

Current

noun | *cur·rent*: flow marked by force or strength.



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Local haunted places to see

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22nd Annual Preston Farms Corn Maze

Can you find all 16 Stamping Stations?

Article and Pictures by Sabrina Tyree

If you are looking for a fun outing with friends or family, you need to visit Preston Farms in Preston, CT.

This year, Preston Farms is hosting their 22nd annual corn maze. Visitors come from far away to try and conquer the maze and find all 16 stamping stations. Many may try not to get lost, but getting lost is half of the fun. The other half is seeing how quickly each group can try to find the stamping stations.

The Barston family from Lima, Ohio, were visiting their son for the Coast Guard Academy's parent day and decided to try their luck at the maze. Emily Barston, the mother of the coast guard student, has never been to a maze. It was the whole group's first time. As they were getting their stamping cards, they were explained to how the maze works, looking very puzzled but excited.

"What is the best way for us to find all of these stamps, we don't know what we are doing," Barston laughed as she spoke with her family.

They had decided to try the "split up in pairs" approach. Not going too far from one another, they can cover more ground and yell to the others if they find one. If they could not hear one another, they knew that they had gone too far from one another. They had finished the maze and found all 16 of the stamping stations in under two

hours. They were excited to get the little ice cream cup prize at the end.

The Barston family might have been all adults, but they still had a blast and plan to come back if ever in the area.

This corn maze is also important and popular with the local residents as well. Michael Stanley, Baltic CT, has brought his family to this maze every year for the past 11 years.

"It has become a tradition to bring the family every year, even as our eldest is a senior in high school. He still loves coming to the maze and spending time with the family," Stanley explained.



Jennifer Ruffini Finding Her First Stamp

Family is important to Stanley. Coming to this place every year helps to bring them together, no matter what is going on in their life at the time. They get to leave it all behind, even if it is only for a few hours.

"Sometimes I think that they try not to find the stamping stations just so we can stay longer. One year we came back 4 times to find them all." Stanley continued, "We try a different strategy every time, but we usually end up splitting up in teams, boys vs. girls. I think they like the competition to see who can find the most."

This year was no different, they only found about half of the stamping stations in 3 hours and already have plans to come back the following weekend to find more.

Being able to build traditions is a great way to keep the family together. Getting lost together and having a common goal can have so much of an effect on children, that they may want to continue the traditions as they grow up to have families of their own.

Even during COVID, the maze still managed to open last year so that traditions can continue and provide some sort of normalcy during this pandemic. Here is to another 22 years of traditions and fun!

Retail Staff Shortage *Need a Job? Retail Stores are Hiring!*

Article By: Lauren Susi

Across the nation, no matter small or large, stores are short staffed and desperately looking to hire new employees.

It seems like the world has changed so much since the Covid-19 pandemic hit- people social distance, wear masks, and work from home. Though we are slowly seeing things go back to somewhat normal, the staff shortage for many retail stores has struggled over the past year and a half.

Stephanie Sartia, assistant manager for Banana Republic Factory, has experienced the shortage of staff since June 2020 when their store finally opened back up during the pandemic.

Although the turnaround has always been short especially for

sales associate positions, this year has been extremely difficult to keep and hire new employees.

Sartia said “We do have people apply but not a ton! And the people that do apply and get hired don’t last too long.” She feels stuck, like a lot of stores have experience, hiring one person and losing two more which feels like taking one step forward and taking another ten back.

This can be overwhelming for the employees who are left to pick up the slack of not having staffing. “I’ve had to work a lot of overtime and it’s hard to have a work-life balance because as a manager you have to cover the store when we need coverage,” Sartia said.



“It’s hard to have a work-life balance because as a manager you have to cover the store when we need coverage.”

Mall photo from Pexels.com

Her store is supposed to have nearly 14 associates and as of right now they have 6.

Hannah Boarman, a manager at Levi’s, also has the same problem. “At Levi’s we’re supposed to have 4 managers and about 10 associates but right now we only have 6 associates, 3 of which are college students who only work once a month,”

Boarman said. Though once a month is better than nothing, it still doesn’t help the rest of the days of the month when there is staffing that is needed.

Luckily Boarman and Sartia have all their manager positions filled, but some stores have struggled with even full time positions over the last year.

As of September 4th 2021, CT residents on federal unemployment stopped receiving an extra \$300 per week. With the stop in extra money, it seems more people would start applying to jobs again.

“Since the extra money for unemployment has ended we have

had a lot more people apply but the issue with this is that people have very limited availability so they are not very hireable,” said Boarman.

Not only are people’s availability not open enough but some people don’t even make it to the interview. A lot of people that do apply to stores don’t even show up for the scheduled interview and don’t give a reason as to why. Even if someone is hired this doesn’t mean they will even show up to the job.

Not only is it difficult for stores to find staffing but it is also hard to find reliable help. With the end of the extra unemployment applications seem to be coming in quicker but not quite quick enough.

Need a part-time or full-time job? Many stores in your local malls and shopping centers need the help, so apply today!

The Importance of Music In Our World

Music is culturally and traditionally driven
Article By Adam Browne,
Photos by Sabrina Tyree

Since the first day we are born we grow accustomed to one of the world's most taught skills known as singing. This can be shown to us through our parents' way of putting us to bed in a lullaby. No matter where you come from music will always be a tradition. Music is a part of every culture, in some countries like ours, done in a ceremony. The foundation of music has a different meaning to every race and culture.

In African countries a tribe may sit in a circle harmonizing with each other through sound and dance. In Asia traditional instrumentalized classical music is often cultural and each has its own meaning behind it. Americans are no stranger to music, and are commercialized by record labels. The great part about music is that it can be multicultural. In different areas of the world, each one is a fan of different music genres that might not even be produced in that country. For example, rock, r&b and rap in America is often well received overseas.

We are also taught music from the moment we start school. However, music in schools can be silenced by budget cuts. The sad truth is this can happen to music classes anywhere from elementary to a high school educational level. It's like saying, "artistic abilities no longer matter." By having music classes, it develops a creativity sensory in the minds of those learning students.

Being a fan of music also means looking up to our favorite musicians. It can also have a negative side if we see these role models behave inappropriately. We see them as people we should mimic from a young age. But this negative side comes a plus, we soon realize our role models are humans just like us.

Any fan of music can tell you music has a healing purpose. The way we feel also determines the type of music we listen to at that moment; We throw on a particular type of song in hopes

that the song might cheer us up or even hype us up.

As a child, I was often at church when my friends or family went to attend services. The feeling of being united with the room through song was always a joyful one. The energy that arises when you stop caring what you sound like and just have faith in yourself. What may have caused this would later make me look at the meaning of music and its importance to the word.

It was the way music has a message to deliver to those who will lend a listening ear. It



Picture of a Flute

also happened to be the way music in a way can either de-escalate or escalate a feeling or mood. Some students might never know this feeling since music is usually the first to go with budget cuts. It is important still to present an educational message that music is an important part of life.

