

# HAPPENINGS

A PUBLICATION OF HAMBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL

## New Seeing Eye Dog, Seely, captures Hamburg hearts

Abigail Behm - 12

Seely, Mrs. McCarthy-Wright's third dog from The Seeing Eye, is settling into his role in the library. The seven-week-old Labrador Retriever was born on November 25 of this year and was 8.4 lbs. Unlike the previous dogs of Hamburg, Wolfgang and Spike, Seely was introduced immediately to the school. Wolfgang and Spike, Mrs. McCarthy-Wright states, "no one saw until they were older," allowing her to take them to the DeSales library with her over the summer and to grow larger for when they were introduced to Hamburg. As a result of this shifted schedule, Seely has an extra "aw factor," as Mrs. McCarthy-Wright states.

Kate Crider attests to this fact, claiming that Seely is "pure sunshine" and "one of the best things about the high school." The major factor is that Seely is a stress-reliever stations almost right in the middle of the school's foot traffic areas. Eventually almost everyone must pass through the library, and seeing the new Seeing Eye puppy can brighten any day. Mrs. McCarthy avers that most visitors are fond of a "drive-by pet," where even if they are short on time, a small pat on the head gives both Seely and the visitor a pick-me-up. In addition to the adorableness of the puppy, Crider assevers that Seely "gives some people something they can't have," like having a dog without the caretaking parts. Seely is a "soothing...warm" presence for many students, Crider clarifies, and as a result is fantastic for the mental health of the population of the high school.

When interviewed, Seely gave a small "woof!" and then a hiccup, but thus far there have been no hiccups in his training or behavior. Mrs. McCarthy-Wright says that she must "be aware" of "the little things" so as to keep Seely from developing bad habits. The Seeing Eye pays for vet trips and insurance in exchange for the temporary owner training the dog. In addition to getting the dog used to public places, training them on regular behavior such as eating habits, not chewing on things, and being able to focus despite distracting factors, "volunteer puppy-raisers" must avoid 'tricks' such as shaking (paws), playing tug-of-war, and other habits which could interfere with the performance of the dog as a service animal according to the website of The Seeing Eye.

One of the major questions asked of the puppy-raisers is how they can give up the dog once spending so much time with them and essentially welcoming them into the family. Mrs. McCarthy-Wright answers "knowing what they are going to be doing... helping others" reminds her of why she volunteered. She adds that dogs like Seely "are for someone else" in all aspects, from when they are able to offer comfort through "drive-by pets" to guiding the blind across a street after more intensive training. Essentially, the idea is to give help to others through the program and assist in a good cause for others in need. It is also a good experience to bond with the puppy and make others - such as Hamburg students - happy at the same time. McCarthy-Wright joined the program because she "likes animals and...likes helping people so it is the perfect blend" for volunteer opportunities and to do something she is passionate about.

Mrs. McCarthy-Wright also emphasized her thanks to the "school [for] being so supportive; the teachers, administration, staff," have helped make the process effective and beneficial to many. The inclusion of outside volunteer opportunities in action presents students with a daily example of how volunteer work can be simultaneously fun and helpful. With a supportive, open-minded staff and administration, Hamburg has added an invaluable member to the school. Also added is a helping paw to brightening students' days and a daily example of volunteer work for a relevant, wonderful cause.

For more information on The Seeing Eye, visit their website: <https://www.seeingeye.org/>.



## Disney+ was released for use on Tuesday, November 12

Alexandra Kline - 12

Disney is an American multinational entertainment corporation. They are most known for their films such as Cinderella, Beauty and the Beast, and more. Disney also owns multiple smaller corporations underneath it, such as Pixar, Marvel, National Geographic, and Star Wars. All of these corporation films and shows are seen on Disney's new Disney+.

