

BLAINESWORLD

#1158
12.3.2018

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1. Reflections

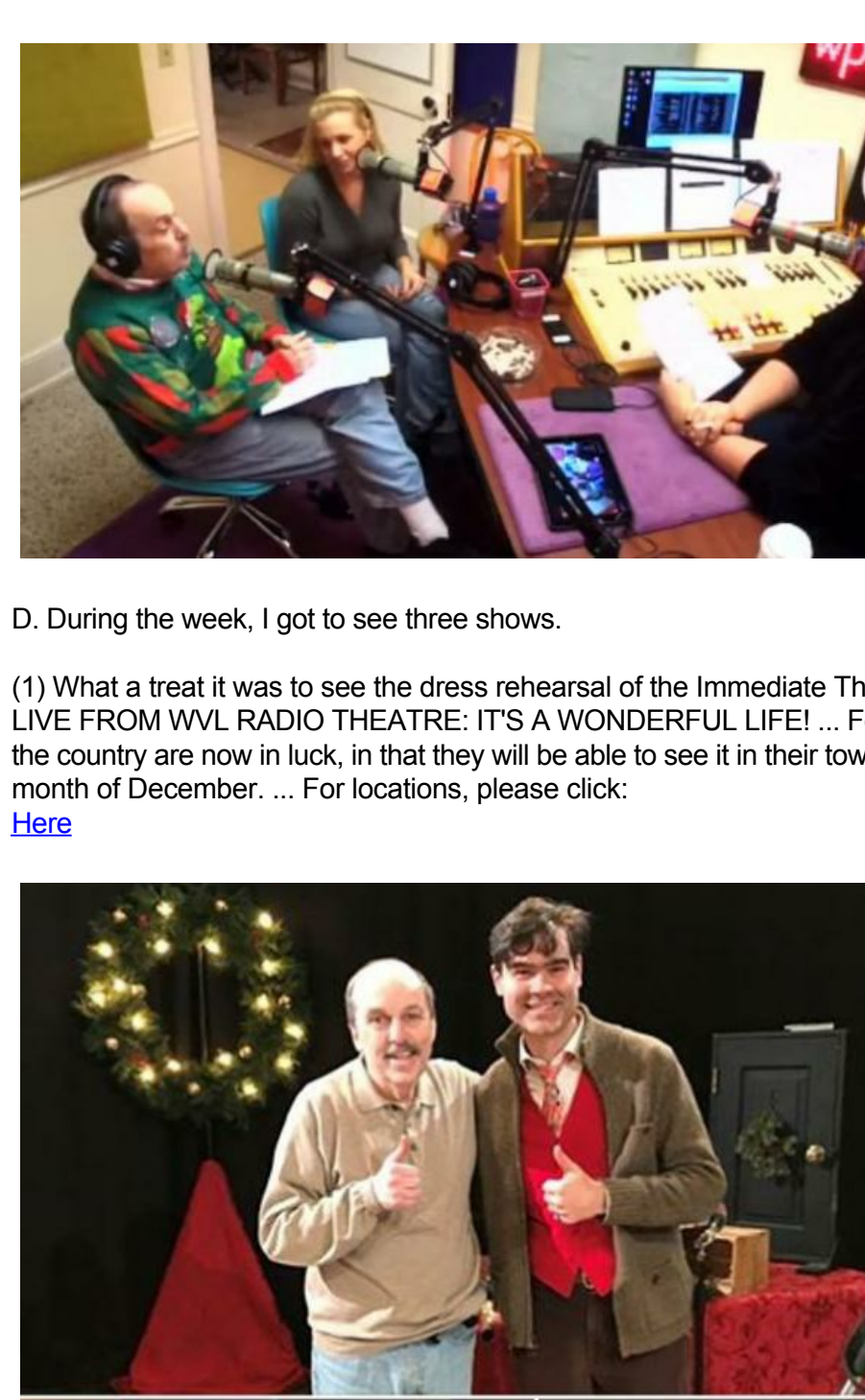
If you're reading this via Facebook or LinkedIn, please be advised that you will get it quicker if you get it via email. Another advantage: You'll never miss it that way because you may not have logged in for a day or two. And in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber, all you need to do is send an email to: bjnbc@aol.com and put **SUBSCRIPTION** in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Unrelated to this box of Mallomars from Bill and Diane Lewis, our Pennsylvania friends. Unfortunately for us, this confection of graham cracker and marshmallow, dipped in chocolate, doesn't seem to be available in Asheville ... so we very much appreciated the thoughtfulness behind the gift. ... For other tidbits of information about the cookie, please click:
[Here](#)