Some may choose to tone it down or silence it out but music, like drawing on a canvas, shouldn't be stricken from schools and taught with the utmost

importance. Music helps some who may suffer a disability, those who may be bullied or trolled off and on the internet. To these listeners and inspirational learners, music is life to them. It is an outlet to let their voice or talented gift be heard without a judging ear. A gift, that without being taught by great teachers and vocal coaches, can't be harnessed by the one who tries. This development of skill starts at a young age when the child is in elementary school and it transcends through each grade on a higher level.

When students aren't exposed to music, their creative side that was previously taught gets erased by newer developments. I feel it is in the best interest of a child to not disband the music but to enlighten those willing to learn. How else could we have had such great musicians like Tupac, Nirvana, Bob Marley, and AAliyah. Each one giving their insight in a message heard around the world. Each artist, like Wu Tang, makes a difference in the eyes who look up to them for guidance. It shouldn't be the classes that are cut from the budget. It should be something that instead, doesn't take away from the education of the student.

Where Do Community College Athletes Shine?

Article By Adam Browne
Photos by Sabrina Tyree

Track field

“A Place Where We Can Play on a College Level...”

The question has never been when, but where do we play sports? As youths we are often persuaded into being an athlete, or a cheerleader. For many of us, the first toy we receive due to prideful parents is a ball.

When I was a child, we didn't have technology to keep our faces glued to a tablet, or computer screen. Our parents would tell us to go out and play ball with our friends. In fact, cell phones were not an accessory everyone had, but were only used by business executives. The rest of the world had to dial up the internet and landlines for telephone purposes. Our daily recess consisted of playing sports because it was a way to belong with our friends.

Each year, growing up would mean

trying out for different sports until it became second nature, to a way of life. Yet it would blind us from the fact these sports also serve to teach other things. Life has many meanings depending on how you take part in it. Among these teachable reasons to play sports is teamwork, dedication to one's interest, and discipline to believe you belong. However, for a student who dreams of playing in a sport after high school, their dream may turn into a nightmare due to an unforeseen injury, or not being drafted by a university. They lose hope in moving forward with their college education. They see no point in it if they don't have the one thing that helps them realize their true potential. For some, sports gives them a way out of that often troubled home life. It gives them a

place of escapement when they are stressed.

Golf professionals were discovered to have less patience issues. This leads to less stress on and off the course they are playing at, due to the time it takes. Some athletes at times also unfortunately suffer from Chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE. It's a condition in the brain caused by repeated blows to the head. Aaron Hernandez, a former player for the New England Patriots, is one example. It's important to learn about this condition, and catch the diagnosis early. One thing that can be done is to teach sports medicine in school at a community college level. The problem is that some nursing students are the same students who come from sports backgrounds in high school. They

grow up wanting to be in either the MLB, NBA, WNBA, or NFL as a career choice. Yet, when scouts overlook them they lose out on their chance. When this happens they go to community college, a college that accepts them based not on sports, or academics, but on how well they did in a school that only may have pushed them because they were an athlete. However, this isn't always the case. Some student-athletes are also great students in the classroom.

The question I ask is why isn't there actual sports in community colleges yet there are university levels? Where do students who enjoy playing sports for school go? There comes a time when sports become beneficial to not just university level students.

baseball field

Where Do Community College Athletes Shine? *Continued*

Sports are a great way to teach team building which is needed for most jobs after students graduate. After a couple of years of not having that aspect, it's often forgotten how to be part of a team. In community colleges we focus primarily on individual grades, and how our peers may expect us to act. It's as if to say, "Here are these job fields in which you can adapt to," while forgetting the sports you were previously playing.

If there were campus sports or activities, not just athletic students, but other students would take pride in going to a community college. Especially, when grades start to put a toll on a person's self esteem. We as students are constantly worrying about grades and how it may affect our future. But what happens if we take the focus off getting good grades? We are then more able to enjoy the years of being at college. We remember when we made a difference at a school that gave us that second chance at furthering our education. It may not lead to a professional spot on a team, but it still installs teamwork, motivation, and dedication to everyday life routines.

These three traits continue through life when we graduate from college. And our life off the campus, at work, and our own community gives us purpose during those days at college. It's time the student government votes to bring

sports back to Three Rivers campus. It would bring students joy, and pride in their school. Three Rivers could also offer sports medicine as a career degree so nursing students could have more than one option when they graduate. The time for change on our campus comes when we all make it worth going to.



basketball hoop



CURRENT POLL: WILL YOU WEAR A MASK POST-COVID IF YOU'RE SICK?

Some Nutmeggers say they will mask up if sick after the pandemic

Article and photos by
Lauren Susi

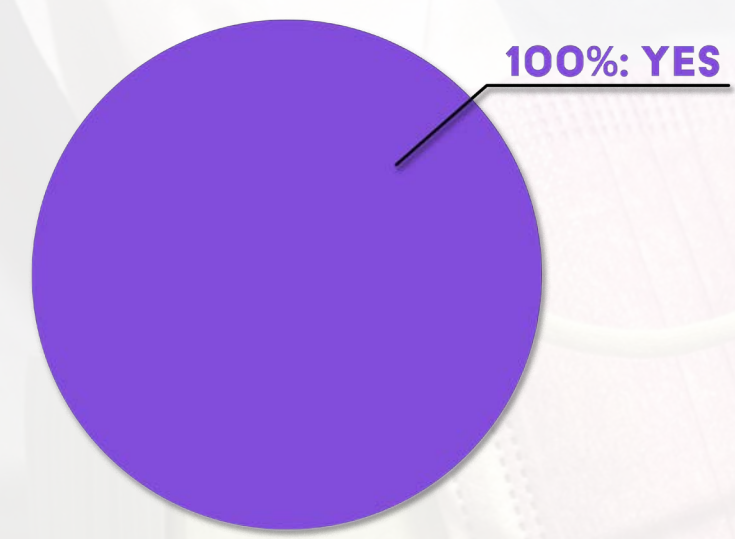
The state of Connecticut is still grappling with the struggle against COVID-19. However, the state, as well as the nation are getting back to pre-Covid-19 conditions. With more businesses and travel opening up, The Current recently opened a poll to its readers, asking the question, "Will you wear a mask post-COVID if you are sick?"

The submissions were overwhelmingly answered 'Yes.' In fact, 100% of the readers that answered said, "Yes, I will wear a mask post-COVID if I am sick." A total of 15 readers submitted their answers.

Now, as of October 1, the Connecticut Center for Disease Control reported 721 new cases of the disease and 3 more hospitalizations. Currently, there are 237 people in Connecticut in the hospital due to the coronavirus. The daily positivity rate in the state of Connecticut is 2.16% which is about 4.50% less than the national average.

In the second half of the month of September, the town of Norwich has been seeing a high transmission rate of COVID-19.

The United States Center for Disease Control says if you are exposed to COVID-19, you should wear a mask. That is outlined in several different situations, including when you are in



an area of high transmission, like the town of Norwich is.

The first situation is if you've been identified as a close contact, the U.S. CDC says fully vaccinated people should wear a mask indoors in public for two weeks following exposure, or until you test negative.

If you are in isolation due to COVID-19, the U.S. CDC says you should wear a mask any time you are around people, if you're able to.

People with compromised immune systems have been particularly vulnerable to COVID-19. Those immunocompromised should wear a mask if they are told so by a counsel.

