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book of the week

By JULIA MILLER For the Concord Insider

'Ithaca' by **Claire North**

■ he literature of ancient Greece has provided inspiration for thousands of years. Every year sees a new translation or a reinterpretation – or several – of the stories of Greek gods, goddesses and heroes. It must be said, though, that the gods and heroes have taken up most of the space until lately, when many women have begun to imagine what it was like to be a goddess, or a heroine or of men left to a Greek queen, or the spoils of the Trojan War.

In Ithaca, the first in a trilogy, Claire North explores the life and struggles of Penelope, Odysseus' wife. When your husband, the king, has been gone for eighteen years with the vast majority of your kingdom's able-bodied men, how do you cope? What to do with the influx of suitors who

abuse your hospitality while her cousins, Orestes and hoping to take over the kingdom? You know none of them can afford to let your son – Odysseus' heir – live. And above all, how do you

rule without appearing to rule, when everyone knows women can't rule?

Among the problems that Penelope must solve are pirates, when there is no fighting force defend against them;

the lack of a treasury, though all her suitors believe she is hiding the riches Odvsseus must have sent home from Troy; a tenuous relationship with her son Telemachus, who believes he's too old to listen to his mother but has no role model for becoming a man; and finally, the presence of

Elektra, searching for their mother Clytemnestra. If you're a fan of Greek mythology and modern retellings, you know that

nothing good will happen if Orestes and Elektra find Clytemnestra.

Narrated by Hera, the Queen of Olympus, the book gives voice to the many women left childless, unmarried, and nominally in charge of

what had been male responsibilities, in a world where the men who are left refuse to believe women are competent. Even Hera, even the other Greek goddesses, are hemmed in and disrespected by the male gods who have recreated the world in their own image, as they would have it be. Hera

is careful not to shine her light too brightly, lest Zeus and her other brothers see and put an end to her "meddling." In fact, all the women whether mortal or

immortal, have their struggles, brought to vivid life by the author.

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hiking trail

Discover the Legacy of Joseph Plumer

On Nov. 25 at 10 a.m., Bob Manley, co-founder of Hermit Woods Winery & Eatery, invites you to join him on a hike to visit the grave site of Joseph Plumer, the renowned Hermit of Meredith Hill. Joseph, who passed away in 1862 at the age of 88, rests beside the foundation of his house and barn in the heart of the Hermit Town Forest — an area that pointed the grave's locaplayed a pivotal role in in-

ONE DAY ONLY!!

spiring the name of Hermit Woods Winery & Eatery.

A trail to the gravesite once existed, but the passage of time and limited visitors have obscured its path, rendering it impossible to follow. Through diligent research and assistance from local residents, Bob Manley and his partners successfully pintion. With Bob's guidance,

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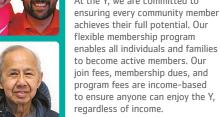
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you too can navigate the way.

During the hike, participants will discover the exact location of Joseph's gravestone and explore the remaining foundations of his home and barn, as well as the stone wall he erected to enclose his livestock. Bob Manley will share Joseph's captivating story throughout the hike, complemented by a brief paper written by one of Joseph's relatives in 1900.

The hike will commence promptly at 10 a.m. from the town border of Meredith and Sanbornton on Hermit Woods Road. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early to secure parking and prepare for the hike. A small parking area is available, and road-side parking is permitted.

The round-trip hike is a short distance of less than a mile. Following the hike, participants are welcome to join Bob for a complimentary tour of the winery upon their return.

In consideration of the residents of Hermit Woods meeting time and location.

Road, the hike is limited to 20 people. Early RSVPs are encouraged to secure a spot. Interested individuals can join the hike by emailing info@hermitwoods.com and obtaining additional details about the meeting time and location.











Courtesy of Wendy Spain

Holidays

By JAMES SPAIN For the Insider

There are times that we gather,

we recall thoughts from the past,

embracing our nostalgia, precious thoughts we want to last.

Holidays have a special

times together close,

these are the very best memories,

with peace in my heart the most.

Thanksgiving will be bittersweet.

