



Valley's Voices

December 2024 Issue



Merry Christmas

VALLEY'S VOICES STAFF



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Christmas Trivia Questions

by Tanner George

1. In the song "Frosty the Snowman," what made Frosty come to life?
2. What Christmas beverage is also known as "milk punch?"
3. What's the name of the family featured in the movie National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation?
4. What phrase made popular in the book *A Christmas Carol* expresses annoyance with cheery holiday celebrations?
5. What's the name of Rudolph's girlfriend in the "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" television special?
6. What's the German name for the song known in English as "O Christmas Tree?"
7. The charity Toys for Tots is run by the reserve force of what branch of the U.S. military?
8. In North America, wild reindeer are referred to as what?
9. What beverage company has been using Santa Claus in its advertising since 1931?
10. In the *Twelve Days of Christmas*, what are there eleven of?

Source: www.whiteelephantrules.com

PLEASE SEE PAGE 9 FOR ANSWERS



Christmas Interviews

by Wally Hamula

What Do You Want for Christmas?

Evan Fyock and Tanner Weimer are going to ask Santa for a two-man sweater and a Slip n Slide.



Ethan Hill is going to check his stocking for a Fortnite Battle Pass.



Illy Darcangelo hopes that she unwraps a pair of Uggs on Christmas.



A.J. Watson wants to find a Corgi puppy when she wakes up on Christmas morning.



Eric Korhut is looking under his tree for some KD 17s.

Liv Vogel is dreaming of Santa delivering a new, dark blue Honda Civic.



What is Your Favorite Christmas Memory?

Mr. Bixel: For 40 years, I have been sharing the stage with my music students, at one point or other, from kindergarten through 12th grade. Every year is a blessing, because we get to share the stories of Christmas through our precious gift of Music. While there are years where specific memories become stronger, it is the being together as a family, sharing our gifts and creating new, lasting memories that will help to keep us close for years to come, no matter where we go on our lifes' journeys. As Tiny Tim said, "God bless us, every one!" Merry Christmas to all of you, and thanks for the memories!



Mrs. McBreen: One of my best Christmas memories is always visiting my grandparents' house. She had a beautiful tree with blue lights and white decorations. It was always loud and crazy; however, one Christmas, it snowed like crazy. We weren't sure that my mother would be able to go. She was handicapped. We only lived one street away. In fact, their backyard is connected with ours. I'll never forget my father loading her up in our Ford Bronco, switching to four-wheel drive, and driving the Bronco all the way through the yard right up to the back porch steps. My mother always had a way to make Christmas magic for us, but this time it was my father.



Mr. Rhoades remembers
the Christmas
he got his
PS3 and Rock Band 2.



Mr. Hovan recalls
all the holidays
he spent time
with his family.



What Do You Want for Christmas?

Mrs. Richards wants to use Christmas Break to catch up on her sleep.



Mr. Vickroy is checking under his tree for a million dollars.



Mrs. Krejnus hopes she gets a new frying pan and some good books.



Mrs. Neisner is wishing for world peace and for her students to complete their assignments.



All **Mrs. Beiter** wants is her two front teeth.



Mrs. McCleester is asking Santa for a Heritage Conference win for the softball team in 2025.



Mrs. Rutledge is looking for more time to spend with her family.



Mrs. Hockensmith just wants to watch Christmas movies.



Mr. Moran is hoping for world peace.



Mr. Beiter hopes Santa will bring snow for Christmas.



Miss Paula just wants everyone to be happy for Christmas.



