

THE CONCORD INSIDER

Nov. 30 - Dec. 6
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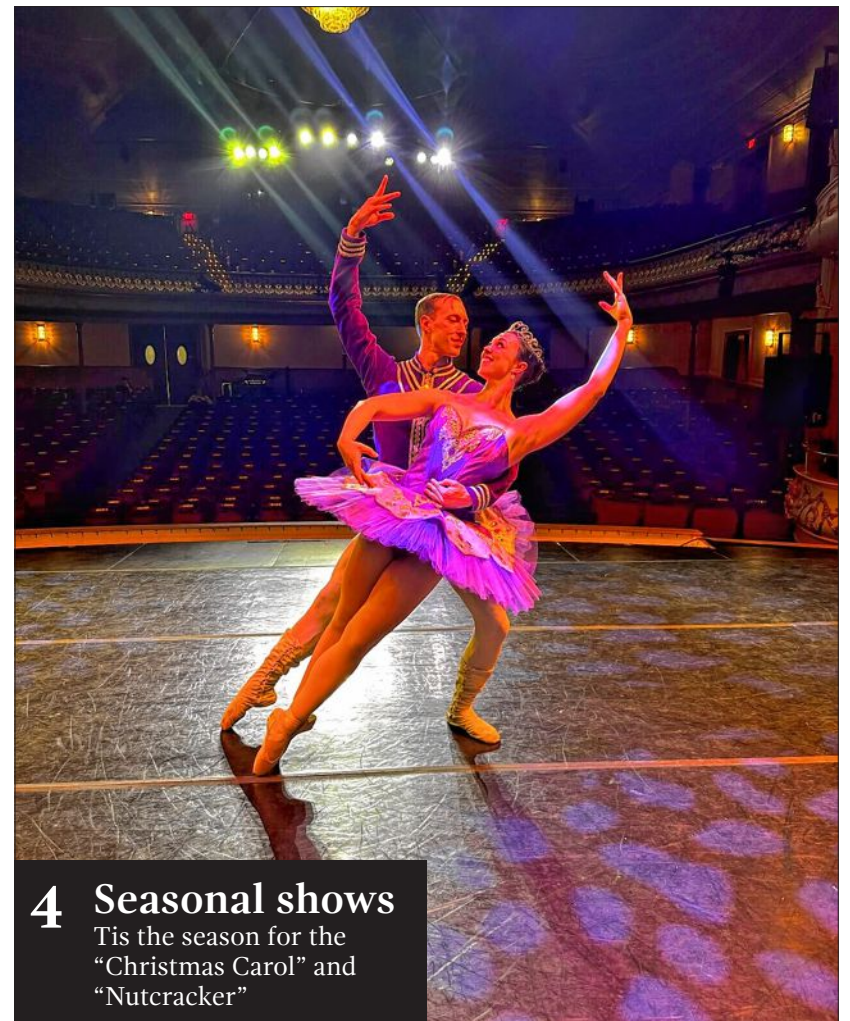
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12 Midnight Merriment

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4 Seasonal shows

'Tis the season for the
"Christmas Carol" and
"Nutcracker"

find it

Book of the week	17
Bulletin board	16
This week in Concord history	20

CONCORD MONITOR EDITOR JON VAN FLEET (jvanfleet@cmonitor.com)
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The Concord Insider is published weekly by the Concord Monitor. Our offices are located at 1 Monitor Drive, Concord, NH. Our postal address is P.O. Box 1177, Concord, NH, 03302-1177.

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calendar

Ongoing

■ **The Balm for the Wounds We Bear Exhibit:** 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. McLane Center, 84 Silk Farm Rd. (603) 224-9909.

Nov. 30

■ **Adult Drop In Basketball:** Noon to 2 p.m. Green Street Community Center, 39 Green St.

■ **Support Pembroke Academy Yearbook Club:** 4 to 8 p.m. Please support the Pembroke Academy Yearbook Club in their pursuit to upgrade equipment, attend educational workshops, & fuel their creativity. Free. 20% of meal value will be donated to PA by D'Angelo. D'Angelo, 126 Loudon Rd. 603-485-7881. kmyers@sau53.org.

■ **Healing Yoga:** 8:30 to 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. kgagnon@goodlifenh.org.

Dec. 1

■ **A Christmas Carol:** 7:30 to 9:15 p.m. \$19 - \$25. Hatbox Theatre, 270 Loudon Rd. 603-715-2315. andrew@hatboxnh.com.

■ **Concord Arts Market Winter Giftopolis:** 5 to 11 p.m. Shop the Concord Arts Market's Winter Giftopolis during Midnight Merri-ment. 7 Eagle Sq., Concord.

info@concordartsmarket.net.

■ **Concord Community Blood Drive:** Noon to 5:30 p.m. Concord Red Cross Office, 2 Maitland St. 1-800-RED CROSS. megan.nantel@redcross.org.

■ **Movement & Song for Memory & Mobility:** 1:30 to 2:25 p.m. A group designed to support and enhance memory and mobility. \$50. GoodLife Programs & Activities, 254 N. State St. kgagnon@goodlifenh.org.

■ **ZOOM: Rock the Bands:** 9 to 9:55 a.m. Boost your exercise routine with a resistance band. \$50. GoodLife Programs & Activities. kgagnon@goodlifenh.org.