Christmas will too,

new memories will be

I miss the people I once

Past will meet the pre-

these special times without contrast,

there are times that we gather.

we recall thoughts from the past.

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'Christmas Carol' returns

"Dickens' A Christmas Carol" adapted by Jill Pinard returns to the Hatbox from Dec. 1 to 17.

For some, the spooky season is over, but at Hatbox Theatre, it's just getting started. "A Christmas Carol" will haunt the Hatbox stage; for this incarnation, Jill Pinard of Three Witches Productions takes the helm once again directing the script she adapted for Hatbox in 2016.

In this original adaption of the holiday classic, Hatbox Theatre focuses on how the dream-like qualities of the ghost story aspect of Dickens' work can bring about redemption. Is it "an

undigested bit of beef" – a line in the original story – that leads Scrooge to have bad dreams or is he really being visited by ghosts intent on helping him redeem himself? Audience members, too, will wonder if they are dreaming when they are immersed in sound, lights and projections that bring out these eerier aspects of Scrooge's fateful night. In creating this script Pinard set out to leave as much of Dickens' original as undigested as possible.

Erik Hodges, who plays Scrooge for the fourth time at Hatbox, explained, " 'A Christmas Carol' at the Hatbox reminds me of one



Courtesy

Erik Hodges as Scrooge with Jim Speigel and Erik Shaffer as Businessmen.

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of those great old Christmas cards that you open to find a neatly folded winter scene that springs up in three dimensions, at once a surprise and familiar, a keepsake and reminder of things past, present and future. It's perfect fare for this little pocket of a theater."

The cast features other locale favorites including: Tina Annis as Mrs. Cratchit, Marjorie Boyer as Belle, Holly Keenan as Christmas Past, Audrey Malone as Peter Cratchit, Emily Peacock as ensemble and Belle understudy (Dec. 3 performance), Zachary Peacock as Fred, Erik Shaffer as Bob Cratchit, Brynnalee Blackmar Simmons as Christmas Present, Jim Speigel as Marley, and Harrison Fogg as Tiny Tim. A Christmas Carol is directed by Jill Pinard. The production includes costumes by Lynn Head; set, lighting and sound design by Andrew Pinard; and stage management by Doris George.

Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.



Belle (Marjorie Boyer) and young Scrooge (Zachary Peacock).

and Sundays at 2 p.m.

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may be purchased online at hatboxnh.com.

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Erik Hodges as Scrooge.

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bulletin

Cunningham guest of literary event

Gibson's Bookstore, in conjunction with New Hampshire Public Radio and the Capitol Center for the Arts, will welcome bestselling author Michael Cunningham to the Bank of New Hampshire Stage for an evening of literary discussion of his first new novel in 10 years, "Day," as part of their author series, "Authors on Main."

A "quietly stunning" (Ocean Vuong) exploration of love and loss, the struggles and limitations of family life — and how we all Provincetown." must learn to live together and apart — from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "The Hours."

Michael Cunningham's novels include "A Home at the End of the World," "Flesh and Blood," "Specimen Days," "By Nightfall," and "The Snow Queen," as well as the collection "A Wild Swan and Other Tales" and the nonfiction book "Land's End: A Walk in



He is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts grant, a Whiting Award, and a Guggenheim Fellowship, and his work has appeared in The New Yorker and The Best American Short Stories. "The Hours" was a New York Times bestseller and the winner of both the PEN/Faulkner Award and the Pulitzer Prize. Raised in Los Angeles, Cunningham



Courtesy

Theatre KAPOW cast members rehearse for the upcoming show.

lives in New York City and is Monday, Nov. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Hatbox Theatre in a professor in the practice at Yale University.

Cunningham will be in conversation with Hannah McCarthy, host of NHPR's Civics 101. A signing line follows the event.

The event will take place

the Bank of New Hampshire Stage. This is a ticketed event. Cost range: \$38-\$48. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Purchase tickets online at ccanh.com/show/michaelcunningham-on-main.

