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Rhythm And Blues And Gospel Singer Mavis Staples At Colonial Theatre Saturday, July 11th



American rhythm and blues and gospel singer and civil rights activist Mavis Staples will take the stage at The Colonial Theatre on Main Street in Keene on Saturday, July 11th at 7 p.m.

Staples rose to fame as a member of her family's band the Staple Singers, of which she is the last surviving member. During her time in the group, she recorded the hit singles *I'll Take You There* and *Let's Do It Again*. In 1969, Staples released her self-titled debut solo album.

With the album *Freedom Highway*, the Staple Singers created the soundtrack for the 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery. They also opened for Martin Luther King Jr. at his rallies.

For tickets, call 603-352-2033 or visit www.the-colonial.org.

Elizabeth Newcombe Of Chartered Financial Services

Helping Clients Live The Lives They Envision



Financial Planner Elizabeth Newcombe of Chartered Financial Services in Keene helps her clients develop a detailed financial plan tailored to their specific needs. Folks can listen to Newcombe on Saturdays at noon on the radio show “Financial Wellness Weekly” on WKBK (FM 94.1 and AM 1290), where a broad range of financial topics are discussed.

By Lori Catozzi Cook

A financial planner can evaluate your finances and create a personalized strategy to help you stay on track with your goals. They take the stress out

of managing your finances by recommending strategies to increase your chances of success, and potentially help identify additional goals you didn't realize were possible.

FINANCIAL, page 8

The Community Kitchen's Fifth Annual Summer Mobile Food Pantry Kicks Off In July

The Community Kitchen has announced the kick-off of its Fifth Annual Summer Mobile Food Pantry Program, expanding outreach to people in rural communities where lack of transportation presents a barrier to food access.

The first two Mobile Food Pantries will take place at satellite locations in Fitzwilliam and Gilsun, on

July 11th – one from 10 a.m to noon at the Fitzwilliam Inn at 62 New Hampshire 119W, and the other from 1 to 3 p.m at the Gilsun Fire Station at 5 Church Street. The third Mobile Pantry will be held on July 18th at the satellite location in Richmond, Veteran's Hall, at 150 Old Homestead Hwy from 9 to 11 a.m.

PANTRY, page 15

Celebrate Independents Month This July

As our community celebrates the Declaration of Independence's 250th anniversary, we're also celebrating our independents: how independent, locally owned businesses contribute to a healthy community and local economy, and how each of us contributes to the success of these businesses. We call this celebration Independents Month. It's also the 25th anniversary of the American Independent Business Alliance (AMIBA). Another reason to celebrate!

“We believe that strong local economies (and the independent businesses and community members who make them stronger) are the essential building blocks of a better world,” says Michael Shuman, local economist and AMIBA board member. “We refuse to despair about what's gone wrong with our world, and instead are committed to strengthening a national and global local economy movement.”

LOCAL, page 10

60th Annual Gilsum Rock Swap And Mineral Show Set For Saturday And Sunday, June 27th, 28th



Dora Severence displaying a selection of Megalodon teeth at the Gilsum Rock Swap.

The town of Gilsum will once again host thousands of people from all over the US who will attend the Gilsum Rock Swap and Mineral Show June 27th and 28th. More than 65 dealers, swappers, distributors, wholesalers, and collectors will buy, sell, or swap beryl, quartz crystals, semi-precious stones, and rocks and minerals of all sorts. Displays range from newly found specimens in the rough to fossils, prized collector's pieces, and hand-crafted jewelry.

The event takes place at the Gilsum Elementary School grounds, on Route 10 in Gilsum, just north of Keene. Show hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

This year's presentation is “A brief history of mining in Gilsum and the surrounding region.” Speaker Alan Rumrill, executive director emeritus of the Historical Society of Cheshire County, will recount the heyday of mining in Gilsum and the surrounding towns.

ROCK SWAP, page 18

4 On The 4th Run/Walk Foot Race

Pathways for Keene (PFK) is holding its 4 on the 4th Run/Walk Foot Race on July 4th. Walkers will start the race at 7:30 am, followed by the runners at 8 am. This four mile race will start and end on Railroad Square. People can sign up by going to www.pathwaysforkeene.org and search the 4 on the 4th Road Race registration sign up page.

Today, PFK has raised just short of one million dollars for the selected trails, two bridges, and a collection of related amenities. The current efforts by PFK are to fund the linchpin that will complete “The Transportation Heritage

Trail” by extending the current trail from the trailhead on Eastern Avenue to Route 101. Next, the historic Prowse Bridge will go over Route 101, and add safety features to the Stone Arch Bridge. The conclusion of the project will be to re-use the Ashuelot Bridge, formerly a Baily Truss Bridge, and over the Swanzy Factory Road.

With this realization, Cheshire Trail-North and Cheshire Trail-South will extend several miles from Walpole to Fitzwilliam. For more details, go to www.pathwaysforkeene.org.

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The UPS Store In Keene To Hold Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The UPS Store 8172 in Keene will celebrate its grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, June 26th at 11:30 a.m. at 417 West Street, in the West Street Shopping Center. Community members are invited to join in welcoming this new locally-owned business.

Following the ceremony, guests are invited to stay for refreshments and treats, meet the team, and learn more about the services offered. The celebration will continue through Saturday, with opportunities for visitors to ask questions, connect with the owners, and explore the store. The UPS Store will be offering special discounts on services during the grand opening period, along with raffle giveaways featuring free and discounted service coupons.

The UPS Store 8172 offers a wide

range of essential services in one convenient location, including professional packing and shipping, printing, copying, mailbox services, notary services, scan-to-email, shredding, and other business support services.

Owned and operated by Rosie and Kevin Morse, The UPS Store 8172 reflects a shared commitment to service, community, and connection. The couple relocated to this area from California after exploring several locations nationwide while pursuing a UPS franchise opportunity. From their very first visit in 2024, they knew Keene was the right place.

The UPS Store 8172 is open Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more details, call 603-372-4230.

Artisan's Craft Fair In Nelson Saturday, June 27th

On Saturday, June 27th the 11th Annual Artisan's Craft Fair will be held at the Nelson Town Common from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine.

This event will feature an array of

merchandise from regional artists and crafts people. Lunch will be available at the Nelson Community Church food booth.

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Peaches And Maximus



Peaches and Maximus are a lovable bonded pair who bring out the very best in each other. Social and affectionate with everyone they meet, these two are sure to win hearts wherever they go. Maximus is the playful, goofy boy of the duo, always ready to entertain, while Peaches is the sweet lap cat who's happiest curled up close to her people. They've lived successfully with children and other animals, making them a wonderful fit for a variety of homes. Both would benefit from regular enrichment and interactive play to keep them active and feeling their best. Maximus is currently on a prescription diet for urinary health, and both cats do well eating it together. With their balanced personalities and strong bond, Peaches and Maximus are the perfect pair for anyone looking to add double the love to their home.

Peaches and Maximus are six-year-old domestic shorthair cats.

The Adoption Center is located at 101 West Swanzezy 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.monadnockhumane.org.

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Blooms, Books, Crafts Event In Westmoreland

Blooms, Books and Crafts will take place Saturday, June 27th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 9 South Village Common in Westmoreland.

Attendees can browse on the Commons, where 22 vendors will be offering a variety of items, including artwork, knitted goods, plants, soaps, antiques, toys, jewelry, baked treats, crystals, and more.

There will also be a silent auction in Fellowship Hall; a Thrift Shoppe downstairs; food available throughout the event, including breakfast sandwiches, hamburgers, and hot dogs; and a bake sale hosted by Ladies Aid, featuring homemade pies, breads, and other baked goods

All proceeds benefit Westmoreland United Church and the Westmoreland Ladies Aid Society.

Monadnock 250th Independence Day Parade, Performances, And Activities

The Monadnock 250th Independence Day celebration in Keene will be held on Saturday, July 4th with a parade at 11 a.m. beginning at Wyman Tavern and continuing to Railroad Square.

