

Maroon & White

“For a better Tennessee High”

Volume CVII, Issue 4

Tennessee High School, Bristol, Tennessee

December 9th, 2022

Back to the 80s: A Sleigh-ride Down Memory Lane

By Bree Eaton

With the holiday season right around the corner, families gather all around the world and break out their annual traditions. Even in our little corner of the world, known as Tennessee High, staff members have their own unique traditions and stories that make their holidays memorable.

Back in the Philippines is where Mrs. Story spent Christmas as a child. For her, Christmas in the Philippines was filled with carolers and streets lined with coins and candy. Story tells that being in a predominantly Roman Catholic country, they took the nativity story about Mary very seriously. She remembers visiting downtown Manila, and being surrounded by thousands of people watching far away on a billboard. She accounts this billboard as, “a little nativity scene being played over a loudspeaker.” As well as receiving packages from grandparents every year, staying true to their American traditions “as much as possible”, and even bringing over a three foot tall Christmas tree from the U.S., Story shares that “most traditions are very similar.”

Quality time with family is one tradition that Mr. Mooney views as his favorite. “My mom’s side of the family used to come over on Christmas Eve”, Mooney recalls, adding that as a kid, “she used to make soup, we would have fellowship and play cards.” Mooney and his family would also give little gifts to people around the neighborhood and community—“especially the elderly people that

[they] knew.” To continue the holiday cheer, Mooney continues to try and get together with his family around Christmas. He even makes sure that his children get to visit the man himself, Santa Claus.

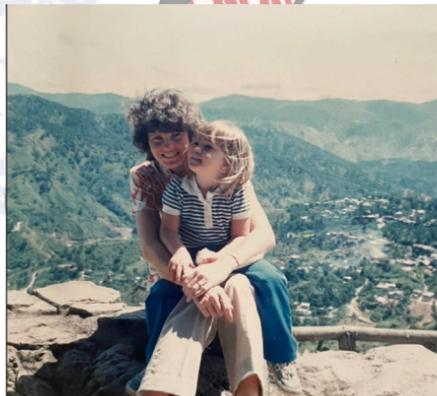
Heartwarming and memorable, Dr. Shu shares how a firetruck and parade were involved in making her favorite holiday memories and traditions. Shu reflects on her family gathering together on a firetruck and “throwing out candy to all the neighboring people.” With one

of her uncles dressing up as Santa, Shu’s family made sure to spread the holiday cheer with a lasting impact. Shu’s aunts and grandmother would also make “cookie plates” that they would hand out to the elderly. She shares that “people, especially in the housing projects, would wait for us to come.”

While holiday traditions range in all shapes, sizes, and continents, it doesn’t stop them from having one thing in common— an impact that can last a lifetime.



Ho!Ho!Ho! Dr. Shu’s family joining in on the Christmas Parade!



Mrs. Story sitting on her mother’s lap in Baguio, Philippines, circa 1985.



“Kevin Mooney” enjoying a peaceful Christmas morning.

Pounds of Salt Later

By Ada Ritchie

As THS students and staff anticipate the possibility of a snow day, the snow removal crew for the city of Bristol begins preparing for their 12-hour shift of clearing the roads. 25 people work overnight, driving snow plows along a route approximately 10 miles long.

The trucks have a max speed of 25 mph, which prevents them from going off the roads, hitting mailboxes, and cars. Crew Chief Greg Cotter explains when driving the truck, “the last thing you want to do is speed plowing.” Going at a slower speed helps make “sure you’re putting down the right amount of salt.”

The salt is controlled by a salt spreader, which all trucks are equipped with. Another crew chief, Janet Ross, describes the endeavors of maneuvering a large truck on icy, hilly

routes. She mentions, “if you start to slide, you must raise your plow to put the weight back on the tires. That will stop you from sliding!” Although snow plowing can be difficult, she adds, “If you go at a safe speed and pay attention to what you are doing, fighting snow can be fun!”

The roads require multiple passes due to the continuation of the snowfall. Cotter states “a two-lane roadway will usually take four passes to clear, depending on the amount of snow and ice that have accumulated on the surface and if it has been pretreated or not.”

We owe a big thanks to our snow removal staff. Their job is essential for the functionality of our city. Our mayor Mahlon Luttrell states, “snow removal is very important to everyone living and working here, as well as travelers.” These services

allow emergency services to continue running, school systems to operate, and ability to continue with your day-to-day life.



