

Colonial

COURIER

November 2021

Photo by Emmanuel Sampson



Seniors huddle together with their coaches during a team practice. The seniors later experienced an untraditional 6-0 loss to the juniors in this year's Powderpuff football game on Oct. 28.

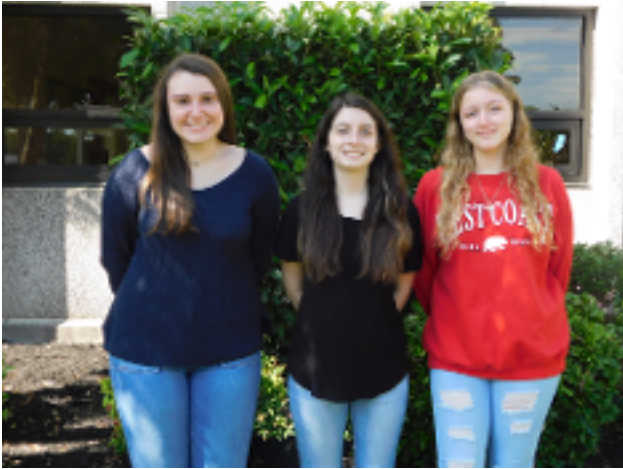
Pictured from left to right: Logan Wilson, Ava Galyen, Giselle Flores, Cindy Alvarez, Jenny Yang, Ava Foulkrod, Lillie Moody, Hannah Chapman

Colonial COURIER

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Juniors surprise seniors with Powderpuff game win

by Tamia Barnes

Upsetting a long standing tradition of the seniors winning, the juniors won the 2021 Powderpuff Game on Oct. 28.

"The most memorable moment was right after the timer ran out, and we realized we had won so we all ran to the field and were jumping and screaming," said Jennifer Hersee, 11.

The game winning touchdown was scored by Madison Faries, 11, making the final score 6-0.

"I don't have much experience playing football, but I play softball and that helped me a lot with my throwing and catching skills," said Faries.

At practice, the juniors stretched, threw the football and ran some plays.

"We had two Powderpuff practices, which helped prepare us for the game," said Ellie Tuck, 11. "We formed plays and figured out who would be best in which position, and we also studied

our plays."

Last year none of the seniors could play because of COVID; some wished they could have gained some experience and performed

Photo by Debbie Slaybaugh



After not having a Powderpuff game last year due to COVID restrictions, junior and senior girls, their coaches and class sponsors renewed the gridiron tradition on Oct. 28. Madison Faries, 11, scored the game's only touchdown.

better this year.

Coaches taught their players many strategies to help throughout the game. Everyone on both teams gave it their all for the game.

"I do feel like a teacher because many of them did not know anything about football; therefore, I had to teach them the rules," said James Jiang, 11, junior coach.

Camille Adenauer, 12, thinks the best part of it all was after the game ended.

"The most memorable moment was when we all sat together and ate pizza," said Adenauer. "It was fun to just bond with the team after the game."

Emmanuel Sampson, 12, a senior coach, agrees.

"After the game, one of our star players, Natalie Jackson pulled out a soccer ball and the real fun began," said Sampson. "The people who didn't leave right after the game enjoyed pizza, played soccer, and took pictures while music played loudly from the bleachers. Even if the seniors unfortunately lost, we found a way to embrace the time we shared together."

Seniors experience first-ever Senior Ring Dance

by Catherine Alderson
"Nothing is perfect, but this dance was so close to it," said Ms. Deona Guy, school counselor and Class of 2022 co-sponsor.

"I thought it was fun because it was so elegant but also reminded me of Bruno Mars and the 1970's," said Ms. Skylar Ward, history teacher and Class of 2022 co-sponsor.

outdoors this year, there were still many struggles in regards to setting up. In normal years, the sponsors, students and parents have the entire week before the dance to start setting up. This year they only had Friday and Saturday.

"It was very stressful to meet expectations of what has been done in the past and give our seniors a night to remember," said Ms. Guy.

