

# Red And Blue News

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2-3: VETERANS DAY ASSEMBLY
- 4-5: FALL INTO SEMI
- 6-7: SENIOR TREE LIGHTING
- 8: OBSERVING THE "BER" MONTHS
- 9: THE KINDNESS CHALLENGE
- 10-11: "SOUNDS OF THE SEASON"  
BAND AND CHORUS CONCERTS
- 12-13: SPORTS BANQUET
- 14-15: TURONIS '24
- 16-17: MAKING NEW FRIENDS
- 18-19: BASKETBALL PHOTO DUMP
- 20-21: MEET THE OFFICERS
- 22: TOP 10 BINGE WORTHY CHRISTMAS MOVIES
- 23: CHARGERS IN THE NEWS
- 24-25: PINTEREST YOUR INTEREST: HOLIDAY  
EDITION
- 26-27: COOKIE CORNER
- 28-31: HOLIDAY HITS
- 32-33: THE HISTORY OF SANTA CLAUS
- 34-35: WINTER BREAK SUGGESTIONS
- 36-37: RESOLUTIONS: THE START OF SOMETHING  
NEW
- 38-39: GO TO HALLMARK CHRISTMAS MOVIES
- 40-41: TRENDING SHOES
- 42-43: GIFT GIVING IDEAS
- 44-45: YEAR IN REVIEW
- 46-47: WHY WE CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR
- 48-49: NOSTALGIA
- 50- 51: WILDFIRES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY
- 52-53: YOU'RE HALFWAY THERE

WELCOME TO THE DALE!  
OUR STAFF AT THE RED AND  
BLUE  
NEWS PRESENTS- VOLUME 3  
ISSUE 2! FROM THE COVERAGE  
OF MANY EXCITING EVENTS,  
SUCH AS THE VETERANS DAY  
ASSEMBLY AND OUR SEMI, TO  
CURRENT EVENTS AND  
STUDENT  
OPINIONS, YOU ARE SURE TO  
FIND  
SOMETHING THAT KEEPS YOU  
INTERESTED! SO, JOIN US FOR  
A  
FUN-FILLED EDITION  
GUARANTEED TO MAKE YOU  
SMILE!







# Veterans Day Assembly



On Friday, November 8, 2024, at 9:00Am in the high school auditorium of Carbondale Area High School, students, faculty, staff, family, and veterans helped to depict the true perspective of the importance of Veterans' Day with the annual program dedicated to our service men and women.

The audience was welcomed by Leila Esgro followed by the Posting of Colors by Collin Hollis and Thomas Seymour. "The National Anthem" was performed by members of the Carbondale Area Band.

Why We Honor Veterans was explained by Rylie Toolan and Abigail Wall. Students in Mr. Mauro's AP History class presented on the Significance of the Poppy (Stephen Ennes), Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (Elivira Marrero), Letters from Veterans (Hannah McCaffrey, Angelica Prieto, Eliana Connolly, Caitlyn Burns, and Hong Tran). Ryleigh Brink added about the Missing Man Table and Gold Star Families. Both Rylie Toolan and Ryan Yadlosky read original poems about what life is like for soldiers returning after war. The Roles of Women in the Military was discussed by Summer Young, Ian Dzielak, Ava White, Keegan McDonald, and Ethan McDonald. Eva Balderas and Ryleigh Brink spoke on the topic of what it is like to live in a military household while having parents and loved ones deployed and moving from place to place and having to start over again and again.

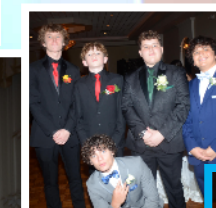
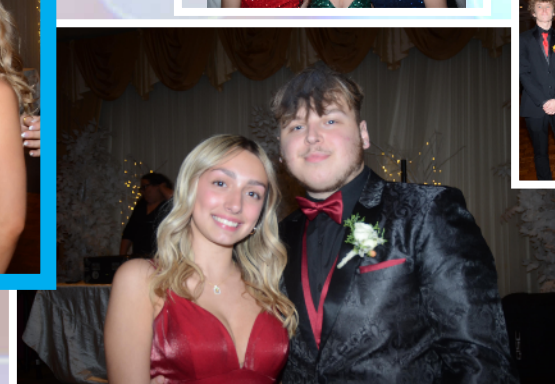
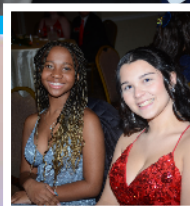
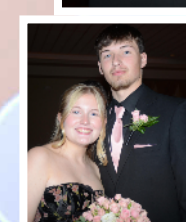
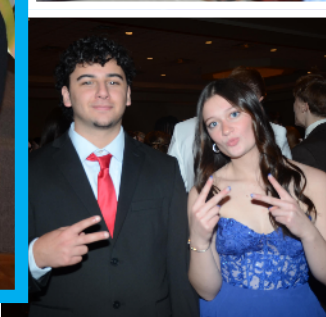
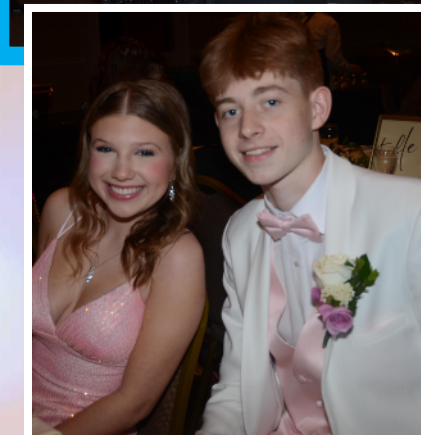
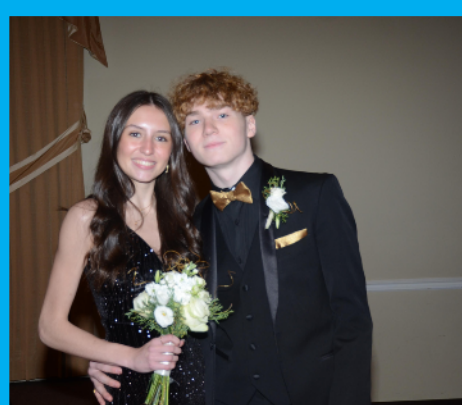
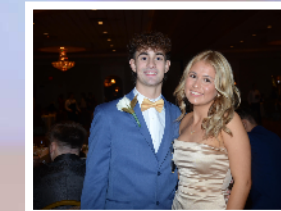
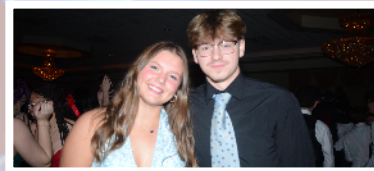
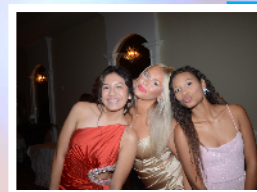
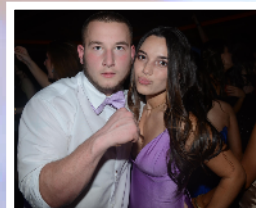
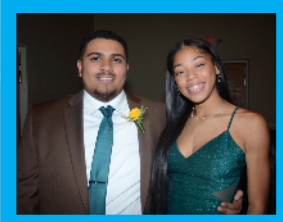
Clara Crandall serenaded the audience with her performance of Come Back Home. Other musical performances that added to the atmosphere in the auditorium were Simple Man sung by Zach Tarchak and Traveling Soldier sung by Ava Peregrin. As an added tribute, Eliana Connolly sang, Imagine.