What’s Inside

“Brawl in the Hall”
Page 2

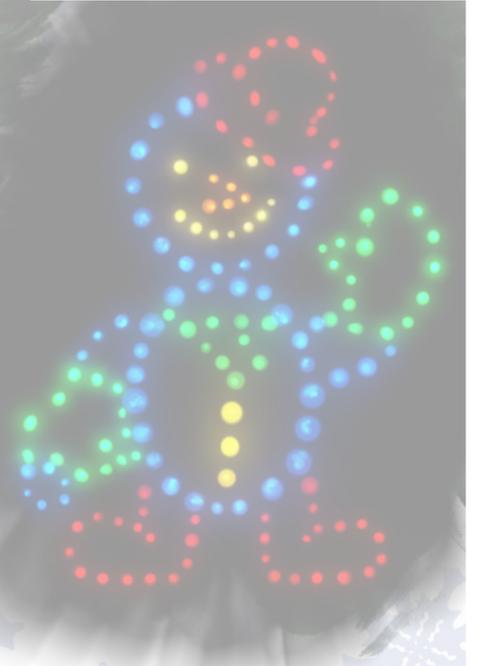
“Slone in the Zone”
Page 3

“A Guide to Gift Giving”
Page 4

“Holidays Around the World”
Page 5

“My Strange (Internet) Addiction”
Page 6

“Joan’s Comic Corner”
Page 7



Meet the 2022 Maroon & White Fall Staff

Senior Editor
Nathaniel Morefield

Junior Editor
Callie Eckley

Sophomore Editor
Hayden Arnett

Journalists
Alex Akard
Piper Booher
Joseph Burriss
Caden Cartwright
Ricky Cortez Aleman
Sydney Cunningham

Bree Eaton
Kaylee Hamrick
Ada Ritchie
Liz Rouse
Caitlin Vining
Torey Walk
Joan Weddington

Layout Team
Kaylie Cunningham
Halle Mullins

Business Managers
Ryan Bunning
Lilly Chafin

Art Director
Joan Weddington

Advisor
Mariel Story

Design Consultant
Dereck Shipley
"The Bearded One"

Decision Day in America

By Ryan Bunning

Nov. 8 marked election day across America, and along with it a blend of celebration and disappointment nationwide. Although Democrats defended their majority in the US Senate, Republicans will now outnumber Democrats in the US House. Tennessee's First Congressional District, which includes the Tri-Cities, re-elected Diana Harshbarger (R) to represent them in the US House. Neither of our senators were up for re-election this year. Often overlooked but nonetheless important are our nation's gubernatorial races. Massachusetts, Arizona, and Maryland voted to replace Republican governors with Democrats, while Nevada did the inverse. Here in Tennessee, Bill Lee (R) was re-elected to serve as governor. In addition, four state constitutional amendments were on the ballot in Tennessee. All four passed, but it was Amendment 3 that caught the most attention. This proposed change removed slavery from the state constitution, which was a practice previously allowed as a form of legal punishment.



The Sounds of Winter

By Sydney Cunningham

Bells are ringing as the THS music department brings the sounds of winter to Bristol. Just last night, the Madrigals and Advanced Women's Ensemble classes had their first performance of the long-awaited Madrigal Dinners. The dinner includes a short Renaissance-themed play and meal, and a long-standing tradition of "Senior Solos." They have shows again tonight at 7 o' clock and tomorrow at 2 o' clock to cap off their holiday performances.

Next Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m.,

Fabulous Fundraisers

By Liz Rouse

Our Winter and Spring sports are quickly approaching. THS is all about kindness, support, and encouragement, which are exactly what our teams need. Specifically, they need financial support through fundraisers. Fundraisers are exactly how our teams pay for jerseys, sweats, equipment, and more. The more money our teams make, the better the gear the players receive! Help a fellow Viking this year by going to a fundraising event. Show up and show out to these upcoming fundraising events:

Baseball: A discount card with many restaurants from the Pinnacle and other restaurants in Bristol. Normally sold during Christmas Break.

A Great Run at the State Meet

By Joseph Burriss

A light breeze brushed against the faces of the eager runners. It was nearly 80 degrees and the THS Cross Country team anxiously awaited the splitting crack of the starter pistol. These were the conditions that surrounded the anticipated state meet in Hendersonville, Tennessee. For the first time since the 1970's, the boys and girls teams went to state in the same year, a huge success for the team. It's especially rewarding for

The girls basketball players will be handing out papers, you pick the shots you want to take!

Track and Field: Rally Up!, an online fundraising website. You will receive an email from a Track athlete with a link included. After clicking on the link it will ask you to donate an amount of your choice. Be looking out for this in the next couple of weeks!

Tennis: Each Tennis player will receive and pass out calendars. On these calendars it will have days you can choose to sponsor. The amount you donate is up to you. For example you can choose to sponsor April 4th and donate 15 dollars.

Boys' Basketball: A 5k coming up at 2 p.m. on Dec 3.

Zoe Arrington, a senior, who for her last year of THS cross country led the girls with a first place finish at the region meet, winning the state meet the following week as well. The boys exceeded expectations as well, with all of our top five boys in the state's top fifty most improved list. Overall, the team had a wonderful meet, and with talent continuing to blossom, the possibilities for next year are promising.

Bouncing Into Basketball

By Caitlin Vining

Our Mighty Viking Basketball teams have kicked off the winter sports season. Both the boys' and girls' teams have been practicing throughout the fall and have already played in scrimmages, jamborees, and in-season

games. Both teams will also be making separate trips to play in a tournament located in Orlando, Florida.