Disney+ is an online streaming site for subscribers to stream Disney's films and shows for just seven dollars a month, or \$70 a year. Pixar, Marvel, Star Wars, and National Geographic films and shows can also be streamed on the site. On Tuesday, November 12, 2019, Disney+ went live for viewing. So many people started streaming that the app had many connection problems, but Disney was quickly able to fix these.

Paiton Albrecht, a senior at Hamburg Area High School, says she is an "avid Disney goer so this was a no brainer," when asked why she got Disney+. Albrecht finds it difficult to decide with corporation on Disney+ she prefers, but speaks about Up being her favorite Pixar film. She has been binge watching much of what is on Disney+, including, Jungle Book, Toy Story, Pixar in Real Life and The Suite Life of Zack and Cody. She also speaks about how Disney+ makes her "feel closer to the parks when I am away." After being to Disney parks four times now, that is saying something.

Disney+ is for all ages as one can also watch most Marvel films and the new shows coming soon to stream, such as Hawkeye, Loki, and Bucky and Falcon. While older kids and/or adults watch Marvel, the younger kids of age, or heart, can watch the original Disney films and/or the remakes, such as the new Lady and the Tramp film only available for streaming on Disney+. Albrecht enjoys "reminiscing to The Jungle Book and my favorite Disney princess movies."

Another streaming site that is also popular is Netflix. Netflix has been open for use for 22 years. Their subscription cost will soon be going up from eight dollars a month to nine dollars a month. Albrecht, also a subscriber to Netflix, has divulged that she is "thinking about canceling Netflix. The only other thing I watch on Netflix is The Office and that show is going away eventually. Basically, there is nothing left for me on Netflix and I would not miss it."

Disney+ is cheaper than Netflix as well as more magical than most streaming sites. Subscribe to Disney+ now to watch princesses being rescued, fights in galaxies far, far away, and a house floating its way down to South America by balloons. Visit [www.disney-plus.com](http://www.disney-plus.com) now to get a subscription and download the app on any device.

## The importance of warm clothing

Keira Conrad - 9

Many teens care little about decreasing temperatures, as they often are seen wearing shorts until the very end of fall. However, as winter draws nearer, it becomes imperative to begin layering clothing. For many, the start of winter brings runny noses and cold limbs. While these effects of the cold weather may at first seem to be insignificant, if attention is not put into preventing such things, they can become far more serious than initially perceived.

In order to prevent possible cases of hypothermia, it is in one's best interest to begin wearing a thick coat whenever outside. Avoid warm weather clothing like short sleeves and shorts, and begin to fill the closet with pants and long sleeve shirts. By covering any skin that may be exposed to outside conditions, people trap themselves in a bubble of heat, preventing frostbite. It may also prove beneficial to invest in a hat, scarf, and pair of gloves.

For most, the extremities are the first to feel cold. Whether it be the fingers, toes, or nose, any parts of the body that stick out further from the core are bound to get colder much faster. While only in extreme cases, not taking precautionary measures to keep these portions of the body warm may lead to the loss of them. This makes the importance of scarves, gloves, and even socks, grow even greater as the temperatures begin to reach the low thirties. So, as the fall season comes to an end, it is highly recommended that one takes caution when picking what to wear in the morning. Make sure to dress in layers and wear a well-insulated coat that is sure to keep the body warm.



## Christmas ideas for friends

Ashley Perlaki - 11

During high school, people rely on the interactions of others. So what would be the best way to appreciate those people? By giving them thoughtful gifts during this holiday season! High school students most likely receive minimum wage for jobs, so personalized gifts are always cost efficient compared to purchasing a luxurious gift. Bellow are ideas listed as a less expensive alternative to celebrate the holidays with friends.

While with friends, many people take pictures to capture their favorite moments. A Matchbox camera would be the perfect gift for a friend who is interested in pursuing photography, or the Matchbox camera could be a great place for storing polaroid pictures. Another idea for someone interested in art or photography would be picture coasters, this allows a person to store old pictures on coasters and relive the memory everyday. Lastly, use Pinterest as a guide to learn new quirky ways of giving friends gifts, that are also inexpensive. Some pinterest boards showcase gift ideas such as goody bags with makeup or candy inside. These gifts do not cost a lot of money but still show that effort was put into them. Whether it be a way to show appreciation or just to make them smile, celebrating Christmas with the ones who matter is the best gift of all.





