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The Original Keene Shopper – “The Weekly with a Heart” – 68th Year of Community Service / September 16-22, 2026

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Cheshire Village Pizza Serving Up Award-Winning Pizza



Shaun Sullivan at work in the kitchen at Cheshire Village Pizza.

By Lori Catozzi Cook

Food trends come and go, but pizzerias like Cheshire Village Pizza that have crossed the four-decade mark succeed by balancing unwavering quality with customer satisfaction.

Since 1985, Cheshire Village Pizza – conveniently located on the corner of Ashuelot and West Street in Keene – has striven to ensure that every patron has the tastiest experience. And that outcome can be seen in the community’s Best Of Readers’ Choice Awards poll, as this locally owned and operated pizzeria was given the Gold three years in a row under the Pizza category, and Bronze under the Fries category for two years in a row.

“Best pizza around,” says Melanie Hobbs. “My go-to place for sure!”

“The pizza here is my favorite in Keene and has been for years,” Michael Vorce comments. “I love the cheese they use; it’s so good, and the staff is always so friendly.”

Another patron, Kile Bailey, has this to say: “Let me tell you, this place, hands down, is the best place around to order pizza. I’ve never had a better experience, and all the employees make you feel like you’re at home.”

Khaled Alkhatib has owned Cheshire Village Pizza since 2022. He has updated equipment and the pizzeria’s signage over the last four years, and in addition to the delivery services offered, he added multiple ordering platforms, like online ordering and the use of DoorDash, to the mix.

PIZZA, page 12

Keene Pride Festival Culminating A Full Week Of Pride Events

Keene Pride has announced the return of the fifth annual Keene Pride Festival, taking in Downtown Keene on Sunday, September 20th from noon to 6 p.m.

What began five years ago as a new celebration of LGBTQ+ visibility in the region has grown into one of New England’s largest Pride festivals, featuring more than 150 vendors, artists, community organizations, businesses, performers, food trucks, and entertainers.

The festival serves as the grand finale of Keene Pride Week, a full week of LGBTQ+ programming.

This year’s festival will also carry special meaning for the Keene Pride community. The 2026 Keene Pride Festival is dedicated to the memory of Susan MacNeil, a longtime LGBTQ+ and HIV/AIDS advocate and founding member of the Keene Pride Board of Directors, who died on January 10, 2026.

PRIDE, page 10

Jim Henson’s Fraggle Rock, Back To The Rock Live At The Colonial Theatre – Two Shows Saturday, October 10th

A family adventure is in store for audience members when Fraggle Rock, Back to the Rock Live will make a stop at The Colonial Theatre on Main Street in Keene with two shows on Saturday, October 10th, 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Gobo, Red, Mokey, Wembley, and Boober Fraggle discover the legend of the Celebration Stone – an ancient Fraggle treasure that has the power to bring everyone together for the greatest party of all time – which was shattered and lost generations ago. As the Fraggles set off on an exhilarating, adventurous journey exploring exciting new caves within Fraggle Rock and even beyond, they discover magic that they never knew existed, and learn to work together to unite the lost pieces of the magical artifact.

Featuring gorgeous new walk-around versions of the Fraggles, puppet sized Doozers, an appearance from a giant Gorg, and exclusive new wondrous puppet creatures all from the acclaimed Jim Henson’s Creature Shop. This performance includes fan-favorite songs and exciting visual effects, and welcomes



audiences on a joyful, nostalgia-filled trip to Fraggle Rock. Filled with music, laughter, and imagination, it’s an unforgettable live experience that will have silly creatures of all ages dancing in the aisles.

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

Celebrate The First Day Of Fall With City Express Savings

Everyone is invited to welcome fall with a little extra savings. On Tuesday, September 22nd, the City Express will celebrate the first day of fall with a special one-day ticket sale.

For one day only, a 10-ride ticket pack will be available for \$5, cutting the standard fare in half. The discounted ticket packs will be sold on all City Express buses and at the Home Healthcare, Hospice

& Community Services (HCS) Transportation Office, located at 312 Marlboro Street in Keene. Tickets purchased during the sale do not expire. The City Express will also offer free rides on September 22nd, no ticket required.

For more details on The City Express, route maps, or bus passes, contact the HCS Transportation Office at 603-352-8494, or visit www.thecityexpress.org.

Keene State College Fall Music Faculty & Guest Recital Series



Dr. Jose Lezcano, guitarist, composer, folklorist and professor of music at Keene State College.

Keene State College has a full Music Faculty & Guest Recital Series scheduled this fall.

Beginning Wednesday, September 23rd at 7 p.m., Dr. Alexander Kollias (clarinet) and award winning collaborative pianist, Vladimir Odnokikh, will entertain with a celebration of Jewish music.

Join Connecticut’s acclaimed professional 24-voice choir, CONCORA (Connecticut Choral Artists), 12-piece chamber orchestra under the direction of Chris Shepard, the Keene State’s Concert Choir directed by Sandra Howard, and community choir singers from the Monadnock Region in a performance of Geoffrey Hudson’s *A Passion for the Planet* on Sunday, October 4th at 3 p.m. Blending scientific prose, poetry, and sacred texts, *A Passion for the Planet* gives voice to those who are already doing the difficult work of protecting watersheds, restoring ecosystems, preserving habitats, educating communities, advocating for change, and building a vibrant future.

On Sunday, October 18th at 3 p.m., the featured artist include several of the faculty including Dr. Evangelia Leontis, soprano; Dr. Brittney Redler, soprano; Prof. Nicholas Tocci, baritone; with special guest Dr. Alexander Kollias, clarinet; and collaborative pianist, Vladimir Odnokikh.

A collaborative performance, *A Salute to American Immigrant Composers*, with Dr. Jose Lezcano, guitar, and Robin Matathias, flute, with guest collaborative pianist, Virginia Eskin, will be on Saturday, November 14th at 3 p.m.

MUSIC, page 12

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PET OF THE WEEK

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Lainey

Meet Lainey, a six-year-old, approximately 50-pound mixed-breed girl with a wonderful balance of playful energy and good manners. She loves other dogs and has enjoyed several walks and play dates with canine friends. Lainey is also crate trained and potty trained, making her a great companion for a household ready to continue building on her many positive qualities.

Lainey could live with children and indoor cats, and would do best without outdoor pets (she has a pretty strong prey drive!). This smart girl will thrive with plenty of enrichment, play, and

ongoing training. She has the potential to be a wonderful candidate for MHS classes and would likely enjoy having fun activities that keep both her body and mind engaged.

Lainey has so much to offer and is ready to share her playful, affectionate, and energetic personality with the



people lucky enough to get to know her.

The Adoption Center is located at 101 West Swanzeay 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.monadnock-humaneociety.org.

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Gift Of Thrift Rummage Sale This Weekend

Dublin Community Church will hold their fall Gift of Thrift rummage sale on Friday, September 18th and Saturday, September 19th. There will be an abundance of clothing, shoes, linens, housewares, jewelry, handbags and accessories, toys, books, crafts, tools, garden and office supplies, lamps, and many other surprises.

Hours on Friday are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., no early birds. The sale is donation only – no fees, no prices. Donations to the church’s Outreach Program are encouraged.

The Dublin Community Church is located at 1125 Main Street in Dublin, at the oval in the town center.

Empty Bowls Fundraiser Will

Benefit Marlborough Food Pantry

Supporters of the Marlborough Food Pantry at the Federated Church will repeat its popular fundraiser, Empty Bowls, on Saturday, September 26th, at the Community House at 160 Main Street in Marlborough.

Empty Bowls is a grassroots movement by artists and craftspeople in cities and towns around the world to raise money for food-related charities and to aid in caring for and feeding the hungry and food insecure people in their communities.

Potters and artists donate handmade bowls to the event. When entering the venue, attendees choose a bowl to keep, and then are served the meal in one’s own bowl.

The meal is from 4 to 6 p.m., with a gift basket raffle to follow. Baskets are donated by local neighbors and businesses. Advance tickets purchased before September 20th receive five free raffle prize tickets.

Tickets are \$25 and guests over 80 and under 16 are \$15. Tickets include: a bowl of choice, and a meal of soups, stews, or chilis, biscuits, and “fixins,” cookies, and coffee or tea. Water is available at the table.

All proceeds go directly to the Marlborough NH Food Pantry. The Community House is handicap accessible.

Monadnock Community Hospital Health Pop-Up On September 30th

Monadnock Community Hospital will hold “Your Health Check-In: Health & Wellness Pop-Up,” a free community mini health fair at the Bond Wellness Center in Peterborough.