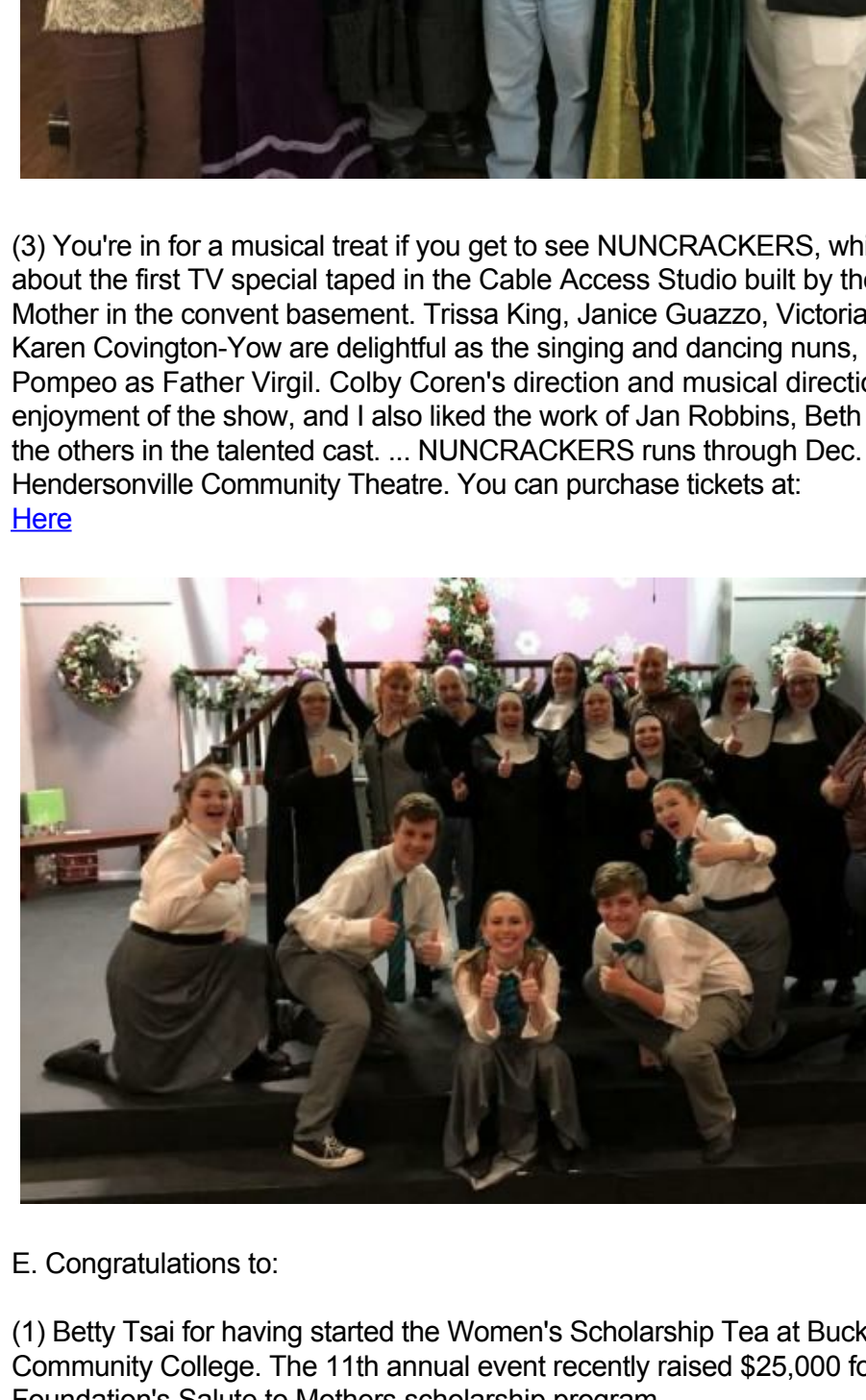


(2) Got to eat gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches that we purchased from the Melt Your Heart food truck located at the Wedge. They were the absolute best!



B. **THE MYSTERY BENEATH THE SOCK ...** On Wednesday, I was bit by a wasp. ... It soon became a tiny blister, then almost overnight, morphed into one of the largest blisters my doctors had ever seen ... I didn't want to gross you out, so all you can see in this picture is what the blister looks like when covered by my sock. ... If you want to see pictures of the actual blister, click here:
[Here](#)

But be forewarned: These pictures are not for the faint of heart. ... PS. The good news, to quote my father, is that I'm now 97% great and 3% not so great. The even better news, to quote the classic Gloria Gaynor song, is that "I Will Survive." Do join me in singing along by clicking:
[Here](#)



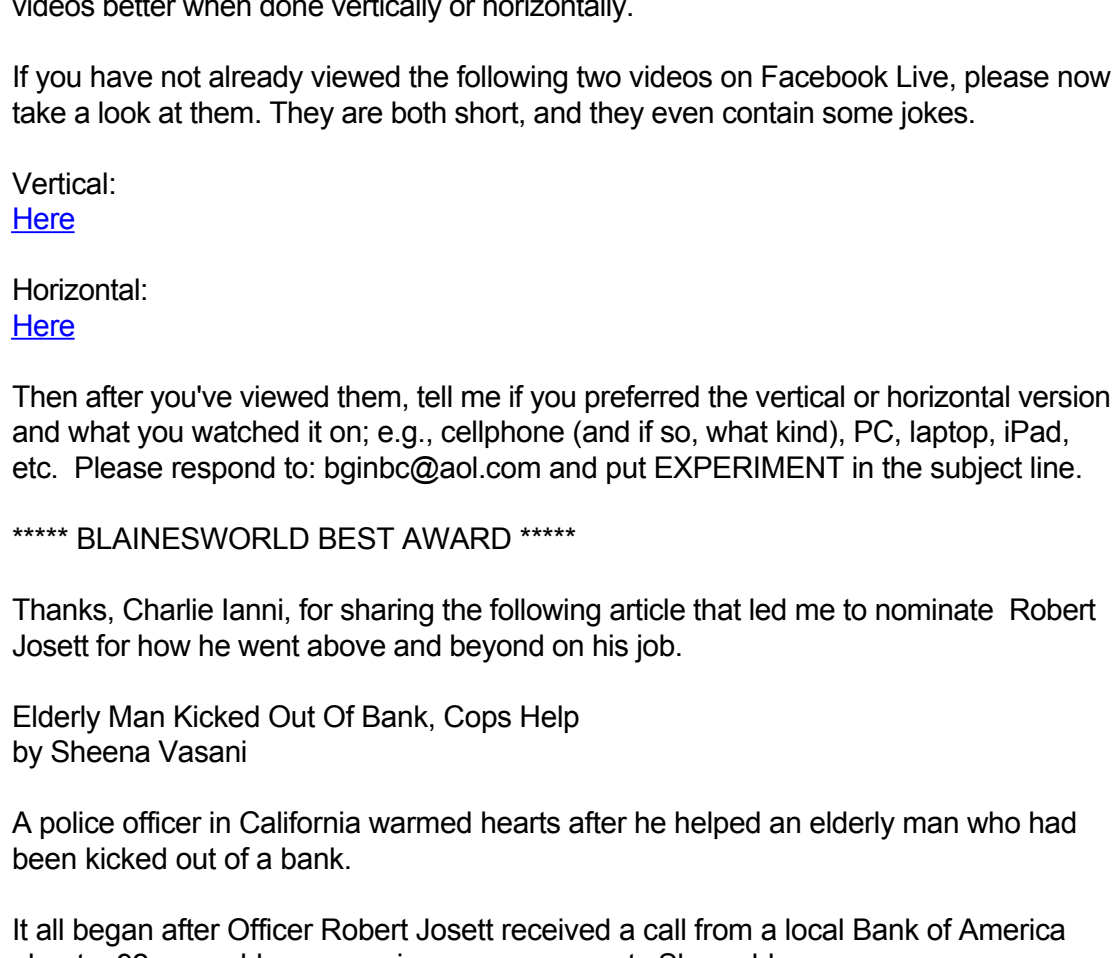
C. WPVM/FM invites you to listen to the BLAINESWORLD show from Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018 ... You'll hear Jeff Catanese (left picture) in the first half, Artistic Director for Attic Salt Company, discuss **BLUE WINDOW**; for more information, click:
[Here](#)