Both Ms. Guy and Ms. Ward agreed that one of their main struggles was adapting to the COVID policies.

"At first, I was skeptical with the dance floor being the grass and being under a tent the whole night, but once I got to the dance, I was honestly blown away with how pretty everything was," said Ava Foulkrod, 12.

An unexpected moment during the dance was when the power went out.

Photo courtesy of James Burnett



In a break from the traditional gym venue, Ring Dance was held outside this year.

Pictured from left to right: Camille Adenauer, Olivia Harrison, Dalton Jenkins, Alex Chini, Rylei Buck

For the first time in CHHS history, seniors had a Ring Dance. Due to COVID, the last year's juniors were unable to have their dance in the spring, so they held it in the fall of their senior year. The theme of this year's Ring Dance was Gold'N Moonlight.

2022 co-sponsor.

Normally, the dance is held in the school gymnasium, where there are usually many struggles to set up, like trying not to mess up the floor of the gym.

Though the dance was

Photo courtesy of James Burnett



Ms. Guy and Ms. Ward, senior class co-sponsors, take in all the dedication and effort that the staff and parents took to bring the dance alive.

“While people went to check the fuse box, a large group of students continued to sing and dance, and it was just really amazing to witness,” said Ms. Ward. “I am really glad they made the most of that moment.”

The power cutting out didn’t stop the students from having a good time.

“My favorite part was when the music cut out and the lights went off,” said Mason Bennett, 12. “Then, we started singing on our own, and everyone was dancing.”

Despite the delay of the dance due to COVID-19,

student’s expectations were met. Many of the students agreed that dancing was their favorite part of the night.

“Overall, I would say the dance was worth the wait because I still had a lot of fun,” said Dillon Longnecker, 12. “Dancing with my friends was probably the best part of my night.”

“I really like the actual dancing with everyone -- running around and dancing like a lunatic,” said Trent Kirchoff, 12.

“My highlight of the night was honestly seeing everyone dressed up,” said Foulkrod. “It was nice to see everyone dressed differently!”

The sponsors and administrators have tentatively scheduled the Class of 2023’s Ring Dance in March of 2022.



Photo courtesy of James Burnett



Friends spend one of the last moments left in their high school experience together as the first senior class to host a Ring Dance.

Pictured from left to right: Dillon Longnecker, Aiden Slavik, Tyrese Seabron, Emmanuel Sampson, Edwin Martinez

Sampson ready to take on 'real work'

by Alyssa Reynolds

Emmanuel Sampson was just having a normal day until one day he was called down to Mrs. Kristin Janssen's office. He anxiously waited to find out the meaning of this meeting and was pleasantly surprised when he found out he had been named the November Senior of the Month.

"When I heard the news, I was still trying to get over the unease of being in the principal's office for the first time," said Sampson.

The amount of work, clubs and sports Sampson has participated in is varied. He has participated in sports, such as track and field, soccer, basketball and cross country. Sampson's activities aren't limited to sports only: he is also the president of Youth Advisory Council.

"I would have done more if I could," said Sampson about his participation in activities and sports at school.

In the future, Sampson

plans on applying to Richard Bland and Virginia Tech to begin his "real work." He plans on doubling his major by pursuing both astrophysics and philosophy and minoring in creative writing.

Many staff throughout the school, one of whom is Latin teacher Mr. Matthew Gelven, believe Sampson will accomplish great achievements.

"I think his curiosity and his drive to excel will take him far in his college career," said Mr. Gelven.

Some of Sampson's most recent accomplishments include getting accepted into the NASA VASTS program, becoming captain of the Academic Challenge team and being awarded the Good Citizen Optimist Award.

His wide variety of interests, such as playing piano, repairing cars and writing, originate from his feelings of wanting to open up his perspective and make new experiences. He builds up habits and activities that

make him "lose track of time."

Another staff member who finds all that Sampson manages to do remarkable is his own guidance counselor, Mrs. Betsy Johnson.

Photo courtesy of Emmanuel Sampson



Sampson spends his time on his various hobbies, rarely taking a break.