Dec. 2

■ **A Christmas Carol:** 7:30 to 9:15 p.m. \$19 - \$25. Hatbox Theatre, 270 Loudon Rd. 603-715-2315. andrew@hatboxnh.com.

■ **Concord Arts Market Holiday Arts Market:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join the Concord Arts Market for a Holiday Arts Market at Kimball Jenkins School of Art. Shop handmade for the holidays! Free. Kimball Jenkins School of Art, 266 N. Main St. info@concordartsmarket.net.

■ **Handel's Messiah:** 10 a.m. to noon. Free. St Paul's Church, 21 Centre St. walkershowinfo@gmail.com.

■ **Hockey Scrimmage:** 1:30 to 3:40 p.m. Douglas N. Everett

Arena, 15 Loudon Road,.

■ **New England Irish Harp Orchestra & Guests:** 1:30 p.m. Free. Heights Community Center, 14 Canterbury Rd. jsalemy@concordnh.gov.

■ **NHTI Men's and Women's Tap Off Festival:** NHTI, 31 College Dr.

■ **St. Nicholas Fair:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Crafts, jewelry, books, white elephants and holiday baked goods. Hot dogs, too. Grace Episcopal Church, 30 Eastman St. 603-606-2398. ashworthwill@comcast.net.

■ **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 Rd. jsalemy@concordnh.gov.

Dec. 3

■ **A Christmas Carol:** 2 to 4:15 p.m. \$19 - \$25. Hatbox Theatre, 270 Loudon Rd. 603-715-2315. andrew@hatboxnh.com.

■ **English Country Dance:** 3 to 6 p.m. English dances draw from the court and country dances of the 17th century through the

21st. The dances are taught and called to live music. \$10. Auditorium at Howard Recreation Center on Gallen State Office Park, Brown & Kent Roads. 603 397 0042. nhecds@comcast.net.

■ **Handel's Messiah:** 7 to 9 p.m. Free. St Paul's Church, 21 Centre St. walkershowinfo@gmail.com.

Dec. 4

■ **Basket Class:** Noon to 4 p.m. This basket class will guide you in weaving a very useful basket that holds a liner for any season or holiday. \$35. GoodLife Programs & Activities, 254 N. State St. kgagnon@goodlifenh.org.

■ **Fitness & Core- Monday:** 10:30 to 11:25 a.m. Workout focuses on core strength, flexibility, and a total body conditioning. \$50. GoodLife Programs & Activities. kgagnon@goodlifenh.org.

■ **Peace & Justice Conversations: How Wars End:** 7 to 8 p.m. Free. (603) 228-0559. doreen@nhpeaceaction.org.

■ **Pleasant Street Toastmasters:** Noon to 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.

■ **Stretch & Strengthen:** 1 to 1:45 p.m. Stretch, increase coordination, confidence and flexibility with gentle exercise and stretching. Free. GoodLife Programs & Activities. 603-228-6630. kgagnon@goodlifenh.org.

Dec. 5

■ **A Walk Back in Time: The Secrets of Cellar Holes:** 6 p.m. Free. Concord Public Library, 45 Green St. jsalemy@concordnh.gov.

■ **Beginners Guide to E-mail:** 3 to 4 p.m. Basics of creating an email account, keeping it organized, and staying safe from scam emails. \$5. GoodLife Programs & Activities. kgagnon@goodlifenh.org.

■ **Chair Yoga:** 9 to 9:45 a.m. Yoga can help your mind, body and spirit and enhance your quality of life. Free. GoodLife Programs & Activities, 254 N State St. 603-228-6630. kgagnon@goodlifenh.org.

■ **Hearing Screenings:** 4 to 5 p.m. Hearing Screenings, Ear Cleaning & Hearing Aid Care. Free. GoodLife Programs & Activities, 254 N. State St. 603-228-6630. kgagnon@goodlifenh.org.




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Courtesy

"A Christmas Carol" will run Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday 2 p.m. through Dec. 17 at the Hatbox Theatre.

Through Dec. 23 'A Christmas Carol'

Come celebrate the holiday season as the Palace Theatre tradition continues with Charles Dickens' classic story of Scrooge and Tiny Tim in A Christmas Carol. Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets, \$28 - \$49, and showtimes at palacetheatre.org.

actors bring George, Clarence, Mary and all the residents of Bedford Falls to life on that fateful Christmas Eve – over 40 different roles. Staged at the New Hampshire Theatre Project, 959 Islington St., in Portsmouth. Ticket cost range from \$23 to \$32. View show times and purchase tickets online at nhtheatreproject.org.

Through Dec. 10 'It's a Wonderful Life'

Joe Landry has re-envisioned the beloved film classic as a 1940's style radio play. Five seasoned

Dec. 1 to Dec. 17 'A Christmas Carol'

Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" adapted by Jill Pinard. This original



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COURTESY

Concord Dance Academy students perform a tap routine in the 2016 Holiday Spectacular.

retelling at 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. Fridays and Saturdays performances are at 7:30 p.m., Sundays

performances at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$22 for students, seniors, or members, and \$19 for senior members. Visit hatboxnh.com.