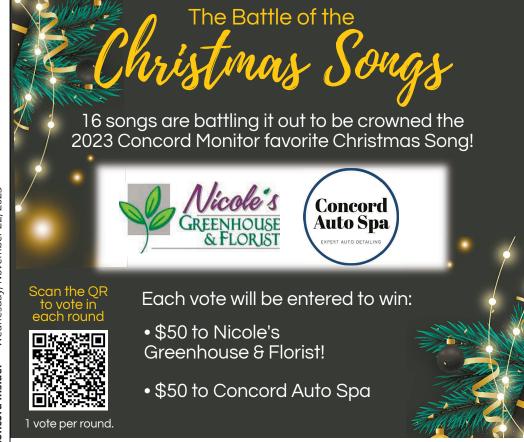
'The Thanksgiving Play'

On Dec. 1 and 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 3 at 2 p.m., theatre KAPOW brings you The Thanksgiving Play, the funniest Thanksgiving

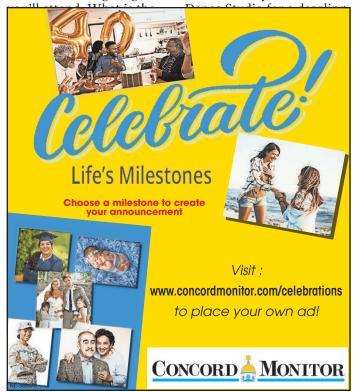
Steeplegate Mall. Follow one life from boyhood dreams to elderly wisdom and compassion. Amazing music punctuates throughout. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are on sale (\$22-\$28) at 715-2315 or online at hatboxnh.com.

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lively atmosphere. Don't miss out on this glamorous affair on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 7 to 11 p.m. Get tickets online at eventbrite.com/e/ winter-ball-at-phenix-halltickets-748907852547

Small Biz Saturday

It's Small Business Saturday on Nov. 25, a day to celebrate and support small businesses and their communities, and we're celebrating by bringing in three local children's authors for a storytime at 11 a.m.! Join us as Deborah Bruss, Matt Forrest Esenwine, and Kari Allen share their new books with the children, and lead a craft.

Where is Little Stripe's Daddy? Little Stripe the zebra cannot find his daddy! whales, and other animals Luckily, he befriends a monarch caterpillar who proudly wears black-andwhite stripes, and wants to help. Little Stripe and his new pal encounter a variety of black-and-white striped animals from different ecosystems. At a first glance, they look like Daddy, but one animal digs, another swims, and yet anever find his daddy? Where is Little Stripe's Daddy? is a fun-filled adventure that gently introduces blackand-white striped animals, both new and familiar. Young readers can explore alongside Little Stripe and the caterpillar with special die-cut holes revealing a clue to the next animal.

Facts about each animal are included at the end of the

The Thing to Remember about Stargazing: What is the most important thing to remember about stargazing? When to do it, who to do it with, what to look for? It's none of those! This picture book's spare, lyrical text offers many possible ways to do stargazing: with a friend, with family, or alone; on a moonless night, or with a full moon, or even with some clouds; on the beach, lying in the grass, or standing on a snowy hill. There is only one rule of stargazing, which is saved for the end, and that is just to do it! Magical illustrations show polar bears, stargazing too, and in the final illustration, diverse kids and animals gaze at the night sky together. Back matter about the constellations completes this bedtime story with its underlying message of love and respect for nature.

Maddie and Mabel Make a Plan: Book 4: Best sisters and big thinkers Maddie and other flies. Will Little Stripe Mabel have a new idea. A really wild idea. But can their idea become a reality? With their sweet charm and innocent curiosity, the sisters make lists, ask questions, and learn when to turn something broken into something new. Together they learn that every idea has opportunities and obstacles.





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Celebrating a 50th Holiday Project

This year, the Capital Region Food Program (CRFP) marks a milestone 50th edition of its Holiday Project. The Holiday Project has been a cornerstone of CRFP's efforts to combat food insecurity. Through five decades of tremendous support from volunteers, donors, and the community, CRFP has been able to provid food for over 250,000 individuals facing food insecurities in our community year round. That's more than 3,500 tons, or \$5.1 million dollars, of food.

