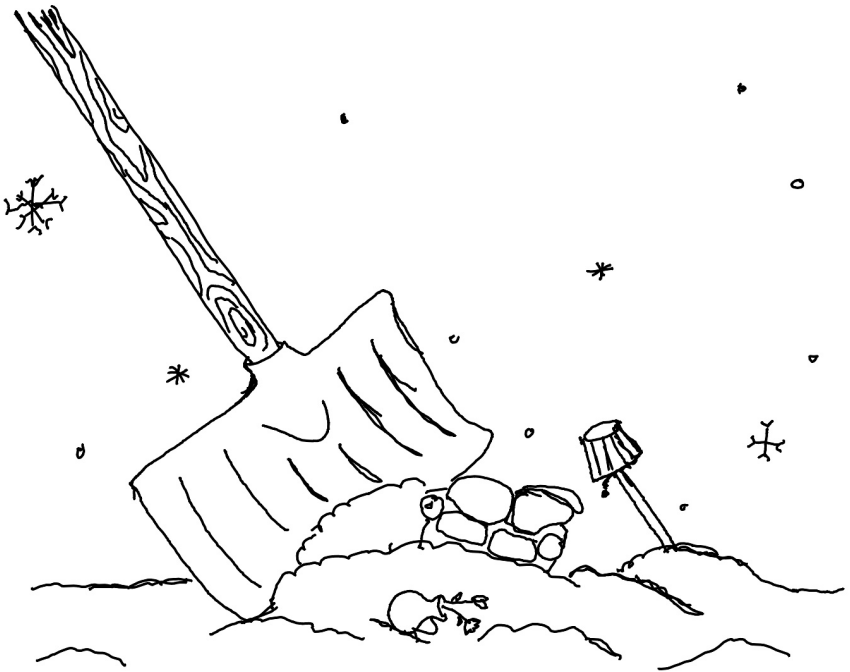


THE PODUNK INQUIRER

The title is rendered in a large, hand-drawn, blocky font. Each letter is filled with a different icon: 'T' has a microscope, 'H' has a magnifying glass, 'E' has a pair of glasses, 'P' has a bird, 'O' has a hat, 'D' has a pair of binoculars, 'U' has a giraffe, 'N' has a globe, 'K' has a telescope, 'I' has a planet, and 'R' has a star. The words 'THE', 'PODUNK', and 'INQUIRER' are stacked vertically.

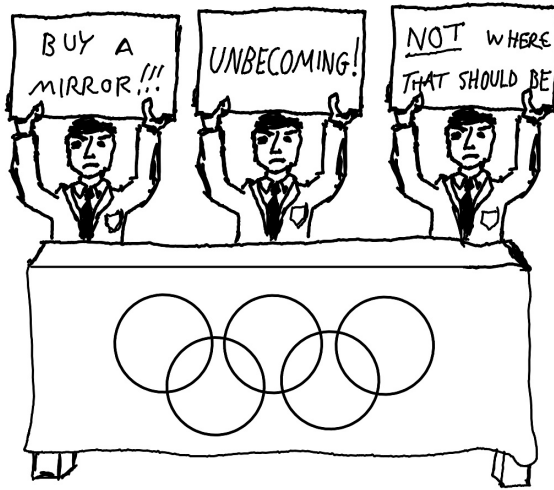
A PUBLICATION FROM NOWHERE



WINTER 2026



Vol. 2 • Issue 1



Olympic Figure Hating

Dear Dear Reader,

The glory of Spring... her steadfast arrival is upon us. As we look at the first shoots of daffodils sprouting up around—no, that's not right.

It's mid-January, and we're in the dead of Winter. It's so cold and I haven't been able to send a letter home to my family in weeks. I fear Jimmy's tuberculosis may take hold again. The Union soldiers will surely be here anyday now and—no, no, that's not right either.

Even though the UN's array of orbiting climate lasers rendered the change of seasons moot in 2048 we still look forward to the coming holiday season and hope that as citizens of Afreuriasiamericas we can all—no, no, NO!

Ugh.

Well, we tried...