Brought to the community by Monadnock Community Hospital’s (MCH) Population Health Team, the drop-in event gives community members a chance to get a free blood pressure check, talk with MCH clinicians and staff at informational tables, and learn more about preventive health at their own pace. No registration is required, and visitors can arrive anytime during the event.

Educational tables will cover information about breast and cervical cancer screening, colon health, heart health, vitamin D levels, and diabetes education including nutrition, kidney, and eye health. Two short talks are planned: Vitamin D with Liz Peters, RN, ACSM EP-C, and Cholesterol with Robert Spencer, MD, FACC, and Brooke O’Connor, FNP-C, APRN, CCK, of Monadnock Cardiology Associates.

Attendees also can enter drawings for raffle prizes, including a walking pad, a Green Grocer gift card, air fryer with cookbook, and automatic blood pressure cuff. Giveaways will be available during the event.

This free event will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30th, at the Bond Wellness Center conference room, located on the MCH campus at 458 Old Street Road in Peterborough. For more details, visit [Seminars.MonadnockHospital.org](https://www.Seminars.MonadnockHospital.org) or call 603-924-4699 Ext. 1110.

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"Cinematic Refuge" Features The Catalyst Quartet September 25th



Pictured L to R: Abi Fayette, violin; Karlos Rodriguez, cello; Karla Donehew Perez, violin; Paul Laraia, viola

Electric Earth Concerts (EEC) continues its season with "Cinematic Refuge" featuring the Grammy Award-winning Catalyst Quartet on Friday, September 25th at 7 p.m. at the First Church in Jaffrey.

The Catalyst Quartet was founded by the internationally acclaimed Sphinx Organization in 2010.

Always eagerly awaited by EEC audiences, the Catalyst brings a penetrating viewpoint to their offerings. Movies can help to escape reality, or they can mirror it. In their upcoming concert "Cinematic Refuge," the group presents music written for motion pictures around the ideals of freedom from oppression. The program includes 20th and 21st century works by John Adams, Max Richter, Philip Glass, Bernard Herrmann, and Erich Wolfgang Korngold. This is an opportunity to

hear the cinematic side of these four celebrated composers.

Adams' movie scores include *Shutter Island*, *Run Lola Run*, and *We Are Who We Are*. Richter's movie scores include *Arrival*, *The Leftovers*, *Ad Astra*, and *Hamnet*. Glass' movie scores include *The Hours*, *The Truman Show*, and *Kundun*. Herrmann's movie scores include *Psycho*, *Taxi Driver*, and *Vertigo*. Korngold's movie scores include *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, *Deception*, and *Of Human Bondage*.

General admission is \$30, payable online (www.electricearthconcerts.org), or via cash or check at the door. This season, EEC will admit kids and their parents to concerts for free.

For more details, contact joan.electricearth@gmail.com or call 603-499-6216.

Women Veterans' Conference Hosted By Cathedral Of The Pines

The Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge is sponsoring its fourth annual Women Veterans' Conference on Saturday, September 26th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The conference brings together women veterans and active service women from across New England to network and share experiences and wisdom in a beautiful, non-denominational, and welcoming setting.

"The goal of our conference is to help women veterans across New England connect and support each other," explained Dr. Dawn Hersey, OEF/OIF army veteran, conference chair, and board member for Cathedral of the Pines.

The theme of this year's conference is "Beauty, Strength, and Resilience." The all-day program includes presentations by experts on women's health, healing, and feeling confident in their own skin – with emphasis on how these experiences are often uniquely different for women veterans. The location of the conference at the Cathedral of the Pines is particularly appropriate, since it is home to the Women's Memorial Bell Tower, the first nationally recognized

memorial to American servicewomen in the country, and to the Peter J. Booras Museum, containing a section highlighting American servicewomen in World War II. The conference will allow opportunities to explore the grounds and view the large collection of military artifacts at the Cathedral.

Companies and organizations focused on women's health and wellness are invited to support this initiative and share information on the services they offer. To reserve a table, call the Cathedral at 603-899-3300.

All women veterans and active service women are invited. The conference is free with lunch provided. Registration is required through EventBrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/women-veterans-conference-tickets>. Alternatively, go to cathedralofthepines.org, click on the Events link, and then scroll down to the Women Veterans Conference listing and register from there.

For more details, contact Amber Dewey at 603-899-3300 or email her at amber@cathedralofthepines.org.

No Cavity Club Winner Announced

Fern Weekley, 8, from Dublin is a recent winner of the No Cavity Club, sponsored by Children's Dental Care in Keene. Kids who are cavity-free at their dental cleaning receive a key chain and a matching tag for every cavity-free visit that follows. They can also have their picture taken with Oswald. Each No Cavity Club member enters a monthly drawing at their cleaning visit, with the winner receiving a gift certificate for ice cream at Rick's Ice Cream in Keene.





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Keene International Festival To Bring World Cultures To The Monadnock Region



Indian and local dancers celebrate culture through traditional Bollywood dance after performing at the the 2025 Keene International Festival. The festival features international food, music, dance, arts and crafts, and cultural exhibits. The dancers are (L to R): front row, Grace Perkins, Marilyn Perkins, Sharanya Budakoti and Carly Chamberlain; second row, Kristen McKeon, Sharon Arnone, Ritu Budakoti, Christine Chamberlain, and Amber Larrareo; and last row, Maranthe Ingalls, Isabella Bartos , Divya Janakiram, and Dierdre Chretien.

The sights, sounds, and flavors of cultures from around the world will return to Keene on Saturday, September 26th, when the annual Keene International Festival brings the community together for a celebration of diversity, culture, and connection. The festival, to be held at Fuller Park and the Keene Recreation Center, will feature international food, music, dance, arts and crafts, cultural exhibits, and family-friendly activities. Now in its eighth year, the festival has become an annual tradition in the Monadnock Region, offering residents an opportunity to experience cultures represented throughout the community. Visitors will be able to sample foods from around the world, browse handmade crafts and cultural displays, enjoy live performances and participate

in workshops and activities. Local organizations also will share information about the work that’s being done around diversity and human rights in the Keene area. The event is organized by a volunteer planning committee. Committee members include representatives from local schools, community organizations and cultural groups, including the Keene School District, Keene India Association, Keene Public Library, the City of Keene Human Rights Committee and Keene Community Education. Festival hours are from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Fuller Park and the Keene Recreation Center are located at 312 Washington Street in Keene.

NH Folk Tales As An Avenue To Local History and Culture with Erin Moulton

On Wednesday, September 23rd at 7 p.m., Marlborough Historical Society and NH Humanities presenter Erin Moulton will offer a presentation about how local and regional folk tales can give people another way of looking at history. The event will take place at the at the handicap accessible Marlborough Community House at 160 Main Street. Refreshments will be served. Folk tales are passed down from one generation to another, embellished by time and teller. Yet when folk tales are examined, people can access history in a new and entertaining way. At this event, attendees will be able to hear and explore folk tales collected by the NH Women’s Federation in 1932 and dig into local resources in search of truth. As Marlborough Revolutionary patriots were researched, some interesting stories were unearthed. This presentation will be looking into whether those are tall tales or town history. For more details, email robinsonjoann07@gmail.com.

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on Ashuelot Street in Keene is closing for good on September 30th. Customer pick-ups **only on Tuesdays** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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10:00 am to 2:00 pm
North Conference Room
at Cheshire Medical Center

For more information, visit dartmouth-health.org/events or contact Lea at LKabluk@cheshire-med.com or 603-354-5454 ext. 1262331.

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Dartmouth Health
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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 \$20 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 town fair took place in the early 1920s. In what local town did it take place?



The winner of last week's Mystery Photo Contest was Donald Tebaldi of Keene. The mid-1900s ice cream stand and snack bar was located in Walpole.

Mill Hollow Works Holds Auditions

September 25th For Halloween Farm Mystery

Mill Hollow Works is putting out a community casting call for its upcoming Halloween Farm Mystery on Hurricane Road in Keene. Auditions will be held on Friday, September 25th from 3 to 7 p.m. at Mill Hollow Works.

"We want this to feel like something the community creates together," says Mill Hollow Works founder Heather Holloway. "It's theatrical, a little spooky, a little silly, and designed to bring people out to the farm for an old-fashioned Halloween experience."

The Farm Mystery is part play, part farm tour, and part old-fashioned Halloween adventure. Audience groups will travel from station to station around the farm, on foot or by hayride, meeting unusual characters and gathering clues as a strange mystery unfolds.