"I was very excited for Emmanuel. He is a hard-working and genuine young man who definitely deserves this honor," said Mrs. Johnson. "It has been my pleasure and privilege to work with Emmanuel as his school counselor. He is a well-rounded individual and has a very bright future ahead!"

Fall athletes advance to regional, state competitions

Photo by Mickey Alderson



Sophomores Catherine Alderson and Kendall Ackerman ran in the state cross country meet finishing at places 42 and 70. In the district meet, Alderson placed third, and Ackerman placed fourth. In the regional meet, Alderson placed third, and Ackerman placed eighth.

Fall Sports Regular Season's Records

Varsity field hockey: 2-13

JV football: 4-3

Varsity football: 4-6

Girls' volleyball: 9-12

Boys' volleyball: 18-5

Cross country (boys and girls): 3-5

Golf: 3-3



Photo by Carol Bennett



After 18 wins and 5 losses during the regular season, the boys' volleyball team advanced to regional tournament and the 4A state semi-finals. Their post-season competition ended with a loss to Maggie Walker on Nov. 16.

Pictured from left to right: Brent Haden, Phillip Page, Mason Bennett, Dalton Tharpe, Dylan Ruxer, Sam Moore, Alex Chini, Eli Anderson, Thomas Sawka, Seth Jackson, Coach Mark Lee

Holiday events spark Christmas joy throughout Virginia

by Madison Marchant

As the holiday season is approaching quickly, people are deciding which holiday event they would like to attend. Around the area there are three main events: Busch Gardens Christmas Town, Kings Dominion WinterFest and Lewis Ginter GardenFest of Lights.

“These events definitely get you in the Christmas spirit/mood because of the atmosphere; the lights, decorations, music, hot chocolate and cold weather bring back memories of being home with family and friends for the holidays at Christmas time,” said Mr. Brennan Hoffer, AP US History teacher, who has been to all three events.

Busch Gardens’ Christmas Town takes place Nov. 12 through Jan. 2. The admission prices for a single day is \$39.99, a Fun Card is \$68.99, and a membership is \$11.75 a month. A Fun Card gives unlimited admission to Christmas Town, and a

membership gives admission for 12 months.

“Out of the three I went to

with some good friends that made it a special event.”

Kings Dominion’s

Photo courtesy of Brennan Hoffer



Busch Gardens Christmas Town offers a variety of sights and events throughout the park, including an ice show "Twas That Night," featuring world-champion figure skater, Elvis Stojko. Pictured left to right: Mr. Brennan Hoffer, Ms. Sarah Crinkley and Mr. Ray Sells.

(Kings Dominion, Busch Gardens, and Lewis Ginter), I preferred Busch Gardens’ Christmas set up the most,” said Mr. Hoffer. “The food, drinks and atmosphere were pretty cool, and I attended

WinterFest takes place Nov. 20 through Jan. 2. The admission prices for a single day are \$32, Gold Passes are \$7 a month, and Platinum Passes are \$15 a month. The difference between a Gold

Photo courtesy of Kristina Adams



Ms. Kristina Adams treated her brother Tony to a trip to Kings Dominion's WinterFest because she knew he would enjoy the millions of sparkling lights.

Pass and a Platinum Pass is the amount of benefits.

"I got a good deal on

season's tickets to Kings Dominion and WinterFest was included," said Ms. Kristina Adams, SPED teacher. "My brother has Autism, and I thought he would enjoy the Christmas lights and decorations."

Lewis Ginter GardenFest of Lights has different tickets for different dates. Value nights are from Nov. 22 through Dec. 16; peak nights are from Dec. 17 through Jan. 2; and bonus nights are from Jan. 3-9. Value nights and bonus nights cost \$14 for adults and \$8 for children; peak nights

cost \$18 for adults and \$12 for children; and every night children under three are free.

A smaller event that is in the area is the Colonial Heights Christmas Parade. It is free to attend and will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 7. The Marching Colonials traditionally perform in the parade every year.