Starting at noon on Railroad Square, there will be a performance of patriotic tunes and a community sing-along. The *Star-Spangled Banner* will be led by Keene Main Street Four, followed by a reading of the *Declaration of Independence* by the Keene High School Mayor's Youth Council. Performances by Nelson Town Band and the Keene Jazz Orchestra will follow.

From noon to 3 p.m., there will be historical actors portraying local Revolutionary War era figures, music, crafts, and tours at the Historical Society of Cheshire County, Wyman Tavern, and Bruder House.

The Colonial Theatre's screening of *The Sandlot* will be shown at 1 p.m. for free, and An Enchanted Animals Petting Zoo will be held on the corner of Davis and Main Streets. During the afternoon at City Tire, Doug the Devil-Stick Man and Gavin Key and the Get Down will be performing.

For a map showing event locations, visit www.monadnock250.com.

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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)



The homes in this c.1870s photo were located along what Keene street, which is visible in the lower left of the photo?

The winner of last week's Mystery Photo Contest was Tony Meade of Stoddard. The forest products company was located in Marlow.

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The Community Kitchen pop-up pantry

The Community Kitchen will host its annual Pop-up Pantry events this summer at select locations. Eligible households are invited to attend and receive a variety of fresh and shelf-stable food items at no cost. Events will be held rain or shine, and on-site enrollment will be available. If you have any questions, please call (603) 352-3200.

pop-up locations:

GILSUM.....	JULY 11
Gilsum Fire Station	1-3pm
5 Church Street	
FITZWILLIAM.....	JULY 11
The Fitzwilliam Inn	10am-12pm
62 New Hampshire 119 W	
RICHMOND.....	JULY 18
Veteran's Hall	9-11 am
150 Old Homestead Hwy	

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Crazy Mushroom Farmers

We've been growing shiitake and oyster mushrooms on logs in our little patch of woods for the past seven years. I love mushrooms, which pair so well with all the vegetables we grow. My fellow farmer doesn't love mushrooms, but he does love new projects.

The first mushroom year, we bought the bolts, which are logs sawed into four foot lengths, from a local logger. That way we could efficiently use some of the oak and sugar maple limbs that were too small for lumber.

But we soon ran into trouble. For one thing, the bark needs to be intact on the logs, so that they don't dry out too quickly and the mushroom spawn can grow. It's hard when you're a logger using heavy equipment to protect the bark on the fiddly bits of wood for some crazy mushroom farmers.

Also the crazy mushroom farmers want bolts six inches or less in diameter, and the nice logger would have been hard-pressed to whip out his tape measure at every conceivable bolt. Thus we ended up with some of the bolts approaching 12-inch diameters.

This didn't seem like too big of a deal in year one. We didn't mind the weight of the 12-inchers much when we were in the inoculation and the year-long colonization period.

But in year two of mushroom production, when we actually started harvesting, we had second thoughts. We soak the bolts for 24 hours in a big tub of water, and a soaked four foot long 12-incher is a whole different story. It was too blasted heavy.

By year three, we started begging our nice logger for smaller bolts. By year four, we tried another nice local logger. The bolts she provided were nicely-sized. We were pleased. We slung those little soaked bolts around like nobody's business.

Alas, this logger's lumber crop consisted of mostly red maple, which we discovered was not nearly as productive or long-lasting as the oak and sugar maple.

My fellow came up with a great new plan. Now that we had a better idea of what we were doing, he would cut just the right size and types of trees in our own woods. This great new plan involved buying a great new electric chainsaw, which required extensive lobbying to the budget committee.

My fellow started out with high enthusiasm. His

enthusiasm waned when he realized that his count of appropriate mushroom trees was not quite accurate. Plus it turns out that when you find a tree you think is perfect for mushroom logs, only a little bit of it is exactly the right size. Most of it is too small or too big.



Seems like it's a little harder to produce perfect bolts than we thought.

"We're going to soak these giant things?" I said with disbelief.

"No, no," said my fellow, sighing. "We could use them for firewood."

"But we don't have nearly enough bolts."

"I know," he said sadly, hugging his new quiet, exhaust-free chainsaw, which he loved, for comfort, and to keep it out of the budget committee's clutches.

Back to the drawing board, or rather the Google research. My fellow presented his next great plan. This plan also involved the new chainsaw, since the more he used it, the less grumpy the budget committee would be.

"We can make totems," my fellow said, "By cutting the big bolts into cross-sections, layering the mushroom spawn in between, and stacking up the sections. Isn't that great? Now we can use all our bolts, no matter what size. Plus we can use empty horse grain bags to keep the totems in for a year while the spawn does its work. That's efficient, right?"

"That's a good idea. The bags are kind of ugly to have in our pretty mushroom yard. But I guess nothing's perfect."

"Yeah," said my fellow. "Except for my new chainsaw."

Kim Peavey farms and writes from southwestern New Hampshire. She and her family, as well as two teams of draft horses, grow vegetables biodynamically for 100 local families through a CSA garden. See www.hillsidespringsfarm.com for more information on the horse- and hand-powered farm, CSA garden, or Kim's writing.

Zenith Ensemble Presents Monteverdi's Vespers Of 1610

Zenith Ensemble invites audiences to experience Claudio Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610. This landmark performance will showcase the grandeur of Monteverdi's masterpiece through an collaboration of professional artists and community musicians.

This performance marks the return of Artistic Director Dr. Matthew Leese from New Zealand to conduct the project. Known for his insightful interpretations of choral masterworks, Dr. Leese will reunite with Zenith Ensemble to lead this production.

The performance will feature period instruments and historically informed performance practices, offering audiences an opportunity to hear this work in a style that reflects the rich sound world of early seventeenth-century Italy.

Composed at the pivotal moment in music history bridging the Renaissance and Baroque, Vespers of 1610 blends soaring choral movements, virtuosic solo writing, and instrumental brilliance into a moving and celebratory musical experience. Widely regarded as one of the greatest sacred works ever written, Monteverdi's Vespers continues to captivate audiences more than 400 years after its creation.

Zenith Ensemble will welcome acclaimed early



Director Dr. Matthew Leese



Concertmaster Mari-ka Holmqvist

music specialists from around the USA, featuring Mari-ka Holmqvist as concertmaster. An accomplished violinist and specialist in historically informed performance, Holmqvist will lead the instrumental ensemble of rare baroque instruments like the Cornetto, Sackbut, and Theorbo.

The vocal forces include professional artists renowned for their combined solo and ensemble prowess, plus a Zenith student scholar, and an auditioned choir of local singers who combine to become the Ripieno (full/complete) choir in single, double, and multi-choir textures.

"This project represents the kind of bold and inspiring artistic collaboration that lies at the heart of Zenith Ensemble's mission," said Leese. "We are thrilled to bring together exceptional musicians to share in what is essentially community music-making at its most extraordinary."

The performance takes place at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 27th, at the St. Bernard Church, located at 185 Main Street in Keene. Seating is reserved and audiences are encouraged to purchase tickets early. For more details, visit www.thezenithensemble.com.

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Your Shady Oasis Garden With Moss, Mushrooms, And Ferns



Many mushrooms are beautiful and fascinating. Many varieties thrive in the moist shade of our ecoregion.

Not everyone's garden is sunny. It's sometimes easy to wish for the vibrant colors that need hours of direct sunlight every day. But as the heat of summer kicks in we naturally seek relief in shady spaces. So, for those of us already graced with shady garden spots, let's explore several low maintenance plants that thrive here. Once established, these plants go on auto-pilot to allow us to experiment with creating wondrous, lush, healthy, and sustainable spaces for a cooler, relaxing getaway.

pop out of the soil on their own. But they can also be purchased at the Native Plant Trust's nurseries in Massachusetts. Ostrich fern is particularly carefree. It can easily form a gloriously green glade. But it will share space with the equally magical and carefree Mayapple, Podophyllum peltatum, Great White Trillium, Trillium grandiflorum, and Solomon's Seal, Polygonatum biflorum.

We will all soon value the relief from harsh heat and sun from our shady gardens. I hope that these examples provide ideas for low cost experimenting. Now you know the plant groups that you can use. Tall Meadow Rue, Thalictrum pubescens, Wild Ginger, Asarum canadense, Green-and-Gold, Chrysogonum virginianum, as well as White, Blue Wood and Big Leaf Asters complement ferns, moss, and mushrooms well. All of these plants offer minimal maintenance and maximum, relaxing luxuriant comfort. Enjoy.

