



# The Meade County Messenger KY

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## A small-town Christmas



Photo by Anastasia Basham

**A young man was happy to have his photo taken with Santa in Santa's Workshop.**

*Anastasia Basham  
Messenger Staff*

The community of West Point gathered December 13th to celebrate Christmas the "old fashioned" way. The "A small-town Christmas" event was held at the old West Point elementary school. Various Christmas themed activities were set up. Carriage rides, vendors, Secret Santa, a Christmas concert, and caroling were a few of the activities people could enjoy.

The event kicked off at 3 pm with a holiday market, food, and Santa's workshop. As people entered decorated gymnasium, they were greeted with the holiday market. Past the Holiday Market, people had the choice to visit one of two rooms. To the left was Santa's workshop and to the right was a secret Santa store. Inside Santa's workshop was a free cookie station, ornament decorating station, games to win prizes, and Santa himself once he arrived at 3:30. At the cookie station, kids could grab a free cookie that was provided by Bickel Bros Auto Sales. Girl Scout Troop 4925 volunteered at the cookie station to hand out the holiday treats. After eating their cookies, Children lined up to make their own ornaments, using various Christmas themed stickers to bring their creation to life before making their way to play the Christmas tree game. The Christmas tree game had one simple goal, throwing the Velcro covered ball at the felt tree to win points. Each point corresponded to a fun prize. The most exciting part about Santa's workshop was, of course, Santa himself arriving at the party!

Next door to Santa's workshop was the secret Santa store. Children twelve and under could go "shopping" and pick out three gifts for their parents or family members. The tables inside were set up with toys for varying ages, jewelry and accessories, sports themed items, trinkets, and more so the kids had plenty

of options to choose from. After carefully choosing the perfect gift for their loved ones, the kids could get their presents wrapped at the set up wrapping station. The secret Santa shop was provided Marketplace on Main Street (MOM), a local thrift store.

"We brought up the idea to include the secret Santa shop to the mayor, and he immediately said yes," Hampton Scurlock from MOM said.

At 4:30 a Christmas concert was held inside the gymnasium. Live music was provided by Gary Brewer and the Kentucky Ramblers. People collected their food and sat down to enjoy the live music. For those who were not ready to sit down, horse-drawn carriage rides were just outside the building. Individuals could go on a scenic carriage ride for five dollars. The carriage rides were provided by the Bess and Bell Carriage Company.

The fun did not stop after sunset. For a five-dollar entry fee, people could enter an ugly sweater contest. The contest was held at 5:45 where people took to the stage to show off their ugliest sweaters. At six, anyone who wanted to participate in caroling gathered in the gym. Each caroler was provided with a song sheet and a fake candle. Once the group had gathered, they took to the streets of West Point to fill the nighttime air with song before heading home for the evening.

"To be honest, this all started because I really wanted to go caroling. We started brainstorming this event at the beginning of November and it was just going to be a Christmas concert and caroling afterwards. As more and more people got involved, it grew into a combination of many things and I am happy with the turn out so far," Mayor Richard Ciresi said. This year was the first year for the small-town Christmas event, but Mayor Ciresi is hoping to host something similar again next year.

*The Meade County  
Messenger QR code*



## Meade County High School Chorus puts the community in a festive mood at Christmas Concert



Photos by Stephen Spohn

**The Concert Choir put the audience in a sentimental holiday mood with "Do You Hear What I Hear".**

*Stephen Spohn  
Messenger Staff*

With a few snowfalls behind us and the temperatures dropping to a bitter cold outside, the feeling of the winter season and Christmas is in the air. Topped with the downtown area and local businesses decorating with lights, trees, and snowmen, the only thing missing for a true holiday season was a fantastic performance of timeless Christmas songs. On Tuesday, December 16th, the Meade County High School

(MCHS) Chorus put the "icing on the cake" with their annual Christmas Concert at the MCHS Auditorium.