"My favorite part of marching in the Christmas parade is getting to spend some time with my friends for the holidays, even if it is chilly outside," said Dillon Longnecker, 12.

Holiday Spirit Days

Dec. 6-10

Monday - Festive Flannel and Holiday Sock Day

Tuesday - Twinkle Tuesday: Dress up like the brightest holiday tree.

Wednesday - Be Cool Day: Dress up like a penguin or snowman.

Thursday - Ugly Holiday Sweater Day

Friday - Are you Santa or one of his little helpers?



Gift shortages soar this holiday season

by Caroline Woodward

In the past year, COVID-19 has affected so many aspects of our lives, including schooling of students, work limitations, reduced hours for some employees and the social lives of all people globally. Since some people were unable to work during the pandemic lockdown, factories and facilities that produce goods for the world were also shut down. Since the factories were not manufacturing products, the amount of stock that is available in stores this Christmas season is reduced.

According to BetterHomesandGardens.com, a shortage in merchandise that is available this holiday season is occurring because of the lack of workers, not just in factories, but also in the transportation field. Truck drivers and cargo ship employees are scarce at the

time when demand is high, which impacts the quantity of retail items that are obtainable.

The shipping crisis that happened earlier this year had a substantial impact on the low supply of items that are made overseas, especially from China. China produces a significant amount of goods consumed in America, so without a sufficient mode of transportation, the goods have no way to get to the states.

For people who usually begin their holiday shopping at the last minute, shopping earlier this year might not be such a bad idea, especially if they want to buy what is on their lists before the items sell out. Many people wait until Christmas Eve to pick up the last-minute gifts that are left on their lists for family and friends.

"I usually wait to start

shopping until Black Friday, but this year, I actually bought Christmas gifts for my nieces and nephews back in October," said Mrs. Amanda Creasey, English 11 teacher.

Mrs. Katherine Rudolph, Spanish teacher, likes to get her last-minute spending done just in time for Christmas morning.

"I am envious of those who get their Christmas shopping done on time," said Mrs. Rudolph. "I wish I wasn't such a procrastinator."

However, some people always begin shopping early, even before the gift shortage that will occur this year. A surprising amount of people shop year-round to be able to relax and enjoy the season of joy and giving.

"I have started holiday shopping so early because I do this every year," said Mrs. Debbie Knowles,

Universal Learning Lab Facilitator and VVA Mentor. "I love to have my shopping done early so I can wrap the presents and sit back and enjoy the Christmas holiday."

Alternative gifts are an option for people who may not necessarily be able to find a specific gift. Although they cannot be bought in a store, alternative gifts are still a generous way to gift a special person in an individual's life.

"If I was unable to buy a specific gift for a family member, I would buy them an 'experience,' such as

tickets to something," said Mrs. Taylor Puckett, World History I and yearbook teacher. "For my son, in particular, I could buy him a movie gift card or a pass to the Richmond Zoo that we could utilize all summer long."

This year, the mainstream media is encouraging all people to buy the items on their holiday shopping lists right away. When shoppers see the item that they potentially want to purchase for a gift, they should buy it immediately. However, all year-round shoppers are not worried about the gift shortage this

year because they have managed their time throughout the months leading to the end-of-the-year holidays.

"For me, it takes a weight off of my shoulders," said Mrs. Allison Hood, Chemistry 1 and environmental science teacher. "I've never liked waiting until the last minute and stressing about not being able to find something or worry about shipping delays. Getting it done early prevents those additional stresses from life."



Students regain option to tour colleges

by Hendrix Harris

Students have all heard the question before: “What do you want to be when you grow up?” It seems that kids never stop hearing this question, yet so many people

experience new things, new people and new places. Beyond academic growth, college students are exposed to amazing resources, learn to live separately from their parents, and become more

These are all questions that, according to concrete-online.co.uk, 44 percent of students ask themselves.

“It is important for students to be self-reflective and not simply listen to what people tell them they should be when they grow up,” said Mrs. Crowder. “They should pay attention to what they are good at and what they enjoy. It is important for students to find a career that matches their personalities.”