Dec. 2 to 3 Handel's Messiah

A musical rite of the holiday season, this Baroque-era oratorio still awes listeners more than 250 years after the composer's death.

Concord's performance, conducted by Benjamin Greene, will include professional soloists and a community chorus. Free. Open rehearsal will be Saturday at 10 a.m. and performance is Sunday at 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Church, 21 Centre St., Concord. Info at walkerlecture.org.

Dec. 1 'The Nutcracker'

Safe Haven Ballet is brings

their spirited, full-length ballet of "The Nutcracker" to Nashua Center for the Arts, 201 Main St., Nashua. Performance begins at 7 p.m. Tickets starting at \$40. Visit nashuacenterforthearts.com for more information.

Dec. 2 to 3 Holiday Spectacular

Concord Dance Academy presents a spectacular Holiday Show every December. The show consists of many styles of dance and a variety of holiday songs. These

optional performances are held at the Concord City Audi. The show is for people of all ages to enjoy an affordable one-hour performance. Each year the faculty adds new and exciting holiday pieces from the very traditional to the newest artists. This show will inspire all to get in the holiday spirit. Performances are Saturday, Dec. 2, at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 3, at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$25. Visit concorddanceacademy.com/holiday-spectacular to purchase tickets.

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Dec. 9 'The Nutcracker'

Celebrate the holidays with the tradition of the Nutcracker at 2 p.m. at the Concord City Audi (2 Prince St., Concord). Presented by Turning Pointe Dance, the family-friendly is a wonderful kick-off to the holiday season that retains the classical, magical experience for all ages. Tickets are \$23 and

available at the dance studio (371 Pembroke St., Pembroke), or online at turningpointecenterofdance.com. For more information, call 603-485-8710.

Dec. 9 Boston Holiday Pops

The Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra returns to SNHU Arena (555 Elm St., Manchester)



Courtesy

Boston Pops Holiday Concert returns to SNHU Arena in Manchester on Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

to perform their beloved Holiday Pops concert. The show, entitled "Unwrap the Magic," strives to capture the magic of the Christmas season and the winter charms of New England. Performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$79.50. Visit snhuarena.com to purchase.

Dec. 9 Frosty

The Barter Players, are back with family favorite, Frosty. In playwright Catherine Bush's adaptation of the classic story, a young orphan named Billy discovers magic in a stolen hat. When he places the hat on a snowman's head, that

snowman comes to life. Join Billy and Frosty as they embark on a New York City adventure filled with thrills and chills, and discover that the real magic of Christmas is love. Performances are Saturday at 1 and 3 p.m. at the Chubb Theatre at CCA, 44 S. Main St., Concord. Tickets starting at \$15 at ccanh.com.

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Dec. 10 Holiday POPS!

A New Hampshire favorite. Nobody rings in the holiday like Symphony NH. Join Maestro Kalia for a high-energy performance at the Concord City Audi (2 Prince St., Concord), starting at 3 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$10 to \$65. To purchase, go online to symphonynh.org/23-24-events/holiday-pops-concord. For more information, call 595-9156.

Capital Jazz Orchestra Holiday Pops!

The Capital Jazz Orchestra 'Holiday Pops!' show is an exciting annual tradition that highlights memorable musical chestnuts as well as featuring vocalists CJ and Laura Poole singing Yuletide classics. Narrator Laura Knoy will recite her unique reading of 'The Night Before Christmas' and there is always a festive sing-a-long to put everyone in the Holiday spirit! The show begins at 4 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts. Info and



CJ and Laura Poole will be featured in the Capital Jazz Orchestra's Holiday Pops on Dec. 10. Courtesy photo

tickets at ccanh.com.

Dec. 14 Buzz Ball

Greg and the Morning Buzz Team host to All-Star Cast of musicians, performers, comedians, and special guests. You never know

who'll show up at the BUZZ BALL! (Artists to be announced) Join in the fun at 7 p.m. on Thursday night at the Capitol Center for the Arts. Info and tickets at ccanh.com.

Dec. 15 to 17

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'A Christmas Carol: The Musical Ghost Story'

Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative brings this holiday classic back to Laconia. This original adaptation by NH native Joel Mercier features a bright score, some twists and turns in the plot, stunning costumes and special effects, and some frightful ghosts, all while staying true to Dickens' original novella. A new Lakes Region holiday tradition, featuring granite state actors of all ages. Performances at the Colonial Theatre in Laconia

on Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets \$18 to \$22 at coloniallaconia.com.

Dec. 15 A Celtic Family Christmas

Award-winning fiddle virtuosos Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy celebrate the holidays with an unforgettable evening of music, dance, and storytelling for the young and the young at heart. To fans of fiddle music, MacMaster needs no introduction. Throughout

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Courtesy

Safe Haven Ballet will present "The Nutcracker" in Concord on Dec. 16.



Monitor file

Mr. Aaron presents his Holiday concert on Dec. 16 at the Bank of N.H. Stage.

a 25-year recording career, this Order of Canada recipient has released 11 albums. She has won two JUNO Awards and 11 East Coast Music Awards and been nominated for a Grammy. Donnell is the

former music leader of the internationally acclaimed family group Leahy, winners of three JUNO Awards. Widely recognized as one of the best fiddlers in the world, his high-energy playing style makes him a highly popular performer. Join Natalie, Donnell, and their seven MacMaster-Leahy kids as they take to the stage for A Celtic Family Christmas, their beloved show where they share their favorite holiday music and traditions with audiences. Show is at 7 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts. Info and tickets at ccanh.com.

