



THE KEENE SENTINEL



Two local choirs are set to celebrate 40 years of song. **MAGAZINE, C1**

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MONIFF: Take seven

Annual festival returns Friday, promising three film-filled days

By **MEG McINTYRE**
Sentinel Staff

Local film buffs will have more to enjoy than ever at the seventh annual Monadnock International Film Festival, which kicks off Friday.

Over the festival's three days, 13 short films and 21 feature-length films will screen

in locations around Keene and Peterborough, including The Colonial Theatre, the Putnam Theatre at Keene State College, Keene Cinemas and the Peterborough Community Theatre.

Keene Cinemas is a new venue for the festival this year, allowing the event to expand into a full day of events Sunday, according to Dianna Costello,

MONIFF's executive director. Previously, the event occurred over four days, with one film shown on Thursday night and only a few events held Sunday.

In the past, Sunday's main event has been a "Best of the Fest" screening, featuring films honored in different categories throughout the weekend. That event will still occur Sunday at

2 p.m. at the Peterborough Community Theatre. But on Sunday morning at Keene Cinemas, the public is invited to attend a new attraction: a free double-feature of animated films for families.

"It's something that we've always wanted to do, and we were looking for a sponsor who would

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INSIDE

Amy Klobuchar touts grasp of rural issues in campaign stop in Peterborough. **REGION, A3**

Official says attacks in Sri Lanka were retaliation for New Zealand mosque shootings. **WORLD, A6**

An Easter hunt from on high



EMILY MARTINEAU

It's a festive dash as children hurry around Alumni Field in Keene to collect some of the plastic Easter eggs dropped from the sky Sunday. The eggs were scattered from a helicopter as part of the Next Level Church in Keene's latest Easter egg drop.



ANGELIQUE INCHIERCA

Peace of mind, free of charge

Red Cross program offers smoke alarms in Keene, area towns

By **LIORA ENGEL-SMITH**
Sentinel Staff

If you're a homeowner in Keene or surrounding towns, you can receive free smoke detectors courtesy of the American Red Cross next month.

Sound the Alarm is an annual effort to install smoke detectors at homes in 100 municipalities nationwide, according to the Red Cross' website. The organization focuses on one region per state each year, and this time, the Keene area was selected.

The event, which will be held in collaboration with the Keene Fire Department, is slated for Saturday, May 4.

About 30 to 40 trained volunteers will install the alarms at local residences throughout the day, said Wendy Lapham, chief communications officer for the Red Cross' New Hampshire and Vermont Region. They may also test existing fire alarms and discuss home fire escape plans and fire drills with residents and their families. Volunteers will focus on Keene first, she said, before expanding out to surrounding communities, and residents in outlying towns may also get smoke alarms installed at a later date.

Lapham said the Red Cross selects regions based on community need and fire risk. Last year, she noted, the Red Cross responded to

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Gender, sexual identity cases come before Supreme Court

By **ROBERT BARNES**
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court will deliver election-year rulings on one of the nation's most consequential and unsettled civil rights issues — whether federal anti-discrimination laws prevent employers from firing workers because of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

The justices announced Monday they accepted three cases involving gay and transgender employees for the term that will begin in October. The issue has percolated for years in lower courts, and the justices spent months deciding whether now was the time to review those rulings.

It's sure to be one of the new docket's most controversial topics, raising the profiles of the Supreme Court and gay rights as a crowded field of Democrats challenge President Donald Trump for the White House.

The cases involve a transgender funeral home director who won her case after being terminated; a gay skydiving instructor who successfully challenged his firing; and a social worker who was unable to convince a court that he was unlawfully dismissed because of his sexual orientation.

All share a common question: whether Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which forbids discrimination on the basis of sex, is broad enough to encompass discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation.

They will be the Supreme Court's first major gay rights cases without Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, who was the deciding vote and wrote the majority opinions in all of the landmark victories for gay rights, including the right to marriage in 2015's Obergefell v. Hodges.

Kennedy's replacement is Justice Brett

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US elderly twice as likely to work now than in 1985

By **SUZANNE WOOLLEY**
Bloomberg News

Just as single-income families began to vanish in the past century, many of America's elderly are now forgoing retirement for the same reason: They don't have enough money. Rickety social safety nets, inadequate retirement savings plans and sky-high health-care costs are all conspiring to make the concept of leaving the workforce something to be more feared than desired.

For the first time in 57 years, the participation rate in the labor force of retirement-age workers has cracked the 20 percent mark, according to a new report from money manager United Income.

As of February, the ranks of people age 65 or older who are working or seeking paid work doubled from a low of 10 percent back in early 1985. The biggest spike in employment has gone to college-educated older workers; the share of all

employees age 65 or older with at least an undergraduate degree is now 53 percent, up from 25 percent in 1985.

This rise of college-educated older workers has pushed the demographic's inflation-adjusted income up to an average of \$78,000, 63 percent higher than the \$48,000 older folks brought home in 1985. By comparison, American workers below the age of 65 saw their average income rise by only 38 percent over the same period, to an average of \$55,000. United Income's calculations draw on recently released data from the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

There's a mismatch between older workers who need the income the most and those who are able to work and working, said Elizabeth Kelly, senior vice president of operations for United Income and a former special assistant to

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DAILY DIGEST

SENTINEL WEATHER



TODAY: 67

TONIGHT: 47

WEDNESDAY: 58

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