And Mandy Sayles, Producing Director for SART, discuss **SANDERS FAMILY CHRISTMAS** in the second half; for more information, please click:
[Here](#)

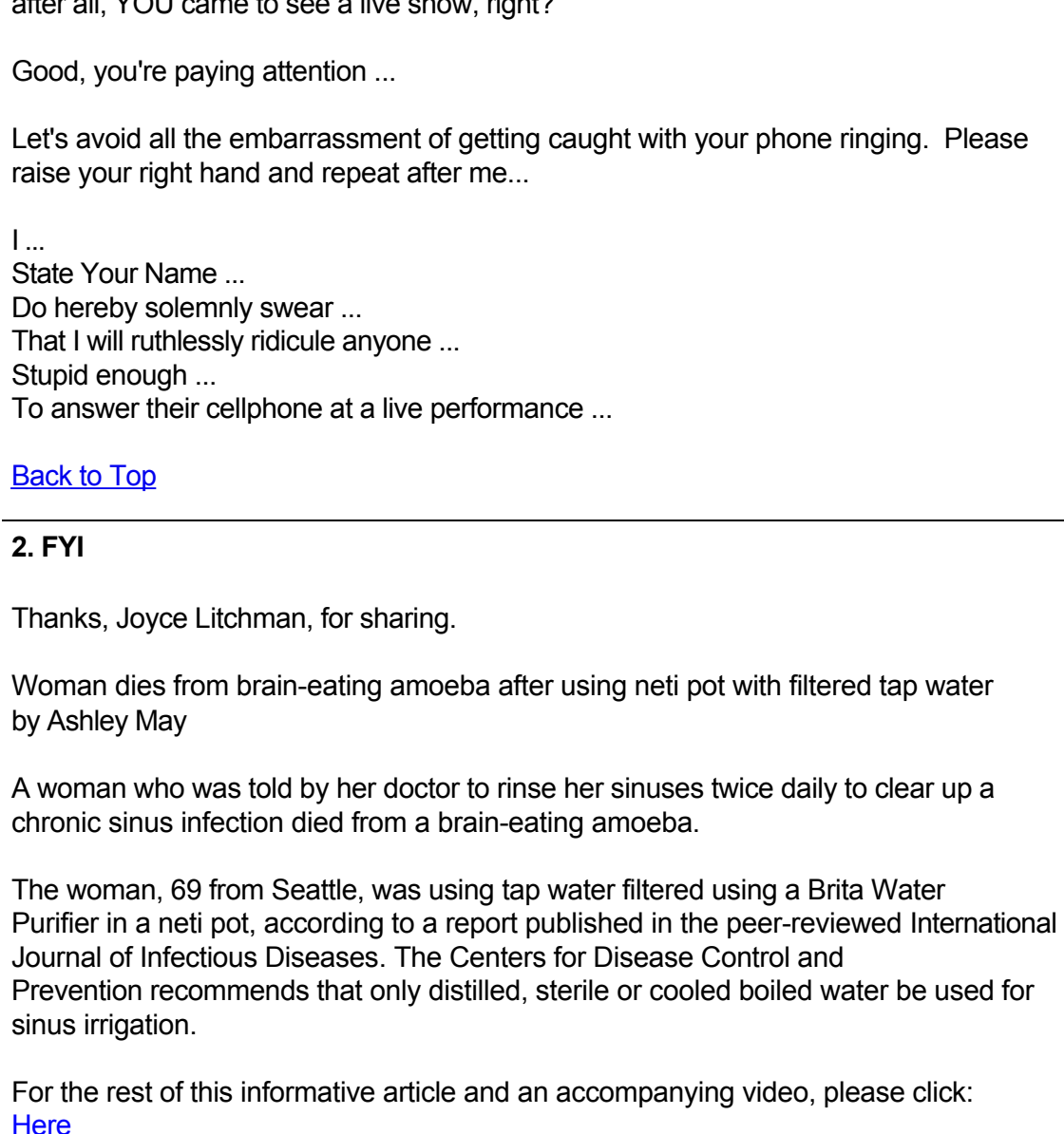
To listen to the entire broadcast, click:
[Here](#)

To watch just the Catanese interview via Facebook Live, click:
[Here](#)

Note: Because of bad weather, the interview with Sayles was just over the phone.