Check out @HealthyHomeHabitats on FB and IG, or come to our monthly "Ask an EcoGardener" workshop. They're held the last Sunday of every month, 1 to 2 p.m. in our Keene urban, eco, demonstration gardens. Fee by donation. michele@healthyhomehabitats.com

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Woods and Gardens
 with Michele Chalice

Moss
 Years ago, a chemical company convinced people that moss was bad. Ridiculous. Moss makes an excellent, living green mulch. We have many types of mosses in the Monadnock Region. They are wonderfully soft surfaces that never need mowing. Moss holds soil moisture for cooler temperatures. Moss protects against soil erosion and reduces weeds by covering their seeds from sunlight. Moss grows well in our acidic soil and can be spread by blending pieces with yogurt and painting the mix onto a moist surface in another shady place. I have moss growing in gravel under ferns as well as on our yarden's north side, peeking out from underneath ornamental trees. I've moved two types of moss from a shed roof, transplanting pieces elsewhere by pressing them into moist soil to spread more of this lovely gem.

Mushrooms or Fungi
 Many mushrooms are beautiful and fascinating. Many varieties thrive in the moist shade of our ecoregion. They break down dead plants and leaves, releasing nutrients back into the soil for other plants to use. Now granted, I had a client who discovered several phallic-shaped mushrooms one wet spring sprouting from the many layers of shredded bark mulch that they had laid over several years. These were slimy, smelly, and really quite disgusting. That said, one spring I was given a bag of Wine Cap mushroom spawn. A simple, initial process of layering moist leaves under moist cardboard under moist hardwood chips produced, as northspore.com describes "a delicious mushroom with a mild, earthy flavor reminiscent of artichokes and potatoes." I watched in fascination as they grew. I then harvested, sauteed them with garlic, and froze them in small containers to add into savory soups all winter long. Years later, I still find these mushrooms throughout the shady parts of my garden. These are the only kind I venture to eat given that many are poisonous to us.

We're learning that mushrooms' below-ground fungal threads, mycelium, are a "worldwide web" – a fascinating and tremendously important part of absorbing nutrients, connecting and extending plant roots, helping them absorb essential nutrients and water, breaking down complex substances in soil, making these available to other plants, increasing ecosystem resilience – all with very little assistance from us.

Ferns
 We have many native types of ferns that thrive in shady places throughout our Northeast forest soil: maidenhair, lady, and male ferns are shin-high. Whereas marginal, ostrich, sensitive, intermediate, royal, interrupted, and cinnamon ferns are taller, thigh-high (my favorites) and lush, particularly along shady swales. Sometimes I swear these ferns just

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STOCK WATCH

Listings At Close of Market June 18, 2026 • Courtesy of RBC Wealth Management
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	Close	Week's Change		Close	Week's Change
Honeywell (Allied Signal)	229.01	8.70	Danaher Corp. (Kollmorgen)	177.17	(2.93)
Becton Dickinson (C.R. Bard)	143.98	(2.26)	Merck (Hubbard Farms)	113.87	(5.18)
Toronto Dominion Bank (TD Bank)	119.29	1.96	Deluxe (NEBS)	22.94	(0.85)
PC Connection	70.57	(2.29)	Teleflex (Jaffrey)	127.00	(3.48)
Bank Of America (Fleet)	56.20	0.18	Timken (MPB Corp.)	142.36	5.30
Corning Inc.	194.92	15.72	M&T Bank Corp. (People's United)	225.12	(6.76)
Ametek, Inc. (Precitech)	237.42	10.30	Dover Corp. (Markem)	223.57	6.14

PRECIOUS METALS		COMMODITIES			
	Close	Week's Change		Close	Week's Change
Silver (\$ per ounce)	66.36	(1.46)	Wheat (cents per bushel)	613.25	28.00
Gold (\$ per ounce)	4,235.20	7.00	Corn (cents per bushel)	444.25	31.00
Platinum (\$ per ounce)	1,701.40	(12.19)	Soybeans (cents per bushel)	1,142.00	9.25
			Cattle (cents per pound)	246.75	5.80
			Crude (\$ per barrel)	76.99	(7.51)

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Elizabeth Newcombe Of Chartered Financial Services – Helping Clients Live The Lives They Envision

FINANCIAL, Continued from page 1

A knowledgeable financial planner, such as Elizabeth Newcombe of Chartered Financial Services in Keene, helps her clients develop a detailed financial plan tailored to their specific needs. Her services help people avoid big mistakes, like tax traps, estate mishaps, errors in timing withdrawals, and financial blunders. She helps clients live the lives they envision.

"My primary role is to serve as a financial partner helping individuals, families, and businesses reach their goals," Newcombe says. "I do this with comprehensive financial planning, as well as investment guidance and custom solutions that prioritize their unique needs."

She goes on to say that her personal philosophy "is to build lasting client relationships and provide local, white-glove service to people who value a collaborative, no-pressure approach to financial planning."

"I especially love helping people plan for the future and ensuring that they enter retirement with confidence. I also love to work with women investors and small business owners. I am a certified financial planner and take my fiduciary responsibilities seriously," she adds.

Newcombe has been a financial advisor since 2017. In many ways, her father was her mentor and an attraction for her to pursue a career in the industry. "He is a man of integrity, is extremely humble, and has never been a 'salesperson,' but rather an advocate for his clients' best interests," says Newcombe. "He did not turn clients away who needed help, even if they did not have much to invest. He believed what goes around comes around, and maintains that those clients were often his best referrers, and that doing the right thing pays off. He is an Excel wiz and always loved the deep research into fund performance and internal rates of return. Also, he practiced what he preached, never living beyond his means. I admire

him very much for how he ran his practice."

Newcombe joined Prudential in 2025 and was fortunate to be a part of one of the top firms in the organization, at 191 Washington Street in Keene. "I love the ability to build a practice and brand of my own, while leveraging the benefits of being on a team. Our firm has seven financial advisors: four in New Jersey and three in New Hampshire, as well as five support staff with different roles and focus areas."

She continues by saying that Prudential has a strong reputation and financial track record, allowing her to participate in benefits, education, products, and mentoring to support their financial advisors' success, while not being limited to Prudential products.

"I am able to maintain independence, while collaborating, sharing ideas and expertise with my colleagues, and maintaining my own book of clients," Newcombe adds, about her support system. "We leverage LPLE as our broker-dealer, which means we have top-of-the-line investment offerings, portfolio managers, systems, and tools available to us."

The list of services at Chartered Financial Services includes financial planning, investment management, retirement planning, estate and legacy planning, and insurance and annuities.

"I can relate to people who feel intimidated by financial planning, and try to meet people wherever they are in their financial journey," she says. "I love complex planning and digging in on the unique challenges and goals of high net worth clients, but also love to assist those who are still in the beginning of their wealth-building journey. Getting started on the right path early is so important."

This local financial planner has a busy life with her boyfriend and their four children and enjoys the outdoors any chance she gets. Newcombe is also involved in her church community and serves on the board of Monadnock Music.

For more details or to set up a consultation, call 603-616-0999, email elizabeth.newcombe@prudential.com, or visit www.CFS-Planning.com.

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Peterborough Players Opens With Playful Sherlock Holmes Mystery



The Peterborough Players opens the 2026 season with *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* starring, left to right, James Evans as Watson, Rafael Untalan as Sherlock Holmes, and Tim Hackney, Jimmy Kieffer and Olivia Gilliatt, as comic chameleons who fill all the other roles.

The Peterborough Players has opened their 2026 season with a playfully faithful adaptation of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The play *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* by Ken Ludwig is a fast-paced show with the familiar characters, Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes, out to solve the “who-done-it” murder mystery, and a flurry of quickly changing characters that enter and exit the stage mixing into the story. The multitude of characters include the Baker Street Irregulars, several Baskervilles, housekeepers, housekeeper’s brothers, butlers, taxi drivers, a lepidopterist, a lepidopterist’s sister and many, many more.