Other situations outlined by the U.S. CDC includes those where you might just be sick. The CDC said if you're sick you should

first try and separate yourself from others. If you can't do that, the CDC recommends wearing a mask when you're around other people or animals in your house.

Wearing a mask has specific guidelines as well, If you're alone, the CDC says you don't need to wear a mask. There are times you might be with others and can't wear a mask. During those times the CDC says you should cover your mouth and nose when you cough and sneeze. Keeping your distance will also help.

Masks should not be worn by children under the age of two, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who can't take off their mask by themselves.

WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN MORE CAMPUS POLLS? FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK!

 @TRCCNEWSPAPER

 @TRCCTHECURRENT

! SPOILERS!

SQUID GAME

This New Netflix Series takes ratings by storm

Story by Kaycee Gagnier

If you don't live under a rock, you've probably heard of something recently called The Squid Game. Released on September 17th, this new Netflix Series has been racking itself up the charts, hitting the No.1 viewed spot in Netflix in just four days after being released. This milestone makes The Squid Game to be the first K-Drama to ever snag a top spot on Netflix.

The show, as Netflix describes, is about "Hundreds of cash-strapped players accept a strange invitation to compete in children's games. Inside, a tempting prize awaits — with deadly high stakes." Exactly that. The show follows our main character Seong Gi-Hun, a man who is in severe

debt, owing hundreds of thousands of dollars to loan Sharks. Along with being in debt, Gi-Hun has also found out his mother has diabetes and needs surgery, making him all the more likely to want to enter in the games.

As Seong Gi-Hun enters himself in the games, he is picked up in a van from his home, and is then put to sleep by gas, so he and the other players don't know where they will arrive.

The next scene, Seong Gi-Hun, as well as all the other players who have entered the games, wake up in a room, all wearing tracksuits with their assigned number stitched on. Seong Gi-Hun is now known as player 456.

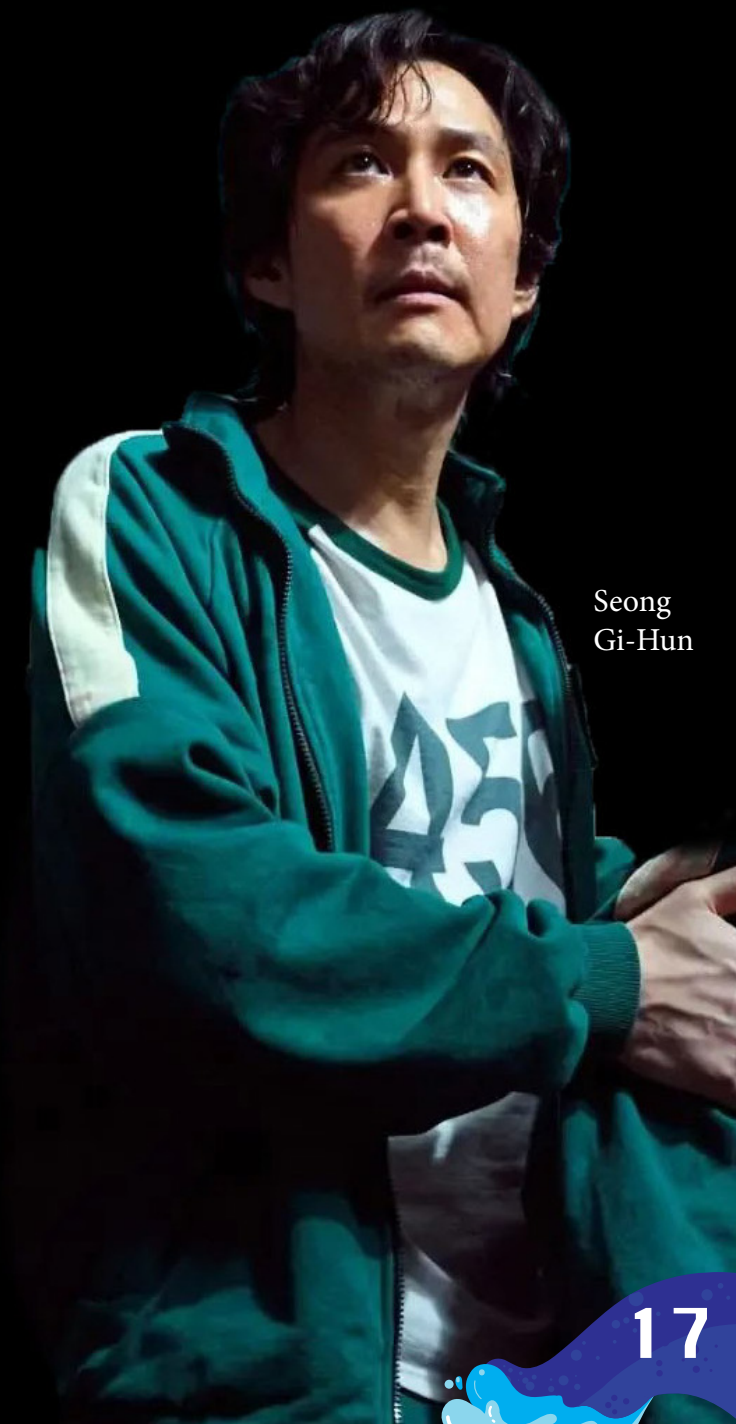
Once the players start to get settled in, masked guards make their way into the room, and begin to lead them to the first game, which happens to be the beloved children's game, Red Light, Green Light.

During this game, we find that our players think they bit off more than they can chew, because they find that losing the game means you will die. The game ends with almost exactly half of the starting players dying, and from then on, the game becomes a matter of life and death.

The show ends with our main character, Seong Gi-Hun, winning the games, but at what cost? He loses his friends and allies that he makes in the game, all for money. After winning, we find that he has done almost nothing with the millions of dollars that he has won, acting as though he is a shell of his old self.

Gi-Hun then receives a card, telling him to meet an old friend. The card has the Squid Game logo carvings into it, which catch his attention immediately. Gi-Hun does go to the place where he is supposed to meet this mysterious person, and it is revealed that it is Il-Nam, player 1 in the games, who was thought to have died during the games. It is then revealed that Il-Nam was behind the entire games, and he told Gi-Hun that he only competed to have a little bit of excitement in his life before he died. The twist and betrayal that was revealed in the final episode was overwhelming. But it seems like everyone can't stop thinking about it once you watch it. If you're not squeamish about blood and gore, and won't get

too attached to most characters, it's a pretty good show to watch to pass the time on a Sunday afternoon. Overall, I would rate it 4 stars.



Seong Gi-Hun

NINTENDO SWITCH: OLED UPGRADE *Is It Worth It?* Story by Kaycee Gagnier

As some of you may know, there is a new upgrade to the famous Nintendo Switch. Called the Nintendo Switch OLED, we learn that this upgraded version already has a 7-inch OLED screen. According to Nintendo, OLED means: displaying images using light emitted by each individual pixel... Deep blacks can be represented by turning a pixel's light off, allowing for higher contrast." Along with an upgraded screen, this new Switch comes with:

- 64 GB of internal memory
- An Ethernet port in Switch Dock
- Improved built in speakers
- An improved Kickstand

The new Switch also sports white joycons and TV dock, which makes this model stand out from the previous red, blue, and grey classic color schemes.