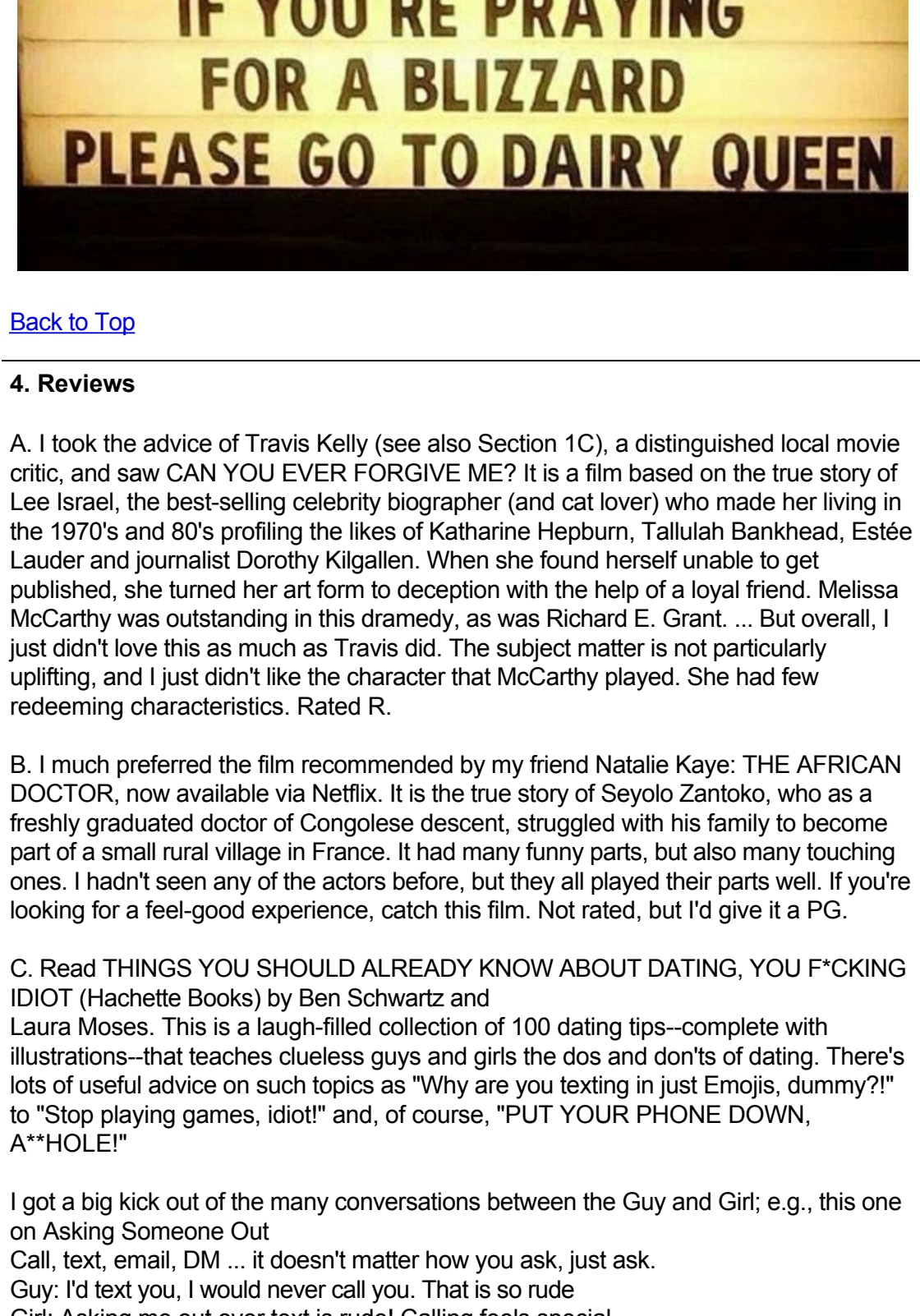


In addition, I got to discuss holiday movies with Travis Kelley and Meg Hale Brunton on **SHINE BOX**, Travis' show on WPVM. To view our discussion, please click:
[Here](#)