Dec. 16 Mr. Aaron Holiday

Mr. Aaron is a multi-instrumentalist performer and composer making music and videos for kids and their grown-ups, ages 0-10. He's a proud father of three amazing girls, and a longtime professional musician with a career playing in bands, musical theatre, and more. He'll perform a kid-friendly holiday concert at 11 a.m. at the Bank of N.H. Stage in Concord. Info and tickets at ccanh.com.

'The Nutcracker'

Safe Haven Ballet is thrilled to bring our spirited, full-length ballet of The Nutcracker to The Capital Center for the Arts! This dynamic performance includes all of your favorite characters including a strong-minded Clara to the eccentric Drosselmeyer, the spooky Rats, as well as our beloved Sugarplum Fairy danced by artistic director, Lissa Curtis. In the Land of Sweets you will be introduced to a variation unique to Safe Haven Ballet called The Brave American. We would love your energetic applause! Show is at 4:30 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord. Info and tickets at ccanh.com.

Dec. 17

A Child Needs Your Voice.

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'The Nutcracker'

NH School of Ballet presents "The Nutcracker." With a cast of more than 50, come watch the falling snow, the growing Christmas tree, and the wonderful dancers of NHSB dance this holiday tradition. Performance begins at 2 p.m. at the Audi (2 Prince St., Concord). Tickets available at the studio, and at the door. For more information, call 668-5330.

'How the Grinch Stole Christmas'

The story of a lonely creature who tries to cancel Christmas by stealing the gifts and decorations from the homes of the nearby town of Whoville on Christmas Eve. This ballet is full of laughter, romance, and an important lesson about the true meaning of the holiday season. The Grinch is a unique interactive experience for audience members of all ages and learning opportunity that transforms our ballet stage into a vibrant classroom! The performance is set to both classical music and contemporary holiday music and includes narration so each audience member has a clear understanding of the story and can fully appreciate the artistry of

the professional dancers. Show is at 4:30 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts. Info and tickets at ccanh.com.

Dec. 22 'Charlie Brown Jazz Christmas'

Based in Conway, The Heather Pierson Jazz Trio (Heather, piano and vocals; Shawn Nadeau, bass; Craig Bryan, drums) performs a rich variety of Heather's originals, jazz and blues standards, and unique re-workings of familiar American music. In their annual December offering, they share their interpretation of Vince Guaraldi's iconic soundtrack of 'A Charlie Brown Christmas' plus other Guaraldi compositions and other holiday favorites. Heather is a pianist, singer/songwriter, and performer known for her bell tone vocals and equal parts New Orleans-Oscar-Brubeck jazz piano leanings. The Heather Pierson Jazz Trio perform the entirety of the Charlie Brown Christmas album as recorded by the Vince Guaraldi Trio, as well as other Guaraldi compositions. The show will be held at 7 p.m. at the Bank of N.H. Stage in Concord. Info and tickets at ccanh.com.



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Saturday December 9



Saturday December 16
4:30PM



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season of giving

Spread Joy, Shop Concord for the holidays

In an age dominated by online shopping, the personal touch and sense of community that comes with supporting local businesses can often be overlooked. Engaging with business owners, retail workers, and fellow shoppers contributes significantly to the holiday spirit and the quest for the perfect gifts. Fortunately, Concord's retail stores continue to thrive, offering a warm, small-town ambiance that fosters a strong sense of community and camaraderie.

Intown Concord and the Greater Concord Chamber of Concord, in collaboration with NBT Bank, N.A. proudly present "Spread Joy, Shop Concord," an initiative designed to showcase the stories of local business owners, their dedicated employees, and the impact of



Courtesy

Holiday shoppers peruse Gibson's Bookstore shelves

community support on their lives.

Participation in the "Spread Joy, Shop Concord" campaign is open to businesses, nonprofits, and

community members, encouraging them to share their experiences, promote unique products and exclusive deals, and celebrate community events in Con-

cord. The campaign underscores significant dates, including Plaid Friday — an alternative to Black Friday, and Midnight Merriment — a magical evening of special deals and festive celebrations hosted by Intown Concord. To join the movement and learn more about the campaign, follow #SpreadJoyShopConcord on Facebook, and Instagram or visit con-

cordnhchamber.com/spread-joy-shop-concord.

Moreover, this holiday season, downtown Concord will be immersed in festive cheer, with holiday music serenading shoppers every Saturday in December. Embrace the joy of shopping locally and contribute to the vibrancy and vitality of our community, making this holiday season truly special and joyful for everyone.