The play is needing adults and teens who enjoy performing, storytelling, improvisation, costumes, and a little Halloween fun. Previous acting experience is not required. Some roles are larger speaking parts, while others are well suited to first-time performers or people who simply want to be part of the event.

For those who can't make the open audition time, email heather@millhollowworks.org. The outdoor, interactive play will take place on Saturday, October 31st from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Farm Mystery will be presented as a free community event, with advance registration required for audience tour times: www.millhollowworks.org.

Music And Art In The

Emerson Brook Forest

The Sustainability Project's Music and Art in the Emerson Brook Forest will take place on Sunday, September 27th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Emerson Brook Forest Center, located at 57 Emerson Brook Drive, Gilsum, is wheelchair accessible. Folks can come for any or all of the activities planned. Light refreshments will be served. This is a free event and donations of any amount are always appreciated.

The day begins with a focus on "What it means to live in harmony with nature" by Valerie Piedmont. At 10:45 a.m., naturalist Mackenzie Roof, shares "Who Lives in this Forest?" This will include stories and art about salamanders, porcupines, frogs, bats, owls, and others who call the Emerson Brook Forest home.

People can bring a picnic lunch and enjoy a noon-time concert of traditional Celtic music with The Wolf Pack. At 1 p.m., in a workshop entitled "Beauty, Texture, and the Magic of Nature," Nicole Colvin-Griffin will teach participants how to make prints with leaves and gathered forest materials.

Throughout the day, there will be spontaneous music and movement, fairy house building, clay play, and nature crafts. Attendees will also be able to learn about "the 13 core routines of connecting with nature," explore the trails while learning to identify native plants, and view the collection of clay heads by Susan O'Hara along with the recent works of several local artists. After the closing at 2 p.m., everyone is invited to take a tour of Piedmont's nearby homestead.

An additional opportunity takes place on October 3rd, when Josephine Russell of Aloha of Keene and Piedmont team up to present Aloha Equinox Harvest Retreat at the Emerson Brook Forest Center. Activities include yoga, meditation, art, journaling, fire ceremony, and lunch. The suggested donation is \$108. No one turned away for lack of funds. Register through Aloha Keene Vagaro.com/alohakeene.

For more details or to volunteer, call Piedmont or Lenoir Law at 603-354-9454 or email: info@emerson-brookforest.org.



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PC Connection	85.76	1.41	Teleflex (Jaffrey)	130.99	(7.37)
Bank Of America (Fleet)	62.69	0.01	Timken (MPB Corp.)	119.40	(3.76)
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Ametek, Inc. (Precitech)	241.87	4.15	Dover Corp. (Markem)	189.05	(3.83)
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National Ranking Of States Puts New Hampshire In The Top Ten

By Garry Rayno, InDepthNH.org

U.S. News and World Reports annual ranking of states finds New Hampshire in sixth place, but is ranked number one for the safest state and for economic opportunity, although sixth for overall opportunities for its residents and businesses.

“New Hampshire is the safest state in the nation thanks to the dedicated first responders who protect and serve our communities every day,” said Republican Gov. Kelly Ayotte. “I’m grateful for their efforts and proud of the work we’ve done together – we’ve fixed our bail system, strengthened protections for victims of crimes like domestic violence and human trafficking, restored retirement benefits for first responders, and more.”

Utah is ranked the best state in the country, followed by South Dakota, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Nebraska.

The bottom five are Michigan, New Mexico, Mississippi, Alaska, and Louisiana.

Other New England states’ rankings are: Vermont, 10; Massachusetts, 11; Connecticut, 18; Maine, 27, and Rhode Island, 33.

U.S. News and World Report uses 71 metrics across eight categories to assess a state’s performance. The data behind the rankings aims to show how well states serve their residents in a variety of ways, the magazine states.

In calculating the rankings, each of the eight categories was assigned weights based on the average of three years of data from national surveys that asks tens of thousands of people to prioritize various issues in their state.

The rankings for New Hampshire expose some of its strengths and its weaknesses.

For example, the rankings find the state has the best economic opportunities for its citizens, but affordability is a major concern as is the price of energy.

While it ranks number one in the country for internet access, it lacks public transportation for many of its citizens.

While the state’s public education system performs well, its lack of support for its public university system hurts its ranking along with high student debt upon graduation.

And while the state may be a mecca for business executives who are shielded from a state income tax, its antiquated tax system leads to fiscal instability, lacking the resources to respond to a significant economic downturn.

The largest factor in the ranking was education, including elementary, secondary and higher education categories, and health care based on access, quality and public health.

The economy is the third highest ranking including business environment, employment and growth,

followed by infrastructure including energy, internet access, and transportation.

The fifth ranked category is opportunity including affordability, economic opportunity and equality, followed by fiscal stability, including long-term and short-term.

The seventh most important ranking is natural environment including air and water quality and pollution, and the final category is crime, including corrections outcome and public safety.

For education, New Hampshire ranked 12th in the country, with its elementary and secondary education ranked fourth and higher education ranked 40th in the country.

New Hampshire’s healthcare ranking is ninth, with access four, public health 10, but quality 34 in the country.

For the economy, New Hampshire is ranked only 32 in the country, with employment 13, business environment 19 and growth next to last at 49. The magazine notes the state’s low job growth and lack of venture capital investment, while its population migration numbers are about the national average.

New Hampshire’s infrastructure ranked 18, with internet access number one in the country, but energy 39 and transportation 41.

For opportunities, the state is ranked six, with economic opportunity one, equality four, but affordability 41. The magazine notes the state’s costs of living is well above the national average, while median household income is also above the national average while the poverty level is below the national average,

The state’s worst ranking came in the fiscal stability category where the state ranks 36. Its long-term stability ranking is 33 and short-term ranking is 38.

The magazine notes the state has a stable bond rating, is about average in budget balancing, but its liquidity is well below the national average.

As you would expect, the state’s national environment ranking was number three in the country with air and water quality at 15 and pollution at two.

Days with unhealthy air are well below the national average, but drinking water violations are well above the national average. The state is well below the national average for industrial toxins.

The state is ranked number one in the crime and corrections category, ranking three in corrections outcomes and one in crime.

The adult and juvenile incarceration and violent crime rates are all well below the national average.

New Hampshire and other smaller more rural states tend to do better than the largest and more industrialized states in the annual ranking by the magazine.

Garry Rayno may be reached at garry.rayno@yahoo.com.

Healthy Starts At HCS Named A Family Resource Center Of Quality

Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services (HCS) recently announced that its program, Healthy Starts at HCS, has been designated as a Family Resource Center of Quality by the New Hampshire Wellness and Primary Prevention Council.

This designation recognizes the Healthy Starts Family Resource Center for its commitment to building family strengths and fostering community connections. Over the past year, the organization completed a rigorous process that included self-assessment, input from families and community partners, an on-site review, and submission of a comprehensive application.

For family resource centers across New Hamp-

shire, the process of seeking this designation has proven to be both affirming and insightful – helping staff reflect on their work, engaging boards of directors in a deeper understanding of family support, and reinforcing for families that they are receiving services of the highest quality.

Healthy Starts is staffed by a team of social workers, home visitors, community health workers, and nurses dedicated to helping families thrive at every stage, from expecting a baby to raising young children and navigating everyday challenges. To learn more about HCS, Healthy Starts, and the family resource center, call 603-352-2253 or visit www.HCSservices.org.

Michael George And Tom Masland Join Monadnock Conservancy’s Board Of Trustees

The Monadnock Conservancy recently announced that Michael George and Tom Masland have joined the organization’s board of trustees. These new trustees bring considerable experience in local land conservation to the organization.

George moved to Jaffrey in 1997 from Boston after a long career in the advertising industry. He has owned several businesses and currently owns Gartenart USA – a company specializing in designing and constructing natural swimming ponds and ecological water features.

Masland is a multi-generation New Hampshire native, born and raised in Hanover. He graduated from Princeton University in 1973 and received his JD from the University of Maine School of Law in 1978. A major aspect of his practice was conservation real estate, representing landowners, land trusts, and other conservation organizations in conservation transactions and related matters.

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The Keene Senior Center Rebrands To The Hub 50+ To Put Positive Spin on Aging

After nearly seven decades of serving the Monadnock Region, The Keene Senior Center has announced its new name: The Hub 50+.

Founded in 1957, the organization is a welcoming place for older adults to stay active, build friendships, and find support. The new name reflects an evolving vision that celebrates aging as a time for growth, engagement, and discovery. Accompanying the rebrand is a new tagline: Engage. Connect. Explore.