Since the announcement and release of the OLED Switch, there's been a new debate: Is it even worth it to upgrade?

Before the OLED, the choice in buying a switch was simple: Switch, or Switch Lite? That depended if you cared about the detachable joycons and connecting to a TV more... as well as a \$100 price difference. People knew what they wanted to use their switch for most, and it was a done deal. Now, as the OLED enters the ring, people are questioning if the upgrade is really worth the time.

And the general answer is: No. If you already have a Nintendo Switch, and only play it casually, it's not worth upgrading for such little improvement.

The answer is different for those who don't have Switches, or own Switch Lites. If you're willing to dish out \$350 (not including the price of extra purchases such as games), you can become an owner of the Nintendo Switch OLED. For Switch Lites, that might be pricey, but it is an upgrade they didn't have with the Lite version. For those that didn't have Nintendo Switches to begin with, you might as well start off with a better kickstand and extra storage.

Some critics of Nintendo say that

the prices are too steep for a hand-held console. They might be right, but also consider the fact that Nintendo products last almost twice as long as other competitors. When you purchase a Nintendo product, you're almost always going to be guaranteed at least a couple of years out of the product.

This all being said, if you have the money and the means, go for it! Sometimes, the extra storage space and bigger screen might be just what you were looking for.



Nintendo Switch OLED



SUPER MARIO BROS MOVIE CASTING REVEALED:

Is this the right call?

Article By Philip Avisan

When the new Super Mario Bros animated film is released, you'll hear an A-list ensemble of voices.

Mario will be played by Chris Pratt, who will say "it's-a-me," while Luigi will be played by Charlie Day.

Princess Peach will be played by Anya Taylor-Joy from *The Queen's Gambit*, with antagonist Bowser voiced by Jack Black.

Donkey Kong will be played by Seth Rogen in the picture, which is set to be released in December 2022.

Chris Pratt replied on Instagram, writing that it's "dreams come true" for him to be the voice of Italian plumber Mario, recalling that he used to play the original game as a youngster.

According to the producers, each performer was chosen for his or her ability to portray the essence of each of the legendary roles.

This isn't the first time Mario and Luigi have appeared in a series of films.

A live-action film largely based on the game series was produced in 1993, however it received mixed reviews.

"Mario and Luigi are two of the most beloved characters in all of popular culture," producer Chris Meledandri stated, adding that they intended to bring these characters to life in a way that no other film has done before.

Nintendo's Shigeru Miyamoto expressed his hopes for this to be "a unique piece of entertainment that brings Super Mario Bros to life on the screen, allowing everyone to enjoy whether or not they are familiar with the game."

Cast list:

Chris Pratt as Mario
Anya Taylor-Joy as Peach
Charlie Day as Luigi
Jack Black as Bowser
Keegan-Michael Key as Toad
Seth Rogen as Donkey Kong
Fred Armisen as Cranky Kong
Kevin Michael Richardson as Kamek
Sebastian Maniscalco as Spike



WE'RE HIRING!

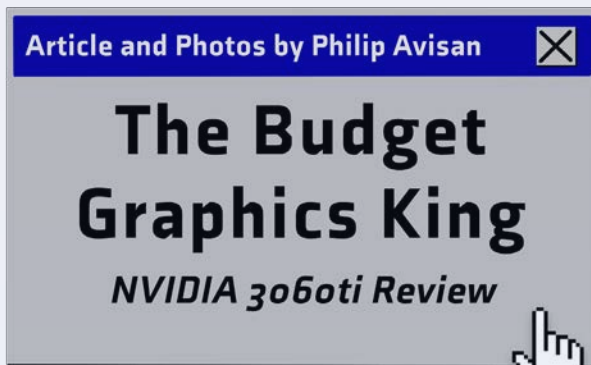
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**MYSTIC
AQUARIUM**



Although the Nvidia GeForce RTX 3060 Ti does not break any new ground, it does make Nvidia Ampere technology more accessible to users on a budget. It, like the RTX 3060, does an excellent job of combining performance and price, making it one of the best value graphics cards in the RTX 3000 series.

The RTX 3060 Ti's performance is comparable to, if not better than, that of the RTX 2080 Super, the legendary card from the previous generation, but costing roughly half as much. While it doesn't exactly reinvent what a GPU can accomplish, it does provide users with all of that capability at a lower price. It allows players to play their favorite games at higher graphical settings, with ray tracing enabled, and at a resolution of 1440p without breaking the wallet.

Furthermore, it presents a tempting option for those who find the Nvidia GeForce RTX 3080 and the more costly RTX 3090 to be overkill for their purposes, with a price tag that they just cannot justify.

The RTX 3060 Ti costs roughly the same as the RTX 2060 Super, but it's twice as powerful as the RTX 2080 Super, which costs \$699 (around £560, AU\$990). That card was a 1440p Ultra machine, so the 3060 Ti will be as well, and it'll be a lot cheaper today.

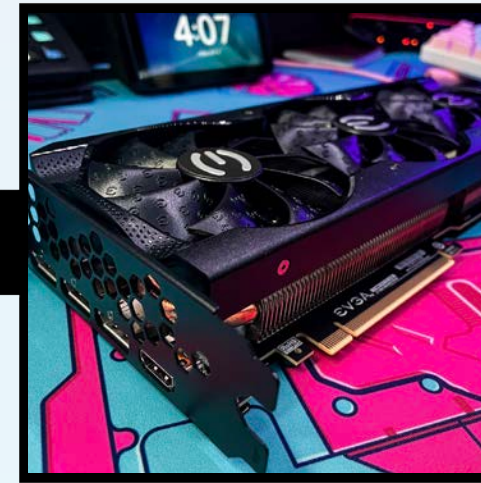
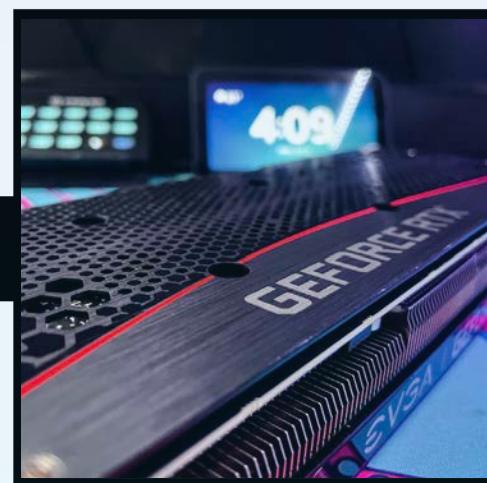
The Nvidia GeForce RTX 3060 Ti, which is built on the same Ampere architecture as the RTX 3080, provides us a preview of what the Ampere portfolio will look like in the mid-range and affordable segments of the GPU market. This isn't going to be the graphics card that pushes Watch Dogs Legion with ray tracing at 4K, but it's certainly capable of doing it at 1080p.