Directed by Artistic Director Brendon Fox, this hilariously mysterious play brings back Rafael Untalan as the world’s most famous detective and introduces the audience to James Evans as Watson and Tim Hackney, Jimmy Kieffer and Olivia Gilliatt, as comic chameleons who fill all the other roles.

Baskerville will be on stage through Sunday, June 28th. Subscriptions and single tickets are on sale now by calling the box office at 603-924-7585 or visiting peterboroughplayers.org. The Peterborough Players is located at 55 Hadley Road in Peterborough.

Loom Weaving

On Saturday, June 27th, a loom weaving demonstration by Leslie Frank will take place at The Stone House Tavern Museum on the corner of Routes 9 and 63 in Chesterfield from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Attendees will watch colorful threads transform into textiles, showcasing creativity and skill. While at the museum, enjoy a free tour of this historic building.

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Keene Senior Center Singers Celebrate America’s 250th With Patriotic Concert

The Keene Senior Center Singers invite the community to join them for a patriotic event, “Celebration of the United States 250th Anniversary Concert,” on Wednesday, July 1st, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at The Keene Senior Center at 312 Marlboro Street, Suite 100, in Keene. The concert is open to the public, and community members of all ages are invited. Admission is free and refreshments will be served following the program.

The program begins with a welcome and presentation of the United States flag, followed by the singers performing patriotic, folk, and spiritual songs historically sung during the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World Wars I and II.

Next will be a presentation by noted New Hampshire historian Alan Rumrill, who will share insights into New Hampshire’s involvement in the Declara-

tion of Independence and the state’s contributions to the founding of the nation.

Following the presentation, the Keene Senior Center Singers will continue with a second set of American song favorites.

“The 250th anniversary of our nation provides a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our shared history and celebrate the values that continue to unite us,” said Executive Director Kimberly Rumrill. “We are proud that the Keene Senior Singers can bring our community together through music, fellowship, and appreciation for our country’s heritage.”

For more details, contact The Keene Senior Center at 603-352-5037 or visit the Center on Marlboro Street, Suite 100, in Keene.

Music & Artisan Fair Saturday In Dublin



Fine silver jewelry by the late Brian Richardson

The DubHub Music & Artisan Fair is set for Saturday, June 27th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Dublin Community Center at 1123 Main Street.

Five regional bands will play outdoors from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and upwards of 15 talented local artisans who will display their wares inside between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The bands include Union Sound, Kota, Folk Soul Duo, the Milk House Heaters, and the Hot Skillet Club.

Among the artisans, many have been part of the Monadnock Art Tours and the League of NH Craftsmen Exhibitions over the years, displaying an array of wares from fused and hand-blown glass by Danser Arts Studios and glass artist Alex Kalish, paintings by William Novak, Rachel Germond, and Suzan Macy, hand-made pillows by Nancy Cayford, hand-dyed scarves by Rebecca Welsh, fine gold and silver jewelry by the late jewelry designer Brian Richardson, floral bouquets and photography by Uplifting Roots Flower Farm, books by local author Sebastian Lockwood, limited edition giftable crafted botanical beauty products by LUX products, ceramic and porcelain dishware and jewelry by artisans such as Brian James, Forrest Bencivenga, and Donni Webber, and more.

Kona Ice Food Truck will be onsite to sell ice cream and flavored ice. All are welcome to bring a picnic, blanket, and lawn chairs. Admission is free. Proceeds collected by donation at this event will go to End 68 Days of Hunger, a program that provides meals to children in the Conval School District facing food insecurity. The event will take place rain or shine. If it rains, the music will be inside the church.

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CELEBRATE LOCAL

Celebrate Independents Month This July

LOCAL, Continued from page 1

This month, let's give thanks to all of our region's independent business owners and their staff for the community values they embody and for their spirit of entrepreneurship. Let's also acknowledge all the ways these individuals give back to our community with their time, talents, goods, and services – making us healthier and wealthier.

Independents Month is also a time to reflect on your role in building our local economy: your ability to think and act independently and embrace your part in shaping the future of our region. Where you spend your dollars matters; your everyday choices create a ripple effect that starts with you and extends to our entire community and local economy. Choose Indie Local (choose to shop at and invest in independent and locally owned businesses), and the positive ripple effect reaches new heights. Learn more at www.amiba.net/ripples.

Choose a Staycation

No need to travel far to take a break and celebrate Independents Month. Enjoy a staycation this July and travel to special events and destinations closer to home. Need some inspiration?

Get ready! Waldo begins hiding in downtown

Keene from July 1st to July 31st. Pick up a passport at Toadstool Bookshop in Keene and start your search at 24 participating stores. Find Waldo (a six-inch version of him, that is) at 10 stores and get a coupon and a temporary tattoo. Discover him at 20 stores and enter a raffle for awesome prizes and other goodies supplied by participating local stores. Save the date for a party at Toadstool Bookshop in Keene on Saturday, August 1st at 3 p.m. Learn more at www.toadbooks.com.

Each Tuesday in July, head over to Alstead for Orchard Hill Breadworks' Pizza Night, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Bring your own pizza toppings, drinks, picnic blanket, dinnerware, and \$12 per crust. Orchard Hill Breadworks provides the pizza crusts (a gluten-free option is available for \$14), cheese, and sauce, and will cook your pizza in their impressive outdoor oven. House-made salads, made with local farm ingredients, and freshly baked desserts are also available for purchase, along with a variety of drinks. Support a worthy local cause while enjoying a different musical performance at each event. Reservations are strongly recommended and can be made in advance; openings are available every Saturday at 9 a.m. Learn more at www.orchardhillbreadworks.com/happenings/pizza-night.

Experience some hometown fun with the Keene SwampBats. Their July 3rd game against the Sanford Mainers includes a fireworks spectacular. The game starts at 6:35 p.m. with a fireworks show to follow around 9:30 p.m.: www.swampbats.com.

Race to the finish line on Saturday, July 4th at the "4 on the 4th" Road Race in Keene while supporting a great non-profit, Pathways for Keene, promoting the development, maintenance, and use of bicycling and walking trails in our city: www.pathwaysforkeene.org.

The region celebrates 250 years during Monadnock 250, featuring a July 4th parade up Keene's Main Street at 11 a.m. and a festival from noon to 3 p.m. Also enjoy live music, historical demonstrations at Wyman Tavern, and a public reading of the Declaration of Independence: www.monadnock250.com.

Peterborough will host First Friday on July 3rd

LOCAL, page 11

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CELEBRATE LOCAL

Celebrate Independents Month This July

LOCAL, Continued from page 10

and Art Walk on July 4th. Also, starting July 10th, Music in Depot Park returns in Peterborough from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Stay tuned for details at www.shopdepotquarenh.com/events.

On Sundays from 6 to 7:30 p.m., enjoy music at the Town Green Gazebo in Walpole, sponsored by the Savings Bank of Walpole. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. For the full schedule, visit www.walpolebank.com/press-releases.

Mondays mean contra dancing! Join the Monadnock Folklore Society for its Monday Night Contra Dance starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Nelson Town Hall. New to contra dancing? That's okay! Just let the caller know. Cost is \$5: www.monadnockfolk.org.

Stroll downtown Keene's public art murals painted in 2019 by The Walldogs, a group of over 200 sign and mural artists from around the world. If you prefer a guided tour, register for the July 18th event at 10 a.m. with the Historical Society of Cheshire County (tickets are \$12.51 per person): www.hscsnh.org/event/walldogs-mural-tour-july-2026.

Stay tuned for more events at www.tlmonadnock.com/calendar.

Support Local Wherever You Are

Traveling to a different region during Independents Month? You can still make ripples in that community! Enjoy what independently owned businesses have to offer wherever you are. Ask locals about their favorite independent businesses and explore local economy networks at www.amiba.net/our-network.

Embrace Energy Independence

Finally, join AMIBA for our July virtual event and discover how locally owned clean energy benefits independent businesses and helps communities reclaim their power (and money!) from monopoly utilities.