To bring the ceremony to a close, Madison Dutter and Albion Nasufi played Taps during the Recess of Colors.

The simple saying of "Thank You" is one that every soldier should hear in order for them to know how much we are truly grateful for the sacrifices they have made in order for us to enjoy the freedoms we do every day.









# Senior Tree Lighting.



On December 9, 2024, members of the senior class attended the decorating of their class tree in the Commons Area. Members of the Art Club made ornaments for each senior to be able to remember this occasion. The seniors were also treated with refreshments and were able to review some holiday classics in the auditorium.





## Observing the "BER" Months



September, the ninth month of the year, was originally named after the Latin root **Sept** which means seven. It was the seventh month of the Roman Calendar. Despite lacking any major holidays, September consists of many important observances. To start, on the first Monday of September, Labor Day is observed. Labor Day celebrates the working class and their economic achievements. Another important observance is September 11th. On September 11th, we observe a historic day of regret and honor the 2,996 lives lost when four flights were hijacked. Besides these two major observances, the major month long celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month is also observed from September 15th to October 15th and celebrates the history and culture of Hispanic people. Another month long observance, suicide prevention month, also occurs during September to honor and support those struggling with suicidal thoughts.



October, the tenth month of the year, was originally named from its root **Oct** which many may know as meaning eight. It was the eighth month of the Roman Calendar. Many people know October for the major Holiday of Halloween, observed on October 31st, where children would traditionally dress up and go door to door, accumulating candy. But, October holds many other great observances too. Columbus Day is observed on the second Monday in October. Columbus Day observes the anniversary of Christopher Columbus arriving in America. Besides this, October is also known for the month long observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month which is meant to support those suffering from Breast Cancer.



November, the eleventh month of the year, was originally named from its root **Novem** meaning nine. It was the ninth month of the Roman Calendar. November is known for Thanksgiving, which takes place on the last Thursday in November and celebrates the harvest and blessings of the year. November also hosts Veteran's Day, which honors all Veteran's past and present. November also hosts Black Friday and Cyber Monday, which is made to remember the crash of the gold market. These two holidays allow for easier purchase of goods. Many businesses lower prices and allow sales on these two days.



December: December, the twelfth and final month of the year was originally named for its root **Dec** meaning ten. It was the tenth month of the Roman Calendar. December is most known for holding Christmas and similar holidays like Hanukkah, Kwanza, Diwali, Yule and Bodhi, and many others which are Holidays that honor the Gods of the designated religion and celebrate the winter solstice. December also hosts New Year's Eve on December 31st in which many people celebrate the changing of years with feasts, parties, and some families even watch the ball drop.



## The Kindness Challenge



Many people underestimate what one small act of kindness can do for those around you. It only takes a small kindness to make someone's entire day better. You may struggle while thinking of what to say to those around you. To make someone's day, here are some things you can do and say!

- 1: Hold the door for a classmate when you're leaving the school or a classroom.
- 2: Smile and wave to someone you have never spoken to.
- 3: Compliment someone's smile or laugh. It means a lot to hear that your happiness is well received.
- 4: Help that person who drops their books and papers in the hallway
- 5: Put the door stopper in for your teacher when you leave the classroom.
- 6: Help a senior citizen carry their groceries and push their shopping cart.
- 7: Donate to your local daycare, early learning center, or school. Art supplies, stationery, games, and toys help teachers more than you realize.
- 8: Engage in conversation with someone. Sometimes, it isn't only about you, and people typically like talking about their hobbies or personal interests!
- 9: Volunteer to read or answer questions in class. Your teacher will be very happy to see you volunteering and enjoying what they also enjoy.
- 10: Ask questions when you are hearing a presentation or speech. It shows your interest
- 11: Visit your local nursing home with gifts. Our senior citizens typically get lonely.
- 12: Tell a Veteran, police officer, firefighter, or EMT: Thank you for your Service.
- 13: Give a good tip to a waiter or waitress when you go out to eat.
- 14: Donate to a humane society or animal shelter or offer to volunteer. These animals need you and love your company.
- 15: Hug your loved ones and get used to saying Hello Goodbye, and I Love you to them. You never know when the last time you'll see someone will be.
- 16: Post a positive video on social media. Your positivity will be contagious.
- 17: Make a harmless joke.
- 18: Laugh at someone else's joke.
- 19: Bring your mom, dad, grandmother, grandfather, sister, brother, or family members food in bed!
- 20: Be kind to yourself. People will catch onto how you treat yourself and learn to respect themselves the same!



These acts of kindness have the potential to change lives! Your input in the drastic issue of social and mental health is important! Remember we all feel the same feelings. You never truly know when someone is struggling and when YOU can change someone's life. And remember: be kind to yourself.