“The name is changing, but our mission is not,” said Kimberly Rumrill, executive director of The Hub 50+. “We remain committed to empowering adults age 50 and better to live vibrant, healthy, and socially connected lives. The Hub 50+ better reflects the energy, opportunities, and sense of community our members experience every day.”

The transition to The Hub 50+ includes: the name change; a new website: thehub50plus.org (the current website, thekeeneselectorcenter.org, will automatically redirect visitors for the next 12 months); new email addresses change from @thekeeneselectorcenter.org to @thehub50plus.org; and a fresh brand identity and logo created by Frietag Marketing of Keene.

The new logo incorporates a stylized figure within the letter “H,” representing movement, vitality, and healthy aging. The logo’s green color reflects growth, positivity, and wellness. Frietag Marketing also redesigned the organization’s website to improve navigation and better showcase its programs,

services, and community impact.

While the name is new, the services and programs that community members rely on will remain the same: programs, classes, clubs, and special events will continue uninterrupted; the organization’s location, address, and phone number remain unchanged; the New to You Thrift Shop will continue operating.

Cheshire Village at Home, the organization’s signature aging-in-place program, will continue providing essential support and services for people in their own homes and provide transportation to medical and social events.

The community is invited to celebrate this new chapter at an Open House and Brand Reveal on Friday, September 18th from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at 312 Marlboro Street, Suite 100, in Keene. Guests will have the opportunity to see the new brand and logo unveiled; meet staff, volunteers, and community partners; learn about future programs and initiatives; tour the facility; and enjoy light refreshments.

Whether one is a current member, a family caregiver, a volunteer, or someone interested in learning more, The Hub 50+ extends a welcome to join the celebration and discover all it has to offer.

As New Hampshire provides no direct state funding for senior centers, The Hub 50+ relies on memberships, grants, donations, community partnerships, and volunteers to continue its mission.

For more details, visit <https://thehub50plus.org> or call 603-352-5037.

J Field Foundation Raised Nearly \$20,000 At Annual Charity Golf Tournament

The 2026 J Field Foundation raised nearly \$20,000 at its charity golf tournament in August at Crotched Mountain Golf in Franconia.

Peterborough resident and foundation co-founder Jennifer Field had her fingers crossed for an ace on the 18th hole, which would have provided \$10,000 to the golfer and \$10,000 to her foundation.

“One ball rolled within a couple of feet of the cup, which was very very exciting until it stopped,” she said.

All proceeds will fund equine therapy scholarships for veterans and youth. Endeavor Therapeutic Horsemanship is the organization Field has partnered with since 2023 to provide hope and practical support to others, like herself, living with traumatic brain injuries.

Betsy Gordon of Peterborough fielded the first place team, along with her son, Nick Gordon, her brother, Ed McMillan, and his son, Andrew, the four-some scored eight under.

The second place team was Laura Gilman, Christy Vigue, George Conway, and Peter Lopez. Gilman also won Women’s Longest Drive. Lopez won Men’s Closest to the Pin and Vigue won Women’s Closest to the Pin. Men’s Longest Drive winner was Roger St. Onge.

“Every year is so much fun,” Field continues. “Our goal is to raise more scholarship money than the year before. We did that. Plus, the weather was beautiful



The charity golf tournament first place team at the Crotched Mountain Golf Club: Ed McMillan, Andrew McMillan, Betsy Gordon, and Nick Gordon.

and the course was stunningly lush and green. The golfers, the volunteers, and the sponsors made it the perfect day.”

Observe The Moon Night At Ashuelot River Park

The Keene Public Library and the Keene Amateur Astronomers will host an International Observe the Moon Night on Saturday, September 19th, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Ashuelot River Park, 273 West Street, Keene. The free, all-ages event is family friendly.

Participants will have the opportunity to view the moon through a variety of telescopes. Librarians will also be on hand to share information about the Keene Public Library’s Library of Things and how to check out a telescope. Attendees will meet in the Ashuelot Park parking lot at 5:30 p.m.

Registration is encouraged so that participants can be notified of any weather-related changes. For more details, contact Amy Kraemer at akraemer@keenenh.gov or 603-352-0157.

The Langdon Community Club Celebrates 100 Years Of Service

The Langdon Community Club will celebrate its 100th anniversary on Saturday, September 19th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Langdon Fall Festival in the center of town.

The club has created a display, “Then and Now,” that will showcase old and new biographies and traditions, along with an antique quilt from the past and a new quilt made by the current members.

Each year, members of the club design and sew a queen-sized quilt to be raffled off as their main fundraiser. The quilt will be on display and chances will be sold at the festival, as well as on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3rd. Chances will also be available for purchase from any club member throughout the year. The winner of the quilt will be drawn on the day of the town election in March of 2027.

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What Kind Of Privacy Screen Grows Flowers & Food?

Well a hedgerow, of course! A hedgerow's long, thick lengths of often mixed, tall shrubs and some flowering trees, separating different farmer's fields, were the stuff of many childhood stories. One set of *Hedgerow Tales* has four books: *The Story of Jeremy Cricket*, *The Story of Robin Redbreast*, *The Story of Benjamin Bee*, and *The Story of Charlotte the Caterpillar*. See where I'm going here?

Privacy without fence posts

A thrifty New Englander might appreciate the privacy of a hedgerow's, dense by nature, three-season screening from nosy neighbors or offensive views. Particularly when they come without the expense or maintenance of traditional constructed fences. Hedgerow's annual spray of delicate, often white, spring flowers, clusters of summer berries, and bright fall foliage are often appreciated as well. Small ornamental trees are terrific additional elements for height and interest.

Free food for all

A thrifty New Englander might also appreciate hedgerows of native plants such as Red, Purple and Black Chokeberry, Aronia arbutifolia, floribunda, and melanocarpa (some of my favorites); American Hazelnut, Corylus americana (gorgeous gold fall color); Virginia and Carolina Rose (pretty, open-faced, pink fragrant blooms); Dogwoods, Swida alternifolia, amomum and racemosa; Steeplebush, Spiraea tomentosa; and White Meadowsweet, Spiraea alba var. Latifolia as well as several Viburnum: Maple Leaf, acerifolium, Nannyberry, lentago, and Witherod, nudum (one of my favorites) among others, feed nectar, pollen and berries to our wildlife and pollinators like butterflies with their important baby bird food caterpillars.

Habitat

Add to the fact that untrimmed hedgerows with their variety of shrubs, small

trees, inevitable grasses at their bases, and dead wood/branches on the ground provide often scarce places for deadwood-dependent invertebrates as well as beneficial insects, myriad birds, and even beleaguered bats (who eat mosquitoes) to live, nest, and find food. The smaller ornamental trees are excellent perching places for our birds as well as nesting, shelter, and food storage places for birds and squirrels alike.

Woods and Gardens

with Michele Chalice



Options for a smaller yard

It is true that a hedgerow takes up quite a bit of space, often 10 to 15 feet wide by whatever length. And let's say that their aesthetics are often best appreciated a bit further from your home. Close up they can look a little rough, tempting some to pull out the dreaded hedge trimmer. That said, for those with smaller yards, a thicket or cluster of the same shrubs we've mentioned can offer many of the same wildlife habitat, flower, fruit, and fall foliage seasonal benefits, with still a bit of the bramble mystery. Another smaller-scale option is two native vines that thrive along the top of a sunny fence. Concord grapes – a cultivar from our native Fox grape, Vitis labrusca, or Virginia Creeper, Parthenocissus quinquefolia. Both plants offer thick foliage, and berries! Only wildlife enjoys the Virginia Creeper's berries, but this vine has the added benefit of an amazing fall foliage display.

Where can I buy these plants?

As always, you can shop for these native plants at our local native Fasset Farm

Nursery in Jaffrey, and the inimitable Native Plant Trust's Nasami Farm Nursery in Whately, MA. New Hampshire Forests & Lands State Nursery will sell you a cluster of shrubs online and mail you the fistful of tiny saplings for a terrific price. But beware, you'll need to take the additional efforts of protecting these yummy saplings from the wildlife; we normally enjoy these for several years until they mature. Actually, it is least frustrating to protect all shrub plantings for the first several years with a three foot high cage of two-inch by four-inch cattle fencing, secured to the ground with six-inch metal lawn staples.

I hope that these thoughts provide ideas for you to ponder as we come into fall's optimal planting season. By the way, I apologize, my helpful DIY Eco Landscaping posts on Facebook and Instagram have fallen by the wayside this summer and our Healthy Home Habitat's monthly Ask An Ecogardener workshops will begin again in spring. I am still available for consultations until our leaves fall. But, you might enjoy my possibly interactive Eco Landscaping program on Wednesday, September 23rd at 6 p.m. in the Beals Memorial Library auditorium in Winchendon, MA. You can find out more at: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1DJVxZKn6c>.