Love,

The Editors



Direct inquiries and threats to:

podunkinquirer.com

podunkinquirer@gmail.com

Joseph Bertagna

Alexander Paladino



Dino's FORECAST



January 9th (Cleveland, OH) - A large and rapid snow squall will drive up the Google search trend results for the word "squall" by over 400%.

January 27th (Duluth, MN) - An icicle will be canceled for making a racist comment.

February 14th (Manchester, NH) - Love in the Air? Nope! That's sleet and snow and 80mph wind gusts! Worst blizzard in 20 years, better luck next time, Cupid.

WEEK OF MARCH 1 st , 2026						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
12°	65°	26°	72°	32°	80°	4°
ICE. NOT SNOW. NOT RAIN. A HORRIBLE THIRD THING	10,000 BABY BIRDS WILL HATCH	THE SUN MIGHT DIE (PROJECT HAIL MARY SPOILERS)	THE SUN WILL GIVE YOU \$10!	WINDCHILLS DOWN TO -32° AND GUSTS UP TO 140MPH	PEACE ON EARTH	GOD WILL FORSAKE US ALL

CREATURE FEATURE

Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus*

This small and unassuming bird has a wicked side! Endemic to North America, it hunts small rodents and amphibians by diving into them at the neck and twisting. Yikes!! Sometimes prey are moved to thorny shrubs for later consumption. Meal prep king??





TRAVEL



Hidden Gems

- *The Stone Forest*
 - *Prospect Park*
 - *Mount Aratat*
- *Dick's Sporting Goods*
- *Leper Colonies (Abandoned)*
- *Mines (Active)*
 - *Jimmy Carter Presidential Library*
- *Des Moines, FL*

Airplane Rankings

- 1) **Boeing 737 Max**
- 2) **Airbus A380**
- 3) **Sky Mall \$79.99**
- 4) **Raytheon Coyote C-UAS**
- 5) **Temu B-2 Bomber**
- 6) **Fisher Price SR-71 Blackbird**



TRAVEL HACK: Adult Spring Break? We have the cheat code.

Spring break isn't just for local barbers and sorority girls anymore! Anyone can have a fun escape to Miami this time of year. The trick? Injuring yourself to get off work for six weeks. We usually suggest novices do a simple missed step down some stairs and aim for a broken wrist (we know this will limit your ability to do Edward Scissorhands with two Colt 45s but it's a fair tradeoff).

If you're already following our tips on suing local businesses and defrauding Medicaid you could really double dip and fund something international! Advanced breakers might want to consider faking psychiatric emergencies or going to grad school.



Culture Gets Canceled

After 10,000 years of human culture, it was finally canceled on Tuesday. The recent movement to publicly shame problematic individuals finally turned on culture itself this week after decades of unwanted superhero films. Claims of abuse levied against culture have ranged from autotune to people making social media posts congratulating their SoulCycle instructor for getting engaged. Many experts feared that this day would come, including anthropologist Jimson Clod: "When I saw a promo for Survivor Season 50, I knew we had reached a point of no return." Culture is reportedly trying to stage a comeback in the near future once it can afford botox and a hair transplant.

IN OTHER NEWS...

- Winter Storm Leaves Millions Without Erections *pg. 1*
- Nations Bartenders Announce Plan to Ignore You *pg. 86*

OPINIONS...

- Strawberry Shortcake Doesn't Have to Be Short *pg. 2*
- What Have the Polar Bears Done for Me? *pg. 5*
- Sweatshirts Are the New Towels *pg. 8*
- Handwritten Notes Are Actually Super Performative *pg. 11*



TOKYO (Probably) - A Tamagotchi Pet, named "Bubbles" by a nine year old girl in 1996, just became the world's first robot to give birth! Thanks to a stray laser from a military research satellite, Bubbles welcomed BP-0246001 into the cybernet, clocking in at just 512MB. Baptism details to follow.



Grave Robber Misled by Ads for “Shoveler” Following Historic Blizzard

Preeminent thief of the dead Robert Burrows is suing townsfolk for false advertising after he shoveled countless driveways and yards only to walk away with some dog collars and tulip bulbs. The prosecution has a strong case; one listing on Facebook Marketplace from resident Helen Bacquagenn, 86, clearly stated “I’m buried under six feet of snow!” Court documents revealed some teenagers even planted fake Native American artifacts to lure Burrows and avoid their household chores.