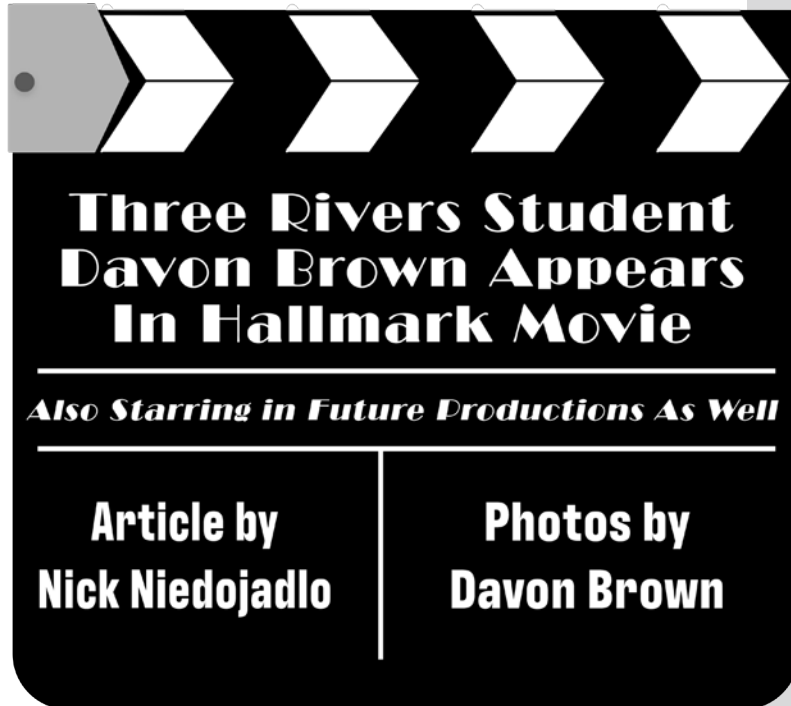
This graphics card includes 8GB of the same GDDR6 memory as the RTX 3070, as well as 38 Ampere Streaming Multiproces-

sors (SM). However, due to modifications made to Nvidia's SM since Turing, each of them now contains 128 CUDA cores, which is double the 64 in each Turing SM. That means the RTX 3060 Ti now has 4,864 CUDA cores, up from 2,176 in the RTX 2060 Super.

The Nvidia GeForce RTX 3060 Ti is certainly capable of some entry-level 4K gaming, but it truly excels at lower 1080p and 1440p resolutions. For years, the RTX 3060 Ti will be able to provide high-frame rate gameplay at 1080p.

The RTX 3060 Ti is an absolute ray tracing champion at 1080p, and you won't have to worry about unplayable frame rates at 1080p, or even 1440p with DLSS enabled.





Three Rivers Student Davon Brown Appears In Hallmark Movie

Also Starring in Future Productions As Well

Article by Nick Niedojadlo	Photos by Davon Brown
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Pictures 1-4:
The sets and
filming of the
movie



Davon Brown, a 23 year old student at Three Rivers, has landed a part in a new Hallmark movie Taking the Reins which released September 25th of this year. While Brown is currently attending TRCC for a major in Graphic Design and a Marketing Certificate, his passion is for acting.

Brown mentioned that he has always had this passion for acting, and started off in local theater during the fifth grade. Later on in high-school (Griswold), he took part in drama for all four years. He worked on their fall dramas, which included roles such as Baby Bear in Finding Prince Charming, Chef in Mrs. McThing, and Peter Quince in A Midsummer Night's Dream.

After high-school, Brown said that, "I took a break to focus on school and wanted something as a fallback due to the difficult success rate for actors." However in June, Brown saw that Hallmark was filming a new movie in Connecticut

and took a chance by signing up for their database casting, later being chosen.

The film Taking the Reins is about a small town girl coming back home. She is a writer, who focuses on books based around horses, but falls back in love with horse riding. Brown said that his part was "a background role for the horse competition, which is a big part of the movie, as well as the scene right after."

Acting is something that Brown hopes to continue pursuing, and was fortunate enough to take part in a December Hallmark movie titled Holiday in Harlem. Brown said that he "was a stand in for seven days of filming. It's actually a union job, and being a stand-in new on-set is a big deal." Another perk that Brown mentioned was that he "got to be on-set with Denzel Washington's daughter Olivia Washington."

Brown loves the acting process, and as a Graphic Design major, he also enjoys all of the behind the scenes work as well, such as everything involved with editing the film.

For anyone interested in acting, and don't know where to start or want

ADMIT ONE

"You never know what kind of opportunity will present itself with being on set."

some advice, Brown has some to share. "Just put yourself out there," he said. "I never thought I'd get a callback, and even if it is a background role it's still a foot in the door." Through this, Brown has been able to grab multiple roles, as he worked on set for the Pretty Little Liars Reboot, as well as having a role in an upcoming Disney project, though no information can be given under an NDA.

"A big misconception is that background roles are a waste of time, but I wholeheartedly disagree with that. I feel like it gives you that step towards connection. You can connect with the director, with other actors and even with lead roles, you never know," Brown said.

Brown continued, "While on set for Taking the Reins one of my acting friends was actually able to get the role as the boyfriend of a main character. So he got both TV credits as well as

Continued On Next page

Davon Brown Appears In Hallmark Movie, Continued

an opportunity you wouldn't get if you just sat around waiting for a principal role."

"When I was on set for *Holiday in Harlem* is when I was told about the Disney project. Because I was able to be on set for *Taking the Reins* I got the stand-in job for *Holiday in Harlem*.

Through this extra work, my name is now in the running for this casting agency, so when maybe a bigger project does come up, they might think of me first before someone else."

Brown finished off by sharing important final words for anyone who is interested in this industry. "You never know what kind of opportunity will present itself with being on set."

Once again, Hallmark's *Taking the Reins* premiered on September 25th, 2021, and the upcoming *Holiday in Harlem* is set to release this December, so be sure to check them out.

Pictures 5-7: The Set and filming
Picture 8: Davon Brown



NBA IS BACK Key Dates Announced

By Philip Avisan

According to Shams Charania of *The Athletic*, the NBA has notified clubs of important dates for the 2021-22 season, indicating a return to normalcy with at least a typical timetable of events after the past two seasons were upended by the COVID-19 epidemic. While there have been calls to permanently change the NBA schedule to start the season later than the fall to avoid conflict with football, it appears that the league prefers to return to the status quo, at least for the next season.

The start date for training camp and the regular season stands out the most among the new important dates. While teams who did not reach the playoffs or were sent home early will profit from the almost three-month vacation, teams and players that make a long postseason run will not have as much time off.

2021-22 Key Dates

Play-In tournament returns for 2021-22 season
2021

Aug. 2: Teams can begin negotiating with free agents (6 p.m. ET)
Aug. 6: Teams can begin signing free agents (12:01 p.m. ET)
Aug. 8-17: MGM Resorts NBA Summer League in Las Vegas
Sept. 28: Training camp begins
Oct. 19: Regular season begins
2022

Feb. 18-20: NBA All-Star 2022 (Cleveland, OH)
April 10: Regular season concludes
April 12-15: Play-In Tournament
April 16: Playoffs begin
June 2: NBA Finals begin
June 19: Game 7 of NBA Finals (if necessary)
June 23: NBA Draft



THE RISE OF NFTS ON A DIGITAL PLATFORM

Article by Adam Browne

The history of Art and where it may go has always been a fascinating topic. When thinking of great art pieces in history, some might think of the Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci. Nowadays the way we create art has changed a lot and it has evolved through the years. Though physical paint is still very popular, we now have computers to help us make and showcase digital artwork. Today, technology has made being an artist a bit more beneficial to both their audience and themselves. From social platforms like DeviantArt and Pixiv to the rising emergence of NFTs. Artists have a new way to breathe life into their pieces of creativity.