A key aspect of the basketball season is the infamous Arby's Classic. Over winter break the boys' team will face off against teams from across the nation for the Arby's Classic basketball tournament, which is held in Tennessee High's very own Viking Hall.

Players, cheerleaders, and parents alike will be focused on the sound of basketball shoes squeaking against the court.



TMS eighth grader, Callie Baker, as Clara.

Brawl in the Hall

By Caden Cartwright

Not all vikings wield weapons. Our Tennessee High School Wrestling team, for example, will soon tackle their season barehanded, beginning on Dec. 3. Grapplers will clash in many tournaments this season, including the Indian Classic Dec. 9-10 at Dobyns-Bennett, Brawl in the Hall Jan 6-7 in Viking Hall, Best of Bristol Jan. 4 at John Battle, and more.

The Classic will show our wrestlers' strengths and weaknesses through

competing against tough teams. The Vikings can scale their skills in JV and varsity divisions: they may be big rafts in little ponds or great longships out in the sea. Despite vikings' once barbaric reputation, however, Coach Joshua Shuler isn't "throwing them to the wolves." He noted that "Aiden Fennel and Eli Moore won big during their pre-season Crockett scrimmage" and that "we've got the best numbers THS has seen in a long time, sitting at 23-24 wrestlers."

By Alex Akard

The annual rendition of The Nutcracker by the Bristol Ballet at the Paramount Theater in Bristol begins tonight, December 9th, at 7:30 p.m. and tomorrow at 12 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. This rendition of The Nutcracker tells the story of Clara as she follows a Nutcracker prince through various lands and his war against the Rat Queen. Callie Baker, an eighth grader at TMS, mentions the privilege of

A New Nutcracker

performing this role of Clara is "one of the most memorable and special moments of [her] life." Tickets are between \$8-\$30 with \$5 military, member, and student discounts. The ballet is performed by local dancers along with New York City dancers Erin Ginn and Jace Coronado, who have traveled back to Bristol to perform as the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier. Come out tonight to support a classic tradition.

Satire from the Cortez Report: Is Santa Claus Real?

By Ricardo Cortez Aleman

Over the years, people all over the world reach a certain age where they ask the age-old question: Is Santa Claus real?

Statistics from YouGov.com stated that “50% of Americans stopped believing in Santa before the age of 10.” Many people have heard the misinformed statement that THE Santa Claus himself is not real and that their parents are the masterminds behind Christmas. This begs the question: “If my parents were behind everything, how did they know what I asked Santa for?” Simple answer: they aren’t.

There is only one reasonable explanation for every present request to the North Pole being successfully fulfilled during Christmas Eve, which is obviously Santa Claus going down every chimney and placing them under the tree. People who lack a chimney may be unconvinced, however, he also comes through the toilet (not clickbait).



Another piece of evidence is the sudden disappearance of milk and cookies. As you probably know, it is recommended that everyone leaves a plate of cookies and a glass of milk for Santa to snack on as he is on his way back to his sleigh. Along with the discovery of Santa’s gifts under the tree and stockings filled with treats, lo and behold, there lies an empty plate and glass. Depending on his fullness, he may take a bite of the cookie, eat the whole thing, or even write a thank you note (which coincidentally looks like the parents’ handwriting, but that’s just in your head).

All clear evidence aside, while writing this article I came across an elf and interviewed him. “Santa Claus is a powerful man and would do anything to keep his identity a secret, so please let go of my arms and don’t mention my name,” Kevin Jr. the Elf stated.

In conclusion, the man of many names, Father Christmas, Kris Kringle, Santa Claus, is not a myth, but he is a man and a legend.

The Queen of Christmas: The Rise of Mariah Carey’s “All I Want for Christmas is You”

By Torey Walk

It’s Nov. 1, and you’re in the Starbucks line. You’re itching to get a pumpkin spice latte to cure the exhaustion caused by the lack of sleep on Halloween night. Grabbing your warm drink, you freeze when you hear it. The twinkling notes and the whistle tones of Mariah Carey fill the room. Despite the Halloween decorations still serving their time, the three weeks until Thanksgiving, and the summery 70 degrees outside, once the clock strikes twelve on Nov. 1, one song starts playing.

Even when the temperatures dip and trees are decorated, nothing confirms the return of the holiday season as cogently as Mariah Carey’s iconic holiday classic, “All I Want for

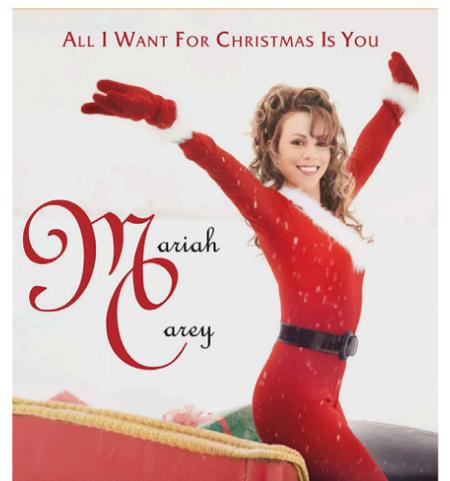
Christmas Is You.”