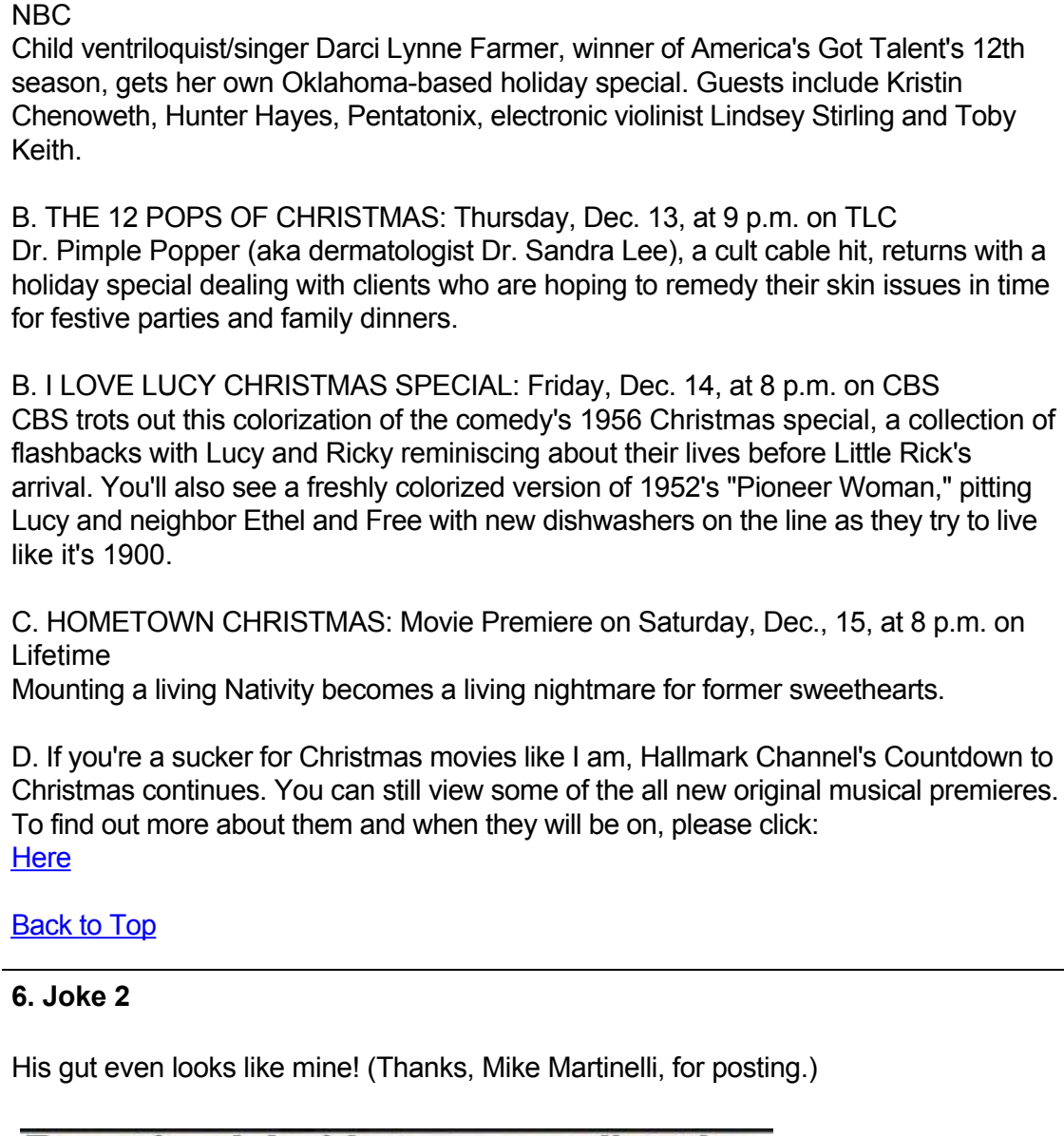


D. During the week, I got to see three shows.

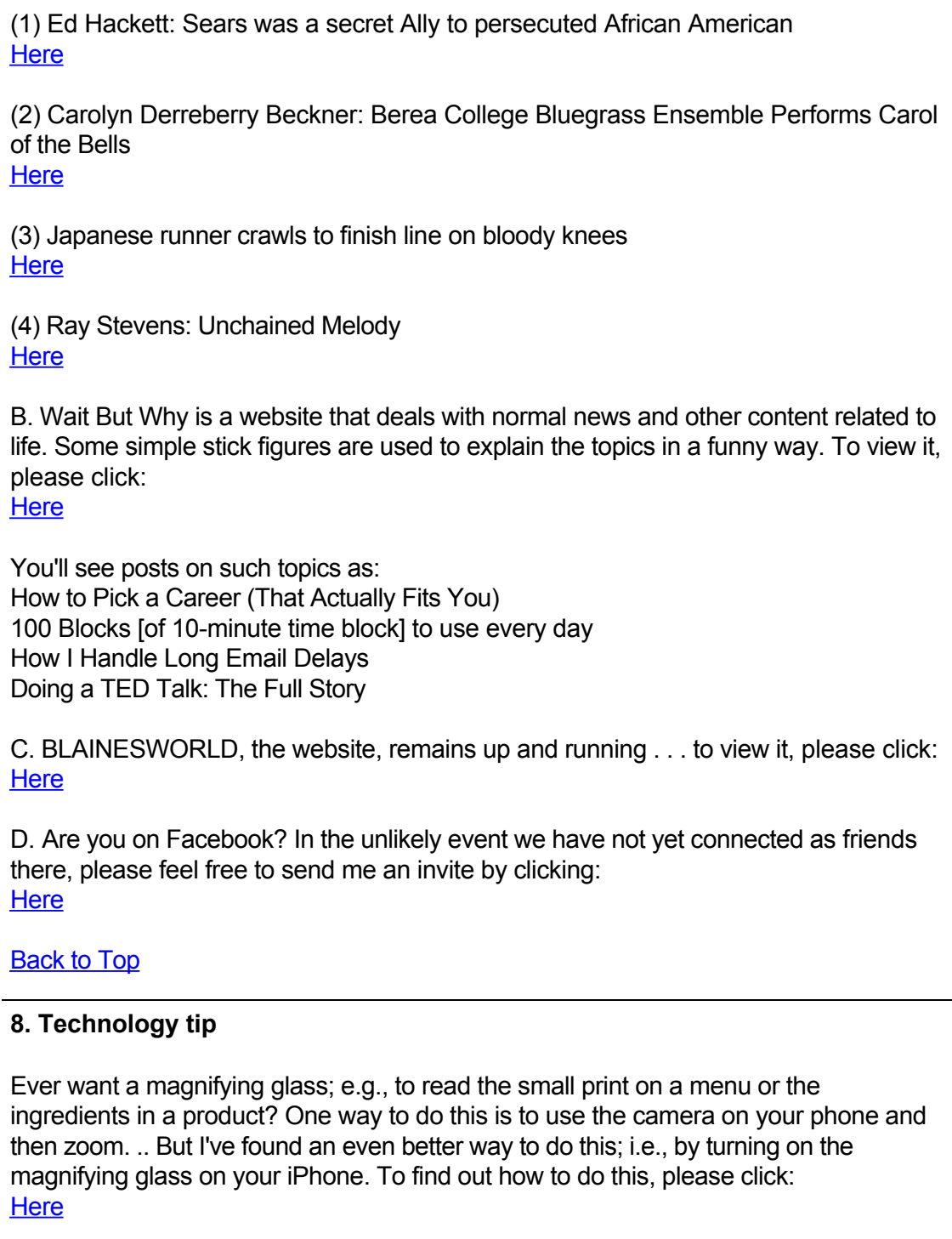
(1) What a treat it was to see the dress rehearsal of the Immediate Theatre Project's **LIVE FROM WVU RADIO THEATRE: IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE!** ... Folks throughout the country are now in luck, in that they will be able to see it in their towns through the month of December. ... For locations, please click:
[Here](#)



(2) Kudos to Brevard Little Theatre for its fabulous production of **THE LION IN WINTER**, a play that depicts the personal and political conflicts of Henry II of England, his wife Eleanor of Aquitaine, their children and their guests during Christmas, 1183. ... All those in the cast were just perfect for their roles: Kai Elijah Hamilton, Jennifer Memmo, Rachel Adams, Garren Orr, Alex Guazzo, Mika Parks and Miles Rice, and Jonathan Forrester's direction was spot on. ... Do yourself a favor and catch this powerful drama before its run ends on December 16. For tickets, please visit:
[Here](#)



(3) You're in for a musical treat if you get to see **NUNCRACKERS**, which is a show about the first TV special taped in the Cable Access Studio built by the Reverend Mother in the convent basement. Trissa King, Janice Guazzo, Victoria Lamberth and Karen Covington-Yow are delightful as the singing and dancing nuns, as is Bob Pompeo as Father Virgil. Colby Coren's direction and musical direction added to my enjoyment of the show, and I also liked the work of Jan Robbins, Beth Bristol and all the others in the talented cast. ... **NUNCRACKERS** runs through Dec. 16 at Hendersonville Community Theatre. You can purchase tickets at:
[Here](#)



E. Congratulations to:

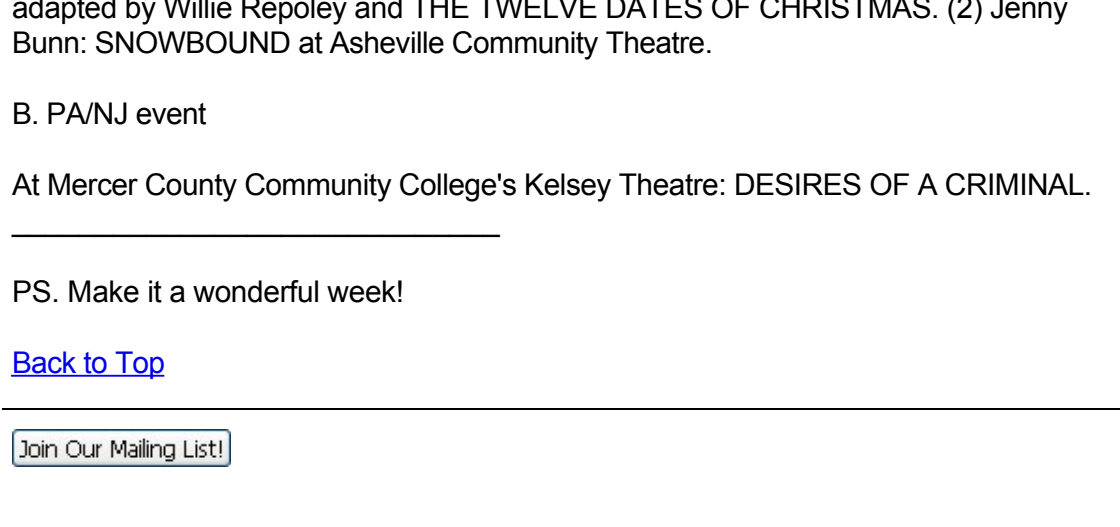
- (1) Betty Tsai for having started the Women's Scholarship Tea at Bucks County Community College. The 11th annual event recently raised \$25,000 for the BCCC Foundation's Salute to Mothers scholarship program.
- (2) Darcy Grabenstein for starting a new position as Senior Manager of Content Marketing Strategy at TrialScope.