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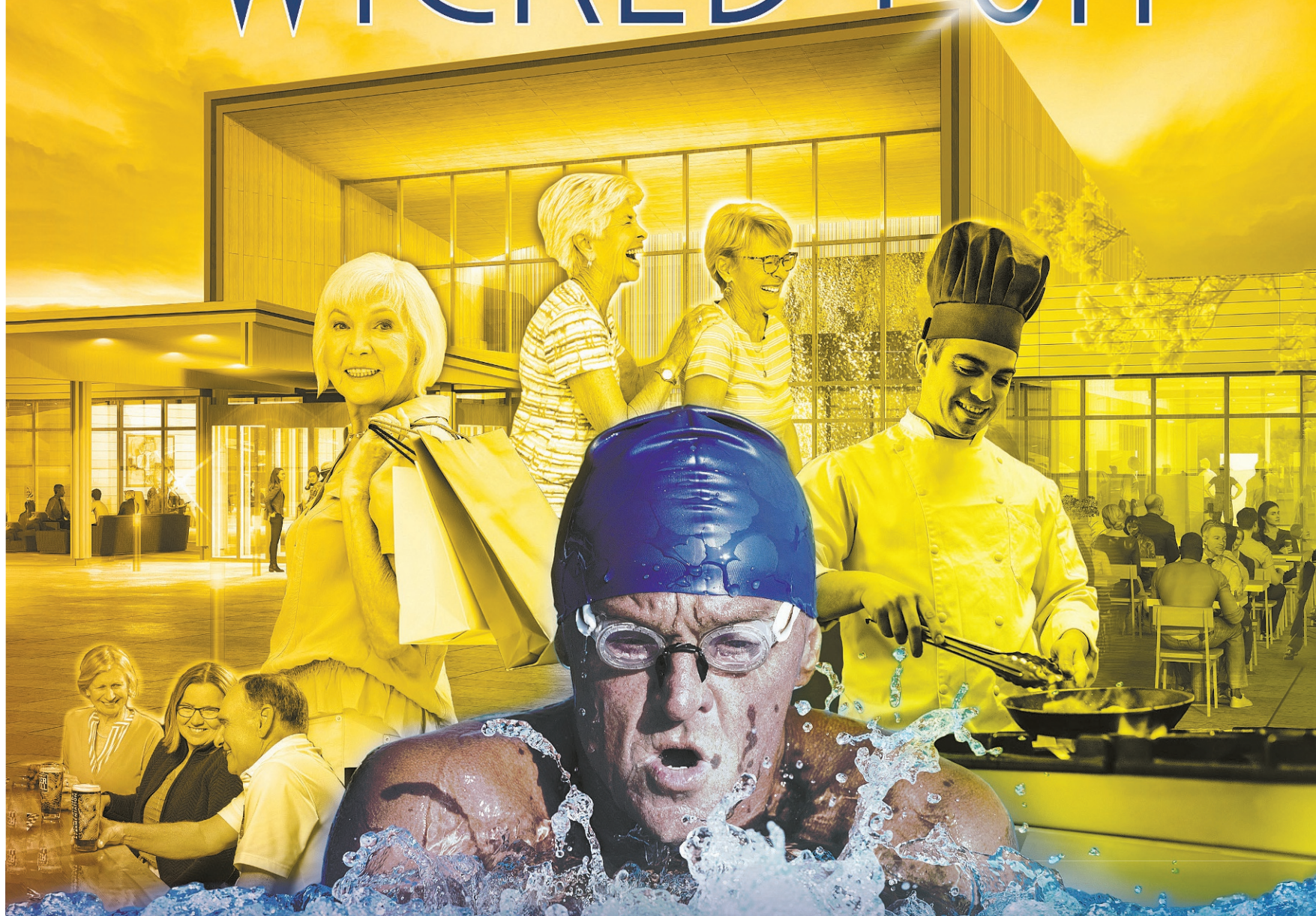
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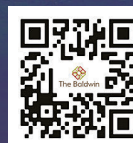


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midnight merriment

A very merry downtown

The enchanting Midnight Merriment is poised to make its triumphant return to downtown Concord on Friday, Dec. 1. From 5 p.m. until midnight, the streets will come alive with the joy and magic of the holiday season, welcoming residents and visitors to partake in a festive celebration.

As the unofficial kickoff to the holiday season, Midnight Merriment symbolizes

a time of hope for downtown businesses and eager shoppers alike. The evening will commence with the arrival of Santa Claus and Nazzy's Holiday Dance Party on City Plaza at 5:30 p.m. Families are invited to capture the magic by having photos taken with Santa, courtesy of a volunteer photographer or using their own devices.

Throughout downtown,



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Santa will greet children in City Plaza at 5:30 p.m.

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strolling carolers, holiday tunes, s'mores stations, complimentary gift wrapping, and hot cocoa will provide delightful moments for all. The Concord Arts Market Winter Giftopolis at the Eagle Square Atrium, located at 7 Eagle Sq., from 5 to 11 p.m., will offer a plethora of handmade gift options. An exciting Gingerbread House showdown will unfold at Eatxactly Sweet Café in Eagle Square, inviting shoppers to cast their votes for their favorite gingerbread creations.

To encourage late-night shopping, numerous downtown shops and restaurants will extend their hours until midnight, offering special discounts, quick bite options, and promotions throughout the evening. Adding a new dimension to this year's festivities is the addition of Storytime with Santa at Gibson's Bookstore



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from 4:15 o 5 p.m.