However, photo editing programs like Adobe Creative Suite have made it easier for artists to be able to create what they love digitally. Just this year the rise of NFTs has brought being an Artist more meaning. For

those wondering, NFT stands for non-fungible token. It is a digital token that exists on the blockchain to record proof of ownership for the person holding it. Each token is completely unique because it has its own unique metadata which can never be replicated or replaced for another. Take for instance if you share a piece of a new song you wrote or a new piece of art you made, you could turn these items into a NFT where the audience could buy it from you. Thus, helping during this pandemic to put money back into the artists pockets. Though it isn't always profitable for these NFT designers, it's an outlet for their pieces to be appreciated.

NFT artwork is on the rise and all thanks to digital currency like Bitcoin or cryptocurrency. If you compare a NFT to a cryptocurrency, they may seem to have the same value. While, the NFTs you may choose to collect or create by yourself will have differentiating value. This de-

pends on how rare the piece is or how valuable on the trading market it is. This is because cryptocurrencies, like Bitcoin, are fungible and all the tokens are equal. With NFTs, every token is different and unique. Now, why are NFTs so valuable you may be questioning, well remember the Mona Lisa? To bring that more into focus, Think of it like this: there is only one person who can really own the original Mona Lisa, but millions can have copies of it.

The value lies in the real Mona Lisa though. The same applies to digital collectibles and artwork. Before the invention of NFTs, there was no way to prove the ownership or authenticity of digital artworks or collectibles. No one could tell who originally created the piece because there are so many photos on the internet today. To solve these issues in the digital world, you can buy NFTs with cryptocurrency. Why would you want to buy one then? Primarily for investment or ownership rights.

On the side of investment minting or forming these NFTs to be more able to sell, depends on gas prices. When I say gas prices I don't mean the price you pay to put gas in your car. While, it's more of how much it costs to host these NFTs on a market for purchase. Many people are buying

NFTs and reselling at higher prices and others are holding them as long-term investments.

However, with the rise of these NFTs comes the worry of future payoff. For instance, back in the 90's there were these teeny baby teddy bears the world was crazy about. Now what if I told you nostalgic items had a future pay off? Nobody could expect that these same teeny baby teddy bears would be so high on demand selling nearly for thousands of dollars. The same instance happened with the craze over Pokemon cards in the 1990s as well. Today some collectors would be looking at around \$500-\$1,000 in a mint condition First base Charizard card. The funny and fortunate thing about NFTs is they don't degrade in their condition. So, by holding a NFT years down the road you'll be looking at more value.

Everyday cryptocurrency is valued differently based on the same principles of the wall street stock trading companies. The prices you could put it up for on a digital platform is growing each day. If you're a graphic design student, now is the time to put effort into your work. The digital platform of markets selling NFTs could be your way to a creative future.

background photo: NFT Graphic

Below: popular NFTs, sold for at least \$1MIL USD each



Halloween

HALLOWEEN COSTUME IDEAS FOR 2021

It's Time To Get Spooky

Story By: Lauren Susi

A lot has changed in one year. That includes halloween costume ideas.

Nothing can beat the classics. Ghosts and witches are costumes that work every year, and anyone, at any age can wear.

Ghost costumes can be the simplest of costumes. The best way to go about becoming a ghost is taking a white sheet and cutting two eye holes in the sheet so you can see. You can leave the holes open, however, some people decide to wear glasses over the holes, or paint around their eyes to make them more realistic. Get even more creative with it and add funny or random accessories to the sheet or even try to put on clothes over your ghost sheet for a hilarious look.

Witch costumes are a little more intricate. These at least require a witches hat. It would also preferably include a black dress or outfit of some kind. And a witch or wizard costume can be rounded out with a broomstick and a wand. Any stick can be painted and shaped to become a wand.

The same can be done with a vampire costume. Wear some dark vintage clothes and maybe some ripped tights as well to create your ghoulish look. And don't forget to wear some fake fangs.

The Joker, from the DC universe, is a little

more specific costume, but is an easy costume that can be done with a little face paint and some dress clothes. Paint your entire face white. Then put a nice big smile painted red on your lips, and include some blue triangles above and below each of your eyes, and there you have it, you've become Batman's greatest nemesis.

An angel and demon is a great combination for two people. They can work with couples and siblings, and are easy costume ideas. For the demon costume, some type of red, or black outfit would work. Add some horns and a pitchfork and that's all you need. An angel costume would work best with a white outfit and a makeshift halo. This can be easily done with some white wire pipe cleaners. To complete an angel outfit, if you can create wings of some sort, your costume will stand out from all of the rest.

Skeletons can be quality ideas, especially if you have an artistic touch. Paint your face to look like a skeleton with black and white paint. Skeletons don't have eyes or mouths, so the eyes and jaws would be painted black. The rest of the body can be tricky. Some folks go out and find skeleton costumes. If you want to do it yourself, start with black clothes. That includes black pants, a black shirt, black shoes, and black socks. Then you buy some white duct tape. Cut the tape and put it on your shirt to represent ribs. This will help you

stand out as a skeleton.

Skeletons don't have to be scary. You can also decorate your skeleton costumes, and be a little bit more festive. Some ways you can do this is by adding colors and flowers to your costume. Red, orange and purple are classic halloween colors that compliment halloween costumes well. You can use face paint, flowers, and other clothing accents like hats, or gloves to give your skeleton costume a little more flare and flavor.

Most importantly, get creative and have fun!

Halloween



It's spooky season and Halloween is almost here. One of the classic traditions for this time of year is pumpkin carving, but are you tired of having the same simple smiling Jack-O'-Lantern? With some of these tips and tricks for carving, you can be on the way to creating a more original pumpkin. These tips come from Marc Evan, co-founder of Maniac Pumpkin Carvers based in Brooklyn, so make sure to check out their work.

The first tip would be to try and come up with an idea before you even pick out your pumpkin. Don't worry about it being a bit more out there, just come up with a design you like and sketch it down on some paper that you can bring with you. If you're struggling with ideas you can always look online for inspiration.

Once you have your design planned out, it's time to search for your ideal pumpkin. First off, don't just search for a plain old pumpkin shape. They come in many different shapes and sizes, and the weirder the shape the more unique your carving will be. It is also important to look for pumpkins with stems that are on the greener and/or thicker side. A green stem indicates a fresher pumpkin, and the thicker the stem the stronger the pumpkin itself is, making it ideal for carving.

When it comes time to carve the pumpkin, it's recommended to actually cut a whole in the back of the pumpkin to scoop, rather than around the stem. With this technique, you're not cutting off the stem which helps to add structural integrity to the pumpkin itself.

When it comes time to carve the pumpkin, it's recommended to actually cut a whole in the back of the pumpkin to scoop, rather than around the stem. With this technique, you're not cutting off the stem which helps to add structural integrity to the pumpkin itself.