"Last year, we transitioned the annual Holiday Project from the food baskets cofounded by my grandfather nearly 50 years ago, to providing holiday meal vouchers redeemable at participating Market Basket locations," said Elena Alois, Capital Region Food Program Chair. "This proved to be a huge success amongst both recipients and our partner agen-

cies. We were able to help feed 28% more families compared to 2021 as well as empower families to purchase the food and grocery items they need, when they need it over the holiday season."

The revised Holiday Project also provides an opportunity to maximize the impact of community donations and reduce unintentional food waste. By providing families with more choices for their specific dietary and nutritional needs, CRFP can reduce unused food donations and create a more sustainable program.

Those seeking food assistance this holiday season are invited to connect with one of the 38 partner agencies participating in the program this year. Voucher applications are only accepted through these agencies until Nov. 30. For more information and a complete list of participating agencies, please



COURTESY

Volunteers work at a previous Capital Region Food Program Holiday Project.

visit capitalregionfoodprogram.org/holiday-project.

For those interested in supporting the Capital Region Food Program, please visit capitalregionfoodprogram.org



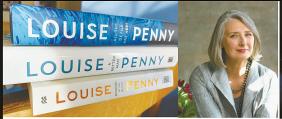
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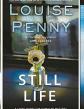
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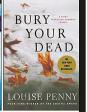
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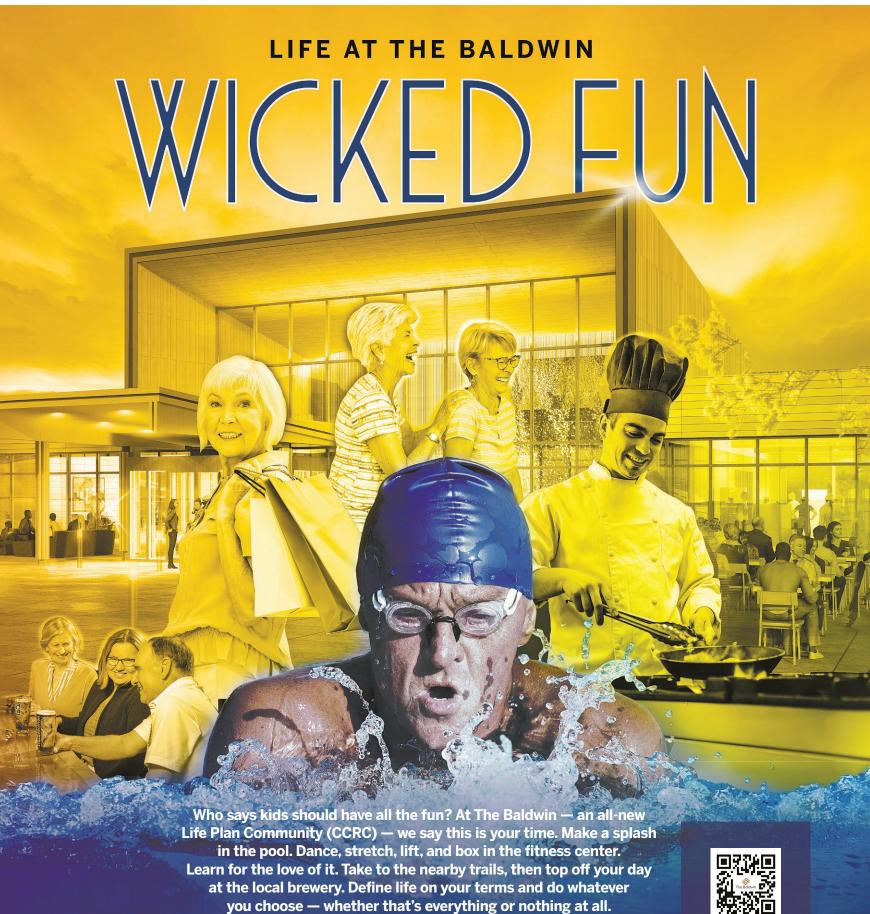