# Christmas cookies: How did they come about?

Emily Smith - 9

Ever wonder why we eat lots of cookies over the holidays? Or why children set out cookies for Santa Claus on Christmas Eve? How did gingerbread men come about? It is surprising to see the origin of a favorite holiday tradition that most people overlook.

Christmas cookies can come in every size, shape, color, and flavor. Whether it is Santa or Rudolph, red or green icing, everyone loves this holiday treat. At first, cookies were not even meant to be food. Cooks would test out the oven's temperature by placing a tiny circle of cake batter to judge whether or not the oven was hot enough to cook different foods. Thus, the cookie was born!

The tradition of leaving out cookies for Santa Claus dates back to the 1930's, during the Great Depression. It was meant to be a lesson for children that even in times of desperate need that sharing is so important. According to statistics, Santa Claus eats approximately 336,150,386 cookies every Christmas Eve. Thanks to parents, Santa's pant size increases every year!

Gingerbread men are a popular type of cookie that are always made during the holidays. While Queen Elizabeth I envisioned the original idea to create gingerbread people, she did not actually bake them herself, because she had her own royal bakers make them for her and her guests. Each individual cookie was created to look like the dignitaries that were visiting the royal palace.

Cookies are very popular at all times of the year, not just during the holiday season. On average, Americans eat over two billion cookies per year, which is equivalent to 300 cookies per person! In a single American lifetime, 35,000 cookies are consumed! Out of all of those statistics, one particular flavor rises above all. Surprisingly, chocolate chip is the most popular, with it covering over half the total amount of cookies baked in American homes per year!

Want to know more? Visit:<https://www.foodandwine.com/>, <http://www.cookie-elf.com/>



# Onlookers visit Koziar's Christmas Village

Lauren Shebby – 12

With the arrival of the holiday season, new activities open up for those wishing to get in the Christmas spirit. One must-see is Koziar's Christmas Village, a dazzling display of lights, decorations, props, and buildings to entertain visitors. Located in Bernville, the Christmas Village includes an old-fashioned bakery, Santa's Post Office Shop, the Kissing Bridge, and many other areas with incredible photo opportunities with friends and family as well as some educational experiences about the holiday.

In 1948, William M. Koziar began extravagantly decorating his house and property for his wife and children, often attracting many onlookers. In 1948, after people began asking if they were permitted to enter for a closer look, Koziar developed the idea that he should create a Christmas Village for people to attend every year.

Christmas Village opened November 2 and will remain open until January 1, 2020. From Thanksgiving until January 1, it will be open Monday through Friday from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. On Saturdays, it will be open from 5:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. On Sundays, it will stay open from 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Children three years and younger are permitted for free and children ages four to ten must pay \$10.00. Adult admission is \$12.00, with an exception to seniors aged 65 and older, who pay \$11.00. Parking is free as advertised and the village is located on 782 Christmas Village Road in Bernville, Pennsylvania.

For more information, visit <http://www.tourismnewslive.com/>



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# Where do Christmas trees come from?

Tabitha Engel - 12

Cutting down pine trees, dragging them into the house, and decorating them with bright ornaments is a longstanding tradition. Most Americans have participated in this strange tradition at some point in their lives, but where did it originate? Using trees as a form of sacred celebration dates all the way back to ancient times and was a bit different than it was today.

Back in ancient times, people thought that evergreen trees had magical qualities. The evergreen trees were the only things that did not die during the winter so they thought that they possessed immortality. Due to this supposed magic, they would plant pine trees around their houses in order to keep evil spirits at bay. Examples of cultures that worshipped evergreen trees are the Egyptians, Romans, and the Vikings. Egyptians would place evergreen tree branches of people's tombs after death in order to represent eternal life. The Romans would decorate their houses with evergreen branches in order to bring a good harvest. Vikings would keep evergreen trees in and around their churches because they thought it represented the everlasting life God could give.