It’s been 25 years since Carey’s song was released on her 1994 album “Merry Christmas,” but the song has yet to be shelved. Carey’s song has earned more than 60 million in royalties and has dominated Billboard charts since its release. Not bad for a song whose famous melody was a “happy accident,” a result of “plunking around on a keyboard,” said Carey in the recent documentary, “Mariah Carey is Christmas: The Story of ‘All I Want for Christmas Is You.’” Carey said she stumbled upon the chords and recorded it on a tape recorder. “It was done very quickly and kind of came out organically, which the best songs do,” Carey said in the documentary. Multiple aspects contribute to the

song’s popularity, the most obvious being Carey’s powerhouse vocals. Even despite the viral sensation of Carey’s “awful” vocals while performing the song at the 2016 New Year’s Celebration, her iconic hit has yet to lose any popularity. In addition, savvy songwriting and themes of the song have played an integral role in the success of the track. Carey says the song is “one of [her] greatest achievements,” attributing the success of her song to its structure, inspired by classic Christmas carols, and the song’s ‘90s nostalgia.

There’s no doubt that “The Queen of Christmas” Carey and “All I Want for Christmas Is You” aren’t losing clout as we approach the holiday season: streams of the song

have already increased 99% since Oct. 1 and 2077% in November. It seems that the holiday season—and Mariah season—has officially arrived.



Chain-Mail: “Slone in the Zone”

By Lilly Chafin

If you have taken a class with the infamous Mr. Slone, I’m sure you already know of his witty personality. Slone was born and raised in Kentucky with his three brothers, but moved to Bristol in 2009. Slone is one of our most dedicated teachers at Tennessee High and is known to have open study sessions with his students at Blackbird Bakery, allowing them to ask questions before difficult tests.

Slone also sponsors Teens Supporting Sustainability, or TSS, a club he helped create with a few of his students that is dedicated to helping the environment. Slone says other than joining the club, a good way to help the environment is picking up trash when you see it, especially on hikes.

Outside of teaching, Slone has numerous interesting hobbies, such as playing guitar, banjo, basketball, and

video games, as well as woodworking and hiking, but his favorite hobby is riding his motorcycle. Slone says he likes riding his motorcycle

because of “the freedom of it.” When riding, he said, “it’s just you and the wind blowing your hair back.”

Slone bought his first motorcycle



without test-driving it first. When he got it off the trailer, he was revving it up, but there was dirt in the carburetor. He pulled it all the way back to see what the problem was and the dirt that was in there fell out. But then the motorcycle fell on top of him and started spinning him around. Slone currently has a big red scar on his arm, sustained from a fairly recent motorcycle injury. “I was at a red light,” Slone recounted, “and I noticed my tire seemed a little bit low, so I went down to grab it and squeeze it and I touched the pipe and I burned my arm.”

If you would like to meet this crazy character, consider joining TSS and help Slone save the environment. Slone would like to elect Mr. Davis for the next Chain-Mail feature. Stay tuned!

Breakfast Club

By Nathaniel Morefield

Many think of the upcoming holiday season as a particularly stressful time of year. It seems like every waking moment is consumed by looming Christmas shopping and overwhelming social events. THS freshman, Shelby Vining has a much different outlook on Christmas however. She is by no means excluded from the business of the season. In fact she probably has significantly much more on her plate than most others. Her activities include drag racing, swimming, saxophone in band, and winter guard. "I'm so young," she said, "so I still have so many opportunities, and I want to open myself up to as many opportunities as I can, so you really just have to dip your toe into the pool."

Shelby tries to do as many things as she can because she wants to be a role model one day. One of her role models is Band Director and fellow Saxophone player David Semones, and she would love to be a band director as well someday. Another of her role models is her mom, who Shelby was proud to tell me was the first woman to be a Drum Major at the University of Tennessee. These two, and many others have motivated Shelby's passion, and she hopes to do the same for those surrounding her.

You might think that given all of Shelby's interests, she would have no time to sit back and relax, and you'd be right as far as most of the year is concerned. Despite the constant, hectic activities of Christmas the season, this is Shelby's favorite time of year for the much-needed rest it brings. She adores finally getting her family time, which she described as "always peaceful." She also expressed her love for sitting by the warmth of the fire and watching Christmas movies. Surprisingly for her age, her favorite Christmas song is "O Come All Ye Faithful." "I like that it's just calm," she said. I think that's a good reminder for us all to take it easy this Holiday Season. Don't let the stress ruin your joy.

The Fall and Rise of Childhood Magic

By Callie Eckley

It's a brisk December afternoon. Your mailbox is cold to the touch; regardless, you open it. Stacks on stacks of Christmas cards lie idle, frigid. Some of the cards belong to your parent's friends from their new job, others from people they haven't reconnected with in years. Old neighbors, old friends, old bosses and their new grandkids, the list goes on and on. Knowing that we have the ability to reach out to someone via a Christmas card or any sort of Christmas celebration is nice, but it runs the risk of creating a false narrative of friendship or closeness.