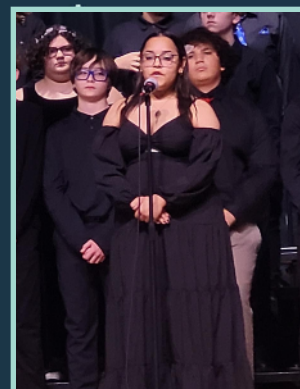


# "Sounds Of The Season"

# Carbondale Area Chorus and Band Concerts



On December 4th, 2024, The Carbondale Area High School Band came together to spread holiday cheer with a beautiful performance. The band, directed by Ms. McDermott, consists of the Intro Band and the Advanced Band. The concert started off with the Intro Band. The Intro Band, consists of two separate levels of students: students who have played an instrument before and students who have not. To open the concert, the Intro Band first played a compilation of simple tunes they learned throughout the year. The Intro Band played tunes such as "Hot Cross Buns," "Mary had a little lamb," and "Merrily We Roll Along." Upon playing, "Mary had a little lamb" and "Merrily we roll along" the band proposed a challenge to the audience: Guess the difference between the two songs. When the Intro Band departed the stage, the Advanced Band rose to the stage. The Advanced Band, consisting of many talented performers, showcased their talents with a total of ten songs. They opened the concert with a performance of a Christmas classic, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas." They followed with performances of "For beauty of Earth" and "Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow." Then, they performed a compilation of three songs composed by Robert Vaughan Williams. This compilation consisted of "Forest Green," "Wassail song," and "Sussex Carol. Following this performance, they played "Kwanza Time." Then, they joined for a performance of Greensleeves. After these performances, they joined to play a song that was inspired by a six year old's realization that the Earth is a part of something much bigger. After this song, Ms. Megan McDermott honored the achievements of the band, including their part in the Scranton Santa Parade and the Carbondale Parade of Lights. She also honored three students: Juliana Denney, Jerome Pilny, and Salem Pilny for partaking in Marywood's Junior Wind Band Celebration. She also took the time to mention Julian Fedorchak for his acceptance into dDistrict Band and District Orchestra. Finally, the band joined for a final performance of of "Sleigh Ride" before concluding their concert.



On December 12th, 2024, Carbondale Area High School Chorus put on a winter concert to spread holiday spirit this season. The chorus, directed by the new chorus teacher, Ms. Tolerico, consists of The Junior High, Senior High, and Advanced Chorus. The concert also featured the talents of many soloists. The concert started with the Junior High Chorus. The Junior High Chorus opened the night with a compilation of songs including "We need a little Christmas," "Carol of the Angels," "Once Upon a December," and "Winter Fantasy." Soloists in the Junior High included Sophie Zalepa and Alexis Hoffman. Sophie Zalepa opened the solos with a powerful start singing, "Rocking around the Christmas Tree" by Brenda Lee. Alexis Hoffman followed angelically, singing "Into the Unknown" from the poplar Disney movie "Frozen Two." After the Junior High concluded their portion, the Senior High Chorus rose and entered the stage. They sang songs including "A joyful Jubilate," "Little Star," "Peace Peace," and "As long as there's Christmas." The Senior High's: "As long as there's Christmas," featured the powerful performance of Jordan Berg and awe inspiring performance of Peyton Plowden. Senior High soloists came into the concert strong. First, Victoria Sanabria sang her delightful cover of Laufey's rendition of "Rocking around the Christmas Tree. Then, Leonard DeMarco came in with a powerful performance of the Christmas classic: "Last Christmas" by Wham. Following the Senior High portion of the concert, the 7 members of the advanced chorus entered the stage. The advanced chorus gave a sophisticated performance of songs including: "White Winter Hymnal," "Let it snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow," "Do You hear what I Hear," "Carol of the Bells" "Mighty King," "Calypso Noel," and "Calypso Clapping Carol." Members of the advanced band, Julian Fedorchak and Marisa Matoushek" accompanied the chorus in their performance of "Calypso Noel." Finally, the three choruses came together to conclude the already wondrous performance with a group number of "Have yourself a Merry little Christmas" by Frank Sinatra. Upon finishing this song, their concert was concluded.





# Sports Banquet

On Saturday, January 18th, 2025, Carbondale Area held their annual football and cheerleading banquet at the Mondale Country Club. The banquet was held to show recognition to all football players, cheerleaders, band members, and coaches. The night started off with Coach Jeff Arthur introducing everyone, followed up by Ms. McDermott introducing members of the band. Then, Coach Maddy Moase introduced the cheerleaders and presented them with an award for outstanding performances. Hannah Mccaffrey won Most Valuable Cheerleader. Olivia Barron won Most Dedicated Award. Ava Peregrin won the Most Spirited Award. Abby Wall won the Team Leader Award. Ava Balderas won the Coaches Award. After this, Coach Arthur announced his 2024 Carbondale Area Chargers football team. Then, he proceeded to give out the individual awards. Ethen Brewen won the Jim Miller Award. Connor Sansky won the Team Spirited Award, and Darron McKenzie won the Leg Up Reward. Coach Arthur then presented the All-Star Honorable Mention Award to seniors Elijah Houdersheildt, Ethen Brewen, Jake Rosler, Daniel Gonzalez, Max Urbas, junior, Jaiden Keller, and sophomore, Chase Roche. To wrap up the end of the banquet, Coach Arthur gave a speech and thanked everyone for coming.







# TURONIS 24



This year's annual Turonis Tournament was held at Carbondale Area High School on December 27th, 2024. The opening game hosted the Mid Valley Spartans against the Lakeland Chiefs. This game was fought hard by both teams. Both Mid Valley and Lakeland keep going back and forth making basket for basket. At the end of the first half, the score was 18 to 13 with Mid Valley taking the lead. The beginning of the second half began with Mid Valley fighting hard to pull away with the win. In the end, the score was 45-35 with Mid Valley making it to the Championship Game.

The second game of the night was Carbondale Area Chargers against the Valley View Cougars. This game was going to be hard for Carbondale. They faced a lot of struggles within such a young team. They would need to play to the best they could. With a young Carbondale team and the experienced Valley View team, Carbondale played very hard, but came up short in the end with a final score of 56-21.

The championship game was played between Mid Valley and Valley View. The third place game was played before between Carbondale and Lakeland. This game was hard fought by Carbondale with a close scoring game in the first half with Lakeland winning in the end.

The Championship Game was a very intense, hard, physical game. Valley View ended up winning with a final score of 47-35.