Join John Farrell, Institute for Local Self-Reliance co-executive director and director of the Energy Democracy Initiative, to get inspired and learn how you can support affordable clean energy and community power where you live. RSVP today at www.amiba.net/events.

Thank you for celebrating independents during Independents Month (and beyond). Together, we'll boost the positive ripple effects our community receives when we spend and invest more of our dollars at locally owned, independent businesses.

Jen Risley loves cultivating our local economy through her work with the American Independent Business Alliance, The Main Street Journal, Monadnock Sustainability Hub, and The Local Crowd Monadnock.

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Win \$50 Gift Certificate To One Of These Businesses

To enter, find these words (they relate to Jen Risley's column) in the word search.


Mail your completed puzzle to The Monadnock Shopper News, PO Box 487, Keene, NH 03431, snap a photo of it and e-mail it to shopper@shoppernews.com, or fax it to 603-357-9351. One entry per person per month, please.

Don't forget to choose one of the businesses on the Celebrate Local pages as your preferred \$50 gift certificate!

Deadline is Friday, July 17th.

Last month's winner was Vicki Keller, who chose a \$50 gift certificate to Mia Capelli.

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Declaration Of Independence To Be Read In Jaffrey

On Saturday, July 4th at noon (rain or shine), *The Declaration of Independence* will be read by volunteers, each reading a short section from the stage of Jaffrey's historic 1775 Meetinghouse in Jaffrey Center.

Following the reading, there will be an Ice Cream Social in the Horsesheds behind the Meetinghouse. The Little Red Schoolhouse and Melville Academy will be open, and the restored Seagrave fire engine and a modern-day fire engine will be on the Common.

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HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

Keene Cheshiremen Chorus Celebrates America's 250th And 75 Years Of Harmony

The Keene Cheshiremen Chorus is bringing its signature four-part barbershop harmony to the Monadnock Region this July with a series of patriotic performances. In celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the chorus will anchor several local America-250 events, delivering powerful musical tributes to the nation's history. The summer concert series also kicks off a landmark year for the ensemble. Over the next 12 months, the Keene Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society is celebrating its 75th year of "enriching lives in the Monadnock Region with harmony and fellowship."

On Friday July 3rd at 7 p.m., at the Park Theatre in Jaffrey, the Salute to America Variety Show will feature a spectacular evening with Fred Marple and "Frost Heaves" humor, other local talent, and the Cheshiremen singing patriotic favorites.

During the Monadnock-250 Celebration (Keene's downtown July 4th festival), on Saturday, July 4th (starting at noon) the chorus kicks off at Railroad Square before meandering through

downtown to sing at various pop-up locations.

Then, on Saturday, July 18th, during SummerFEST at Alyson's Orchard in Walpole, the Cheshiremen will open the festival with stirring patriotic selections in the beautiful orchard setting.

"Performing is an incredible amount of fun, and the Cheshiremen are always looking for new voices to share in the experience," says Steve Salamin, chapter treasurer and VP of marketing and public relations. "The chorus welcomes men of all musical backgrounds and is currently recruiting tenors, leads, baritones, and basses."

Rehearsals are held every Tuesday night at the Keene United Church of Christ, at the top of Main Street, offering an opportunity for fellowship, vocal growth, and community impact.

For more details about upcoming performances, booking the chorus, or learning how to sing better with a great group of men, visit <https://www.cheshiremen.org> for updated info (weekly), check out their official Facebook pages, or call 877-31B-SHOP (877-312-7467).

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DAN BULLOCK

Fireworks At SwampBats Game July 3rd

Independence Eve – Friday, July 3rd this year – just wouldn't be complete without a fireworks celebration at a SwampBats game. The gates open at the Alumni Field on Arch Street in Keene at 4:30 p.m. for family fun and concessions.

Besides the excitement of the baseball game itself, this event includes Bounce Above The Rest Inflatables, Tito's Taco Truck, Milla's Magic Treasures, Doug the Devil Stick Man, Fairy Hair by Jess, and All About Maple Fried Dough. After the game, the night sky will be filled with fireworks in honor of America's 250th celebration.

For more details, visit www.swampbats.com.

Summer Celebration Times

June is often a month filled with a variety of celebrations – graduations, bridal showers and weddings, reunions, and other special occasions. These celebrations include parties and social gatherings that generally involve foods, from snacks to BBQ favorites. Here's some assorted recipes that might help frazzled hosts with some different ideas for finger-foods.

Flaming Cheese

This is a fun appetizer to serve at a small adult party; four to six servings.

Directions: Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Fry 2 oz. bulk chorizo uncooked sausage in a cast iron skillet over medium heat for six to eight minutes, breaking it up until crumbly. Add 1 small thinly sliced onion, some sliced red or green pepper and 1/2 cup diced tomato. Cook until onion is soft, eight to 10 minutes; set aside. Wipe out skillet and put three to four cups shredded Pepper jack or Monterey jack into skillet. Pop into oven and bake until it melts, eight to 10 minutes. Spoon the sausage mixture over the cheese and serve it all together, hot, wrapped up in warm flour tortillas.

If you like, pour one tablespoon 151 proof rum or other high proof spirits over the cheese and carefully ignite with a long-handled grill lighter. Let flames subside, add sausage mix and serve on tortillas. Note: Alternatively, I've used three or four Italian sweet sausage, casings removed.

Raspberry Glazed Chicken Wings

A time-honored recipe for wings that's a bit different and always popular. Makes 10 to 12 servings.

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup seedless raspberry jam
- 1/4 cup cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 16 whole chicken wings, about 3 lbs. (or buy a bag of frozen, uncooked prepared wings)

In a saucepan, combine jam, vinegar, soy sauce,

garlic, and pepper. Bring to a boil; boil for one minute. Cut chicken wings into three sections; discard wing tips. Place wings in large bowl; add raspberry mixture and toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate four to eight hours. Line a 15x10x1-inch baking pan with foil and grease the foil heavily. Using a slotted spoon and reserving the marinade, place wings in pan. Bake at 375 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes, turning once. Meanwhile, in saucepan, bring reserved marinade to a rolling boil; boil for one minute. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered for 10 to 15 minutes or until thickened. Brush over wings and bake 20 to 25 minutes longer, turning and basting once or twice as they bake. Keep an eye on the wings and turn them occasionally. If they are done to your liking a little sooner, remove them from the oven and serve warm or at room temperature.

Cooking Corner

with Nancy Adams



Quick Mushroom Rolls-Ups

Easily made and conveniently stored in your freezer.

Ingredients:

- 2 packages (3 oz.) cream cheese, room temperature
- 6 ounces chopped mushrooms
- 2 packages crescent rolls

Combine cream cheese and chopped mushrooms. Roll out each package of rolls; don't separate yet. Spread mixture onto both sheets of dough, then separate rolls and roll them up. Cut each roll into thirds. Place the roll-ups on cookie sheets and freeze; when frozen, place in plastic bags. Use frozen roll-ups as needed: bake on cookie sheets at 350 degrees for 20 minutes.

Party Loaf

These are popular with kids, grandkids, parents, and grandparents. They are filling and are a good choice whenever you're not sure what to serve.

Ingredients:

- 1 loaf frozen bread dough, thawed (or use own homemade bread dough)
- 1/4 lb. sliced Genoa salami
- 1/4 lb. sliced Provolone cheese
- 1/4 lb. sliced ham
- 1/2 jar fried green peppers and onions (or make your own by sautéing 1 green or red pepper and 1 onion in olive oil)

Spread thawed dough on a lightly greased rectangular baking sheet. In middle of dough, and placed one on top of the other, layer salami, cheese, ham, and peppers/onions. Pull the long sides of the dough up over the mixture and pinch tightly together; then pinch short sides together, making a long loaf; turn loaf seam side down on the baking sheet. Bake in preheated 350 degree oven for 30 minutes. Cool 15 to 20 minutes and slice. Please note the amounts of meat and cheese are approximate and can be varied according to taste.

Ricotta Dip Board

This goes well at almost any gathering, but is particularly nice if you're having a backyard barbecue. Makes five to six servings; increase or adjust amounts as needed.