F. Reminder: There's still time to enter ...

***** CONTEST #25 *****

Two lucky readers will each get a calendar put together by Judith Loniak, my talented friend. See below for one of the pictures from the Sunrise calendar. In last week's issue, you saw one of the pictures from the Seasonal calendar.

To enter the contest, send an email to: bjnbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #25 in the subject line, then include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email, along with your preference (Seasonal or Sunrise calendar). I can't guarantee that the winner will receive his or her choice, but I'll try to get it to you. All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Mon., December 10, 2018.



G. **MANY** Thanks to all those who responded to my Please Help request in last week's issue.

I'm continuing with my experiment on using Facebook to determine if you can see videos better when done vertically or horizontally.

If you have not already viewed the following two videos on Facebook Live, please now take a look at them. They are both short, and they even contain some jokes.

Vertical:
[Here](#)

Horizontal:
[Here](#)

Then after you've viewed them, tell me if you preferred the vertical or horizontal version and what you watched it on; e.g., cellphone (and if so, what kind), PC, laptop, iPad, etc. Please respond to: bjnbc@aol.com and put **EXPERIMENT** in the subject line.

***** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD *****

Thanks, Charlie Ianni, for sharing the following article that led me to nominate Robert Josett for how he went above and beyond on his job.

Elderly Man Kicked Out Of Bank, Cops Help
by Sheena Vasani

A police officer in California warmed hearts after he helped an elderly man who had been kicked out of a bank.

It all began after Officer Robert Josett received a call from a local Bank of America about a 92-year-old man causing a scene, reports Shareably.

To see what next happened, please click:
[Here](#)

UPDATE: Last week, Montford Park's John Russell was deservedly named the recipient of this award. Afterward, I asked him for his hilarious cellphone announcement that he makes as part of his curtain speech. It follows.

Now you're turned your cellphone to silent or vibrate or even turn them off ... because after all, YOU came to see a live show, right?

Good, you're paying attention ...

Let's avoid all the embarrassment of getting caught with your phone ringing. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me...

I ...
State Your Name ...
Do hereby solemnly swear ...
That I will ruthlessly ridicule anyone ...
Stupid enough ...
To answer their cellphone at a live performance ...

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2. FYI

Thanks, Joyce Litchman, for sharing.

Woman dies from brain-eating amoeba after using neti pot with filtered tap water by Ashley May

A woman who was told by her doctor to rinse her sinuses twice daily to clear up a chronic sinus infection died from a brain-eating amoeba.

The woman, 69, from Seattle, was using tap water filtered using a Brita Water Purifier in a neti pot, according to a report published in the peer-reviewed International Journal of Infectious Diseases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that only distilled, sterile or cooled boiled water be used for sinus irrigation.

For the rest of this informative article and an accompanying video, please click:
[Here](#)

Note: Kindly share the above with anybody you know who uses a neti pot.

FYI, part 2

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
[Here](#)

(1) Howard Debs: Can Reading Make You Happier? (2) Why Hospitals Should Let You Sleep. (3) Forget Trinkets. These Gifts Change Lives. (4) The \$25 Nap Is Worth It.
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3. Joke 1

Great advice! It has me found to myself, "Self, get thee to Dairy Queen." (Thanks, Dean Jones, for sharing.)

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4. Reviews

A. I took the lead on **CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME?** (see also Section 1C), a distinguished local movie critic, and saw **CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME?** It is a film based on the true story of Lee Israel, the best-selling celebrity biographer (and cat lover) who made her living in the 1970's and 80's profiling the likes of Katharine Hepburn, Tallulah Bankhead, Estee Lauder and journalist Dorothy Kilgallen. When she found herself unable to get published, she turned her art form to deception with the help of a loyal friend, Melissa McCarthy who was learning in this dramedy, as was Richard E. Grant. ... But overall, I just didn't love this as much as Travis did. The subject matter is not particularly uplifting, and I just didn't like the character that McCarthy played. She had few redeeming characteristics. Rated R.

B. I much preferred the film recommended by my friend Natalie Kaye: **THE AFRICAN DOCTOR**, now available via Netflix. It is the true story of Seyidlo Zantoko, who as a freshly graduated doctor of Congolese descent, struggled with his family to become part of a small rural village in France. It had many funny parts, but also many touching ones. I hadn't seen any of the actors before, but they all played their parts well. If you're looking for a feel-good experience, catch this film. Not rated, but I'd give it a PG.

C. READ **THINGS YOU SHOULD ALREADY KNOW ABOUT DATING, YOU F*CKING IDIOT** (Hachette Books) by Ben Schwartz and Laura Moses. This is a laugh-filled collection of 100 dating tips--complete with illustrations--that teaches clueless guys and girls the dos and don'ts of dating. There's lots of useful advice on such topics as "Why are you texting in your EMOJIS, dummy?!" to "Stop playing games, idiot!" and, of course, "PUT YOUR PHONE DOWN, A--HOLE!"

I got a big kick out of the many conversations between **YOUR** and **GIRL**; e.g., this one on Asking Someone Out
Call, text, email, DM ... it doesn't matter how you ask, just ask.
Guy: I'd text you, I would never call you. That is so rude
Girl: Asking me out over text is rude! Calling feels special.
Guy: But if I call you, we would have to talk.
Girl: What do you think we're going to do on the date.
Guy: This is moving too fast.

And that was followed by this bit of advice:
When you're asking someone out, be clear that it's a date.
Guy: Wanna come over and chill?
Girl: What does that mean?
Guy: Uh, you know ... chillllll.
Girl: "Chill" could mean anything. Am I coming over to watch cat videos or am I coming over to plow?
Guy: Wow ... ummm both?