Michele Chalice, owner of @HealthHomeHabitats, an environmental landscape consulting and education firm in Keene, NH, loves to talk with groups and new clients about how their home landscapes can shift to growing native plants and food; special places for their family, pollinators and wildlife. 603-313-9153 or michele@healthhomehabitats.com

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Keene Pride Presents Final Main Stage Spectacular: Icons Of Pop: Queens Reign Forever

Keene Pride has announced the return of its signature main stage production with Icons Of Pop: Queens Reign Forever, taking place Saturday, September 19th at 7 p.m. at the Colonial Theatre in Downtown Keene. Audiences can expect performances inspired by Madonna, Charli XCX, Taylor Swift, Chappell Roan, Sabrina Carpenter, and many more artists whose music, fashion, and cultural influence have shaped generations.

The production stars *RuPaul's Drag Race* fan favorite Peppermint, who most recently appeared on NBC's hit competition series *The Traitors* and served

as Grand Marshal of NYC Pride 2026. Joining them is Keene's own Miss Ginger Souless and a cast featuring Beau Jangless, Angel Au, Daniella Darling, Vanity Lavin, Wesley, and Janae Saisquoi, with choreography by co-director Daniel Gold and an ensemble of New York City dancers.

Directed by Adam Toepfer and Daniel Gold, Icons Of Pop: Queens Reign Forever serves as the grand finale of a five-year tradition that has become one of Keene Pride's most anticipated annual events.

For tickets, visit www.keenepride.org/icons

Keene Pride Festival Culminating A Full Week Of Pride Events

PRIDE, Continued from page 1

A New Festival Footprint For 2026
Due to ongoing construction in Keene, the festival will look a little different from previous years. Central Square will not be used; instead, the celebration will expand farther down Main Street and into surrounding downtown streets.

Main Street will be closed, creating a pedestrian-only festival filled with more than 150 vendors and artists. Gilbo Avenue will become the festival's food truck destination.

Live Music From Across New England

This year's musical lineup includes Nova One from Providence, Rhode Island; Antara Gatch and Chris Cheney from Vermont; Sister Funk from Connecticut; and Evan Greer from Boston.

Throughout the afternoon, Railroad Square will also come alive with drag performances featuring artists from across the region.

The festival begins at noon on Railroad Square with the official Opening Ceremony, featuring representatives from Keene Pride alongside speakers from local organizations and community groups.

A Pride Festival For The Whole Family

Keene Pride Festival remains a celebration designed to welcome the entire community, including families and children.

Church Street will become the

festival's family entertainment area. This year's family performers include Doug The Devil Stick Man, Ben Pratt the Musician, Chalk Gremlins Circus, and Bubbles McGee.

Festivalgoers will find food and refreshments throughout the downtown area, including food trucks and concessions.

At the heart of Keene Pride Festival is its enormous marketplace stretching through Downtown Keene.

More than 150 vendors are expected, including independent artists and makers from throughout the Northeast, LGBTQ+ organizations, nonprofits, community groups, businesses, advocacy organizations, and local resources.

Keene Pride Festival is the culmination of Keene Pride Week, with events taking place throughout the community.

These include Alien Superstars Dance Party Friday, September 18th at Madame Sherri's at 82 Main Street in Keene at 9 p.m. and Icons Of Pop: Queens Reign Forever Saturday, September 19th at The Colonial Theatre. The celebration continues immediately afterward with the official after party at Madame Sherri's.

Additional Pride Week events, complete event descriptions, schedules, ticket information, age restrictions, locations, and updates can be found at keenepride.org/events.



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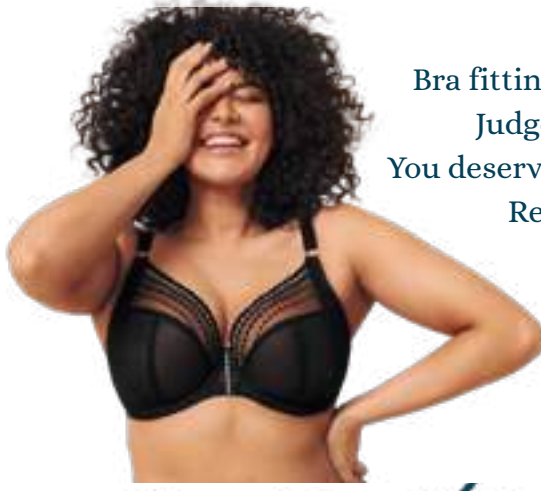


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MUSIC, Continued from page 1

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Cheshire Village Pizza : Serving Up Award-Winning Pizza

PIZZA, Continued from page 1

Only the freshest ingredients are used, and Alkhatib finds that shopping local is best. Shaun Sullivan, the general manager at Cheshire Village Pizza, chimes in: "Our pizza dough is made fresh daily, and our meat sauce is made in-house from scratch." Note: The pizza offerings include two sizes of gluten-free pizza.

"Excellent pizza and great service," says Michael Warner. "The pizza's toppings were evenly distributed and perfectly portioned. It looked like it came out of a pizza ad – I mean, picture perfect!"

"I've been a regular customer at Cheshire Village Pizza for many years for take-out. The food is always good quality, and the staff is super friendly. (This is) my family's

choice for pizza in Keene," says J.B. Mack.

"I stopped in for a quick bite," says Jill Crowley. "The staff was so sweet and friendly and made such a warm impression. It feels like going back in time in the absolute best way. The dining area is neat and clean, plenty of tables available, and it smells amazing. We shared a small pizza. It was made quickly and fresh and tasted great."

Cheshire Village Pizza has weekly coupons in *The Monadnock Shopper News* that are valid on Mondays; the pizzeria also offers senior (65+) discounts on Tuesdays.

The full menu includes grinders (hot and cold); a variety of salads; starters like jalapeno poppers, wings, fried ravioli, and more; and pasta dinners like eggplant parmesan, spaghetti, and lasagna. Most recently intro-

duced is a lunch special that includes half of a large grinder with side salad.

"Looking to cater a function at work? We can deliver to your workplace," says Sullivan. "Looking for an event space? You can reserve sections of our dining room that seats up to 100 people. We are happy to host birthday parties, sports teams, holiday parties, and more."

Cheshire Village Pizza offers ample parking and is open Mondays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Fridays from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and closed on Sundays.

For more details or to place an order, call 603-357-4604 or visit www.Cheshirevillagepizza.com.

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Home Is.... Where?

In the school yard days, I could have told you exactly where home was, and exactly where every other classmate lived, too. We all knew. Home? Easy, of course! It's right over there. See it? I loved my home then, a post-civil war classic New England farmhouse with a huge red barn, dirt floor cellars with that dank smell, perfect in its imperfection.

Ask me now, "Where is home?" and I would have dozens of dizzying images flying around in my head, unsure how to answer.

The quaint old saying, "Home is where the heart is," while still a gem, still may not be quite right. Modern day folks might be more apt to feel, "Home is where the stuff is." Piles of it mark our territory, as we plan to get more piles of it, surely for a better life.

We may have a home but know we've lost ability to get there: burnout, palms clammy with dark ruminations, heart rate zipping higher with anxiety, sleep deprived, depression, failing to focus, nightmares, pain, illness, lack of purpose, no motivation, no

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Minute

with Adele Michaelides Thomas



direction. Which way toward home? Back, forward, sideways?

Let's talk about where home lives in you, and how you live as you search for home.

Adele Michaelides Thomas is a licensed clinician and owner of Finding Sky Counseling. For more information about her services, or to schedule an appointment, she can be reached at 603-354-3604. Visit her online at www.findingskycounselingcenter.com.

Volunteers Needed For Source To Sea River Cleanup This Saturday

Thousands of volunteers from across New England will come together on September 19th to clean up the Connecticut River and its tributaries, as part of the Connecticut River Conservancy's annual Source to Sea Cleanup.

In the Monadnock region, volunteers can join clean-up efforts happening in Keene and Swanzey. Help on foot or bring a boat. All ages and group sizes are welcome.

To volunteer, register ahead of time by visiting www.cheshireconservation.org/s2s. Online registration is preferred. For assistance in registration, contact 603-904-3011 or email info@cheshireconservation.org

Regional clean-up locations and times are: Keene (9 a.m. to noon at

Ashuelot River Park and Beaver Brook on Water Street; Swanzey (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) at Ashuelot River at Cresson Bridge on Sawyer's Crossing Road (boaters only).