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups plain whole milk Greek yogurt
- 1 cup whole milk ricotta cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon grated lemon zest
- salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup each honey and fig jam
- 10 thick slices sourdough bread

butter for bread

1/2 lb. sliced cured meats, such as prosciutto, salami, and/or soppressata

In medium bowl, combine yogurt, ricotta, lemon zest, salt, and pepper and mix until smooth. Transfer mixture to a serving bowl and set aside. Place the honey and fig jam in small, separate serving dishes, such as custard cups; set aside. Butter the bread on both sides of the slices and grill, turning to brown each side; cut each slice into quarters. Alternatively, toast the bread, then butter slices and cut. Place the bowl of cheese mixture and the cups of honey and fig jam in the middle of a large serving tray. Arrange meats on the tray and surround with the toasted bread.

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Connectedness In A Disconnected World ZenTangles, Meditation At Aloha In Keene

In a world more digitally connected than at any point in human history, many people paradoxically report feeling increasingly isolated, anxious, and disconnected. We can communicate instantly across continents, access limitless information, and maintain hundreds of online relationships, yet loneliness has become a defining challenge of modern life. This contradiction raises an important question: What does it truly mean to be connected?

and enhance empathy. Perhaps, most importantly, mindfulness restores connection. When we sit quietly and observe our breath, we reconnect with ourselves. We become aware of emotions that have been ignored, tensions we have carried unconsciously, and stories we tell ourselves about who we are. Rather than reacting automatically, we learn to respond thoughtfully. This self-awareness becomes the foundation for healthier relationships and wiser decisions.

This Sunday, June 28th, ZenTangles returns to Aloha from 3 to 5 p.m. This will be a meditative and creative afternoon with Gracie Buckman, shown. Monday is the Full Moon, and Aloha will host a channeled meditation.

Register at vagar.com/alohakeene or call 603-762-3129 or just show up at Aloha, located on Court Street in Keene.

The Community Kitchen's Summer Mobile Food Pantry

PANTRY, Continued from page 1

Members of the community may choose which pantry is more convenient for them and are asked to attend only one weekly. People do not need to be a resident of the town in which the mobile pantry is held. A short application is required and can be filled out at the event.

This program, held in partnership with The Healthy Monadnock Alliance, provides people in the region with an opportunity to choose a variety of fresh produce, protein, and shelf-stable food items for themselves and their families at no cost. Information about other social services will be available, and all local service providers are invited to join them for the 2026 Mobile Pantry Season to help them strengthen the commitment to a healthier community.

These events will be held rain or shine, and volunteers from the community will be available on site to help anyone with questions about enrollment.

The Mobile Food Pantry Program has become a valuable and trusted resource for the region. With attendance growing year after year, The Community Kitchen is working to extend the seasonal service to a year-round model.

For more details, contact The Community Kitchen at 603-352-3200.



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Healing Perspectives

with Aylene Wozmak



At its core, connectedness is the felt experience of belonging – to ourselves, to other people, to nature, and to something larger than our individual concerns. Human beings are social creatures. Our well-being depends not only on food, shelter, and safety, but also on meaningful relationships and a sense of purpose. Research consistently demonstrates that social connection contributes to longer life, improved physical health, and greater emotional resilience.

Recently experienced a sense of connectedness when I had over 20 people milling about in my flower gardens last week; at one point, while I was letting people in my home, I looked outside and saw the happiness they were exhibiting as well as my happiness seeing them there!

Disconnectedness, by contrast, can arise even in the presence of others. A crowded room may still feel lonely. A household may share a roof yet lack genuine communication. We may move through our days on autopilot, disconnected from our own thoughts, emotions, and values. Such disconnection often manifests as chronic stress, irritability, anxiety, or a persistent sense that something important is missing.

Modern life often encourages this fragmentation. Constant notifications divide our attention. News cycles amplify fear and outrage. Productivity becomes a measure of worth. We multitask while eating, driving, conversing, and even resting. In doing so, we lose contact with the present moment – the only place where life is actually lived.

Mindfulness offers an antidote. Mindfulness is the practice of intentionally paying attention to the present moment with openness, curiosity, and without judgment. Studies have shown that mindfulness practices can reduce stress, improve concentration, increase emotional regulation,

we communicate something profound: "You matter." In a culture often dominated by distraction, presence may be one of the greatest gifts we can give.

Beyond human relationships, mindfulness reconnects us with the natural world. A walk through the woods, the sound of birdsong, or the rhythm of waves on a lake can remind us that we are participants in a much larger ecosystem. Such experiences foster gratitude and humility, qualities often overshadowed by busyness and consumption. It invites us to engage life more fully. It asks us to notice when we have drifted into disconnection and gently return to what matters. This practice of returning – to the breath, to the present, to one another – is both simple and transformative.

Perhaps the challenge of our time is not a lack of connection, but a misunderstanding of where connection is found. Technology can facilitate relationships, but it cannot replace presence. Achievement can bring success, but not necessarily belonging. True connectedness begins with awareness. By cultivating mindfulness, we strengthen our capacity to live with intention, compassion, and gratitude. In doing so, we rediscover that connection is not something we must seek elsewhere. It is something we practice, moment by moment, in the ordinary experiences of everyday life.

Aylene Wozmak has been practicing mindfulness for over 20 years. She is currently retired and worked as a hospice nurse for 30 years in Cheshire County. Her training in mindfulness comes from Harvard Medical School Dept. of Continuing Education. She is the chairperson and a facilitator at The Monadnock Mindfulness Practice Center.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 25TH
VS. NORTH SHORE NAVIGATORS
Camper Night *Sponsored by NBT Bank*
Bounce Above The Rest Inflatables, Mila's Magic Treasures

MONDAY, JUNE 29TH
MAKEUP GAME
VS. NORTH ADAMS STEEPLECATS

TUESDAY, JUNE 30TH
VS. NORTH ADAMS STEEPLECATS
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WEDNESDAY, JULY 1ST
VS. NORTH SHORE NAVIGATORS
Brattleboro Night *Sponsored by Monadnock Ford*
Bounce Above The Rest Inflatables, Doug the Devil Stick Man, Fairy Hair by Jess, All About Maple Fried Dough

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ENTERTAINMENT
and DINING

Wednesday, Jun. 24

FAMILY FUN
SwampBats vs. Martha's Vineyard Sharks 6:30pm. Alumni Field, Arch St., Keene. Snack bar is open with a healthy menu. Rally Towel Giveaway Night. Doug the Devil Stick Man, Mad About Maple Fried Dough. www.swampbats.com.

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.
Home Healthcare Hospice & Community Services: Walk-in Wednesdays 1-3pm. HCS Peterborough, 454 Old Street Road Medical Arts Building, Suite 208. 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 available. From Healthy Starts to Hospice care. **603-352-2253**. www.HCSservices.org.
Writers Group 6pm. Conant Public Library, 111 Main St., Winchester. The CPL Writing Group is a prompt driven group, aimed at helping writers of all levels improve writing skills and develop community. **603-239-4331**. www.conantlibrary.org/.

Thursday, Jun. 25

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER
Sketch Club 3-4pm. Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St., Peterborough. Open to artists of all abilities ages 12 and up. Participants are encouraged to bring a sketchpad and drawing tool and enjoy a dedicated hour of relaxed, focused sketching. **603-924-8040**. www.peterboroughtownlibrary.org.
Party of the Sun with Princess Kikou and Pie Potluck 6pm. Mole Hill Theatre, 898 Gilsum Mine Rd, Alstead. Party of the Sun is a psychedelic-folk band that has been playing and recording in the region for more than a decade. Princess Kikou is a World Beat group that draws heavily from Afro-Caribbean influences. BYOB and snacks; family-friendly venue. \$15 at the door. Dennis Molesky: **603-352-2585**. info@molehillnh.com.

FAMILY FUN
SwampBats vs. North Shore Navigators 6:30pm. Alumni Field, Arch St., Keene. Snack Bar open with a healthy menu! Camper Night. Bounce Above The Rest Inflatables, Mila's Magic Treasures. www.swampbats.com.