Free parking is available at 19 Storrs St. (across from Granite Group) and 162 Storrs St. (across from Concord Antiques). Parking is free on all downtown streets/garages after 7 p.m. We kindly request that you do not park in the Capitol Shopping Plaza aka the Market Basket Plaza unless you are shopping at the businesses in that plaza.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the event's many generous sponsors. Leading the way as the Presenting Sponsor is Xfinity. In the Silver Bells category, we have Breezeline, City of

Concord, Fidium Fiber, Frank FM, NBT Bank, NH Federal Credit Union, and The Duprey Companies. Reindeer sponsors include Granite State Candy Shoppe and the Rotary Club of Concord. Finally, in the Elf category, we have Company C, Concord Food Co-op, Hannaford Supermarkets, MicroDAQ, LLC, and Taylor Rental Concord. This collaborative support from our sponsors ensures the success and festive spirit of the upcoming event.

For more event details, including a map and agenda, visit Intown Concord's website intownconcord.org.



Monitor file

Eatxactly Sweet Cafe will again host a Gingerbread House Showdown.

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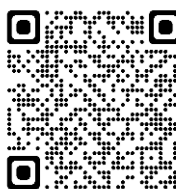
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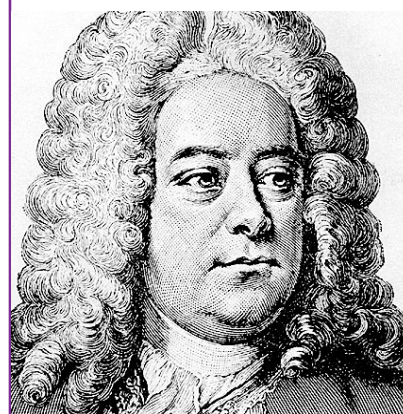
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bulletin board

New date for 'War in Gaza and Israel'

The next Humanities at Home program "The War in Gaza and Israel: Background and Context" will be held Dec. 1 at 5 p.m. via Zoom. It is free and open to the public. Why is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict so complicated and difficult to resolve? Will there ever be peace in the region? Join us on Dec. 1, as Dr. Tarek El-Ariss of Dartmouth College leads a discussion about the events that continue to unfold in the Middle East, providing historical background and political context for the crisis involving Israel, Palestine, and Hamas. Register at nhhumanities.org.

Walker Lectures presents The Cartells

A returning Walker favorite, The Cartells will bring their musical prowess and vocal harmonies to the City Auditorium to treat the audience to a night of pop, rock, jazz, Motown and swing. The band covers everyone from Elvis to Norah Jones. The show is held Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium. For more information, visit walkerlecture.org.

Student recital

Concord Community Music School's student recital will be held Friday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. Student recitals are part of the Music



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School's multi-level curriculum for private lesson students. These frequent performance opportunities help our students perform more easily, broaden their musical skills, and help them make new musical friends. This event is free and open to the public. It will be held in the school's historic Recital Hall.

Calendars available

The 2024 Meredith Village Savings Bank annual complimentary community calendars are now available at the Bank's branch offices while supplies last. The calendar features a dozen beautiful photos representing the Lakes Region, White Mountains and Sea-

coast areas. MVSB opens its annual community calendar photo contest to local amateur and professional photographers each spring and selects the winning calendar photos through a blind review process by MVSB employees. This year's contest saw more than 500 photo entries.

Contra Dancing

Join Shaker Village for Community Old Time NH Dance on Dec. 9 at 4 p.m. The event will feature music by Dudley Laufman with Wind In The Timothy and Canterbury Orchestra singers. All the dances — longways, quadrilles, circle — will be called and will be suitable for families, children, and folks of all abilities. Featuring hot apple cider, hot chocolate, and holiday sweet treats. Tickets are \$10 per person. Ages 25 and younger are free. Families and children welcome. Visit shakers.org for more information.

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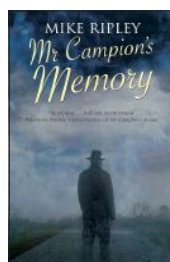
book of the week

'Mr. Campion's Memory'

By Mike Ripley
(228 pages, mystery, 2023)
London 1972, Mr. Campion's nephew, Christopher, a public relations man, asks for Campion's help at Christopher's father's funeral. He needs to have Campion search his memory from 40 years ago.

Christopher handles public relations for Lachlan McIntyre, a wealthy businessman who owns construction vehicles – earth movers. McIntyre is in line for a peerage and so his background is being carefully examined.

Then a reporter has a disastrous interview with McIntyre, and is later found dead in a car near McIntyre's estate. Campion's name is found on a list in the reporter's notebook. Campion must discover why, and try to remember events of many years ago. His wife Amanda is not happy about him getting involved. She reminds Campion that he is older now and he "is not available for any high jinks, dubious shenanigans or public relations stunts of any kind."



In 1932 Campion and his associate Lugg broke up a violent assault on a Jewish silversmith in London. They captured two of the four assailants. But the other two were never identified.

This event is somehow connected to the modern-day murder of the reporter. (Lugg is one of my favorite characters in the series. He's a combination of a butler, cook, and assistant and looks like bouncer. He has his own way of speaking and way of looking at the world).

What Campion does find in his unofficial investigation are unsavory characters, racism, gypsy camps, an impoverished gentlewoman, dubious stories, forgery, a fanatical horsewoman, and a long-lost son. At the end there's a terrifying chase through the woods at night! Campion is being pursued by a relentless killer. Finally, someone is killed in a very unusual way, one that I've never come across before. It's unexpected and unique!