When you're scooping everything out, get as much as possible. The more you leave in the quicker your pumpkin will mold, so scrape down till even the inner walls of your pumpkin are thinner. You can also use rubber gloves if you don't want your hands covered in pumpkin guts.

Now that you're ready to carve, you need a set of tools to work with. We all know the simple spoon to scoop and knife to cut, or those carving kits you can buy at the store, but if you want to get creative and add texture or other elements to your pumpkin, try thinking outside the box.

Use different types of knives, cheese graters, lemon zesters or even clay sculpting tools. Think of anything that might help get your carving done, while staying safe of course. With shaving down outer sections of the pumpkin, and not cutting all the way through, you allow the light to glow at different levels. It's also recommended to have a spray bottle with water handy to keep your pumpkin wet. This helps to keep it workable.

With your design complete and your Jack-O'-Lantern ready to see the world, it's time to get your light source. The generic way of doing this is to light a candle inside, however this actually slowly cooks the pumpkin over time with the heat, even from a small candle.

It's recommended to keep your pumpkin as cold as possible to stay fresher longer. A work around is to get yourself an LED light. They can get even brighter than a regular candle and don't give off heat, so it's really a win/win scenario for you there.

With these useful carving tips, you can make sure that this Halloween season is even better. So get together with family and friends and make a whole day out of it, that way you can all share your masterpieces together.

Halloween

13 MUST-WATCH MOVIES FOR OCTOBER

What is your favorite movie to watch around Halloween?

Article by Sabrina Tyree

What better time to watch your favorite scary movie than October? If you do not like to watch scary movies, that is ok. There are many movie options that you can watch, it doesn't have to be scary. Enjoy some family favorites.

FAMILY:

- **Hocus Pocus (1993)** – Directed by Kenny Ortega, this film stars Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker and Kathy Najimy as three witchy sisters who suck the lives out of children. As they are about to be executed, the vow that they will be back when a virgin lights their black flamed candle. Once returned, can they be stopped?
- **Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)** – This Tim Burton story, directed by Henry Selick, follows the story of Jack Skellington. Jack is the king of HalloweenTown, but what happens when finds Christmastown?
- **It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown (1966)** – The classic comic strip story of Charlie Brown has been created into a Halloween television special. Written and created by Charles Schulz, this special quickly became a family favorite.
- **Casper (1995)** – What happens when an afterlife therapist is hired to get ghosts out of a house? His young daughter makes friends with one of the spirits, Casper, who died young and is now taking care of three unique ghosts.

CLASSICS:

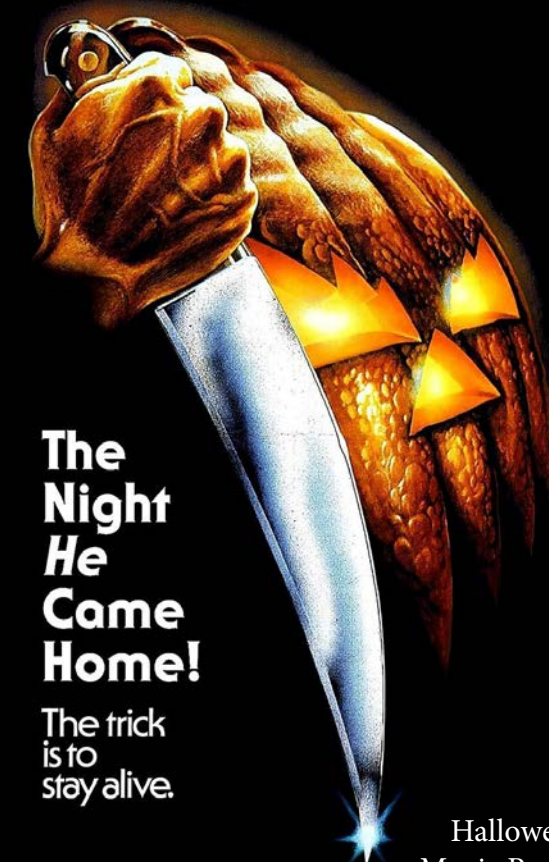
- **Halloween (1978)** - This classic Halloween series will keep you on the edge of your seat. Michael Myers, after killing his sister, was committed to a sanitarium. What happens when he escapes and finally comes home?
- **Carrie (1976)** - Carrie is a shy 16-year-old who is bullied at school and gets humiliated when she has her first ever period in the school shower. Her highly religious mother has never spoken to her about the process and Carrie was in panic. Students tease her about it until it is broken up by her gym teacher. The cruelty of the students, however, does not stop there.
- **Friday the 13th (1980)** – This franchise follows Jason Voorhees. After being presumed dead as a child by drowning at Camp Crystal Lake, he comes back decades later for a mass killing spree. Is he cursed?
- **Nightmare on Elm Street (1984)** – This Wes Craven movie takes a whole new meaning to not being able to sleep. Freddy Kruger haunts and kills teenagers in their dreams. Can he be stopped?
- **Ghostbusters (1984)** – This supernatural movie follows a group of scientists who capture ghosts for a living while providing a few laughs along the way. Can you sit through the movie without laughing?

Disney
**HOCUS
POCUS**



Hocus Pocus Movie Poster

HALLOWEEN



Halloween
Movie Poster

Halloween

If you do not want to watch your typical slasher or family movie. There are still plenty of other movies to watch that make the popular list. These movies will make you see things from a different perspective.

THRILLER:

- **The Silence of the Lambs (1991)** – Jodie Foster stars as a young FBI trainee who is on the hunt for a serial killer known as Buffalo Bill. Buffalo Bill likes to skin his female victims so Foster's character seeks out the help of Dr. Hannibal Lecter, who is an imprisoned psychiatrist but also a cannibalistic serial killer. What will she learn and can she find Buffalo Bill?
- **The Village (2004)** – A town of people live in a small settlement in the middle of Pennsylvania Woods, in fear of creatures that live beyond the boundaries of their village. The council of elders control the town, but what secrets do they carry?
- **Psycho (1960)** – This Alfred Hitchcock psychological thriller focuses on the search for Marion Crane after she seems to have disappeared after meeting motel proprietor, Norman Bates. Will her lover and sister find out what happened or possibly meet the same fate?
- **The Shining (1980)** – After watching this film, you will never want to be alone in a hotel again. Jack Nicholson plays an alcoholic writer who takes a position as a caretaker for a hotel in its off season. As winter moves in, he and his family realize just how cut off from civilization they are and things start to change; He starts to change. Who will survive the winter?