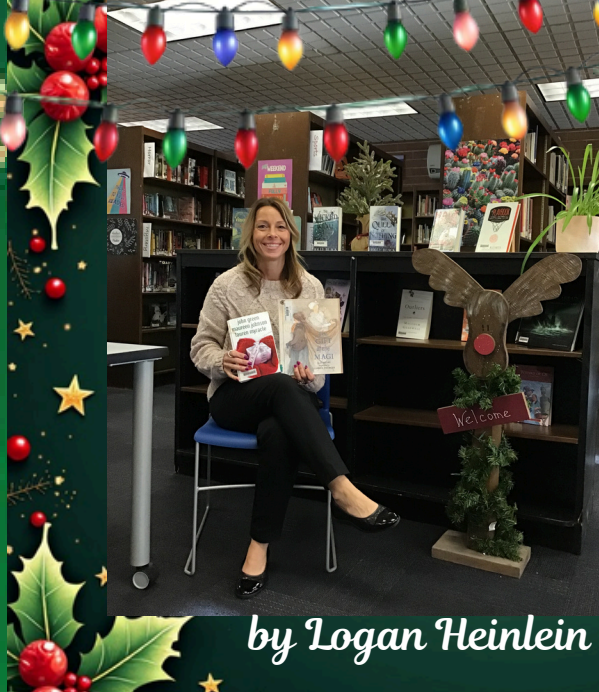
Mrs. Laughard is asking Santa for a personal cleaning staff and a personal chef.



Security Guard Mark is checking his stocking for a bag full of 20 dollar bills.



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by Logan Heinlein

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Senior High - Let It Snow: Three Holiday Romances - by John Green, Maureen Johnson, and Lauren Myracle

Sparkling white snowdrifts, beautiful presents wrapped in ribbons, and multicolored lights glittering in the night through the falling snow. A Christmas Eve snowstorm transforms one small town into a romantic haven. A cold and wet hike from a stranded train through the middle of nowhere would not normally end with a kiss from a charming stranger. No one would think that a trip to the Waffle House through four feet of snow would lead to love with an old friend, or that the way back to true love begins with a painfully early morning shift at Starbucks.

Junior High - The Gift of the Magi - by O. Henry

In a shabby New York flat, Della cries as she counts the few coins she has saved to buy a Christmas present for her husband, Jim. One dollar and eighty-seven cents is all the money she has. A gift worthy of her devotion will require a great sacrifice.

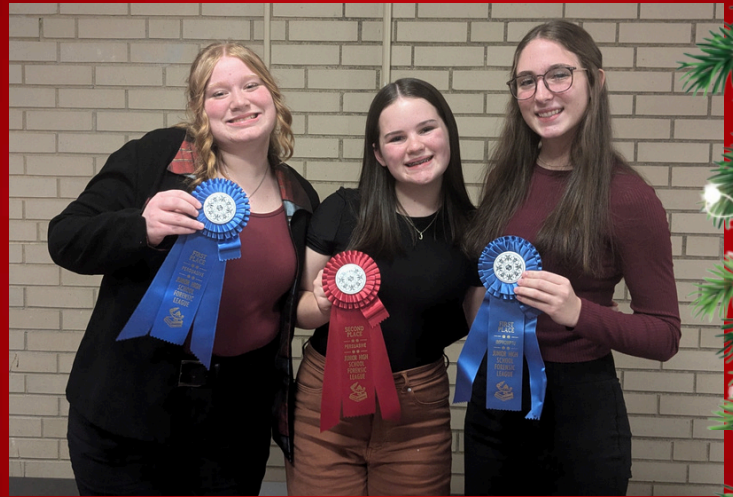
Jim, meanwhile, has made a sacrifice for Della that is no less difficult. As they exchange gifts on Christmas Eve, the discovery of what each has done fills them with despair, until they realize that the true gifts of Christmas can be found more readily in their humble apartment than in any fine store. Set in New York at the turn of the twentieth century, this classic piece of American literature tells the story of a young couple and the value of love.

Junior High Forensics

by Jenna Rose



Left to Right: Jocelynn Ellis, Dallas Maines and Brayden Skebeck



Left to Right: Dallas Maines, Jocelynn Ellis, and Abbie Savering

The Junior High Forensics Team led by head coach, Mrs. Williams, and assistant coach, Mrs. Richards, successfully came back to life after an eleven-year absence. The three competitions brought several victories to our speakers and laid a strong foundation for future success for both junior high and varsity levels.