Germany, however, is who gave us the modern day Christmas tree. In the 1500's, Christians in Germany would bring evergreen trees into their houses during their winter. They thought that the trees represented the life God could give and would help them get through the deadly winters. Martin Luther started the practice of putting lights on the trees. He got the idea when he was stargazing one night and thought the stars looked beautiful dancing around the trees. In order to mimic this, he placed candles on the tree in his house and the trend quickly caught on.

Christmas trees arrived in America when German immigrants settled in Pennsylvania in the 1800's. Even though the Germans used the trees as a way to honor God, immigrants from other countries saw the practice as Pagan and ungodly. Many important early Americans, such as William Bradford and Oliver Cromwell, tried to get rid of the tradition and even tried to make it illegal.

There was a sharp change of opinion on the Christmas tree in 1846. Queen Victoria of England brought a Christmas tree into her home for Christmas. Since the royal family was very respected, it was not long before all of England had Christmas trees in their homes. America was still very close to England and so Americans followed suit. The Christmas trees were mostly decorated with nuts, fruits, and candles. There was one notable difference between American and European trees. European Christmas trees were usually small, about four feet high, while Americans preferred trees that touched their ceilings.

The Rockefeller's made the last major change to Christmas trees. They invented Christmas lights to replace the candles and started to mass produce Christmas ornaments. Today, Christmas trees can be seen all across North America and Europe. While the main idea of the Christmas tree stays the same, each country has put their own unique twist on it. For example, Sweden decorates their trees with wooden animals and puts straw at the base of it. In Spain, a hole is cut in the tree trunk and filled with different candies. In Japan, the Christmas tree has nothing to do with religion, but rather peace and the trees are decorated with white doves.

For additional information on the origins of Christmas trees visit: <https://www.history.com/topics/christmas/history-of-christmas-trees>



# Black Friday and Cyber Monday: where it all began

Emily Smith - 9

Lines of people wait for the hottest new toys, games, electronics, and furniture that are on all Christmas wish lists. Stores compete for the best sales and flyers announce how to get the top deals. Online offers complete these traditional shopping events that have existed since the 1950's and more recently in the 21st century. Have any idea what these days are? Yes, it is Black Friday and Cyber Monday, some of the largest shopping days of the year.

The oldest of these two major events, Black Friday, has taken place on the day after Thanksgiving for over 50 years. Cars lined the highways, shoppers lined the streets, and stores lined the shelves with the most popular gifts upon request. Needless to say, nothing has changed since day one. Now, let's talk about the name. Many people question that the name is meant to be offensive, but in reality it means the exact opposite. Stores coined this name because there annual revenue went from being in the "red", meaning that they had not sold much merchandise or were at a loss for money, to being in the "black", meaning that they would make a profit after just one day. Thus, the name Black Friday was in full effect.

A more recent national shopping day, Cyber Monday, started in 2005. With the Internet becoming more popular by the second, stores tested their luck online and ended up with a huge success. It seemed appealing to shoppers that did not want to leave the comfort of their home. Every year since, the total profit has increased. 2017 Cyber Monday sales maxed out at 6.6 billion dollars, creeping up on the 7.9 billion total of Black Friday sales both in-store and online. Cyber Monday has been gaining lots of popularity ever since its first debut. Whether it is rolling a cart through the aisles or sitting on the recliner scrolling through the computer, Black Friday and Cyber Monday shopping are no doubt the most popular times to check off everyone's Christmas list.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.history.com/news/black-friday-timeline-photos>

<https://muchneeded.com/cyber-monday-statistics/>

<https://www.moneycrashers.com/cyber-monday-online-shopping-guide/>

