, bullion prices are down 21% over the course of the conflict and are nearly 27% off late January's all-time highs – even posting its worst week since 1983 last week. Outside of the initial spike at the onset of the conflict, this move has been somewhat counter intuitive given gold's long-term historical patterns. But when checking a layer or two below the tape, the calculus adds up.

Perhaps the most noteworthy of the under-the-surface drivers, in our view, is the decoupling of bullion's correlation with real yields. After a few year stretch in which gold and Treasury yields traded in an unusual tandem, gold appears to be reverting back to its theoretically and historically correct negative correlation with real yields (when real yields are negative or trending lower, gold shines for better capital preservation relative to bonds, and vice versa).

Looking Ahead

Zooming out from this month's pullback, we believe the outlook for the yellow metal remains constructive. Despite some calls across Wall Street that bullion may be losing its store of value appeal, we believe this is unlikely. Previous market shocks in 2008, 2020, and 2022 saw gold initially fall. This time, the move was exacerbated by a run up in volatility since mid-January, undermining gold's store of value characteristics in the short-term amid herding and momentum dynamics, retail buying, and investors seeking an everything hedge, which led to nervous trading and sharply overbought conditions. Plus, emerging market (EM) central banks were forced to defend their currency against the U.S. dollar's rally, a factor which may persist in the short term.

But after a healthy repricing, fundamental factors remain in place. Gold continues to garner support from central bank buying, after becoming the second-largest foreign reserve asset, with the vast majority of global central bankers expecting gold reserves to moderately increase over the next five years driven by demand for diversification. Further, physical buying across Asia and EM and ballooning global deficits support gold. On a technical note, while immediate-term headwinds may linger alongside geopolitical uncertainty, the yellow metal has held its 200-day moving average to start the week, thus far passing a big technical test for its long-term trend. If this level holds, it would suggest downside risks may be limited from here and that gold may move onto more even footing; but the dollar remains a wildcard, which could pressure the yellow metal if recent strength continues.

No Strategy assures success or protects against loss. Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a registered investment advisor, Member FINRA/SIPC

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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SuperHero SpotLight Recognizes Volunteers

SPOTLIGHT, Continued from page 1

"Always be humble and kind" is Michalov's motto and his dedication is reflected in his work at both of the aforementioned programs. At Hundred Nights Shelter, not only does he provide hot meals, but helps with laundry, clothing, showers, case management, and of course shelter to those needing it.

As the official buyer for the Breakfast Program, he can also be found pushing a shopping cart in the aisles of local grocery stores, picking up items that will be needed for the rest of the week.

The SuperHero Spotlight was conceived by Jeremy Shepard, owner of Stark Level Solutions, as a way to recognize the unsung heroes in the community – those who go about their lives quietly while making the lives of others better. To nominate a Stark Level Solutions' SuperHero, complete the form submission at www.starklevelsolutions.com/about-5.

Read the **Monadnock Shopper News** online:
www.shoppernews.com

Coming Clean In The Kitchen

I don't know how many people still do what used to be called "spring cleaning." The onset of the yearly spring cleaning ritual was signaled by the warmth of a clear, sunny spring day. That day, very early in the morning, the process would begin, generally with the kitchen. A thorough cleaning of the kitchen meant just that - turn out the cupboards, pantry shelves and refrigerator; sweep and wash away all the debris of spilled foods; discard old and half-used boxes, jars and cans of food; and in some cases, pull out appliances and clean behind them. By day's end, the whole house was refreshed and smelled of fresh, pine-scented cleaner and gentle spring breezes blowing through an open window or door. With precious little energy or time left over for the evening meal, it's a good time to bring out some recipes for spring cleaning quickies.

Chicken Chili

There's nothing fancy or time-consuming about this simple chili. Serve it with hard bread or rolls and a salad for a satisfying pantry meal. Makes three to four servings.

Ingredients:

- 1 can (15 oz.) great Northern beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 jar (16 oz.) picante sauce or salsa, heat level as desired
- 2 cups cooked chicken, cubed
- 1 teaspoon chili powder, more or less to taste
- shredded Monterey Jack cheese

In a saucepan, combine beans, picante sauce, chicken and chili powder; bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 20 minutes. Sprinkle individual servings with cheese.

Round Steak Casserole

This quick dish relies on a few pantry items and an inexpensive cut of beef, cooked in a crockpot and ready to serve a hungry family at day's end.

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. round steak, cut 1/2-inch thick
- garlic salt
- freshly ground black pepper
- 1 onion, thinly sliced
- 3 or 4 potatoes, peeled and quartered
- 1 package frozen French-style green beans, thawed under hot water and drained
- 1 (10-oz.) can tomato soup, undiluted
- 1 (16 oz.) can tomatoes and liquid

Season round steak lightly with garlic salt and pepper. Cut into serving pieces and place in crockpot with sliced onion, which has been separated into rings. Add potatoes and green beans. Top with tomato soup and tomatoes. Cover and cook on high 1 hour; stir, reduce to low and cook for eight hours. Remove cover during last half-hour to evaporate some liquid, if desired.