My only regret that this book wasn't available in my dating days!
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5. TV alert

A. **DARCI LYNNE: MY HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS:** Tuesday, Dec., 11, at 9 p.m. on NBC
Child ventriloquist/singer Darci Lynne Farmer, winner of America's Got Talent's 12th season, gets her own Oklahoma-based holiday special. Guests include Kristin Chenoweth, Hunter Hayes, Pentatonix, electronic violinist Lindsey Stirling and Toby Keith.

B. **THE 12 POPS OF CHRISTMAS:** Thursday, Dec. 13, at 9 p.m. on TLC
Dr. Himple Popper (aka dermatologist Dr. Sandra Lee), a cut cable hit, returns with a holiday special dealing with clients who are hoping to remedy their skin issues in time for festive parties and family dinners.

B. **I LOVE LUCY CHRISTMAS SPECIAL:** Friday, Dec. 14, at 8 p.m. on CBS
CBS trots out this colorization of the comedy's 1956 Christmas special, a collection of flashbacks with Lucy and Ricky reminiscing about their lives before Little Rick's arrival. You'll also see a freshly colorized version of 1952's "Pioneer Woman," pitting Lucy and neighbor Ethel and Free with new dishwashers on the line as they try to live like it's 1900.

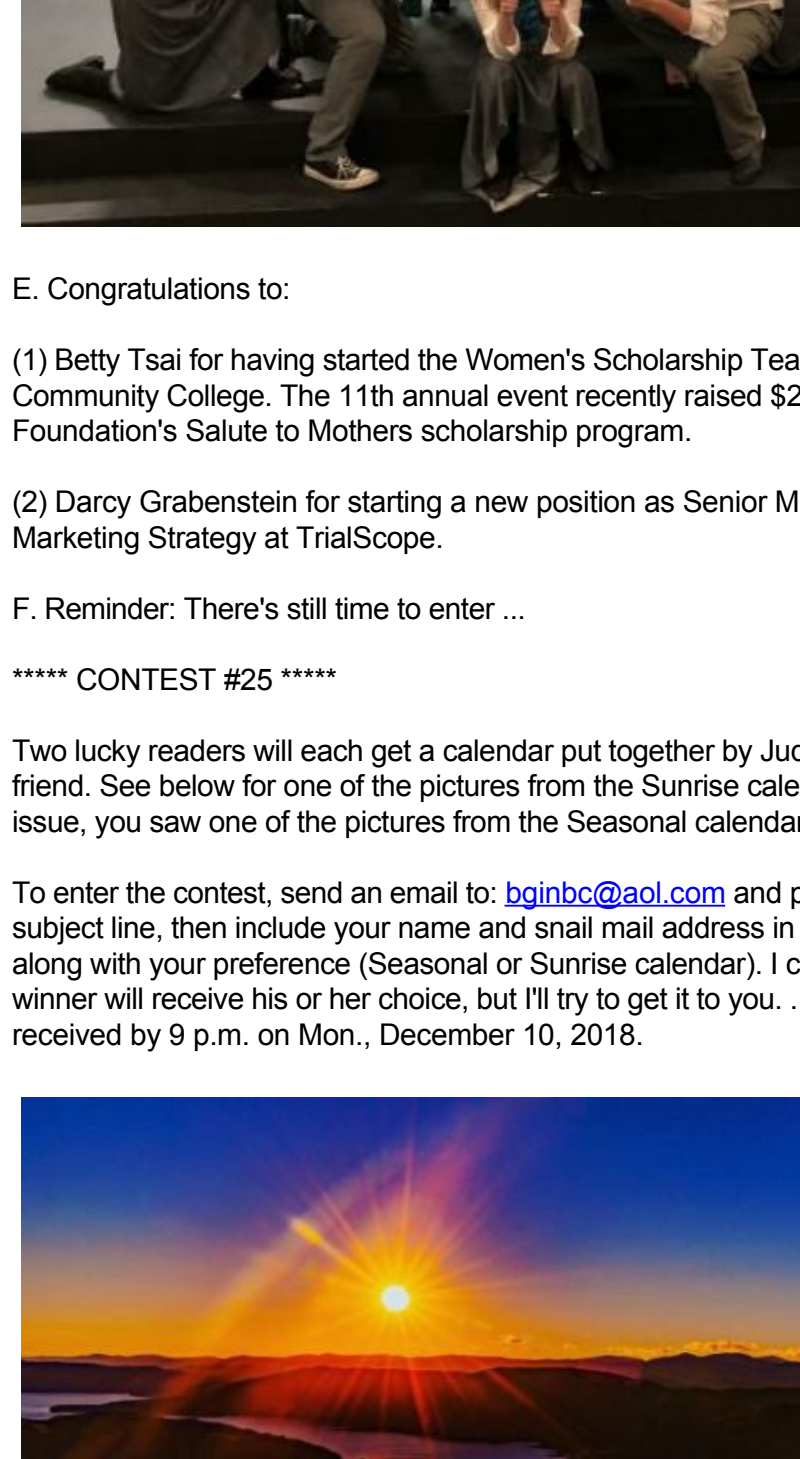
C. **HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS:** Movie Premiere on Saturday, Dec., 15, at 8 p.m. on Lifetime
Mounting a living Nativity becomes a living nightmare for former sweethearts.

D. If you're a sucker for Christmas movies like I am, Hallmark Channel's Countdown to Christmas continues. You can still view some of the all new original musical premieres. To find out more about them and when they will be on, please click:
[Here](#)

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6. Joke 2

His gut even looks like mine! (Thanks, Mike Martirelli, for posting.)