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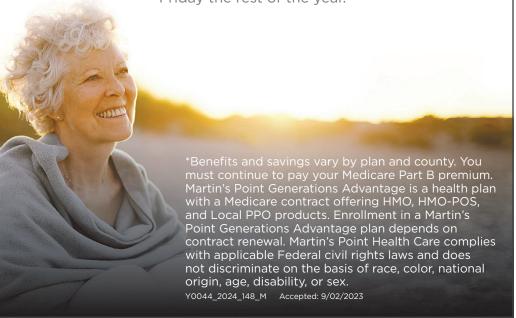
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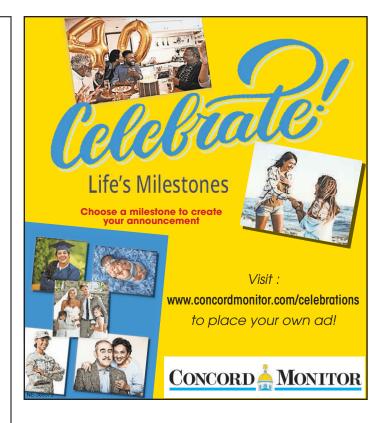
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calendar

Ongoing

■ The Balm for the Wounds We Bear Exhibit: McLane Center, 84 Silk Farm Road. (603) 224-9909.

Nov. 24

■ "Man on the Hill": 12 a.m. \$22 - \$28. Hatbox Theatre, 270 Loudon Road. 715-2315. kevin@ hatboxnh.com.

Nov. 25

- Family Open Gym: 9 a.m. 11 a.m. City Wide Community Center Gymnasium, 14 Canterbury Road.
- Man on the Hill: 12 a.m. \$22 \$28. Hatbox Theatre, 270 Loudon Road. 715-2315. kevin@ hatboxnh.com.
- Storytime! Small Business Saturday edition: 11 a.m. 11:30 a.m. Storytime with Deborah Bruss, Matt Forrest Esenwine, and Kari Allen Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St. 603-224-0562. gibsonsevents@gmail.com.
- Storytime Stations at the Heights: 9:30 a.m. Enjoy books, crafts, activities, and felt board/manipulatives at your own pace with our self-guided stations. (Recommended for ages 0-9) Free. Heights Branch Library, 14 Canterbury Road. jsalemy@concordnh.gov.
- Wine Sampling: 1 p.m. 4 p.m. Wine on Main, Main Street.

Nov. 26

■ Man on the Hill: 12 a.m. \$28 adult, \$25 student, senior, member, \$22 senior member. Hatbox Theatre, 270 Loudon Road. 715-2315. kevin@hatboxnh.com.

Nov. 27

- Adult Drop In Basketball: 8 p.m. 10 p.m. Green Street Community Center, 39 Green St.
- Author Michael Cunningham "Day: A Novel": 7 p.m. 8:30 p.m. "Day: A novel" \$38 \$48. Tickets include a hard-cover copy of the book. Bank of New Hampshire Stage, 16 S. Main St. 603-224-0562. gibsonsevents@gmail.com.
- Drop In Pickleball: 9 a.m. 12 p.m. Green Street Community Center, 39 Green St.
- Futsal: 6 p.m. 8 p.m. City Wide Community Center Gymnasium, 14 Canterbury Road.
- Pleasant Street Toastmasters: 12 p.m. 1 p.m. Toastmasters Int. has helped millions become more confident, a learning-by-doing program created to help you become a better speaker and leader. Free. (603) 271-9222. president-4093097@toastmaster-sclubs.org.
- Understanding Trusts: 11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. This program will introduce you to the concept of Trusts and debunk some of the myths about them. \$5. GoodLife Programs & Activities, 254 N. State St., Unit L. kgagnon@goodlifenh.org.