Some on the jury may find it hard to sympathize with Burrows, who is prone to hanging around 7-11 parking lots and reeks of bug spray. When asked to describe what drove him to such a fascinating and misunderstood profession, he explained: “My Nonna always said if you do what you love you never work a day in your life... and now that I’m thinking of her, she had some really great vintage jewelry that’s just sitting there!”

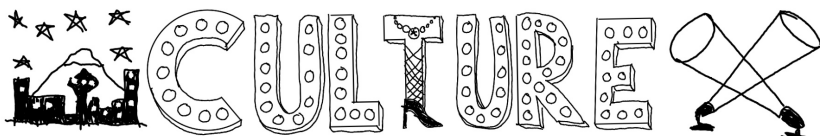
IN OTHER TOWNS...

- Frequent Chipotle Customer Embarrassed by Everyone Making Predictions About His “Super Bowl” Order this Sunday *pg. 208*
- Guy Who Rides Shotgun in Plow and Points at Snow to Run for Mayor *pg. 37*
- Man Walking in the Middle of the Road Allowed to Do That *pg. 46*

At the Cuisine!

Taqueria Gente Blanca, 17 North South Street

A dazzlingly innovative location in town, this new taqueria has everything. They offer cheese and beans and tortillas. They even have chips! Their salsas are red and green, and their guacamole is green too. A truly unique culinary experience.



CULTURE



POPCORN PEEPER'S 2026 OSCAR WINNERS:



Best Picture

The Perks of Being Unhoused

Best Actor

Michael B. Jordan's Twin, Michael C. Jordan,
in *Twinnors*

Best Actress

Elizabeth Holmes in *Prison*

Best Score

28-3 Patriots v. Falcons

Best Sound

"Boink!"



The Sit-Down

All Eyes on the Gay of Hormuz

We sat down with the hottest new celebrity waterway to discuss why his brother, Strait, is so difficult to pin down, and what his summer wardrobe will look like (hint: scarves).

JD Salinger is Ready to Talk

We tried to sit down with the reclusive novelist but he kept rescheduling due to COVID.

Heard it Through the Petri Dish

Hottest cultural gossip & trends!

History's Worst Boyfriends:

- Agenor of Thrace
- Chimalli the Executioner
- Batu Khan
- Albrecht Giese
- En-Me-Nuna
- Scott from Marketing





Recipes

Resembling everyone's favorite plowed, slushy sidewalk snow that never melts, try *The Nor'easter's Secret*

-Equal parts Bailey's (or Dunkin Iced Medium Regular if you're doing dry January), Coke Zero, & absinthe (or dog piss if you're doing dry January)

-Lots of crushed ice and salt the rim!

☆ What's in Her Bag?

- ☆ • Pencil Sharpener
- ☆ • Loose Shrimp
- Ferret Bones
- ☆ • Connect-4



What's She Wearing? ☆

- Flip Flops
- Pastrami ☆
- Scars (emotional)
- Tasteful Blouse ☆

Ask Amy!

Dear Amy, this guy walks around my neighborhood every day dropping off small envelopes... even tried putting stuff in the box at the end of my driveway where I store my car keys... my kids are so scared and cry constantly. Is he dealing drugs??? We DONT WANT ANY!!! PLEASE HELP NOW AMY THANK YOU.

Love, Neighborhood Watchdog (Cassandra)



Dear Cassandra, that sounds like a mailman! The USPS has been around since 1775 and while most of their workers are harmless, I would definitely call the cops... sounds like a creep.

Thank you!! Lovee, Amy! PO BOX 8675309

QUESTION TRUNDLE

Q: TRUNDLE! WHY AREN'T YOU DIVERSIFYING YOUR STOCK PORTFOLIO? WHAT DO YOU KNOW!?