Author Mike Ripley does an admirable job of continuing with Margery

Allingham's Campion tales. Margery is one of the four "Queens of Crime" - the others are Agatha Christie, Dorothy Sayers and Ngaio Marsh. If you like this mystery, you are in luck. There are others in the series, and you should also try the original Campion stories by Allingham. They are wonderful, and Campion and Lugg are quite an interesting and formidable team!

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Discover unique and vintage finds downtown

'Once you start secondhand shopping, you realize your personal style develops really quickly'

By **SRUTHI GOPALAKRISHNAN**
Monitor staff

Looking to find a unique and appreciated gift or some holiday decor, but worried about adding to the waste stream? Shopping at consignment or thrift stores is a fuss-free way to take one step toward making a sustainable choice.

"At a consignment store, you are shopping sustainably without even trying because it's just built into the business model," said Elyssa Alferi, the owner of Lilise Designer Resale, a vintage and designer consignment store on Main Street.

Purchasing previously owned items keeps products in circulation for longer while also reviving old fashion trends like over-size jackets and vintage sequined bags from the 1990s.

At Lilise, Alferi gives a home to designer labels like Chanel, Gucci, Tory Burch and others that still have a lot of life left in them. Concord residents can shop for high-end fashion items without having to travel all the way down to big cities like Boston or New York City, thanks to the store's consignment of curated designer labels.

Unlike fast fashion fabrics such as acrylic or plastic leather, most of the clothes in the store are made from sustainable fabrics such as wool and cotton, which compost better but are more expensive to buy off the rack.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, landfills in the United States were a dumping ground for 11.3 million tons of textile waste in 2018, accounting for more than 65% of all



GEOFF FORESTER / Monitor staff

A used high-end bag at Lilise Designer Resale, a vintage and designer consignment store on North Main Street.

textiles produced that year.

Apart from sustainability, thrift shopping can help you find your authentic style by experimenting with different styles of clothing rather than going to a store that projects their style on you, said Alferi, a lifelong thrifter.

"Once you start secondhand shopping, you realize your personal style develops really quickly versus a sense of style and I think that's important," explained Alferi.

Secondhand shopping extends far beyond clothing. Whether you're looking for a vintage couch, a quirky decor piece, or a rare book, consignment stores are a treasure trove of one-of-a-kind finds that can't be found anywhere else.

In fact, a vintage piece of furniture would better withstand the test of time, said Sue McCoo, one of the owners of Hilltop Consignment Store on Main Street. The store offers pre-owned furniture, books, clothes, vinyl records, and more, featured across two floors.

"Many of the older things

were better made, and particularly furniture," said McCoo. "Some of it is 50 or 100 years old, and it'll go another 50 or 100 years."

Thrift shopping is not only a cost-effective and environmentally friendly way to shop, but it is also gaining popularity among younger generations. The sheer joy of discovering a special item and the nostalgia associated with each item are just a few of the reasons why secondhand shopping has gained so much appeal in recent times.

"There is an incredible history behind mundane stuff that you would never think have any value," said Brad Decker, owner of Concord Antiques, pointing to 20th-century dinnerware brought in by one of his dealers from an old house the owners were selling. "Everything here has a piece of history."

McCoo describes consignment stores as "living museums."

At Decker's store, most of the items are sourced from auctions, yard sales and people wanting to declutter

their homes. He says that while it is unfortunate that sometimes people don't see the value of items that are still in good condition, offering them at the store gives those items a second chance to find a new home where they will be appreciated and used.

These local consignment stores not only provide unique finds for customers, but they also have a positive impact on the community. By practicing profit-sharing with consignors, who are often residents of the Concord area, a portion of the money from sales goes back into the local economy.

"People don't always want or should necessarily donate their stuff, so this is a way for people to get some money," McCoo explained. "So it [the consignment store] does a lot of things, and all of the money stays local, so it's a circular economy."

Taking the time to find a

new home for items before throwing them away, explained McCoo can be a great way to reduce waste and promote sustainability.

Before you throw something away, ask if your neighbors want it or if there is someone who is crafty and looking for a specific item to turn into something new. If not, consider donating them to a charity or bringing them to a consignment store.

It's a small but important step that can make a big difference in the long run.

"I think it's important to keep as much stuff out of landfills as possible and just give it another life," Alferi said. "If you dump those materials [that take a long time to decompose] in a landfill, your kids or their kids will be stepping on them years later."

A version of this article was previously published in Around Concord magazine.

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history

Nov. 30, 2003: Speaking at a house party in Bow, presidential candidate Howard Dean says that an independent Palestinian state is the best hope for an Arab-speaking democracy in the Middle East. And only an American president can broker the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord needed to establish such a state, he says.

Nov. 30, 2001: Robert Tullach, a teenager accused of killing two Dartmouth College professors will use an insanity defense at his trial, his lawyer states in a court filing. The defendant will argue he suffers from a "severe mental defect or disease and that his acts were the direct result of the mental defect of disease," public defender Richard Guerriero states in the filing.

Nov. 30, 1870: Fire burns out the stone warehouse behind the Eagle Hotel, leaving only the granite walls standing. Today, the warehouse is home to the Museum of New Hampshire History.