Due to limited space on the rivers, volunteers should only use small boats such as kayaks, canoes, and paddle boats.

Volunteers do not require a boat, but those on the water are encouraged to bring life jackets for all passengers. Trash bags and gloves will be provided, and a limited number of t-shirts for volunteers.

More details about specific site locations can be found at: www.cheshireconservation.org/s2s

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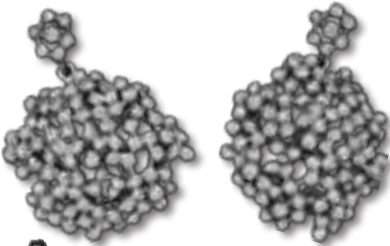
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Ode To The Glorious Tomato

This is the time of year when my favorite garden crop comes into its glory. Today, tomatoes are available in numerous colors, types, and sizes – red, yellow, orange, dark purple, and multi-hued; old heirloom favorites and newly developed disease resistant varieties; pop-in-your-mouth sizes, medium favorites, and large beef-steak types. For over 30 years now I've written a September column praising the versatility, flavor, and gloriousness of tomatoes. Yet my favorite remains first and foremost a simple sandwich, made with any good soft bread, a thick, big slice of ripe, juicy tomato, a generous amount of mayonnaise or olive oil, salt, and pepper – a delightful chin-dripper! Later, sample some hopefully new, different ideas from Cooking Corner.

Tomato, Garlic and Caper Salad

This savory, boldly-flavored salad is a perfect accompaniment to grilled steak, hamburgers or pork roast. Makes four to six servings.

Ingredients:
1/4 cup olive oil

8 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
3 tablespoons capers, drained and patted dry
pinch red pepper flakes, to taste
2 lbs. ripe tomatoes, chopped or sliced
2 or 3 tablespoons sherry vinegar or white wine vinegar
salt and freshly ground black pepper

Heat oil in a small pan over medium high heat. Before oil is too hot, add garlic slivers and capers, stirring as they sizzle and pop for two to three minutes, until garlic is just lightly browned and capers are crunchy looking; make sure they don't burn. Off heat, add red pepper flakes as desired; set pan aside to cool. Combine tomatoes and vinegar in a medium-sized bowl or on a serving platter; season with salt and pepper and toss to combine. Serve topped with toasted garlic and crispy capers, along with the oil in which they were fried.

of salt and additives.) This recipe would be equally good made with halibut, tuna or other firm fish. Makes three to four servings.

Ingredients:
1 lb. swordfish steak or other firm fish
salt and freshly ground black pepper
3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
1 small onion, finely chopped
1 clove garlic, minced
1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
1 1/2 teaspoon fresh thyme or 1/2 teaspoon dried
1 large tomato, skinned and chopped
1 bay leaf
2 tablespoons tomato paste
1/2 cup dry sherry
1/2 cup water
3 slices lemon

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Sprinkle fish with salt and pepper. Pour one and a half tablespoons olive oil into shallow baking dish; add fish and set aside. Add remaining olive oil to a sauté pan over medium high heat. Cook onion, garlic, parsley and thyme until wilted. Add tomato, bay leaf, stirring until well mixed. Add tomato paste, sherry, and water; stir and simmer five minutes longer. Pour sauce over fish. Add lemon slices and bake 30 minutes, basting occasionally.

Cooking Corner

with Nancy Adams



Stuffed Tomatoes

Stuffed peppers are a popular dish, so why not stuffed tomatoes! Filled with sausage and rice, these make a colorful entree, along with a salad and some bread. Serves six.

Ingredients:
6 medium-sized ripe tomatoes (or 3 large), your choice of colors
salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 small onion, finely chopped
1 garlic clove, minced
4 Italian sausage, hot or sweet, casing removed
1 1/2 cups cooked rice
3 tablespoons pine nuts or chopped cashews
3 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh basil
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese, divided
1 large egg, lightly beaten

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Lightly oil a baking dish that will hold the tomatoes in a single layer. Cut the tomatoes in half and squeeze each tomato half over a bowl to catch the seeds, pulp and juice as it falls into it; set aside. Sprinkle each tomato half with salt and pepper; set aside. In a skillet, heat oil, add onion and garlic, and cook over medium heat for two or three minutes, just enough to soften them. Raise heat to medium, add sausage meat, breaking it up with a spoon as you stir and cook it for five to six minutes. Add reserved tomato pulp with juice and cook for about five minutes more, until liquid evaporates. Set aside to cool slightly. With skillet off heat, add rice, nuts, parsley, basil, and half the cheese. Add the egg, stir to combine, and let cool. Arrange tomato halves, cut side up, in the baking dish. Spoon the filling into the tomato halves and over the tops, piling it up and rounding with your fingertips. Sprinkle with rest of cheese. Bake 30 to 40 minutes. May be served hot or at room temperature.

Spanish Swordfish

A Spanish touch to this dish features tomatoes, onions, garlic and a bit of sherry. (You can purchase inexpensive sherry at the liquor store; don't buy the supermarket 'cooking sherry' as it is full

Tomato-Papaya Relish

Try this different combination of flavors with your next grilled or broiled steak. Or use it to top oven-baked fish such as salmon, haddock, or cod. Enough for six servings.

Ingredients:
3 tomatoes, peeled, seeded and chopped
1/2 papaya, diced (or purchase it prepared in refrigerator section at supermarkets)
3 scallions, chopped
1 tablespoon fresh tarragon leaves, or 1 teaspoon dried
2 tablespoons oil
1 tablespoon lemon juice
pinch ground red pepper, optional
salt and pepper to taste

To make relish, in a bowl combine all ingredients until well blended. Refrigerate for one to five hours or longer before using. Relish will keep four to five days refrigerated.

Warm Minted Tomatoes

This simple dish makes a lovely little side dish. Otherwise, spread it on toast for a quick appetizer, serve it alongside eggs for a 'full' breakfast or use it on top of poultry or seafood. Makes six servings.

Instructions: In a large skillet, heat one-quarter cup butter. Add one chopped shallot, three tablespoons chopped fresh mint, and two pounds ripe cherry tomatoes, and cook, tossing over medium heat for about three minutes, or until tomatoes are heated through. Add salt and pepper to taste; serve.

Nancy Adams is a native of Peterborough and resides in Hancock. She and her husband, Bud, have raised four sons. She has been featured as one of Yankee Magazine's great New England cooks. Nancy welcomes suggestions – send them to: Nancy P. Adams, 22 Birch Road, Hancock, NH 03449.

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ENTERTAINMENT

and DINING

Tech Etiquette Is Tech Talk At Keene Library

On Thursday, September 17th, Teach Etiquette will be the Tech Talk at Keene Public Library at 60 Winter Street from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

The discussion will be covering everything from turning off speakerphone, use of punctuation and implied meaning in text messages, and which method of communication is best suited to which type of content, among other subjects. Register by calling 603-352-0157 or email akraemer@keenenh.gov.



Wednesday, Sep. 16

FAMILY FUN

Storytime 10am. Richmond Public Library, 19 Winchester Rd., Richmond. Stories, songs, and an easy craft for toddlers and preschoolers. Richmond Public Library: 603-239-6164.

LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

Make It Move! Mini Sculptures Workshop: Dawn Stetzel 6:30pm. Putney Public Library, 55 Main St., Putney, VT. Make a motive power mechanism, an interactive sculptural piece to take home using a cork as a base (or battery and magnet), wire and drawing elements. Free, open to the public. Register at 802-387-4407. request@putneylibrary.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

"Artificial Intelligence: Shaping the future of Humanity" Program 6:30-8pm. Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St. Francestown residents David Gleason and Judy Bitterli will lead a discussion about how AI is changing world, for better and worse, and offer thoughts about where headed. Free. 603-924-8040. www.peterboroughtownlibrary.org/.

Hazardous Waste Collection 8am-1pm. Keene Recycling Center, 55 Old Summit Rd., Keene. Collection takes approximately 10 minutes from the time of arrival. For towns served and details about what to bring, visit https://ci.keene.nh.us/public-works/household-hazardous-waste-schedule or call 603-352-5739.

Thursday, Sep. 17

MISCELLANEOUS

Chair Yoga Class: 5 Week Series 1pm. Keene Parks & Recreation Center, 312 Washington St. Chair Yoga is a gentle form of yoga, practiced sitting in a chair or standing, using a chair for support. No previous yoga experience is required. The 5-week series will be held on Thursdays, September 10 to October 15 (no class on October 1). \$30 for session or \$6 to drop in. Registration available at www.keeneparks.com.