Environment is crucial when it comes to having a healthy and happy career. A student knowing where they feel comfortable studying is something that every student should be well informed of.

Kayleigh Newman, 12, appreciates that small school atmosphere at Longwood University.

“It is a fairly small school with new dorm rooms, a wide range of clubs and you can really get to know your teachers and get help with school work if you need it,”

Photo by Mary Vaughan



Longwood University will be holding an open house on Nov. 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pictured from left to right: Ella Ackerman, Madison Munford, Gray Ellenburg, Briahna Bondurant, Xavier Munoz, Helen Duke, Zyh-Air McDuffie, Hannah Chapman, Elana Chapman, Laci Young, Lena Siegfried, Kayleigh Newman

don't know the answer.

The college field trips are an opportunity for students to indulge in a number of different education programs and universities across Virginia.

“Education, in general, is the way to a better life,” said Mrs. Kristin Crowder, college field trip advisor. “It is an opportunity to grow and

responsible.”

Students realizing what they want to devote their professional career to is something that is often stressful for juniors and seniors who are looking to go to college. Where do I get started? How do I find what I have a passion for? Will I be able to succeed in the field I want to pursue?

Photo by Betsy Johnson



The college field trip participants endured the rain to tour The College of William & Mary.

Pictured left to right:

Back row: Brandon Charles, Nick Sprinkle, Hannah Brewer, Keagan McNulty, Blanche Koudalo, Maddy McNulty, Isabella Sierra, Ben Burchard (CHHS Class of 2018; W&M senior)

Front row: John Jackson, Jenna Mason, Seth Jackson, Hope Molina

said Newman.

A student being able to get

a head start on their understanding of a campus is a fantastic way to establish a

relationship with a community they may one day call home.

"I went to William and Mary," said Brandon Charles, 9. "Once we got into the school, it gave a historic museum environment. There were statues in a lot of places and many historic buildings. It also gave a mix of our century buildings as well like the science center they have in the campus."

If students plan on attending college in the future, taking the first step starts no further than the college field trips offered at CHHS.

VISIT THE SCHOOL COUNSELING WEBSITE

<https://sites.google.com/colonialhts.net/chhs-counseling-office/home>

Career & College Planning resources including SAT/ACT information & Financial Aid links.

Scholarship Table that is updated weekly!

Many Outside Opportunities posted each week including internships, summer classes, and interest meetings!

Gunder and Jones win prizes for Pink-Out Day spirit

Photo by Jennifer Carmichael



Congratulations to Mrs. Misty Gunder, health/PE teacher, and LeTaz Jones, 12, for winning the *Colonial Courier* Most Spirited Award for Pink-Out Day. Both winners received a Halloween bucket full of candy. The spirit contest was designed to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Mrs. Cutrer shares creativity through amigurumi

by Jenna Mason

Crocheting and sewing has been a large part of Mrs. Brandi Cutrer's, SPED teacher, life. After learning how to crochet at the age of 13 in a high school class, "Decorative Arts," she began amigurumi, the crocheting of small animals and other creations.

Photo courtesy of Brandi Cutrer



Mrs. Cutrer has made countless creations, including animals and dolls.

With a love for creating, amigurumi has been a big part of Mrs. Cutrer's life. One of the challenges related to amigurumi is the practicing of techniques. Mrs. Cutrer has taken years to learn new techniques to make the creations just the way she likes. If something turns out to be not of her standards, she will throw it away and start over.

Most of the time, many of the creations are trial and error.

"I have made dolls that are regular doll size, and I enjoy those," said Mrs. Cutrer. "When kids are really excited about getting them, it's like I created an actual friend for them."

Making hundreds of dolls and animals over the years, Mrs. Cutrer has lost count of how many she has actually made.

"I do often find pictures of something I made, or someone shares a picture of something I made them, and I have completely forgotten it," said Mrs. Cutrer.