Persian Noodle Soup

This soup is as beautiful as it is nourishing. It's not really a quickie, but take some time to put it together one day and serve it for dinner the next evening. You won't regret having this lovely soup of beans and herbs, brightened with lemon, for several meals.

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons canola or safflower oil
- 2 onions, thinly sliced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon ground turmeric
- 1 1/2 cups each canned chickpeas, pinto beans, kidney beans (or your own, cooked)
- 1/4 cup dried brown lentils
- 6 cups vegetable stock
- 4 oz. dried linguine broken into 2-inch lengths
- 1 cup each packed baby spinach and chopped fresh parsley
- 1/3 cup each chopped fresh chives, mint and dill
- 2 or 3 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
- salt and pepper to taste
- Greek yogurt, for serving (optional)

In large stockpot over medium heat, heat oil. Add onions, reduce heat to medium-low and cook until nearly caramelized, about 25 to 30 minutes, stirring often. Add garlic and turmeric; cook two minutes. Add three kinds of beans and the lentils; pour in vegetable stock and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to simmer, partially cover, and cook until lentils are just barely tender, about 10 minutes. Add linguine, cover and cook until pasta is just barely tender and lentils are tender, about 12 minutes. Add spinach, parsley and other herbs; stir to wilt. Season with lemon juice, salt and pepper. Divide between bowls to serve; pass yogurt for topping. Serves six to eight.

Quick Chicken Bake

This entree goes together quickly, using pantry ingredients and boneless chicken breasts. Serve it with rice and your favorite vegetable. Makes two to three servings.

Ingredients:

- 2 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
- 1/2 cup medium dry sherry (or substitute apple juice or cider)
- 1 (4 oz.) can mushrooms, drained (pieces or whole)
- 1 (6.5 oz.) jar marinated artichokes, undrained

Place chicken in a baking dish; poke some holes in the breasts with a fork. Pour on sherry; cover with drained mushrooms, artichokes and their juice. Bake in a 350-degree oven 35 minutes.

Cooking Corner

with Nancy Adams



Salmon Packets

This meal is infused with lime and butter flavors. Vegetables are cooked with the salmon fillets for a quick grilled or oven meal for two at the end of the day. Packets may be prepared early in the day and refrigerated for an evening meal. Grill as instructed or cook in a 375-degree oven instead; place packets on baking sheet and cook following the same timeline.

Ingredients:

- 2 (4 to 6 oz.) salmon fillets
- salt and pepper as desired
- 3 tablespoons of butter, melted
- 1/2 tablespoon of lime juice
- zest of 1 lime
- 1 small zucchini
- 1 small yellow squash
- 1/2 pound of asparagus
- 1/2 small red onion, cut into chunks
- 1/2 red pepper, sliced
- 1 lime, halved
- Fresh parsley for garnish

Heat grill to medium heat. Cut two sheets of heavy duty foil, enough to wrap the salmon and veggies. Place salmon in center of aluminum foil, season with salt and pepper, and divide the veggies into each packet. In a small bowl, put melted butter, lime juice, and zest of lime and mix. Pour evenly into each packet. Add half lime wedge to each packet and bring up two sides of foil over salmon so edges meet. Seal edges, making tight one-half-inch fold; fold again, allowing space for heat circulation and expansion. Fold other sides to seal. Place salmon packets onto grill and grill for 13 to 15 minutes flipping at about seven minutes. To serve, carefully open packets and garnish with parsley.

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This week we celebrate Julie Dickson and Larry Michalov, both volunteers at the Keene Unitarian Universalist Church Breakfast Program and Keene 100 Nights Shelter.

Larry Michalov's motto: "Always be humble and kind." True to his word, Larry is a man who feels compelled to give back to the community in which he lives. He serves as a volunteer for the Breakfast Program, where he cooks and serves breakfast on Mondays. Larry is also the program's official buyer, wheeling a cart up and down the aisles of the local grocery stores stocking up on the provisions the program needs the rest of the week. As a volunteer at the Keene 100 Nights Shelter, Larry helps provide warm meals, case management, laundry, clothing, and showers, as well as shelter to those in need.

Julie Dickson is currently the Coordinator for the Breakfast Program where she cooks and serves on Mondays as well. Julie sees her job as building a relationship between the church and the community. As a volunteer for the 100 Nights program, which provides shelter and crisis related services to those at risk of or experiencing homelessness, Julie is known for helping lift the spirits of the members of the homeless community during the darkest, coldest months of the year.



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