Cheshire Village at Home: Composting 1:15pm. Keene Senior Center, 312 Marlboro St., Keene. Talk by Beth McGuinn of UNH Extension Service. For more details and to register call 603-903-9680.

Great Short Stories Discussion Group 2-3:30pm. Eppes Room, Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St. The readings are from The Best American Short Stories of the Century, ed. by John Updike and Katrina Kenison, c 1999. Amy Kraemer: 603-352-0157. akraemer@keenenh.gov.

"Long Term Care: The Gift You Give Your Family" Program: Kathryn Ruuska 6-7:30pm. Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St., Peterborough. During the presentation, Ruuska, a financial professional, will help attendees navigate, translate and provide options to lessen the risk, preserve assets and possibly keep themselves and their loved ones in their homes longer. 603-924-8040. www.peterboroughtownlibrary.org/.

Infinite Worlds: Speculative Fiction Book Club 6-7:30pm. Booras Room, Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St. A non-traditional book club for adults focusing on speculative fiction. September's Theme: Curses. Katelyn McStravick: 603-352-0157. kmcstravick@keenenh.gov.

Tech Talk: Tech Etiquette 6-7:30pm. Masiello Classroom, Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St. Tech etiquette, a Miss Manners for the digital age. Discuss things like when to turn off speakerphone, use of punctuation and implied meaning in text messages, and which method of communication is best suited to which type of content. Registration appreciated. Amy Kraemer: 603-352-0157. akraemer@keenenh.gov.

Age in Motion Classes 9-10am. ELMM Community Center, 21 Durkee St., Winchester. AIM is a senior exercise program designed by Tufts University using light weights(provided) for toning, strength and balance exercises. Tuesdays & Thursdays. ELMM Center Winchester: 603-239-4316.

Zumba Gold 10:45-11:45am. Keene Rec. Center, 312 Washington St. Zumba Gold meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 10th - Oct. 29th. Aerobic dance exercise program for mature adults using Latin and pop music. 603-357-9829.

Friday, Sep. 18

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

The Jesus is Lord Tour 6pm. Whitcomb Hall, 17 Main St., W Swanzey. Coffee with Jesus and music. Thomas Travers: 603-381-9077. tom@jesusislordtour.com. www.jesusislordtour.com/.

Peterborough Folk Music: Seth Glier & Antje Duvekot 7pm. Bass Hall at Monadnock Center, 19 Grove St., Peterborough. 603-318-9196. www.pfmsconcerts.org.

Concert: Cosy Sheridan & Sloan Wainwright 7:30pm. Nelson Town Hall. Suggested admission is \$20. Children under 16 are admitted free with paying adult. www.monadnockfolk.org/---cosy-sheridan-sloan-wainwright-w-charlie-koch-glen-roethel-nelson-town-hall-september-18-2026/.

FAIRS & SALES

Rummage: Gift of Thrift Sale 9am-5pm. Dublin Community Church, 1125 Main St. Clothing, shoes, linens, housewares, jewelry, handbags and accessories, toys, books, crafts, tools, garden & office supplies, lamps. No early birds.

MISCELLANEOUS

Open House and Brand Reveal 5:30-7pm. The Hub 50+, formerly The Keene Senior Center, 312 Marlboro St., Suite 100, Keene. The name is changing but not the mission. 603-352-5037. www.thehub50plus.org.

Teen & Adult Craft Night: Diamond Art Bookmarks 6pm. Conant Public Library, 111 Main St., Winchester. Craft, use diamond art to bedazzle bookmarks. This event is free and open to the public, sign-up strongly encouraged. 603-239-4331. www.conantlibrary.org.

Red Cross Blood Drive 11am-4pm. Student Center, 229 Main Street, Keene. Donors are asked to call or visit to schedule appointment at 800-733-2767. www.RedCross-Blood.org.

Saturday, Sep. 19

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Jaffrey Civic Center: Opening Reception 5-7pm. Jaffrey Civic Center, 40 Main St., Jaffrey. Art by Jeanne Duval and a group show with Sophie Sanders, Rachel Thorne-Germond, Vera Sulima. Refreshments served. Free and open to the public. jccedassistant@gmail.com.

Coffee House & Open Mic 6-9pm. Dublin Community Center, 1123 Main St., Dublin. Feature: Award winning singer-songwriter, Nancy Beaudette. 603-563-8080. info@dublincommunitycenter.org. www.dubhub-nh.org.

Keene Pride Presents: Icons of Pop 7pm. The Colonial Theatre, 95 Main St., Keene. Queens Reign Forever Drag Tribute. Celebrate the biggest names in pop music. www.thecolonial.org.

DINING PLEASURES

Marlborough Food Pantry: Empty Bowls Fundraiser Ticket Promotion Community House, 160 Main St., Marlborough. Tickets purchased for the event on Saturday, September 26th before September 20th receive free raffle tickets. Tickets \$25, under 16 or over 80, \$15.

Third Saturday Supper-Mediterranean Chicken 5-6pm. First Congregational Church of Swanzey, Rt 32, Swanzey. Chicken, rice pilaf, Greek style green beans, tomato cucumber salad, and apple crisp. Dine in, but take out is available. Cost by donation. 603-352-6689. office@swanzeyucc.org.

FAIRS & SALES

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

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

Rummage: Gift of Thrift Sale 9am-1pm. Dublin Community Church, 1125 Main St., Dublin. Clothing, shoes, linens, housewares, jewelry, handbags and accessories, toys, books, crafts, tools, garden & office supplies, lamps. No early birds.

Langdon Fall Festival 10am-3pm. Langdon Village, 5 Walker Hill Rd. New Hampshire craftsmanship, music, and small-town spirit. langdonfallfestival@gmail.com.

LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

Beekeeping Workshop with Charles Andros 1-4pm. 18 MacLean Rd., Alstead. Topics of discussion: treatment of nosema and mites (including using oxalic acid), winter preparations, winter protein and carbohydrate supplements, and making beeswax hand creams." Registration required. 603-756-9056. lindanamel@gmail.com.

A Holistic Approach to Depression with Lior Sadeh 10:30am-12pm. Miller-Vincent Room, Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St. Depression is a complex and deeply personal experience that affects emotional, mental, and physical well-being. Workshop explores depression as a whole body condition that is shaped by an interplay of biological, psychological, social, and lifestyle factors. Amy Kraemer: 603-352-0157. akraemer@keenenh.gov.

MISCELLANEOUS

International Observe the Moon Night 6:30-8:30pm. Ashuelot River Park, 273 West Street, Keene. Join Keene Public Librarians and friends from the Keene Amateur Astronomers to take a look at the moon through a number of different types of telescopes. Meet at the parking lot at 5:30. Register to be advised of changes due to weather. Amy Kraemer: 603-352-0157. akraemer@keenenh.gov.

Source to Sea Cleanup: Volunteers Needed 9am-12pm. Regional cleanups at Ashuelot River Park & Beaver Brook Park in Keene. Ashuelot River at Cresson Bridge on Sawyer's Crossing Rd., Swanzey(boaters only in Swanzey). Online registration preferred at www.cheshireconservation.org/s2s.

Monadnock Sustainability Hub Presents: Monadnock Clean Energy Fair 10am-2pm. Keene Rec Center, 312 Washington St., Keene. Workshops, exhibits, kids' activities, and a food truck. www.monadnocksustainabilityhub.org/energy-fair.

"Unpacking the Declaration of Independence: What It Meant Then and Now" 10:30am. Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St., Peterborough. NH Humanities speaker David Alcox. Attendees will learn about the text of the Declaration of Independence, who the key players were, the Enlightenment influence and if the values espoused in the Declaration are still relevant today. 603-924-8040. www.peterboroughtownlibrary.org/.

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Makerspace Open House 11am-2:30pm. Kingsbury Makerspace, Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St. Demos and answering questions. Free, for adults and youth ages 14+. Amy Kraemer: **603-352-0157**. akraemer@keenenh.gov.

Sunday, Sep. 20 ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Peterborough Folk Music Society: Folksoul 7pm. Deb's House, Harrisville. Tickets at **603-318-9196**. www.pfm-concerts.org.

LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

Autumn Equinox Cacao Gathering with Goddess Yoga: Arielle Wylie 5-7pm. Aloha Keene, 83 Court St., Keene. Heart Opening Cacao followed with Sacred Feminine Movement. Enchanted Charm making provides a take home. Suggested donation is \$35. Register at www.vagaro.com/alohakeene.