Mrs. Cutrer has made some for many teachers at the school. She has made pumpkins for Ms. Haley Branin, English 9 teacher; Mrs. Rachel Whitehurst, paraprofessional; and Ms. Braden Johnson, English 12

Photo courtesy of Brandi Cutrer



To be a part of the holiday spirit, Mrs. Cutrer made Mr. and Mrs. Clause.

teacher. She has also made jellyfish for the women in the school who are having babies.

As a surprise gift for Mr. Ryan Davis, history teacher, Mrs. Cutrer made him Teenage Mutant Ninja hacky sacks. Mr. Davis was "surprised" when he received the generous gift from her.

Photo courtesy of Ryan Davis



Mrs. Cutrer created Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle hacky sacks for Mr. Davis.

"I was surprised, and I really liked them," said Mr. Davis. "She seems to be able to make whatever she wants and is very generous with what she makes."

Mrs. Cutrer has a small set up of yarn and other crocheting necessities in her daughter's room. When she spends time with her daughter during the evenings, she will often crochet while doing so.

"I will probably always make little animals and other crochet items," said Mrs. Cutrer. "It's fun to create something and be able to say 'look what I made.'"

Each holiday needs its moment

by Hendrix Harris

Take a look around you - it's the little things in life that you should take time to be thankful for. This is why Thanksgiving is such an important holiday, so why put the focus on Christmas before Thanksgiving is even over?

I'm tired of seeing Christmas decorations being put up at the start of November. The way I see it, when the holiday season hits, there is one big holiday each month to look forward to.

Each month has its own set of traditions with the holiday at the end of the month. October is the time to dress up, eat candy and watch scary movies; November is the time to get together with family, watch football and eat good food; December is the time to give gifts, drink hot chocolate and go caroling.

Halloween and Christmas seem to get all the hype

around the fall and winter months. Why not have Thanksgiving receive the same amount of recognition?

In many families, relatives live out of state from each other, with Thanksgiving being one of the only times of the year where the whole family is able to celebrate together.

Christmas time isn't something that needs to be rushed. There are just as many decorations and festivities going on in November for Thanksgiving that can be appreciated.

Often, it only starts getting cold toward the end of October. Snow is a big part of a lot of Christmas decor -- what's the point of having snowy decorations when it isn't even cold enough for it to snow?

While I do think snow is beautiful, the brown and red of autumn leaves and sweet scent of pumpkin spice are

concepts that snow and mistletoe don't need to overshadow. Thanksgiving is just as much of a holiday as Christmas, with just as many elements to appreciate and celebrate.

We very seldom truly take the time to appreciate every little aspect of our lives.



Thanksgiving is more than just a holiday. Thanksgiving is a lifestyle by which every person should abide by every day of the year. Giving thanks isn't something that you need a meal on the table for -- it is something that you feel within yourself.

I think it's time to start giving more "thanks" to Thanksgiving.

Christmas begins after Halloween

by Madi Cates

When is it too early to put up Christmas decorations? I think Christmas decorations should be put up on Nov. 1.

I love Christmas decorations. I feel like they make me excited for Christmas festivities, and I love seeing how different families put them up.

sometimes tiring to put up Christmas decorations. Decorating Christmas trees is exerting! These trees take hours to put up and the constant rearranging of ornaments is exhausting; however, by decorating early, I can later relax and enjoy my decorations throughout the entire season.