# MAKING NEW FRIENDS

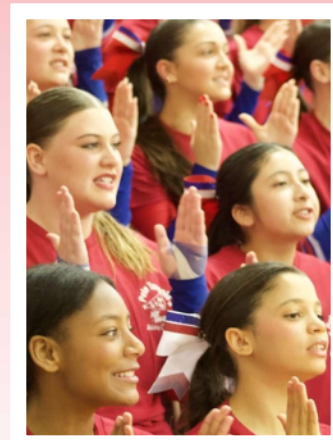
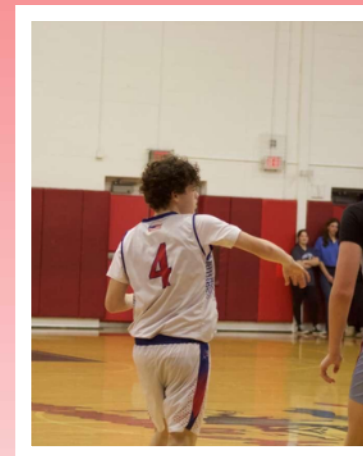


ON JANUARY 15TH, 2025 MEMBERS OF BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL WENT TO THE JEFFERSON CENTER TO PLAY A GAME OF BASKETBALL AGAINST KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. THIS WAS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR THE CHARGERS. IT HELPED THE PLAYERS ON THE TEAMS SEE THEIR OWN SKILLS AND ABILITIES IN A DIFFERENT WAY. THEY WERE ABLE TO SEE THE SKILLS AND ABILITIES OF OTHERS IN A NEW LIGHT AS WELL. BEING ABLE TO PLAY IN THIS GAME, PROVIDED THE TEAM WITH A FUN WAY TO ENCOURAGE THESE VERY TALENTED STUDENTS TO HAVE THE FEELING OF PLAYING AGAINST REAL BASKETBALL PLAYERS AND TO ALSO PROVIDE THEM WITH THEM ATMOSPHERE OF A REAL BASKETBALL GAME. THIS GIVES THE CHARGERS ANOTHER WAY TO POSITIVELY AFFECT SOMEONES LIFE. THIS WILL SURELY BE A DAY THAT IS LONG REMEMBER IN ALL OF OUR LIVES. THANK YOU TO THE JEFFERSON CENTER AND ALL THE STAFF FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS!





# BASKETBALL PHOTO DUMP





## Meet Officer Naz Myshak



What made you choose Carbondale Area High School as your job?

*I didn't choose it. It was destiny.*

What does your daily routine look like?

*My daily routine is made up of walking around all of the property to keep us safe and making sure everyone's lunch period goes by safe and sound.*

What are your likes and dislikes about your job?

*To be honest, I don't have any dislikes. I really enjoy my job!*

What is your favorite part about your job?

*My favorite part about my job is keeping the kids safe.*

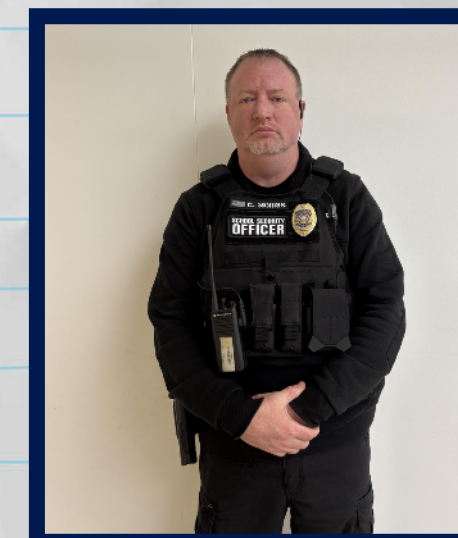
What is the fastest you have ever ran a mile?

*The fastest mile I have ever ran is 15 minutes.*

What is the most interesting scene you have witnessed?

*The most interesting scene I have witnessed is staff and students working in harmony.*

## Meet Officer Chris Morris



What made you choose Carbondale Area High School as your job?

I choose Carbondale because it is convient, closer to home, and I also heard that Carbondale is a good area to work in.

What does your daily routine look like?

My daily routine include making sure traffic and people on foot come to Carbondale with good intentions and leave with good intentions.

What are your likes and dislikes about your job?

I like the staff, and the kids are great. I don't have any dislikes.

What is your favorite part about your job?

I take pride in keeping everyone safe.

What is the fastest you have ever ran a mile?

The fastest I have ever ran is 1 mile and a half in 8:52.

What is the most interesting scene you have witnessed?

I am fairly new to the job and so far things have been good.



**Top 10 Binge Worthy Christmas Movie List**

1.) Elf - Stars Will Farrel as Buddy, a human raised around elves who later discovers he has a father living in New York who's on the naughty list.



2.) Home Alone - An eight year old kid gets forgotten and left behind on a trip by his family for the holiday and encounters robbers breaking into his home.



3.) The Grinch Stole Christmas - The grinch is trying to steal Christmas gifts and decorations attempting to ruin the public's Christmas but in the process, he realizes Christmas is not all about money and presents.



4.) Polar Express - A young boy is questioning the reality of Santa until a magical train destined for the North Pole arrives.



5.) The Nightmare Before Christmas - Jack is bored of the annual routine of frightening people in the real world and stumbles across a Christmas town.



6.) Christmas Chronicles - A brother and sister stay up on Christmas attempting to capture Santa on camera but instead turns into an unexpected adventurous journey.



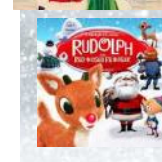
7.) Miracle on 34th Street - Focuses on the effect of a department store Santa Claus who claims to be the real Santa.



8.) A Christmas Story - A young boy attempts to convince his parents, teacher, and Santa Claus that a Red Ryder Range 200 Shot BB gun is a perfect Christmas gift.



9.) White Christmas - Two talented song and dance men team up after the war to become one of the hottest acts in show business.



10.) Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (1998) - A young reindeer who is an outcast because of his shiny nose sets out on a journey and meets new friends along the way.

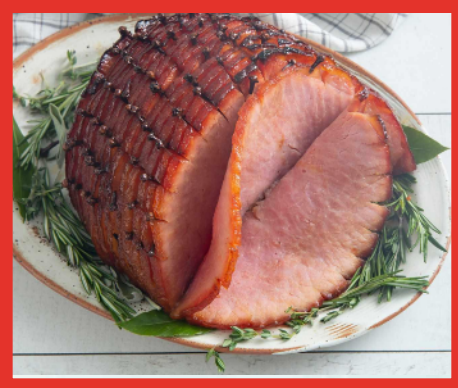
# Chargers in the News





# Pinterest Your Interest Holiday Edition

## The Perfect Ham



To make the perfect ham you're going to need the right ingredients, the ingredients that you need is, 1 cup maple syrup, 1 cup orange juice, 1 cup ginger ale, 1/2 cup brown sugar, 1/2 cup honey, 1 (10 ounce) jar maraschino cherries, halved, 1 (12 pound) fully cooked, bone-in ham, 1 large heat-resistant nylon oven bag, 1 (15.25 ounce) can pineapple slices in juice, drained, 1 box round wooden toothpicks. The best way to make the perfect ham is to Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Then Mix maple syrup, orange juice, ginger ale, brown sugar, and honey together in a medium bowl. Stir in juice from maraschino cherries, and 1/2 of the cherries. Place ham into an oven bag, and carefully pour the juice mixture over it, keeping all the juice in the bag (it may look like there is too much juice, but the ham will soak it up while baking). Place pineapple slices on top of ham, and secure with toothpicks. Place cherries into the center of pineapple rings, and secure with toothpicks also. Tie the end of the bag closed with the ties provided, place in a large roasting pan, and cut a few small slits in the top of the oven bag. Bake ham for 2 hours in the preheated oven. The internal temperature should be 140 degrees F (60 degrees C) when done.