Maybe Christmas is the only time of year some of us see or even reach out to our families, but isn't there

a point where this becomes an excuse rather than an explanation? It's a matter of priorities. Many of us could enjoy quality time with family and friends any time of the year just by reaching out.

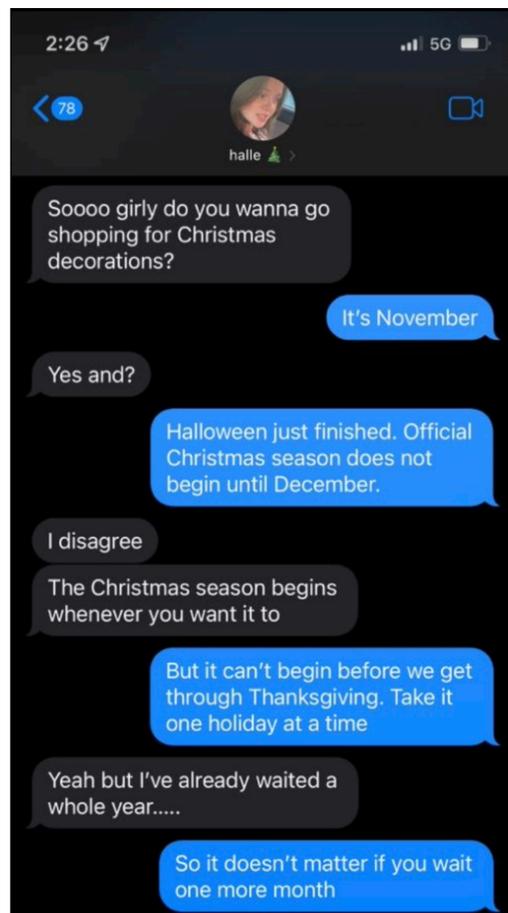
As we get older, we start to see these holiday idiosyncrasies, and they can make us feel like the "spirit of Christmas" is fading. As an old-soul of seventeen years myself, Christmas feels like a crossroad. My sister is gone, and it's a lot different now than when I was a kid. It's my last Christmas before adulthood. I'm in the transition period of becoming a giver rather than a receiver. For you, this feeling may be long gone or just beginning, or maybe it will never go away.

When Christmas seems to be

"losing its magic," we may feel isolated or even guilty for not loving Christmas the same way we did as a child—especially when we're still "too young" to feel that way—but that's just it, the magic of Christmas is catered to children. Part of growing up is learning how to give rather than receive. By learning to be those who make Christmas special for others, we can become creators of the magic we once looked forward to. Whether that's by sending an unprovoked, heartfelt letter or meeting for lunch one Saturday, we can make a point to celebrate others and uphold the magic that Christmas and the rest of the year can bring.



Alex & Halle: Holiday Hostility



A Guide To Gift Giving

By Ada Ritchie

The holiday season is approaching, and that means finding yourself struggling to think of gifts to give to your friends and family. Trying to find the perfect gift can be a daunting task. Luckily, here is a guide to giving a meaningful gift.

Tip #1: Know Their Interests

The biggest trick to gift giving is to know the interests of the person receiving the gift. For example, I have a friend that loves listening to music,

especially Arctic Monkeys. So, for her present I bought her tickets to an Arctic Monkeys concert and drew a cassette tape on paper, with a Spotify code to a playlist called, "when we go to the Arctic Monkeys concert together." I also have a friend who loves Taylor Swift, so I bought a sweatshirt with Taylor Swift lyrics on it, from Etsy. Catering to your loved ones' interests shows that you pay attention to them and care for them.

Tip #2: Make Something

Gifts don't need to be expensive

to be great. Homemade gifts are thoughtful and show that you put a lot of time and effort to make something for your loved ones. Examples of this could be painting, knitting, making a scrapbook, or even annotating their favorite book. If you are stuck and can't come up with ideas, there are multiple creators on Pinterest and TikTok that have wonderful suggestions. Another great idea is writing a letter to someone. One of my favorite gifts that I have received was a thoughtful, handwritten letter. You could include

why you were thankful for them and experiences you have had with them.

Tip #3: Shopping

There are even more ideas for gifts you can buy! Giving money or gift cards is always a great option. So is shopping from local businesses. There are multiple stores in downtown Bristol to choose from. So, when you buy gifts this holiday season remember it is the thought that counts, and a gift does not have to be expensive to be meaningful.

Hanukkah Sameach! What is the Festival of Lights?

By Kaylee Hamrick

Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday celebrating the recovery of Jerusalem and the Second Temple during the Maccabean revolt. The story has it that Judah called upon his followers to throw out the pagan idols and rededicate the temple by rebuilding its altar and lighting its menorah. The Maccabees found a small, sealed vat of untainted olive oil, just enough to light the menorah for a single day. The candles burned for eight. This miraculous event inspired Jewish sages

to proclaim a yearly eight day festival, dubbed the “Festival of Lights.”