LECTURES & WORKSHOPS
Foods and Mood Class with Dr. Nora E Hanke 5-7pm. Monadnock Food Co-op, 34 Cypress St. Physician, and Food for Life instructor, Dr. Nora E. Hanke, will demonstrate mood-boosting recipes that participants can sample and easily make at home. Limited seating, RSVP at www.eventbrite.com/e/food-for-mood-class-with-dr-nora-e-hanke-tickets-1989393795395.
NHH: African American Soldiers and Sailors of New Hampshire During the American Revolution 6:30pm. Chesterfield Public Library, 524 Rte 63. Glenn Knoblock examines the history of African American soldiers' service during the war, including how and why they enlisted, their interaction with white soldiers, service on the battlefields, how they were perceived by the enemy and the officers under whom they served, and their treatment after the war. **603-363-4621**. frontdesk@chesterfieldlibrary.org.

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JULY 12		Tom Weiner and Dr. Amilcar Shabazz Listen to the Abolitionists
JULY 19		Village Harmony Songs of the World: Voices in Harmony
JULY 26		Michael Brownstein Somebody Should Do Something
AUGUST 2		Hadley Bates, Ava Cronin, Clara Wilsher On Growing Up Today
AUGUST 9		Laura Knoy A New Chapter for a New Hampshire Icon
AUGUST 16		Alex Green What Do We Do When We Discover We've Been Wrong?
AUGUST 23		Louis P. Masur Leadership Lessons from Lincoln

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Peterborough Town Library Presents: "A Growing Movement - Green Burials for Earth Stewardship" 6:30-8pm. Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St. Learn about natural and environmentally friendly alternatives to conventional burial practices. **603-924-8040**. www.PeterboroughTownLibrary.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

Cheshire Village at Home: Coffee and Conversation 1:15pm. Keene Senior Center, 312 Marlboro St., Keene. For more details and to register call **603-903-9680**.

The Scrap Heap: Analog Collage & Mixed Media Meet-Up 5-7pm. Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St. Using magazines, paper, and found materials, participants will explore analog collage and mixed media in a low-pressure, welcoming environment. Magazines, scissors, glue, and other materials will be provided, though attendees are welcome to bring their own in-progress projects and materials. **603-924-8040**. www.peterboroughtownlibrary.org.

Book Launch and Reading: Part for the Hole 6:30pm. Putney Public Library, 55 Main St., Putney, VT. Local author and performer Peter Gould, reading and book launch of his new novel. Free and open to the public.

Red Cross Blood Drive 12-5pm. Cathedral of the Pines, 10 Hale Hill Rd., Rindge. **800-733-2767**. www.RedCrossBlood.org.

Friday, Jun. 26

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Band Concert: Cruzin 6:30pm. Charlestown Senior Center, 223 Old Springfield Rd. Bring a lawn chair. Free.

Justice For Artpop 7pm. Madame Sherri's Restaurant & Cabaret, 82 Main St. Hosted by Miss Ginger Souless. Featuring drag performers from across the tri-state area. **603-354-3377**. www.madamesherri.com.

ArtRave: The Artpop Ball 9pm. Madame Sherri's Restaurant & Cabaret, 82 Main St. 18+. \$200 cash prize costume contest. Sliding scale tickets starting at \$0. Full snack buffet included. Drink specials for guests 21+. **603-354-3377**. www.madamesherri.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

Red Cross Blood Drive 1:30-6pm. Millstream Community Center-Hinsdale, Millstream Community Center, 19 Main Street. Donors are asked to call or visit to schedule appointment at **800-733-2767**. www.RedCrossBlood.org.

Resume Workshop 12pm. With Ann Goodrich-Bazan, Conant Public Library. A free stop-by workshop for anyone who needs help creating or updating their resume. **603-239-4331**.

Saturday, Jun. 27

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

The DubHub Music & Artisan Festival 10am-5pm. Dublin Community Center, 1123 Main St. A portion of proceeds to benefit End 68 Hours of Hunger. **603-563-8080**. info@dubhincommunitycenter.org. www.dubhub-nh.org/calendar.

DINING PLEASURES

Gilsum Rock Swap Dinner 5pm. Gilsum Church, 13 Main St. Meal of ham, homemade baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw and rolls followed by an abundant pie finale. Second seating at 6:15. Limited seating. Tickets \$20/adults. Ages 8 & under \$7. Barb: **603-352-0455**.

Strawberry Festival 11am-2pm. AGAS Strawberry Festival, 161 Centre Street, Sullivan. Family-friendly. Homemade strawberry shortcake, sanctuary animals, games, crafts, a scavenger hunt, fairy tinsel hair, more. amazing-graceanimalsanctuary@gmail.com.

FAIRS & SALES

60th Annual Gilsum Rock Swap and Mineral Show 8am-6pm. Gilsum Elementary School. More than 65 dealers, swappers, distributors, wholesalers and collectors can buy, sell, or swap beryl, quartz crystals, semiprecious stones, and rocks and minerals of all sorts.

Hinsdale Farmers Market 9am-1pm. Downtown Hinsdale, Millstream Riverfront Park.

Keene Farmers' Market 9am-1pm. Gilbo Avenue, Keene, across from Lindy's Diner. Plants, cut flowers, produce, breads, pastries, jewelry, maple syrup, braided rugs, bird feeders and houses, alpaca fiber products, soaps, herbs & herbal body care, and more. www.keenefarmersmarket.com/.

Nelson Congregational Church Artisan Fair 9am-3pm. Nelson Common. Rain or shine. Local artisans, food and crafters. Lunch at the NCC booth. **603-847-3280**.

Blooms, Books and Crafts 9am-2pm. 9 South Village Common, Westmoreland. Browse the Commons, where 22 vendors will be offering artwork, knitted goods, plants,

soaps, antiques, toys, jewelry, baked treats, crystals, and more.

FAMILY FUN

Baby Storytime 10:30am. Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St., Peterborough. **603-924-8040**. www.PeterboroughTownLibrary.org.

LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

The Personal Defense Project: The Foundation Course One day to a lifetime of security. Exact location details provided upon registration. **603-759-7803**. terry@personaldefenseproject.com. www.personaldefenseproject.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

US@250: Big Watch 6pm. Veterans Hall, 180 Old Homestead Highway, Richmond. A statewide series of community events based around a shared "watch" and discussion of a segment of The American Revolution, a new film directed by Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein and David Schmidt. The film screening and following facilitated discussion will be presented at this free event. Richmond Public Library: **603-239-6164**. library@richmondh.us.

2026 Birthday Bash Mad Dash 5K Road Race 9am. Gazebo, Frost Hill Rd., Marlborough. A 5K Fun Run/Walk that is open to everyone. All participants will receive a t-shirt, and prizes will be given. Registration online at www.runsignup.com/.

Discover the Art of Loom Weaving 10am-1pm. The Stone House Tavern Museum, corner of Routes 9 & 63, Chesterfield. Demonstrations by talented local resident Leslie Frank who brings the ancient craft of loom weaving to life. www.chesterfieldhistoricalsociety-nh.org/.

Roger's Rangers Live Encampment 10am-4pm. Frost Free Library, 28 Jaffrey Road, Marlborough. Experience a military camp as it would have appeared when an 18th Century army was on the move. No modern comforts, only canvas tents, rustic equipment, and the daily routines of soldiers. www.jaffreypubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/16639810.

National Pollinator Week: Pollinator Palooza 11am-2pm. Ashuelot River Park, West Street, Keene. Afternoon of learning and celebration of pollinators. Activities include: pollinator crafts, native plant potting, shaved ice, local food, and more!. Rain or shine. **603-904-3011**. info@cheshireconservation.org.

Marlborough School Annual Alumni Reunion 11am-3pm. Community House, 160 Main St., Marlborough. Bring something to share at the potluck. \$3. Larry: **603-876-4068**.

EVENTS, page 18

Strawberry Festival

Grace Animal Sanctuary will host a Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 27th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 161 Centre Street in Sullivan. This family-friendly celebration promises homemade strawberry shortcake, sanctuary animals, games, crafts, a scavenger hunt, fairy tinsel hair, and more.