## Garlic Mashed Potatoes



Not only are these garlic mashed potatoes delicious they are super easy to make. You're going to need 5 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes, 2 cups Parmesan cheese, 1 1/2 cups cream cheese, 1 cup chopped fresh chives, 1/2 cup butter, 1/2 medium head garlic, peeled and minced, 1 pinch salt and pepper, Peel and quarter potatoes; place in a large pot. Cover with salted water and bring to a boil. Cook until tender but still firm, about 15 minutes. Drain and return potatoes to the pot over low heat to dry for 1 to 2 minutes., Add Parmesan cheese, cream cheese, chives, butter, garlic, salt, and pepper. Use a potato masher to mash until smooth and serve.

## Pumpkin Pie



Here's what we love about this recipe: This pie is incredibly approachable, even for novice bakers. You'll find the full, step-by-step recipe below - but here's a brief overview of what you can expect: Make the filling. Pour the mixture into the crust. Bake for 15 minutes, then reduce the heat and continue baking. The ingredients are 1 (15 ounce) can pumpkin puree, 1 (14 ounce) can Sweetened Condensed Milk, 2 large eggs, 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon, 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger, 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1 (9 inch) unbaked pie crust. The Directions is to, gather all ingredients and preheat the oven to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C). Whisk pumpkin puree, condensed milk, eggs, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, and salt together in a medium bowl until smooth. Pour into crust. Bake in the preheated oven for 15 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) and continue baking until a knife inserted 1 inch from the crust comes out clean, 35 to 40 minutes. Let cool before serving.

## Baked Mac and Cheese



To make this delicious baked mac and cheese you're going to need, 8 tablespoons unsalted butter, 1 1/2 cups roughly crushed buttery round crackers, 1/4 cup all-purpose flour, 2 1/2 cups warm whole milk (about 105°F), 1 1/2 cups warm half and half (about 105°F), 2 teaspoons salt, 1 teaspoon garlic powder, 1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika, 8 ounces sharp yellow Cheddar cheese, 4 ounces smoked yellow Cheddar cheese, 8 ounces Colby-Jack cheese, 1 (16 ounce) dried pasta, cooked according to package directions, 8 ounces mozzarella cheese, 3/4 cup sour cream, Chopped fresh chives. To make this you're going to have to, Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease a 13- x 9-inch baking dish with 1 tablespoon of the melted butter. Stir together crackers and 3 tablespoons of the melted butter, cook, stirring often, over medium until lightly toasted, about 2 minutes. Remove from heat; set aside. Whisk together flour and remaining 4 tablespoons melted butter in a large oven over medium; cook, whisking constantly, Gradually add milk and half-and-half, whisking constantly, until combined. Cook over medium, whisking often, Remove from heat; whisk in, salt, garlic powder, paprika, until dissolved and well combined. Gradually whisk in Cheddar, smoked Cheddar, and 1 cup of the Colby Jack, one cup at a time, until melted and smooth. Stir in cooked pasta until evenly coated. spread sour cream evenly over mozzarella mixture. Top evenly with remaining pasta mixture (about 5 cups); sprinkle with remaining 1 cup mozzarella and 1/2 cup Colby Jack Sprinkle crushed cracker mixture evenly over pasta mixture. Bake in preheated oven 25 to 30 minutes, serve immediately.

## Turkey



The ingredients are 1 cup all-purpose flour, 1 cup cornmeal, 1/4 cup white sugar, 1/2 teaspoon baking powder, 1/2 teaspoon baking soda, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1 egg, lightly beaten, 1 cup sour cream, 1/3 cup milk, 1/4 cup butter, melted. The Directions are to Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F (205 degrees C). Lightly grease an 8-inch square baking dish. Combine flour, cornmeal, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a large bowl. Mix egg, sour cream, milk, and butter in a small bowl. Fold egg mixture into flour mixture until just moistened; pour into prepared baking dish. Bake in preheated oven until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean, 20 to 25 minutes. Serve warm.

## Cornbread



Roast the turkey: Roast, basting with stock every 30 minutes, for about two and half hours. Add more stock as the drippings evaporate. Remove the foil and continue roasting until a meat thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the thigh reads 165 degrees F. you don't need a lot of ingredients for this turkey all you need is, 1 (18 pound) whole turkey, 8 cups prepared stuffing, 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened, salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste, 1 1/2 quarts turkey stock, divided. First Gather all ingredients. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C). Place a rack in the lowest position of the oven. Remove turkey neck and giblets. Rinse turkey and pat dry with paper towels, and place breast-side up, on a rack in a roasting pan. Loosely fill turkey cavity with stuffing. Rub skin with butter, then season with salt and pepper. Pour 2 cups of turkey stock into the roasting pan. Loosely tent turkey with aluminum foil, and roast turkey for 2 1/2 hours, basting with pan juices every 30 minutes. When drippings evaporate, add remaining stock to the pan, 1 to 2 cups at a time. Remove foil and continue roasting until a meat thermometer inserted in thickest part of thigh reads 165 degrees F (75 degrees C), about 1 1/2 hours more. Transfer turkey to a large serving platter. Let stand for 20 to 30 minutes before carving.



# Cookie Corner

## Gluten Free Edition



### Ingredients:

- 1 3/4 all purpose gluten free flour blend
- 3/4 teaspoon xanthan gum (omit if your blend already contains it)
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 cup kosher salt
- 1/2 cup confectioners sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 5 tablespoon unsalted butter (room temperature)
- 5 tablespoons non hydrogenated vegetable shortening
- 1 egg
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- Coarse sugar (for coating optional)
- Bake at 350 for 10 minutes or until lightly brown

### Ingredients:

- 1 1/3 cups gluten free flour
- 1/4 cup almond flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 tablespoon milk of choice
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- Sea salt for sprinkling (optional)
- Bake at 350 for 10-12 minutes

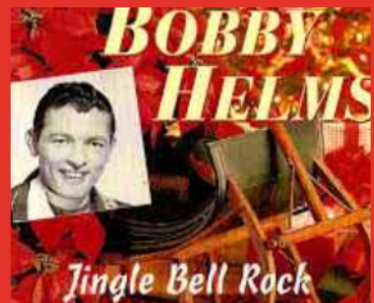
### Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups all purpose gluten free flour
- 3/4 teaspoons xanthan gum (omit if your blend contains it)
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter (room temperature)
- 4 tablespoons unsulphured molasses
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 egg
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- Bake at 350 for 8 minutes





# Holiday Hits



"Jingle Bell Rock" by Bobby Helms  
"Jingle Bell Rock" was written in 1957. Throughout the song, it is describing what a wonderful time of year Christmas is and the feeling that the Christmas holiday brings to all those who celebrate it.



"Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree" by Brenda Lee  
This is one of the most popular songs around the holidays. This song has a very bubbly vibe to it.



"Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!" by Frank Sinatra  
"Let it Snow" is a great song to listen to during a snowstorm! It gets everyone in a cozy mood since the song was written for when someone you love is leaving. The love you have for them will keep them warm.



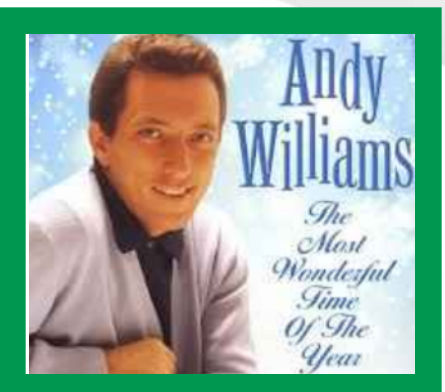
"Its Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas" by Michael Buble  
"Its Beginning to look A Lot like Christmas" is an amazing song for the beginning of winter! It will get everyone in the spirit of Christmas.



"All I Want For Christmas Is You" by Mariah Carey  
"All I Want For Christmas" gets you in that Christmas spirit and makes you want to sing your heart out. If you're ever in need of singing or dancing I would listen to this song.



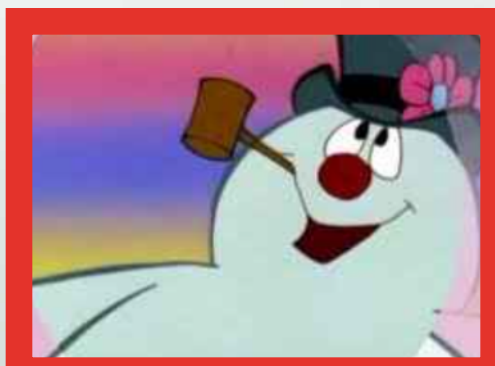
"Happy Xmas (War Is Over)" by John Lennon  
Happy Xmas has a very strong message. The song is about people acting out of violence for love and respect. It is a very beautiful song, I would recommend it!



"Its The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year" by Andy Williams  
"Its The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year" creates a beautiful picture of the holiday season, where everyone is caroling and roasting marshmallows.



"Frosty The Snowman" by Jimmy Durante  
"Frosty The Snowman" is an iconic childhood song that mostly everyone should know. It should totally be on your playlist.





# HOLIDAY HITS



Feliz Navidad by Jose Feliciano. The song was released in 2014. Feliz Navidad can be a great way to enjoy the holiday season, connect with others, and celebrate cultural diversity.

Jingle Bell Rock- Bobby Helms  
This song was released in 1957. Jingle Bell Rock is an amazing song. It gets everyone in the holiday Spirit!



It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year is sung by Andy Williams. It was written in 1963. Listening to this song is a great way to get into the holiday spirit and enjoy the magic of the season.



Last Christmas- Wham  
This song was released in 1986. The song is a beloved holiday song that resonates with people on an emotional level while having a catchy and enjoyable listening experience.

A Holly Jolly Christmas- Burl Ives  
This song was released in 1965. The song is a delightful and timeless song that shows the joy and warmth of the holiday season.



Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree- Johnny Marks  
This is a fun and festive song that brings energy and joy to the holiday season.



Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!- Sammy Cahn  
Let it snow! is a charming song that creates a cozy vibe, celebrates winter, and has that classic holiday feel.



# The History of Santa Claus



St. Nicholas is said to have done many things such as calming a storm at sea to save sailors, chopping down a demon possessed tree, and even brought babies back to life.

Many look forward to the gifts Santa brings every year, and now that you think of it, how long has Santa been around? St. Nicholas was proven to exist at a point in time from 270-343 AD. He came from Greek descent and was a Christian bishop. Born and raised in Turkey, Nicholas lost his parents in an epidemic when he was just a boy. When he inherited their very large fortune, he simply used all of that inheritance to help sick and suffering kids. He is best known for his generosity. The idea of giving gifts to others evolved as a tradition of its own. Now, December 25th is dedicated to Saint Nicholas and his generosity.



Quote of St. Nik

"The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic God's giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves."





# Winter Break Suggestions



With winter break quickly approaching so many people are talking about how to fill their days of break so that they aren't bored. Some of the activities you can do over break are snow boarding, traveling, taking a cruise, taking a ride to see other house's lights to see who has the best ones, or attending holiday parties.

A good place to snowboard or ski is Elk Mountain. It is not too far of a drive and a lot of people go there, so you might actually see some people you know and be able to spend the day together.

You could also travel during the break to places like Hawaii, Florida, or somewhere else warm if you are not a fan of the cold or snowy weather that NEPA usually gets.

You could go on a cruise during the break and, you can either meet new people and/or spend time with family.

During the holiday season, some people decorate their houses and it's enjoyable to take a ride and go and look at the way they have arranged the lights on their houses. There are also some places that have large light displays that are also an enjoyable way to spend an evening with family and friends while sipping hot chocolate and listening to festive music!

Finally, the greatest way to spend break is spending time with family and friends you don't always see, but also with those you do!

Whatever way you decide to spend your break, enjoy it! You worked hard for it!



# Resolutions: It's the start of something new!

At the beginning of the new year, it is customary to set goals and make resolutions to better yourself in the upcoming year. Most people will try to better a skill, lose weight, or treat people in a better manner. The Red and Blue News asked some Children of the Dale what their resolutions are for 2025. Check out what they had to say:

Ethen - Play in the All State Game



Isiah - Get better grades

Krystal - Play in the All State Game for Baseball



Joel - Be better at sports

Jay - Play more sports

Cameron - Go to play at Wilkes University

Xavier - Go to more Yankee's Games

Landon - Be more outgoing



Michael - Work harder

Myers - Try to eat more healthy and read more books



Madysen - Be more motivated

Nathan - Be more true to myself

Dan - Make it to States in track

Dom - Place at Districts in track

Jordan - To finally come to school consistently

Riley - To make my bed everyday



Ready!  
Set!  
School!