Each night of Hanukkah, a candle is added to the hanukiah, a nine-candle menorah, and lit using the shamash or “helper” candle. The menorah is placed in the window facing the street and is lit just after sundown. The candles serve to provoke a sense of joy and remembrance of a great victory. On the eighth night of Hanukkah, all nine candles gleam triumphantly.

Today, Jewish households celebrate Hanukkah in a variety of ways.

One fun tradition is to play dreidel, a gambling game in which a top inscribed with Hebrew letters is spun and tokens are bet. The letters—nun, gimel, hey, and shin—stand for “nes gadol haya sham,” a Hebrew phrase meaning “a great miracle happened there.” Foods cooked in oil are consumed on Hanukkah as well to honor the miracle of the sacred oil—potato pancakes called latkes and jelly filled donuts referred to as sufganiyot are most common.

Due to its close proximity to

Christmas, Hanukkah has exploded in popularity in recent years, especially among North American and secular Jews. Stephanie Smith, co-president of B’nai Sholom Congregation in Bristol, says: “I love Hanukkah because it shows that a small group of people can make change for the whole world.” Hanukkah will be celebrated from Dec. 18 to Dec. 26 this year.

HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD



Created by Bree Eaton

Revealing Red Kettle Secrets

By Kaylie Cunningham

Ring, ring, ring. It's that time of year again, the time when the sound of a bell is heard ringing every time you enter or exit a store. A red bucket accompanies tired volunteers bundled in layers, attempting to battle the new record low. Maybe you stop and donate your pocket change or maybe you walk briskly past them, annoyed that they interrupted your holiday shopping mindset. Maybe you are like me and stop to wonder what people are really donating their money to.

The Salvation Army, founder of the

red kettles, is straightforward about where all the money goes. According to their website, the “average bellringer raises \$100/hour,” which sounds like a lot of money. Bellringers stand outside for a collective 300 hours, raising around \$30,000. But the seemingly high number does not go as far as one would expect. Expenses are listed on the website, which explains “\$5 covers the cost of two meals at the shelter, while \$25 covers a one-night stay.” With Bristol’s homeless population of around 101 people, that does not go far. To provide two meals a day to

this population it would cost \$5,050. If all of them stayed at the emergency shelter for the company’s maximum time of 27 days, it would cost \$68,175. Already, all of that money, which seemed like more than enough, is gone.

With its limited resources the Salvation Army truly is, as their saying goes, “doing the most good.” This year, consider donating your pocket change. Or if you don’t have a lot of money you can donate your time instead. You can sign up for a two-hour shift on the Salvation Army Website. Plus, you can

get some of those volunteer hours out of the way.



Salvation Army Website



INNOVATIVE • RESOURCEFUL • RESPONSIVE

Rerun In Lights

By Hayden Arnett

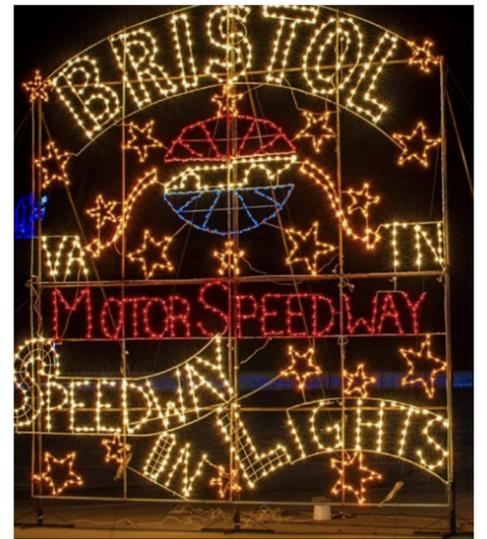
It's a crisp December evening during Christmas break and you're stuck inside contemplating how to spend your time appropriately before the big day. Remembering a place that brought you joy growing up, you decide to go to Bristol Motor Speedway's annual Speedway In Lights. Upon arrival, you drive through the sparkling race track, excited to celebrate the season from the warmth of your car, and reminisce on time spent here during your childhood. To your dismay, you see the same light displays you see every year; nothing has changed since your first visit. The dancing Santas and waving animals are positioned so close to their usual spots that you question if they even left at the end of

the last season. Disappointed with the redundancy, you drive home feeling like you just wasted your time and money, because you did.

A tradition that spans 25 years, Speedway in Lights has come a long way from its original opening, but since the event established itself there has been a lack of growth and creativity when it comes to the aesthetics of the decorations. Potentially due to a lack of funds and motivation by the creators, Speedway in Lights has become dispensable to our generation, especially due to our shortened attention spans. So why do people return to Speedway in Lights each year, knowing that it's nothing new? Manipulated by a state of nostalgic bliss, we ignore the fact that

Speedway in Lights doesn't have much to offer to us in terms of memory-making, especially since those fond childhood memories with family and friends are hard to replicate.