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Celebrate Our Country's 250th With Star Spangled Crafts

The excitement and anticipation can be felt in the air as we prepare to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States signing of the Declaration of Independence. This milestone will be commemorated nationwide, including our own nearby cities and towns, with parades, community events, and historical exhibitions.

Whether joining in on the local celebrations, having family and friends over for a cookout, or just sharing the day with your immediate family, waving the flag on July 4th is only one way to celebrate pride for our country. I can't think of a better occasion to make patriotic crafts than this special time in the USA!

Tissue Paper Sparklers

For this easy craft, the kids will need three large sheets of tissue paper in red, white, and blue; glue; and a straw or skewer. Cut each sheet of tissue in half and then stack the sheets together. Fold the stacked sheets in half lengthwise, then make vertical cuts along the bottom edge of the folded tissue paper, stopping a couple of inches from the fold. Apply white glue along the folded edge, then place the straw or skewer at

one end of the glue and roll it up tightly to the end. Dab a bit of glue at the end and press together. Once everything is dry, fluff the tissue paper a bit to form a sparkler.

Patriotic Handprint Wreath

Your kids can show their patriotism by making a patriotic handprint wreath. Using red, white, and blue construction paper, everybody in the family traces their handprint on each color and then cuts it out. A cardboard ring or paper plate with the center cut out can be used as a backing. Glue the handprints – scattering the various colors – onto the ring in a circle with the fingers facing out to achieve your patriotic handprint wreath.

Firework Salt Painting

This is another fun activity using minimal supplies: black cardstock paper, salt, white school glue, watercolor paints with a brush, and a pencil. On the black paper, draw fireworks all over the paper using a pencil. Outline the drawing with the school glue and then sprinkle lots of salt on top of the glue. Let that dry and then shake off excess salt over the trash. Using watercolors, paint the salt fireworks using

red and blue paint. Leave some of the salt streaks to represent white if you want the fireworks to be red, white, and blue.



Flag Mosaic

This flag mosaic can be hung at the front door or taped to a picture window. They'll need a picture of the US flag for reference, a white poster board (11" by 17"), red construction paper, blue construction paper, and yellow or white construction paper for stars (or easier, use yellow, white, or gold star stickers instead). Lying the poster board horizontally, cut out a five-inch (length) by seven-inch (width) square from blue construction paper and glue it to the upper left corner. Just like our American flag, that is where the stars will go. There are 50 stars for our 50 states, but you might not have room to use all 50 stars. There are

13 stripes on the US flag to represent the 13 original Colonies: seven red stripes and six white stripes. Cut 10 red strips of paper lengthwise to glue onto your posterboard horizontally. They'll need two strips of red attached lengthwise for the three bottom stripes and one strip each for the top four stripes – next to the blue. You will have excess paper on the bottom stripes that you can cut afterward. Glue a red stripe along the top and a red stripe along the bottom. From there, they can figure out the gluing down of the rest of the red stripes while using the white of the poster board as the white stripes.

Paper Plate Flag Craft

For a paper plate flag, cut a paper plate in half and paint one of the halves blue using acrylic paint. Set it aside to dry. Using red and white streamers, cut three red and two white, 12 to 14 inches in length. Tape the streamers, alternating colors, to the back of the plate along the cut edge. Using a sponge, cut out a star; this will be used to dab white paint and blot all over the plate. Use a hole punch to put a hole in the top of the plate and string some yarn or fishing line through to hang it. Long may it wave!

Lori Catozzi Cook is the assistant editor and a feature writer for The Monadnock Shopper News.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

from HANNAFORD'S SUPERMARKETS

June 26, 2026

Amelia Harnish, daughter of Codie & Aaron Harnish, Troy, 2
Veradi Rayne Corliss, daughter of Toby Corliss, Walpole, 8
Lincoln Brow, son of Maryssa & Conor Brow, Keene, 3

June 30, 2026

Riley Sweeney, son of Michael & Charity Sweeney, Keene, 10
Tucker Crosby, son of Nick & Ashlee Crosby, Swanzey, 8

Submit your Birthday Kids' entry online at: ShopperNews.com/Community

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This Week's Winners



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Veradi Rayne Corliss, Walpole, 8
Riley Sweeney, Keene, 10

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Things To Do In The Monadnock Region

EVENTS, Continued From page 17

Sunday, Jun. 28

FAIRS & SALES

60th Annual Gilsum Rock Swap and Mineral Show 8am-4pm. Gilsum Elementary School. More than 65 dealers, swappers, distributors, wholesalers and collectors can buy, sell, or swap beryl, quartz crystals, semiprecious stones, and rocks and minerals of all sorts.

MISCELLANEOUS

Community Celebration & Fireworks 5pm. Moose Brook Park, Hancock. Bring your blankets, lawn chairs - and your voice. Featuring food, live music, and a sing-along. Fireworks begin at dusk. Suggested donation is \$10/adult. Kids are free.

Monday, Jun. 29

FAMILY FUN

SwampBats vs. North Adams Steeplecats: Makeup Game 6:30pm. Alumni Field, Arch St., Keene. Snack bar is open with a healthy menu. www.swampbats.com.

Tuesday, Jun. 30

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Elizabeth Richards Concert Series 6:30pm. Frost Free Library, 28 Jaffrey Rd., Marlborough. "Westmoreland Town Band" Music on the lawn. Shine only. Frost Free Library: 603-876-4479.

60th Annual Gilsum Rock Swap And Mineral Show Set For Saturday And Sunday, June 27th, 28th

ROCK SWAP, Continued from page 1

He will discuss what life was like then, what types of minerals were mined and what they were used for, why the mines eventually closed, and how the Gilsum Rock Swap arose from that history. The talk will take place Saturday, June 27th at 1 p.m. in the Gilsum Community Center auditorium at the Rock Swap. Admission is free.

Gilsum's many mines operated until the 1940s and yielded feldspar, mica, and beryl. Most are now abandoned, although one, the Beaugard mine, is

From the Page to the Stage: A Danger to Yourself and Others 10:30-11:30am. Keene Public Library, Ruth Huntress Auditorium, 60 Winter St., Keene. Playwright Colette Mazunik and Peterborough Players Artistic Director Brenden Fox share the behind the scenes work that goes into writing, directing, producing, and opening a brand-new work. Amy Kraemer: 603-352-0157. akraemer@keenenh.gov.

FAMILY FUN

SwampBats vs. North Adams Steeplecats 6:30pm. Alumni Field, Arch St., Keene. Snack bar is open with a healthy menu. Pink In The Park. Cancer Survivor Celebration, Fighter Support, and Memorialization. Entertainment: Milla's Magic Treasures, Fairy Hair by Jess, All About Maple Fried Dough. www.swampbats.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

Identifying Local Wildflowers with Rich Grumbine 6:30pm. Putney Public Library, 55 Main St., Putney, VT. Explore and learn a process for identifying the amazing seasonal wildflowers of our town. Learn some basic wildflower anatomical terminology and apply that knowledge to work together to identify some "mystery" flowers collected by Grumbine in advance of the program. This program will be inside.

Wednesday, Jul. 1

FAMILY FUN

SwampBats vs. North Shore Navigators 6:30pm. Alumni Field, Arch St., Keene. Snack Bar open with a healthy menu! Brattleboro Night. Bounce Above The Rest Inflatables, Doug the Devil Stick Man, Fairy Hair by Jess, All About Maple Fried Dough. www.swampbats.com.

available to mineral clubs through prior arrangement. Today collectors prize other minerals such as beryl. Maps showing locations of local mines are available during the show.

Since the show's inception, the town of Gilsum has opened its doors for the event. Activities include a presentation on prospecting Saturday, daily pancake brunch, bake sale, book sale, kids panning for minerals, a traditional Saturday night New England ham and bean supper with homemade pies and a chicken barbeque dinner Sunday afternoon.

Admission is free, although donations are graciously accepted. All proceeds go to youth recreation and community programs.

For more details, contact Jonathan Bialek at the Gilsum Recreation Committee, P.O. Box 76, Gilsum, NH, 03448, or e-mail publicity@gilsum.org.

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