Dec. 1, 2001: With a weekend of spontaneous and rehearsed music, the Concord Community Music School celebrates a milestone: the grand opening of a \$1.5 million addition that more than doubles the space for the school.

Dec. 1, 1848: Edward E. Sturtevant, a Concord printer, writes to his parents in Keene: "The Shakers are having a trial before a Legislative committee, which excites some curiosity among the people of this town. . . . A petition is presented for a law against parents and guardians binding children to them, alleging that they (the children) are taught to disregard all friendship for father & mother & brothers & sisters - to know no God except the Elders of the Shaker Society - and accusing the Shakers of abusing them & killing them, &c.&c. The petitioners have brought for-

ward some 20 who have been Shakers but left them who testify strongly in favor of the petitioners. It is amusing to hear these backsliders swear down the religion of Anna Lee."

Dec. 1, 1994: The early morning barks of a dog save the lives of six residents in a Merrimack Street apartment house destroyed by fire. The cause: overheated wiring within a bathroom wall.

Dec. 2, 2000: Shortly before 2 p.m. Canterbury Country Store owner Bob Summers rings up his final sale and then shuts the place down. The store will reopen nearly a year later, after members of the community invest several hundred thousand dollars to buy it.

Dec. 2, 1774: New Hampshire's committee of correspondence, formed the previous year to stay in touch with other colonies about acts of the British Parliament, sends a warrant to all towns urging the adoption of a continental association. The association's purpose is to establish a boycott on the import and consumption of British goods. Although Portsmouth and Exeter will quickly approve the warrant, itinerant merchants working further inland will make the boycott difficult to enforce.

Dec. 2, 1962: Deposits of thorium are discovered in the White Mountains.

Dec. 3, 2001: Manchester inventor Dean Kamen unveils the Segway Human Transporter on ABC's Good Morning America. Formerly known as Ginger or IT, the one-person, battery-powered scooter averages a speed of 8 mph, but can travel up to 17 or 18 mph.

Dec. 3, 1963: Gov. John King says he favors an appropriate memorial for the slain President John F. Kennedy but will oppose any effort to rename one of New Hampshire's mountains after Kennedy.

Dec. 3, 1991: John Sununu, who left New Hampshire's corner office three

years earlier to become President Bush's most powerful adviser on domestic politics, resigns as White House chief of staff. Sununu writes that he did not want to become a "political negative" for the president and a "drag" on his reelection chances.

Dec. 4, 1900: In raids, 16 police officers from Manchester and Suncook bust 20 people under the state's pro-

hibition statute. Since bootleggers are still active, "there will be plenty to drink," a Suncook villager says.

Dec. 5, 1908: Fire Chief William Green sets out for the movies at Phenix Hall, but even though the same show played at the nearby Opera House for more than a year, the Phenix is filled. There are plans to convert yet another building in the Durgin block into a theater.

Dec. 5, 1999: A fire breaks out at South Congregational Church in Concord 45 minutes before a scheduled performance of Handel's Messiah. After about 80 singers and musicians in formal attire gather on Pleasant Street, they head for nearby St. Paul's Church, where about 200 people are treated to an impromptu rendition of the oratorio's most famous section.

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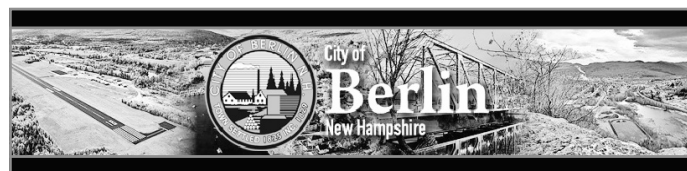
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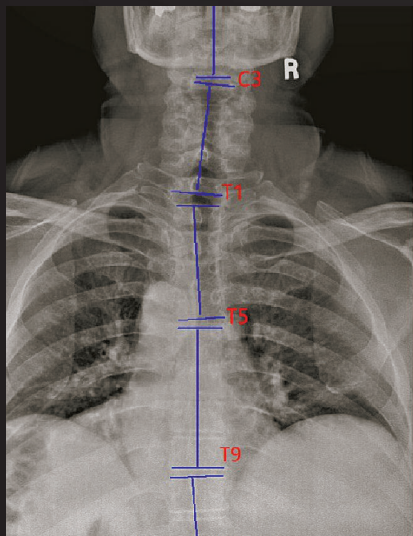
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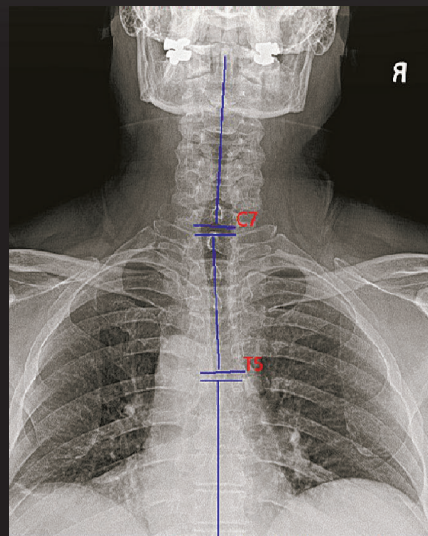
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