Nov. 28

- Adult Drop In Basketball: 12 p.m. 2 p.m. Green Street Community Center, 39 Green St.
- Adult Drop In Pickleball: 8 p.m. 10 p.m. Green Street Community Center, 39 Green St.
- Low-Impact Kung Fu and Tai Chi: 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. \$20 drop-in price. Multi-class bundles avail-



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Residents chat after a pickleball match at the Concord Community Center. Adult Drop-In Pickleball takes place Wednesday the City-Wide Community Center.

able for less. Zenith Martial Arts, 40 Thorndike St. 513-9993. zenithmartialarts@gmail.com.

■ Organized Chaos: 4 p.m. Free. Concord Public Library, 45 Green St. jsalemy@concordnh.gov.

Nov. 29

- A Night of NH Nature: 7:30 p.m. 9:30 p.m. Free. Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St. walkershowinfo@gmail.com.
- Adult Drop In Basketball: Nov. 29, 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. Green Street Community Center, 39 Green St.
- Adult Drop In Pickleball: 1 p.m. 4 p.m. City Wide Community Center Gymnasium, 14 Canterbury Road.
- Adult Drop In Pickleball: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Green Street Community Center, 39 Green St.
- BEMER Appointments: 11:45 a.m. BEMER is a class 2 medical device that can increase your overall blood flow by up to 30%. \$10. GoodLife Programs & Activities, 254 N. State St., Unit L.

kgagnon@goodlifenh.org.

- Holiday Book Recommendation Night, with publisher sales reps!: 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. Get book recommendations from the pros! Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St. 603-224-0562. gibsonsevents@gmail.com.
- NHSaves ButtonUp Workshop: 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Concord Public Library, 45 Green St.
- Preschool Storytime: 9:30 a.m. Free. Concord Public Library, 45 Green St. jsalemy@concordnh.gov.

Nov. 30

- Adult Drop In Basketball: 12 p.m. 2 p.m. Green Street Community Center, 39 Green St., Concord.
- Healing Yoga: 8:30 a.m. 9:25 a.m. Gentle yoga class that helps boost your immune system, improve balance and achieve a greater sense of well-being. \$50. GoodLife Programs & Activities, 254 N. State St., Unit L, Concord. kgagnon@goodlifenh.org.







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Beaver and an Uncommon Look at the Common Loon," on Wednesday, Nov. 29. Considered pests by some

and a keystone species by others, beavers are fascinating mammals with a reputation as large as they are. Did you know they can max out around 100 pounds? Willa Coroka will introduce the Walker audience to North America's largest rodent, recognized in fables and unrivaled in their engineering abilities. Willa Coroka is a wildlife educator, keeper of the plants, and lover of nature. She has presented at NH Herb & Garden Day, NH's North-

lecture series

The Walker Lecture Se-

ries invites you to "A Night

of NH Nature: The Brilliant

With their haunting cries and beautiful plumage, common loons are an iconic begin at 7:30 p.m. at Consymbol of the northern wilderness. Join us for an Uncommon Look at the

east Organic Farming Asso-

ciation, and Strawberry

Banke Museum.



Common Loon, a slideshow exploring the natural history of loons in the North Country. Vermont-based photographer Ian Clark spent nearly 2,000 hours kayaking with loons over the last decade and he has taken more than 250,000 photos of loons and their behaviors.

The free event will cord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St.

For a complete season



Beaver.

schedule, visit walkerlecture.org.

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history

Nov. 22, 1963: New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller's schedule for a three-day campaign visit to New Hampshire is on the front page of the Monitor, but the trip will be canceled because of the lead story of the news that Vice President Elday: the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Nov. 23, 2002: The Holiday Magic Parade, which has marked the beginning of the holiday season in Concord for 51 years, marches up Loudon Road in Concord. The procession includes emergency response vehicles, floats, decorated vehicles, equestrian units, clowns, eight marching bands and Santa Claus.

Nov. 23, 1911: The New Hampshire Historical Society dedicates its building in Concord. The building was designed by Guy Lowell, also architect of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and financed by philanthropist Edward Tuck. The society was previously housed on North Main

Street in what are now the law offices of Gallagher, Callahan and Gartrell.

Nov. 23, 1814: On the U.S. House floor, a speech by Rep. Daniel Webster of New Hampshire is interrupted by bridge Gerry has died.