# Go to Hallmark Christmas Movies



This movie, directed by Gail Harvey, Stars Regina, Zain Harrelson, Mike, Lizzie, John Hamilton, and Nelson. They are three couples that celebrate the holiday season while navigating crucial turning points in their lives.



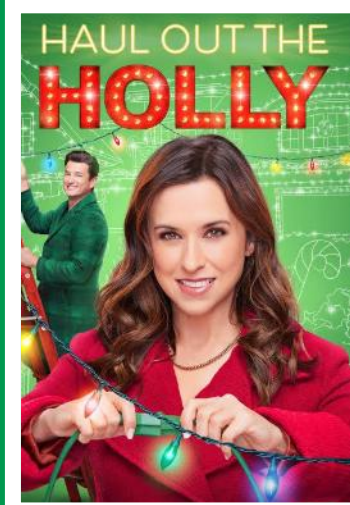
"My Southern Family Christmas" directed by Emily Moss Wilson. Stars Campbell Wallace and Jackson Shepard. The movie follows Campbell because she has a chance to get to know her biological father for the first time without him ever knowing who she really is.



LONG LOST CHRISTMAS



This classic Christmas movie "Long Lost Christmas" directed by Michael Robison, Stars Hayley. This movie follows Hayley because she is an interior designer who plans to surprise her recently widowed mother with the perfect holiday present that everyone knows her mom yearns for.



"Haul Out The Holly" directed by Maclain Nelson. Stars Emily and Albert, follows Emily coming home to visit her parents, only to discover they're leaving for a trip of their own. While staying at their house for the holidays, Emily meets members of the community who want her to join in the neighborhood's Christmas festivities.



"Christmas Town" directed by David Weaver. Stars Lauren Gabriel and Travis Mabry, follows Lauren when she leaves everything behind in Boston to embark on a new chapter in her life and career. On an unforeseen detour to the town of Grandon Fall, she discovers love and family, helping her to embrace the magic of Christmas.



"Checkin' it Twice" directed by Kevin Fair. Stars Ashley and Scott, follows a hockey player and a real estate agent and how sparks fly between the both of them after he moves in a cottage house in her family's backyard.



# Trending Shoes

## Nike Dunks



Nike Dunks have many color waves which makes them a huge seller. They go well with many outfits and have a very clean look. Many people from young kids to middle age adults are usually rocking the Dunks.

## Nike Airmax



Nike Airmaxs are one of Nike's biggest shoes on the market. You can wear them in a lot of different scenarios. Many people wear them golfing and as dress shoes. The shoes are very comfy and clean. These are highly recommended from many different shoe reviewers.

## UGG SLIPPERS



The UGG slides are really popular because they are very clean looking and comfy. They cost \$120 which is rather expensive for a pair of slippers, but many people feel as though the comfort is worth the price.

## Crocs



Crocs are very popular because of the almost unlimited designs you can choose from. They have every color of the rainbow plus more. The easy take on and off make them a huge seller and marketable to all ages.

## Sketcher Summit 12s



Sketchers are a great choice of shoe for many reasons. The first is how easily affordable they are. They range anywhere from \$20 to \$100. Many people wear them because they usually come with memory foam and velcro straps instead of laces. These particular shoes are worn by the older crowd, but who can blame them? Sketchers are an awesome brand, and you should consider buying some as your next pair!





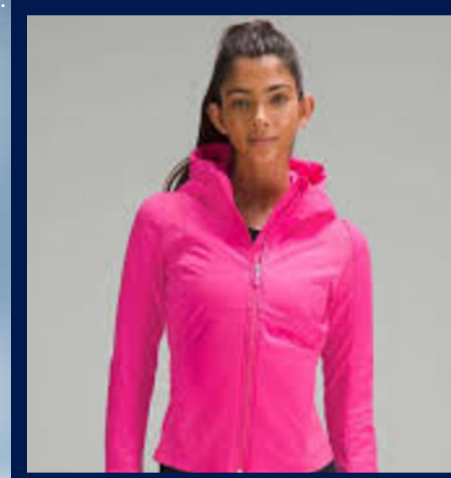
# GIFT GIVING IDEAS



Air Pods are a good thing to have when working out, doing homework, or even when you are not doing anything but need some background noise.



PlayStation Gift Cards are the perfect idea for the gamer in your life. They are the gift that keeps on giving with every game they are able to purchase!



This Lululemon jacket would be a great gift because it is stretchy and comfy athletic wear. It also comes in many colors and different styles.



UGGs are a comfortable shoe that are easy to put on. They also go with any outfit you wear, so it is not hard to find something to wear with them.



Golf Clubs would be a nice gift especially when the weather gets weather for that person who loves to spend their day outside on the course working on their golf game.



A Stanley cup would be a good idea because it keeps drinks hot or cold for long periods of time. This also comes in different designs and patterns, so even the pickiest person will have something to love.





# Year in Review



Paris 2024 was the first Olympics in history to reach full gender parity on the field of play, with equal numbers of male and female athletes. The United States topped the medal table for the fourth consecutive Summer Games and 19th time overall, with 40 gold and 126 total medals. Once again, the United States sits atop the basketball world. Team USA took home gold in both the men's and women's competitions at the Paris Olympics, a fifth straight title for the men and a historic eighth straight for the women. Spain was crowned men's Olympic soccer champions at the Olympic Games, defeating France 5-3 in extra time at the Parc des Princes. The U.S.A. had 126 total medals that include 40 gold, 44 silver, and 42 bronze. China placed second with 40 gold, 27 silver, and 24 bronze. The third place finisher was Britain with 14 gold, 22 silver, and 29 bronze.



A total solar eclipse tracked northeastward across the United States the afternoon of April 8th, from south central Mexico to northern Maine. This track passed over southern Illinois, with some lucky areas experiencing their second total eclipse in seven years. Unlike the last one, the totality area did cover portions namely near and south of I-70 from Effingham to Paris southward. Outside of the area of totality, the remainder of central Illinois experienced at least 90% solar obscuration, and mostly 95% or higher east of the Illinois River. In a solar eclipse, the moon passes between the sun and earth, blocking all or part of the sun. In a total solar eclipse like this one, the sun is completely blocked, causing a period of darkness. In another type of solar eclipse, called an "annular" eclipse, the moon is not large enough to completely block the sun, so a ring of light is still observed around it at the peak.