Even though Speedway in Lights has been a letdown in recent years, it's hard to discredit its history and the hard work put forth by its creators. Speedway in Lights is an iconic staple of Bristol; when we think of Bristol during Christmastime, we usually think of the twinkling race track. While we've outgrown Speedway in Lights as teenagers and adults, it's still a welcoming place to newer generations that believe in its holiday magic.



The George Bailey Blues: Understanding “It’s a Wonderful Life”

By Nathaniel Morefield

Frank Capra's 1946 film, "It's a Wonderful Life," is about that feeling that your agency has been snatched right from under your nose, and you just have to stand behind in the dust as your life runs on ahead of you. From a young age, we see lead character George Bailey craft an identity for himself as an adventurer.

George desperately clings to the thought of freedom from Bedford Falls and the working-class, family-oriented life that it represents. His dreams of traveling the world and

attending a college, however, are disrupted by his desire to keep his late father's business, the Building and Loan, afloat. George recognizes this business as the only defense against the film's antagonist, Mr. Potter, and his overwhelming control of Bedford Falls.

The Building and Loan is the only opportunity for most working class people in Bedford Falls to have stable, livable housing. Bailey also develops hundreds of houses so that families don't have to live in Potter's "slums." Ironically, however, no one describes

how George is feeling better than Potter himself: "[George Bailey is] a young man who's been dying to get out on his own ever since he was born. A young man... the smartest one in the crowd, mind you, a young man who has to sit and watch his friends go places because he's trapped."

After a clumsy misplacement of \$8,000 by George's assistant, Potter ends up with the money, and George faces potential jail-time for mismanagement of funds and supposed lying on documents. George looks everywhere for the money, and

even begs Potter for a loan, but it was all to no avail. George decides that because of his \$15,000 life insurance policy, he is better off dead than alive to his family and his business. Right as he's about to kill himself, however, he is stopped by an odd, old man. He shows George how the world would be if he had never been born. While visiting this hellscape, rebranded "Pottersville" rather than Bedford Falls, George realizes what an impact he has made on the lives of his loved ones.



My Strange (Internet) Addiction

By Caden Cartwright

Greed, hatred, and delusion—which are one in the same—have always existed. Whether they began as human instinct, the three poisons, or the forbidden fruit, we have always faced these sins. The Internet, specifically social media, is exploited by the global elite, incentivizing addiction and facilitating bullying to fuel their greed and hatred.

The Internet incentivizes addiction by entrancing consumers through algorithms and engagement. Everyone who's watched YouTube knows of the near-omnipotent "algorithm," which exists on every search engine and platform, like Google and Instagram,

respectively. Different applications use different algorithms to outperform their competitors by captivating viewers' attention for longer. Most Gen-Z can relate to gawking at a screen for hours on end, only to realize that it's 2 a.m. and they have school in a few hours. When algorithms hold you in this chokehold for hours, grasping your attention for as long as possible, their creators pilfer every cent from every view, like, and share. Likes and shares—the most lucrative forms of engagement—show creators what's effective while intoxicating consumers with a short-lived, meaningless ego boost. This ego boost hooks consumers, reeling money in for their

creators at the expense of consumers' attention.

Comments boost engagement also; however, comment sections are notoriously brutal, often hosting harassment. Those who have grown up online—many Gen-Z and millennials—have assuredly experienced hate in a comment section. The dawn of social media hosted vicious commenters enabled by anonymity. YouTube, in its youth—from around 2005-2016—fostered ruthless commenters. Most often insulting creators' appearances, personalities, and mothers, piranha commenters tore each other and countless creators to shreds. As

community guidelines and digital vigilantes police online etiquette, commenters only become more polite with their insults. No matter the insult's form, they massively damage Internet-goers' perceptions, scarring doubt in their flaws.

The Internet is only a messenger, though; the issues to blame exist in the structure of society. Employers of misogyny, racism, homophobia, and corporatism abuse the Internet as a channel for hatred and greed. Holding higher-ups accountable and touching grass every once in a while are the only solutions to preventing future exploitation.

Cuts on the Corner

423-245-2787
5703 Memorial Blvd.
Suite D
Kingsport, TN 37664
By Appointment Only



Holiday Favorites: Spotify Playlist

By Liz Rouse

Can you guess which song each Maroon and White member chose??

1. Go to your Spotify app.
2. Click on the "Search" tab.
3. Click the camera in the top right corner.

4. Scan the code and get in the Christmas spirit!



Meme of the Month

"Are you ready for your singing lessons?"

Mariah Carey gulps

Whitney Houston breathes heavy

Michael Buble nods nervously

"Yes, Tiller" they say in unison

Meme by Torey Walk

Vikings Vocalize

What Christmas Movie is your favorite? Why?

Briton Wallace 9th: "The Santa Claus is a silly story."