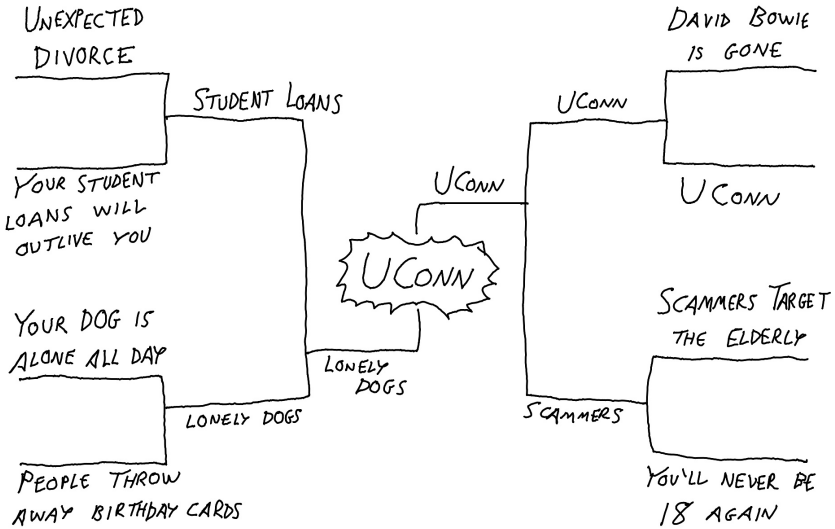
A: Just S&P for me



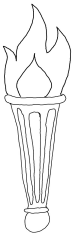
Joe's Balls



Follow Our March Sadness Bracket!



WINTER OLYMPICS COVERAGE



- Suspicious 55 Year Old Newcomer "Honya Tarding" Poised to Sweep Four Figure Skating Gold Medal Events for the UAE
- Lindsey Vonn Tries to Ski Again During Surgery
- Canadian Curlers Cheat by Not Having Required Beer in Hand
- Downhill Skeleton Race Interrupted by Necromancers



IN OTHER SPORTS...

- NHL Capitalizes on "Heated Rivalry" Craze by Making Players Try Out Foreign Accents in Interviews *pg. 4*
- Bad Bunny Still Stuck in Super Bowl Sugar Cane Field *pg. LX*



OBITUARIES

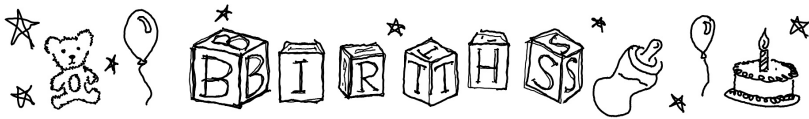


Tony the Tiger - 1958 - 2026

Anthony Zacharius Tiger tragically passed away late Saturday night at the age of 68. Investigations surrounding his death are still ongoing, but early reports indicate that he overdosed on counterfeit penis pills that had been given to him by Sonny the Cocoa Puff Bird. He never married.

Sonny the Cuckoo Bird - 1965 -2026

Sonny Robert "Crazy Bird" Simpson died suddenly on Monday at the age of 59. Simpson took his own life early Monday morning after allegations arose that he provided Tony the Tiger with counterfeit penis pills which led to the tiger's untimely death. He is survived by his father, OJ.



Penelope Puddingstone b. 2026
Fame, money, the perfect man... she could have it all. Instead, Penelope will choose violence, misery, and chaos. Her favorite color is green.

Jasmine Portobello b. 2029
Allergic to mushrooms. Not even Italian.

Rutherford Martinelli b. 2026
His eyes are way too big. We're not just being mean, it's undeniable.

Emily Jane Varner b. January 1, 2026
First baby born this year and no one cares.

Spike b.2026 (in a ditch)
Okay, this one is just a dog, but he's great. No barking, greets you at the door, super chill buddy just down for whatever... really fantastic no complaints here, can't believe we didn't do this sooner.

bloated and
bashful

SEAMUS MURPHY'S PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

Enjoy Music too Loud for a Bar.

DRAUGHT DODGERS • GRANDPA SWEATER

THE LOG AND THE LAKE • IRISH GOODBYES

JOHNNY BREEZE & THE NIGHTSTANDS • CHEEKY PINT

— PLUS — THE SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAYS!

Receive fresh holes in your jacket from
South Boston's Barney the Cigarette Burn Master!

MIXED
DOUBLES
SLAPBOXING

IRISH STEP DANCING
(FREE GUINNESS
IF YOU SQUASH
A RAT!)

DRUNKEN
DARTS

Join our Paul Mescal look-alike contest
judged by our barkeep with cataracts!