The United States Presidential Election of 2024 was held on November 5, 2024, in which former Republican president Donald Trump (2017–21) defeated the Democratic nominee, Vice Pres. Kamala Harris. Trump, who lost his bid for reelection in 2020 to Democrat Joe Biden, is the first U.S. president to be elected to two nonconsecutive terms since Grover Cleveland, the 22nd and 24th president of the United States (1885–89 and 1893–97). Trump is also the first convicted felon to become president-elect and, at age 78, the oldest person to win the office. Following a hotly contested election, Donald Trump is once again the president-elect and will return to the White House as of January 20, 2025.



# WHY WE CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR

We celebrate New Year's to mark the passage of time and the beginning of a new calendar year. This tradition has deep historical roots, dating back to ancient civilizations. For example, the Babylonians celebrated the new year during the spring equinox with an elaborate 11-day festival called Akitu. The Romans later established January first as the start of the new year in 46 B.C. under Julius Caesar's Julian calendar, aligning it with the Roman god Janus, who symbolized beginnings and transitions. This change influenced many cultures, setting the stage for the global celebrations we recognize today.

Beyond its historical origins, New Year's is a time for reflection and renewal. It provides an opportunity to look back on the past year, assess achievements and challenges, and set new goals for the future. People across the world engage in various customs and traditions, such as making resolutions, attending parties, and watching fireworks. This is all aimed at welcoming the new year with hope and optimism. This universal celebration underscores the human desire for fresh starts and the collective aspiration for a better future.





# nostalgia.

"Nostalgia is a sentimental longing or wistful affection for the past, typically a time period with happy personal occasions." its a trigger you can get accidentally hearing a certain sound, a certain smell, or finding a certain thing. often times we feel nostalgia as teens because we tend to forget about a lot of things, and that specific sound or smell can bring that memory back. as a result of remembering these fond memories, you typically feel emotional, most often happy but with a sense of regret or longing like you lost something that you'll never be able to get back.

bop-it is a universally shared childhood toy. It came out in 1996 but flourished in early 2000s.



Having Nerf meant pelting everyone and everything you came across while pretending you were in a movie.



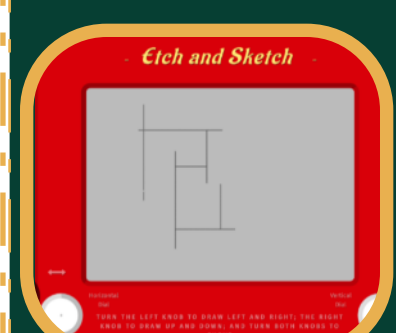
If you had one of these plastic princess shoes as a kid, you were a princess.



If there's one toy we have to link to our childhood its this one. many people owned this toy and enjoyed watching the balls pop up and down.



Etch-a-sketch came out in 1960 and was beyond revolutionary for its time. It sold 600,000 copies the year it released.



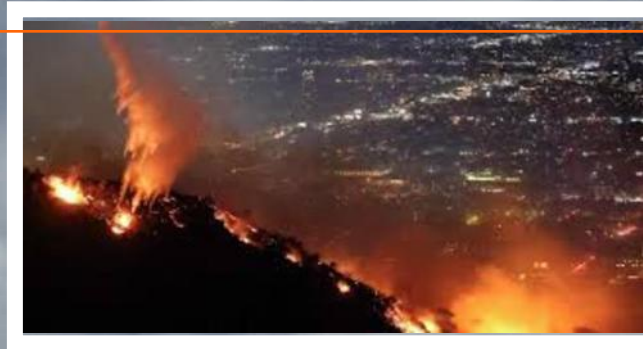
"Times of adversity can trigger nostalgia because remembering who we were helps with our identity continuity."



Through the examples provided, this may possibly be one that is remembered the most if you've ever been at the doctors at least once, you remember looking at this image.



## THE WILDFIRES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY.



Firefighters increased containment lines around the Palisades Fire and Eaton Fire during a weekend of improved weather conditions in Los Angeles County.

The deadly fires, two of the most destructive on record in California, started Jan. 7 on a day of extremely high fire danger due to a Santa Ana windstorm. More than 27 deaths have been reported in the fires, burning in the Pacific Palisades area on the Los Angeles County coast and Altadena area northeast of Los Angeles.

Flames have destroyed at least 14,362 structures, including homes and businesses.

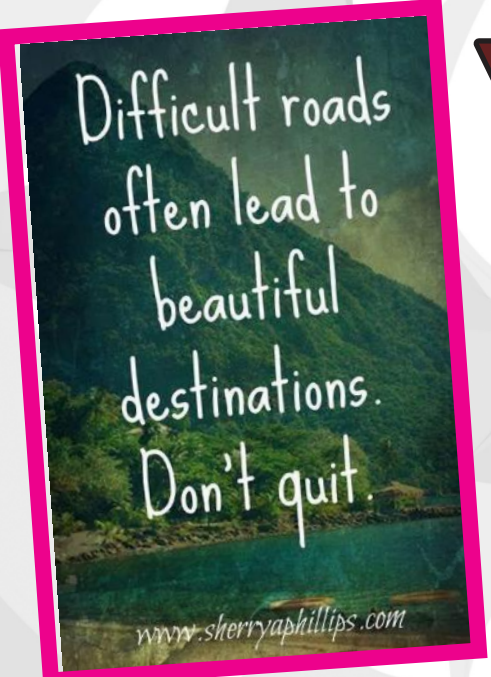
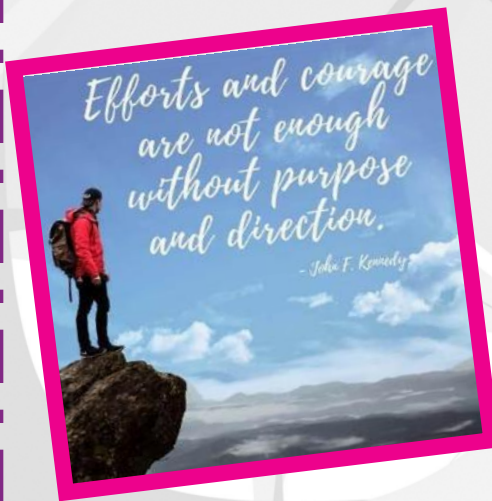
Containment of the 14,000-acre Eaton Fire expanded to 87 percent Monday morning. Water-dropping helicopters extinguished hot spots over the weekend near Winters Creek, Mt. Lowe and Mt. Wilson.

The Palisades Fire was 59-percent contained Monday morning at 23,700 acres.

Evacuation orders were lifted for many areas over the weekend. Some homes remain without electricity and gas service due to safety shutoffs.

A curfew remains in effect nightly from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. in the mandatory evacuation areas. Only firefighters, law enforcement and utility workers allowed in those zones.





# You're Halfway There!