***Brayden Skebeck** (grade 7) spoke in the Impromptu Category at two tournaments and placed 8th in the first and 6th in the second. **Dallas Maines** (grade 8) spoke in the Persuasive Category and placed first in each tournament. **Jocelynn Ellis** (grade 9) spoke in the Persuasive Category and placed 2nd in the two tournaments she attended. **Abbie Savering** (grade 9) joined the team a little later in the season, and she spoke in the Impromptu Category winning 1st place in the one tournament she attended. Both Abbie and Jocelynn will move on to the Varsity Forensics Team next year.*

2024 County Chorus and County Band

by Hayden Gates



This year the **Cambria County Honors Chorus Festival** was held on November 25th and 26th at the Greater Johnstown High School with a concert held on Tuesday, November 26th.

The following students represented Conemaugh Valley for County Chorus: **Laden Rager, Casandra Skebeck, Olivia Brainard, Peyton Gustkey, Samantha Oswalt, Sean Price, Riley Richards, Abigail Winkelman, Dallas Maines, Shara Bevan, and Madelyn Younkins**



The **Cambria County Honors Band Festival** was held on December 5th and 6th at Bishop McCort with a concert held on Friday, December 6th. The following students will be representing Conemaugh Valley for County Band: **Laden Rager, Olivia Brainard, Isabella Ream, and Dallas Maines**



Director **Mr. Bixel** said, "County Chorus and County Band provide amazing opportunities for my advanced choral and band students to participate in larger groups. It gives my students a chance to meet and work with fellow student-musicians from throughout Cambria County to learn and perform a variety of musical genres in front of large audiences. Precious memories are made and shared, as well as possible lifelong friendships with others who share a strong passion for MUSIC!"

Mallory's Music

by Mallory Fitzpatrick



10 FACTS ABOUT SAM BARBER


- 1) Sam Barber grew up on a farm in a small Missouri town.
- 2) He learned to play guitar at age 16 using his great grandfather's Gibson.
- 3) Sam Barber's rise to fame began in 2021 when he posted his covers of country hits on TikTok.
- 4) His first single was "Drowning", and his first album was *Restless Mind*.
- 5) In 2022, Sam Barber was eliminated during auditions for *American Idol*.
- 6) Most of his childhood was spent on athletics, not music.
- 7) Sam Barber's social is over half a million followers and over 1.5 million monthly listeners on Spotify.
- 8) Sam Barber has performed at major venues and events including the Grand Ole Opry, Stagecoach Festival, and opened for Bruce Springsteen and Ed Sheeran.
- 9) Sam Barber enjoys writing his own songs, and believes the songs come out better when he's the only writer.
- 10) Barber's success continues to surprise him. He says he's enjoying the ride and loves sharing his music with fans.

Source: www.opry.com/artists/sam-barber


CV Christmas Survey

by Zack Custer

Thank you for participating in our survey. We got **116** responses! Check out the results.



1) Which kind of Christmas tree would you choose?
69.6% of us picked an artificial tree
30.4% of us picked a real tree



2) Which is better?
giving or receiving presents
78.9% of us would rather give presents
21.1% of us would rather receive presents

3) When do you open gifts?

93% Christmas Day

7% Christmas Eve

4) What is your favorite Christmas song?

1) "Last Christmas" 28.1%

2) "Santa Baby" 18.4

3) "White Christmas" 13.2%

4) "Rockin Around...Tree" 13.2%

5) "Jingle Bells" 11.3%



5) What is your favorite Christmas movie?

1) *The Grinch* 21.9%

2) *Christmas Vacation (Lampon's)* 18.4%

3) *A Christmas Story* 16.7%

4) *The Nightmare Before Christmas* 14.9%

5) *The Polar Express* 13.2%



Christmas Trivia Question Answers

1) Answer: an old silk hat

2) Answer: eggnog

3) Answer: The Griswolds

4) Answer: "Bah humbug!"

5) Answer: Clarice



6) Answer: "O Tannenbaum"

7) Answer: The U.S. Marines

8) Answer: caribou

9) Answer: Coca-Cola

10) Answer: eleven pipers piping