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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

- (1) Ed Hackett: Sears was a secret Ally to persecuted African American
[Here](#)
- (2) CiroJin Derreberry Becker: Berea College Bluegrass Ensemble Performs Carol of the Bells
[Here](#)
- (3) Japanese runner crawls to finish line on bloody knees
[Here](#)
- (4) Ray Stevens: Unchained Melody
[Here](#)

B. Wait But Why is a website that deals with normal news and other content related to life. Some simple stick figures are used to explain the topics in a funny way. To view it, please click:
[Here](#)

You'll see posts on such topics as:
How to Pick a Career (That Actually Fits You)
100 Blocks [of 10-minute time block] to use every day
How I Handle Long Email Delays
Doing a TED Talk: The Full Story

C. **BLAINESWORLD**, the website, remains up and running. . . . to view it, please click:
[Here](#)

D. Are you on Facebook? In the unlikely event we have not yet connected as friends there, please feel free to send me an invite by clicking:
[Here](#)

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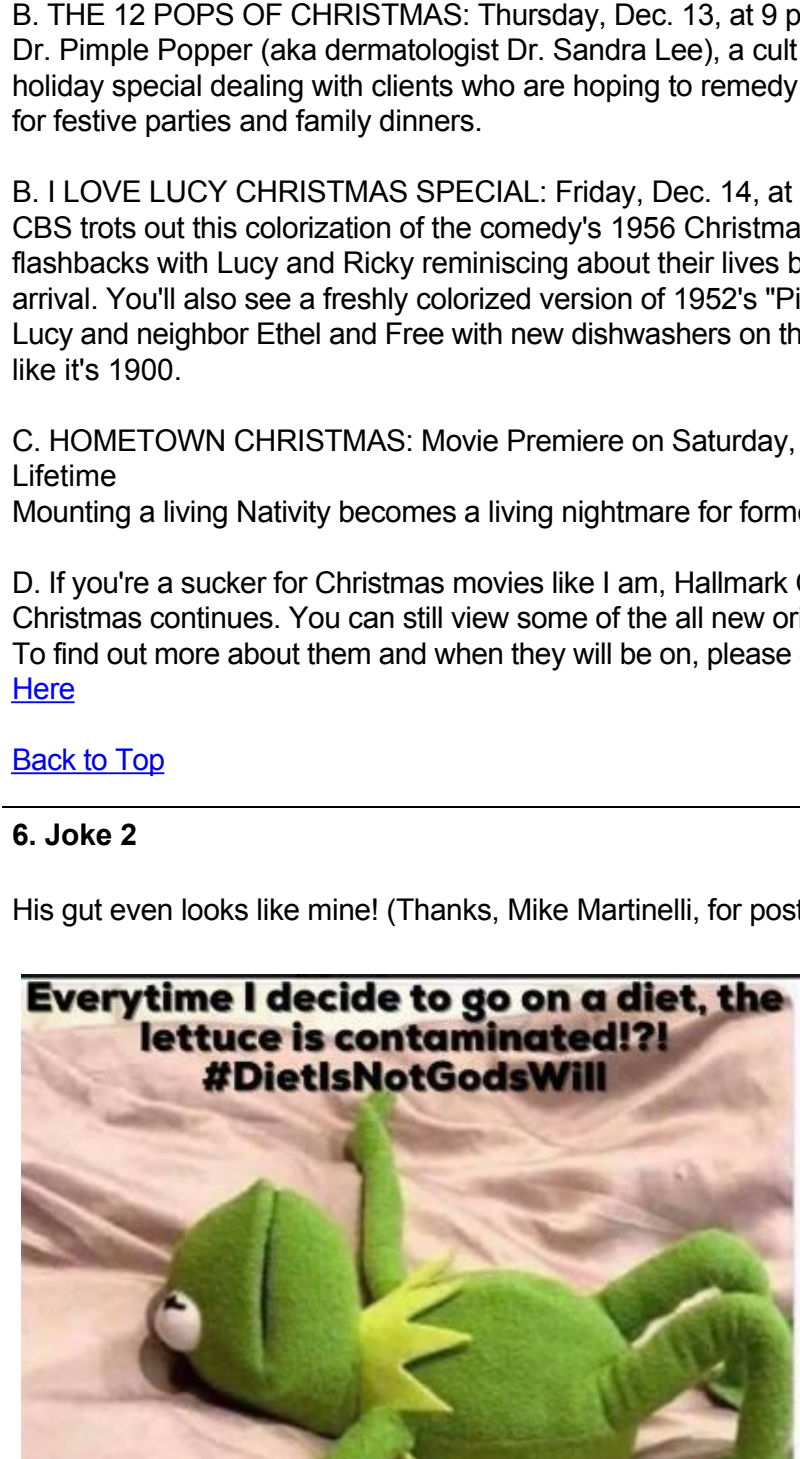
8. Technology tip

Ever want a magnifying glass, e.g., to read the small print on a menu or the ingredients in a product? One way to do this is to use the camera on your phone and then zoom. ... But I've found an even better way to do this; i.e., by turning on the magnifying glass on your iPhone. To find out how to do this, please click:
[Here](#)

Note: The above article also has information on how to do this with some Android phones.
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9. Joke 3

BUSTED! ... Doctor: "Breathe deeply." ... Patient: "But isn't the stethoscope supposed to be in your ears?" (Thanks, Janeen Ravkin, for sharing.)



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10. A quote I like

"A champion is defined not by their wins, but by how they can recover when they fall." --Serena Williams, American professional tennis player. The Women's Tennis Association ranked her world No. 1 in singles on eight separate occasions between 2002 and 2017, and she holds the most Grand Slam titles in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles combined among active players. (Thanks, Stephanie Hickling Beckman, for sharing.)
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11. Thought for the day

Thanks, Roberta Gurwood, for sharing the following article.

The Three Lessons You Can Learn From Ruth Bader Ginsburg About Ambition by Bonnie Marcus

Last week, Ruth Bader Ginsburg fell in her office at the Supreme Court and broke three ribs. As a result, she was hospitalized briefly. Women across the country who look to her as their champion hoped she would return to work quickly. But Ginsburg didn't wait to be released from the hospital to resume her work. She was quick to shoo the doctors out of her room so she could have some quiet time to concentrate. She was already working.

At 85, Ginsburg is an inspiration for all women. A warrior for women's rights throughout her career, she uses her intelligence and her voice to advocate for justice. Her petite frame and age never limit her from standing in her power and it has earned her the title, the Notorious RBG. A two-time survivor of cancer, she has barely missed a day of work. She persists.

For the rest of this inspiring article, please click:
[Here](#)

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12. Advance planning department

To read about each of the following events in full, please click:
[Here](#)

A. NC events

- (1) At NC Stage: **LIVE FROM WVU RADIO THEATRE: IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE**, adapted by Willie Repoley and **THE TWELVE DATES OF CHRISTMAS**. (2) Jenny Bunn: **SNOWBOUND** at Asheville Community Theatre.

B. PA/NJ event

At Mercer County Community College's Kelsey Theatre: **DESIRES OF A CRIMINAL**.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!
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