Isabell Shaffer 9th: "Spongebob Christmas Movie."

Grady Robertson 10th: "Elf, because it's funny"

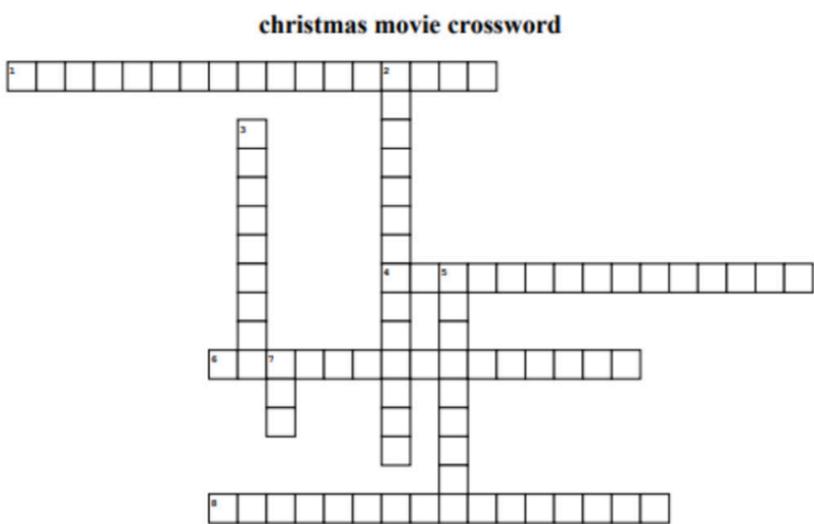
Georgia Simora 10th: "Krampus, I like horror movies– the dark side of Christmas"

Paul Letson 11th: "Die Hard."

Maddie Harris 11th: "Home Alone, I just love it!"

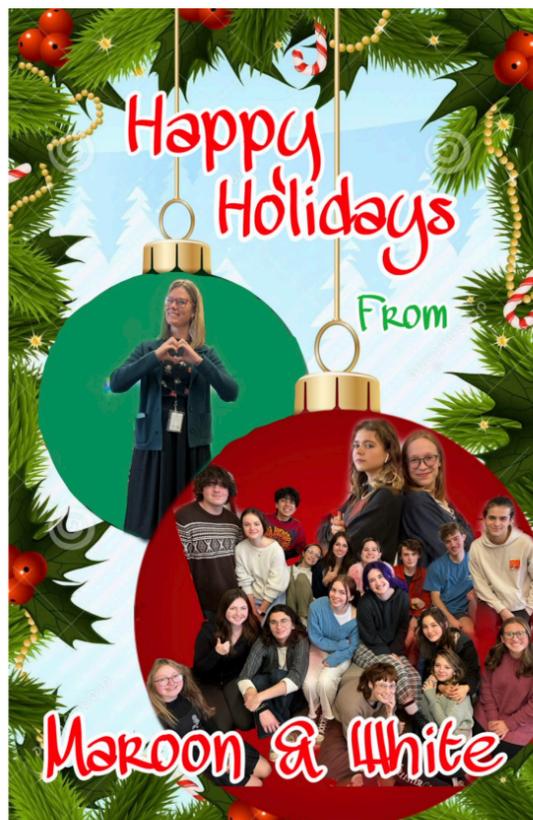
SallyCarol Corwin 12th: "Polar Express. The animation is kind of creepy, but it reminds me of being a kid."

Kasey Hagerman 12th: "The Grinch with Jim Carrey."



- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can I refill your eggnog for you? Get you something to eat? Drive you out to the middle of nowhere and leave you for dead? 4. You'll shoot your eye out, kid. 6. Seeing is believing, but sometimes the most real things in the world are the things we can't see. 8. There's a certain magic that comes with the very first snow. For when the first snow is also a Christmas snow, well, something wonderful is bound to happen. | <p>Down</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Just because you can't see something, doesn't mean it doesn't exist. 3. Blast this Christmas music. It's joyful and triumphant. 5. Merry Christmas, you filthy animal. 7. The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear. |
|---|--|

Puzzle by Kaylee Hamrick



Card by Torey Walk

Joan's Comic Corner



By Joan Weddington

Retail workers and middle-aged moms alike gather in awe in front of the local TJ-Maxx as Mariah Carey begins her defrost for the holiday season.



- Key**
- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christmas Vacation 4. A Christmas Story 6. The Polar Express 8. Frosty The Snowman | <p>Down</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The Santa Clause 3. The Grinch 5. Home Alone 7. Elf |
|---|--|



Salon 525

Located in Historic Downtown Bristol
525 State Street • Bristol, VA 24201
276.644.1510



MASTERS ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

PROFESSIONAL TELEVISION PRODUCTION

NOW OFFERING LIVE EVENT STREAMING!
HIGH END BROADCAST QUALITY CAMERAS,
BOOM CAMERA, INSTANT REPLAY,
PROFESSIONAL GRAPHICS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT HOLLY AT
holly@masterstv.com or 423-968-7736