Nov. 24, 2003: In Manchester a jury rules in favor of tobacco giant Philip Morris in the case of a woman who blamed Marlboros for the lung cancer that killed her husband. It is the first tobacco case to go to trial in New Hampshire.

Nov. 24, 2001: Prosecutors encourage hikers to travel with a companion and use caution after a Canadian woman was found stabbed to death on Mount Washington.

Nov. 24. 1989: The temperature in Concord falls to 5 below zero, making this the coldest November day of the 20th century.

Nov. 24, 1736: Hopkinton is granted status as an independent township.

Nov. 24, 1812: The first inmate, John Drew of Meredith, is brought to Concord's first state prison. The prison was built near Washington Street after legislative approval in 1810. During a visit to the city, the Rev. Timothy Dwight, president of Yale, called it "a noble edifice in beautiful granite." How Drew found it Northeastern states that is not recorded. He was sentenced to four years for stealing a horse.

Nov. 25, 2000: Interviews in downtown Concord find the public tiring of the never-ending presidential election. Speaking for many of his fellow city dwellers, Jerry Slaughter tells the Monitor, "I think they should just decide so we can get on with our lives."

Nov. 25, 1957: President Eisenhower suffers a "cerebral occlusion." The problem affects his speech and once again thrusts his special assistant, former New Hampshire governor Sherman Adams, into

greater responsibility.

Nov. 25, 1817: A fire consumes a large three-story house on Main Street in Concord. It will eventually be replaced by the Phenix Hotel.

Nov. 26, 2002: Attorney General Philip McLaughlin announced that New Hampshire will join eight other plan to sue the federal Environmental Protection Agency for relaxing air quality standards, the Monitor reports.

Nov. 26, 2000: More than three-fifths of the state's voting-age population cast ballots in this year's election, Newsweek reports. Only four states did better: Minnesota, Maine, Wisconsin and Vermont.

Nov. 26, 1845: Five hundred twenty-five turkeys mysteriously pass through the streets of Concord, one day before Thanksgiving.

Nov. 26, 1898: A giant snowstorm hits New Hampshire. Concord records 18 inches. Manchester two feet. "Along the coast the loss of life was appalling. More than 200 lives were lost and 200 vessels destroyed," one local history reports.

Nov. 27, 2003: After missing for nearly three weeks, Mocha, a 14-year-old arthritic and nearly deaf chocolate Labrador retriever, has returned to her home in Contoocook, the Monitor reports. "It's an appropriate time of year because we owe thanks to so



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many people," said a jubilant Concord are bitten by a dog Dawn Sanel, Mocha's owner.

Nov. 27, 2002: The Diocese of Manchester must release internal information on several priests being sued for sexual misconduct, a superior judge rules. The documents were requested as part of several civil lawsuits filed by alleged victims of clergy abuse.

Nov. 27, 1817: Between 20 and 30 pet dogs throughout

with rabies. The rabid dog will be killed the next day.

Nov. 28, 1814: An earthquake rattles the Suncook River valley. "The villagers were all out viewing the stars and earnestly telling each other what they heard and how the shake appeared to them, all acting as if in a momentary expectation of another earth-shaker," a Barnstead town history re-









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Qualifications:

- Master's Degree in Education and hold a current Principal Certification (0300) in the state of New Hampshire
- Extensive experience in educational leadership, preferably as a principal or assistant principal. Teaching experience preferred
- Strong understanding of New Hampshire education laws and regulations
- Familiarity with NEASC standards and the vision of a graduate
- Proven ability to manage budgets and allocate resources effectively
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Visionary leadership style with a focus on teamwork, collaboration, and community pride
- Problem-solving skills and the ability to handle complex situations with tact and professionalism

Application Process: Interested candidates are invited to submit a resume, cover letter detailing their relevant experience, three current letters of reference, transcripts, and certification status to:

Lynn Davis
Human Resources Coordinator
SAU #48
47 Old Ward Bridge Road
Plymouth, NH 03264
Idavis@pemibaker.org

Please note the extension for this position and deadline for applications is December 1, 2023.

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