Silence of the Lambs Movie poster

WHERE TO WATCH

Ready to watch? Here's where you can easily find the movies listed:

FAMILY:

- Hocus Pocus - Disney+
- Nightmare Before Christmas - Disney+
- It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown - Apple TV
- Casper - Amazon Prime

THRILLER:

- The Silence of the Lambs - Amazon Prime
- The Village - Hulu
- Psycho - Showtime
- The Shining - Amazon Prime

CLASSICS:

- Halloween - Amazon Prime
- Carrie - Amazon Prime
- Friday the 13th - Amazon Prime
- Nightmare on Elm Street - HBOMax
- Ghostbusters - Amazon Prime



Nightmare Before Christmas Movie Poster



Halloween

Three Hauntings In Connecticut

Popular haunted places to visit

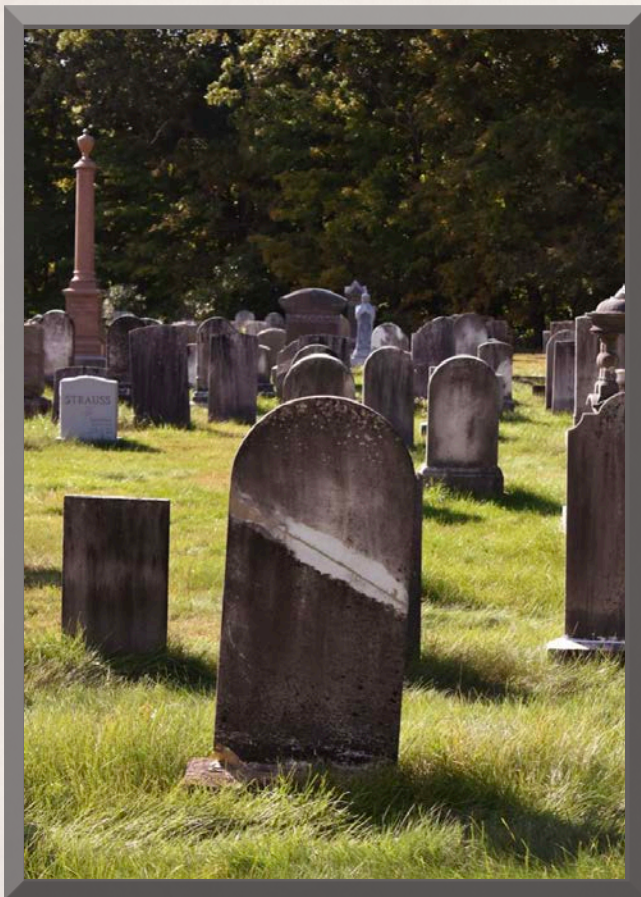
Article and Photos By Sabrina Tyree

Connecticut is known as one of the original settlements in the United States. Since the 1600's, many places within the state had established stories, some based on actual events. These stories lead us to some of the most haunted places and urban legends in the United States. Three sites always seem to make the list as popular haunted places.

Union Cemetery, Easton CT

There are a couple of stories surrounding the hauntings at Union Cemetery. The most popular ghost, even seen by famous paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren during their visit, is the White Lady. The white Lady has been said to have been caught on camera many times and wears a nightgown and matching bonnet. There are a few stories surrounding the White Lady. Most believe that she is the spirit of a lady who was murdered in the 1940. A few others believe that she was the mother of that murdered girl or that she was the murderer and then murdered her husband.

Another ghost story that surrounds this site is red eyes. One witness said that he saw red glowing eyes staring at him through the bushes but heard footsteps following him as he tried to run away. Some believe that the red eyes belong to the spirit of Earlie Kellog, who was set on fire in the street in 1935. Both stories seem to make the 1930-40's the most murderous decades for the area..



Union Cemetery

Norwich State Hospital, Preston CT

Located in the nearby town of Preston, the Norwich State Hospital is one of the most haunted places around. This asylum opened in 1904 and only held 95 patients. Over time, the ground had expanded to over 20 buildings and housing over 2,000 patients. Within 15 years of opening, a patient hung themselves and two employees were killed in an accident. People report hearing many different sounds in the old hospital; Slamming of doors, people screaming, machines beeping, voices and cold spots are only some of the things reported to have been seen or heard.



Sterling Opera House

Sterling Opera House, Derby CT

The Sterling Opera house was built in 1889 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1968. Although many performers took the stage, it was shut down in 1945. This site has appeared on the famous TV shows, "Ghost Hunters" and "Destination Fear." It is said that the spirit of Charles Sterling is tied to the opera house. It has also been said that a boy, some call Andy, can be found playing with a soccer ball in the balcony. Children laughing, orbs, doors opening and closing on their own are just some of the mysteries that can be found on site.

Recipe By: Kaycee Gagnier

Fruit Squares

Family Recipe



Necessary Ingredients

This recipe is from the 1960's, thanks to my grandmother. It's been a family favorite for generations, and I am hoping to share with you all this tasty treat. It's good both warm and chilled.

Fruit Squares Final Product



Bake at 350 for 40-45 minutes.

Test with a toothpick. Let cool before cutting into squares.

Want to save this recipe? Cut along the dotted line!

Publish your work in this semester's

QB Quill & Brush

Three Rivers Art and Literary Magazine

What is Quill & Brush?

Quill & Brush is a student-operated club that creates and publishes art, photography, and literature for Three Rivers Community College.

Ready to submit your work? Here's what you need to do:

1. Submit a photo, scan, or document of your art to trccquillandbrush@gmail.com
2. Include your: **name, submission title, year completed,** and (if applicable) **dimensions and resolution**
3. Submit your art by the **October 29th Deadline**

All work is accepted -- here are some ideas!

Fine Arts

Digital Arts

Literature

Photography

Astronomy

Architecture

Don't see your art on the list? Don't worry! **Send it in anyways!!!** We want to see your art!!

Simple No-Knead Bread

A simple way to bake delicious bread

This easy recipe is a perfect way to make a delicious loaf of bread. It is perfect for any meal, with a nice and crispy outside and a warm soft inside.

Prep Time: 3 Minutes

Cook Time: 40 Minutes

Total Time: 2 Hours

Makes: One Loaf

Ingredients:

- 3 cups (360-390g/12 ¾ ounces) bread flour or all purpose flour (Aerate Flour Before Measuring)
- 2 teaspoons instant or RapidRise yeast (1 packet/7g)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 ½ cup hot water (up to 130° F)
- About 2 tablespoons extra flour for shaping



All the supplies you'll need

TIP: To aerate flour, place it into a bowl and use a whisk to stir it around. You will notice the flour goes from clumpier to a softer powdery mix. Then measure the 3 cups from your aerated flour.



Finished Product

DIRECTIONS:

- 1** Combine flour, 2 teaspoons of yeast, and salt in a large bowl. Stir in water until it is all combined together.
- 2** Cover the mixture with plastic wrap and let it stand at room temp. for one hour.
- 3** After 40 minutes, place a 3 to 6-quart Dutch oven with lid in a cold oven and preheat for 450° F.
- 4** After the dough has rested for one hour, place it on a well-floured surface and sprinkle a little of the flour on your dough. Using a scraper, fold your dough over ten to twelve times and shape it into a rough ball.
- 5** Place the dough in a parchment paper-lined bowl (not wax paper) and cover it with a towel or another bowl. Then, let it stand on the counter top for fifteen minutes.
- 6** After the fifteen minutes are up, carefully, using oven gloves, lift the parchment paper with the dough and gently transfer it into the hot pot. (The dough sits inside of the parchment paper, like a basket, inside the pot). Cover and bake for thirty minutes.
- 7** After the thirty minutes are up, remove the lid and parchment paper. Return the dough uncovered to the oven and bake it for ten to fifteen more minutes. Once it is finished, let it sit and cool for at least fifteen more minutes before slicing and serving.

TIP: A Dutch oven is a fully metal pot that is specially made to be put entirely into the oven with the lid on and can withstand high temperatures.



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