MISCELLANEOUS

Rindge Conservation Commission: Celebration of National Wilderness Month 1:30pm. Mattabesec Wildlife Corridor. Enjoy the outdoors while learning about the benefits that natural areas provide. Boots or other shoes suitable for hiking recommended. Sunscreen and bug spray, bring a bottle of water. rindgeconcom@rindge.nh.gov.
Keene Pride Festival 12-6pm. Central Square, Keene. Largest Pride event in the region. With over 5,000 attendees and 150 vendors including artisans, non-profits, live music acts, food trucks, circus performances, drag queens, kings, and more.

Monday, Sep. 21 MISCELLANEOUS

Beginner Line Dance 1-2:15pm. Keene Rec. Center, 312 Washington St. Mondays, Sept. 14th - Oct. 26th. Basic line dance steps and beginner level dances will be taught to country and pop music. **603-357-9829**.
Red Cross Blood Drive 12-4:30pm. Jaffrey Bible Church, 133 Turnpike Rd. To make appointment call **800-733-2767**. www.redcrossblood.org.
Red Cross Blood Drive 12-5pm. Spagnuolo Hall, 40 University Drive, Rindge. Donors are asked to call or visit to schedule appointment at **800-733-2767**. www.RedCross-Blood.org.

Tuesday, Sep. 22 ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Poet Talk: Tim Mayo and Toni Ornter 6:30pm. Putney Public Library, 55 Main St., Putney, VT. Mayo and Ornter will read from their new publications. Free, open to the public.

FAMILY FUN

Kids STEAM: Junk Heap Sculpture 3:30-4:30pm. Kay Fox Room, Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St. Using leftover supplies and recycled materials to create new works of art. Registration is required. Ages 6 - 11 and their caregivers. Amy Kraemer: **603-352-0157**. akraemer@keenenh.gov.

MISCELLANEOUS

Chair Yoga 4:30-5:30pm. Cheshire Medical Center. A gentle form of yoga practiced sitting in a chair or standing while using a chair for support. **603-354-5454**. lkablik@cheshire-med.com.
Veterans Coffee Connection 9am. Keene Senior Center, 312 Marlboro St., Keene. Enjoy coffee, snacks.

Wednesday, Sep. 23 ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Music Faculty & Guest Artist Series: Dr. Alex Kollias, clarinet & Vladimir Odinkikh, piano 7pm. Redfern Arts Center, Keene State College. Ticket information Box Office: **603-358-2168**. www.keene.edu/arts/redfern.

MISCELLANEOUS

NH Folktales as an Avenue to Local History and Culture 7pm. Community House, 160 Main St., Marlborough. Presented by Erin Moulton, NH Humanities to Go. Free and open to the public.

Saturday, Sep. 26 DINING PLEASURES

Marlborough Food Pantry: Empty Bowls Fundraiser Event 4-6pm. Community House, 160 Main St., Marlborough. Handicap accessible. Tickets \$25, under 16 or over 80, \$15.

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NH Folktales as an Avenue to Local History & Culture
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Fun (And Free) Things To Do On A Fall Hike

Taking autumn rambles together as a family is the perfect way to disconnect from our screens, build lasting childhood memories, and enjoy low-stress adventures together. And having fun (and at no cost to you) these outings can make all the difference in family time.

If going on a hike, why not have a photo scavenger hunt at the same time? Ahead of the hike, make a checklist of items to spot: a mushroom, a pinecone, an acorn, a red leaf, an orange leaf, holly, a squirrel, a bird, etc. They then take photos of their finds. Who knows, this added twist to a scavenger hunt just might inspire your kids to take up photography!

Fungi hunting in the woods can be a lot of fun. Keep a sharp eye out for wild mushrooms growing on damp logs, under trees, and even on trees. Shelf, coral, oyster, and cauliflower mushrooms are just some of the many types of mushrooms you can find in our area. Take photos or have the kids sketch the mushroom to research later.

You can do the same thing with animal prints and animal scats. Have the kids take a picture so they can identify the animal prints and excrement when they get home. What can they tell from the print or deposit? Is it a large, sunk-in print that might signify a larger animal? Does the scat look really dry from days or weeks ago, or does it appear still moist and fresh, from perhaps today? When you are out in the woods with the family, you can have fun making discoveries and playing detective.

An easy something to do for your youngest explorer in the fall is to take a color walk. Have them choose a fall color and then head out into nature to see all things with that one color. If collecting at the same time, have them glue each item onto a poster board when they get home.

Taking that one step further, why not take the kids on a rainbow hunt in the woods? This is like the color hunt, but the kids are looking for the colors of the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and

violet. Can they find these colors on the ground, on a log, in a tree, the water, or the sky? Again, a journal will help them record their findings.

Monadnock Family

with Lori Catozzi Cook



Another thing to do with the youngest of explorers is a collection treasure hunt. Each child gets a small bag which they can collect five things that they find unique or special. When you get back home, they can tell you about what they collected and what made that item special.

Matching the leaf to the tree game is fun, and educational, for the kids to play. Ahead of time, gather leaves from different trees in the woods. During the hike, give the kids a leaf to find the tree that matches. It's a bonus if they know what kind of tree it is. If not, educate them, or find out for yourselves.

Bringing a magnifying glass along on your adventures allows kids to gain a different perspective and inspect things in a new way. Observing leaves, bugs, and even trees up close will allow them to see details on a leaf, the behavior of bugs, and the texture on a tree. Bring along a journal so that they can write down or draw their findings.

An easy and fun thing for the youngest hikers is creating nature bracelets during their travels. Attach duct tape – sticky side out – to their wrists before the walk begins. They can either see what sticks to them or purposefully select items from nature to stick onto the nature bracelet.

Enjoy your fall outings!
Lori Catozzi Cook is the assistant editor and a feature writer for The Monadnock Shopper News.

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September 10, 2026

Riley Ferrando, daughter of Casey Koziara & Ethan Ferrando, Keene, 5

September 17, 2026

Genevieve Hanlon, daughter of Lindsey Stoddard & Josef Hanlon, Keene, 8

Arthur Daniel Kowalski, son of Erica & Joey Kowalski, Swanzey, 3

September 19, 2026

Christian Joseph Call, son of Anjalee & Tom Call, Keene, 6

Cody John Cormier, son of Christine TenBroeck & Ryan Cormier, Fitzwilliam, 1

September 21, 2026

Kayden Nichols, son of Megan Marynok & Josh Nichols, Hinsdale, 9

HANNAFORD'S BIRTHDAY CAKE

This Week's Winners



Genevieve Hanlon, Keene, 8

Cody John Cormier, Fitzwilliam, 1

Submit your Birthday Kids' entry online at:

www.ShopperNews.com/Community

Teen & Adult Craft Night: Diamond Art Bookmarks At Conant Public Library

Conant Public Library will host a Teen & Adult Craft Night on Friday, September 18th at 6 p.m.

Participants will use diamond art to create be-dazzled bookmarks. The free event is open to ages 12 and up. Supplies are limited, and reservations are strongly recommended.

For more details or to reserve a spot, contact Conant Public Library at 603-239-4331 or visit conantlibrary.org.

Kids STEAM: Junk Heap Sculpture At Keene Library

On Tuesday, September 22nd, a Kids STEAM event, Junk Heap Sculpture, will be held in the Kay Fox Room at Keene Public Library on Winter Street from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. This is for ages six to 11 and their caregivers.

Inspired by Sabato Rodia, Tyree Guyton, the Washed Ashore project, and other artists, the group will be using leftover supplies and recycled materials to create new works of art. Registration is required; call 603-352-0157 or email akraemer@keenenh.gov.

Rindge Conservation Go Wild! Hike Celebrates National Wilderness Month

Rindge Conservation Commission will celebrate National Wilderness Month with a Go Wild! Hike on Sunday, September 20th at 1:30 p.m. at Mattabesek Wildlife Corridor. This outing is free and open to everyone.

Participants will travel over trails with terrain that varies from easy to moderately difficult. Boots or other shoes suitable for hiking are recommended. When participating in outdoor activities, bring sunscreen, bug spray, and a bottle of water.

The hike will begin at the parking area on Old New Ipswich Road. Take NH-119 about 2.8 miles east of the intersection with US-202, turn onto and follow Old New Ipswich Road about 2.3 miles, the parking lot is on the right.

Opening Reception At Jaffrey Civic Center

The Jaffrey Civic Center, at 40 Main Street, will host an opening reception on Saturday, September 19th from 5 to 7 p.m. The free event is open to the public, and refreshments will be served.

The reception will feature art by Jeanne Duval alongside a group show with works by Sophie Sanders, Rachel Thorne-Germond, and Vera Sulima.

For more details, contact the Jaffrey Civic Center at jccedassistant@gmail.com.

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