I think that with the right

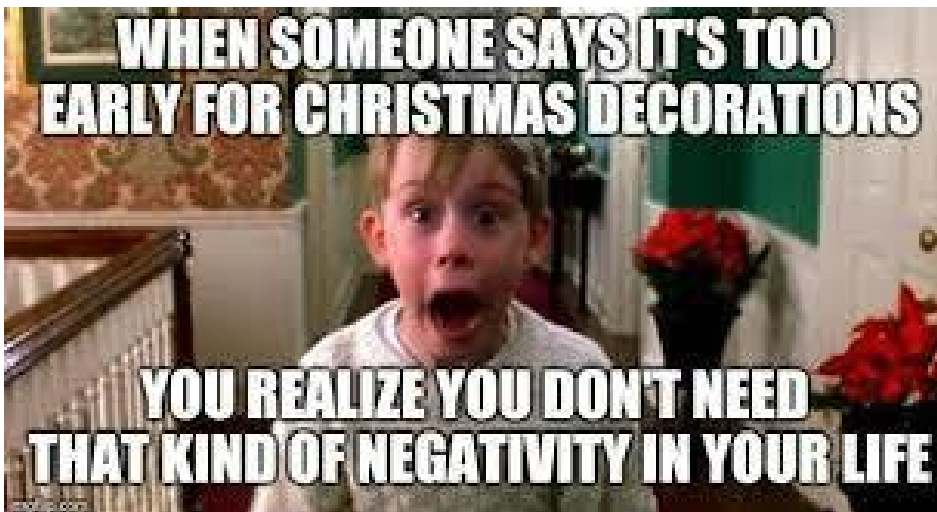
after all, Christmas is one of the happiest times for lots of kiddos -- presents, Santa Claus, cookies; every kid's dream -- so it can remind us adults of all these happy childhood memories."

Putting up Christmas decorations and even just looking at them throughout the holidays generally makes me happier. I love the nostalgic feeling that comes with them.

People in your neighborhood or community may even like you better if you put up decorations.

"A study published in the Journal of Environmental Psychology showed that your neighbors may interpret you putting up Christmas decorations as a sign that you're sociable and approachable," according to christmastreeassociation.org.

Try to put up your Christmas decorations early and see what happens!



According to businessinsider.com, "In a world full of stress and anxiety, people like to associate to things that make them happy, and Christmas decorations evoke those strong feelings of childhood."

I can understand how it is

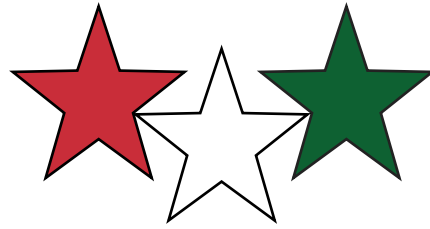
method of putting up decorations, we can make it fun. When I turn on fun music or watch a show, the time goes by a lot faster.

Christmastreeassociation.org said, "We tend to associate feelings of Christmas with happy parts of our past --

Should people decorate for Christmas before Thanksgiving?



Mckenzie Morris, 10: "I normally wouldn't, but I think we should because Christmas is amazing and makes everyone happy."



Kellie Roche, 11: "As long as it's not super early in November, it's fine."



Ricardo Trinidad, 11: "People shouldn't do it. It's weird."



Kennedy Sauders, 10: "I think we should wait until after Thanksgiving is over to decorate for Christmas."

Should people decorate for Christmas before Thanksgiving?



Victoria Price, 11: "I feel like you should decorate for Thanksgiving first."



Benjamin Holmes, 12: "Thanksgiving really isn't that fun so it makes sense. I stand for it."



Brittany Slattery, 9: "I think decorating before Thanksgiving is a good idea because everything is planned out. It's nice and keeps a good mood."



Aiden Slavik, 12: "I do not respect anyone who does."



Should people decorate for Christmas before Thanksgiving?



Garrett Jarvis, 9: "No, because at some point you're going to decorate."



Kailyn Cimburke, 9: "I think decorating before Thanksgiving is going to be a good idea because it's amazing."



Coulter Del Puppo, 11: "It is wrong in every way to decorate before Thanksgiving."



Madisyn Hurtt, 9: "I feel very great about it."





9th Annual

TINSEL TOWN BAZAAR

**Saturday, November 20, 2021
9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

***BEHIND *Tussing Elementary School
5501 Conduit Road
Colonial Heights, VA 23834**

**Vendors/Crafters
(Outside)**

**Festive Cotton Candy- \$3
\$2 for Picture with Santa 11:00 -1:00 pm**

**DOOR PRIZES – SILENT AUCTION
(until 1:00 pm)**

Sponsored by Tussing PTO

**For more information – Contact
tinseltownbazaar@gmail.com**