As the house lights dimmed, and the stage lights came up at 7 pm, the audience was immediately swept away into a blissful sound of harmonic voices from the stage as the Concert Choir opened with "Christmas on Broadway" to create a sentimental feeling of Christmas in the Big Apple. Following the opener, the concert quickly transitioned to the small

choral ensemble known as the Madrigals perform the songs "Here We Come A-Caroling," "Carol of the Bells," and a fun spin on a classic with "We Wish You a Merry Madrigal."

The Stuart Pepper Middle School's select choir, DoReMeade, was next on the ticket. The ensemble consisting of both 7th and 8th graders quickly got the audience tapping their toes with a fun performance of the mash-up "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree with Jingle Bell Rock". DoReMeade

concluded their portion of the evening's concert with an interesting arrangement of "The Theme from ELF." Listening to this selection immediately took the audience to thoughts of actor Will Ferrell's on-screen antics as Buddy the Elf.

The high school chorus returned with the select ensemble, Soundwaves, to close out the first half of the concert with "Joy to the World (Jeremiah was a Bullfrog),"

**Chorus  
Continued on A4**

## The story of the Christmas Cards



**Natalie LaPlace was proud to send off Christmas Cards in honor of her mother's memory.**

*Earlene Bohannon  
Editor*

Sandra Eberhart, known as "Sandy" by the many who knew her, began distributing Christmas Cards when she was working at Healthwin Hospital in South Bend, Indiana and realized there were patients who were going to be spending Christmas in the hospital without loved ones and friends. During those times, Eberhart hand delivered the cards and spent a few minutes brightening the lives of those who were admitted.

Eberhart regularly began mailing greeting cards to her family and friends while living in Mishawaka, Indiana. Later, she included her neighbors at the senior citizens apartment complex where she lived for many years prior to her death. The greeting cards morphed into other holidays, but sending the Christmas Cards remained her favorite.

Natalie Eberhart La-

Place, of Brandenburg, who is Eberhart's daughter, said, "she would tuck greeting cards and poems that we selected together inside of each senior citizen's door; she absolutely loved sending and giving out Christmas Cards. It was her hobby. To be able to bring a smile to someone's face, if only for a few minutes, made her so happy."

Always on the lookout and preparing for the "big sendoff," it was no surprise to her family that Eberhart had already selected and prepared hundreds of Christmas Cards in anticipation of the 2024 Christmas Season prior to her death in October 2024. When LaPlace discovered her mother's stash of cards while cleaning out her mother's house, LaPlace made the decision to bring the stacks of cards back to Kentucky to address and send to recipients in honor of her mother's memory. It took the better part of 2025 for LaPlace to complete



Photos provided by Natalie LaPlace

**Sandy Eberhart felt compassion for patients who were in hospital during the Christmas Season.**

her mother's mission and on December 15, LaPlace was able to mail the cards from the Brandenburg Post Office. LaPlace reached out to The Meade County Messenger with hopes of sharing her mother's story, "I have photos of the cards with her signature. It is absolutely precious. I would love to share her story."

Laplace said, "A memory I have is her taking me with her while she was working at the hospital to help pass out Christmas Cards to the patients. I remember one gentleman was in an iron lung. Later, he taught me how play chess!" Laplace realizes she might not have had the opportunity to meet and know the man in the iron lung without her mother's generous spirit leading her.

Often Eberhart would include poems she had written herself. One such poem was titled "What do we love about Christmas" whereas she talked about seeing

those we love, and sending Christmas Cards.

In Eberhart's obituary, it mentioned, "she was a prolific greeting card sender, a reflection of her caring nature and her desire to make every person in her life feel special and remembered. Each month, Sandra would lovingly handpick and mail over 100 greeting cards, often had delivering them to share a moment of companionship". Her obituary also encouraged those who were reading, "in lieu of flowers, please consider sending a greeting card or letter to someone you love or care about."

LaPlace said when she found her mother's handwritten Christmas Cards, she knew her mother's intention was to ensure the recipients would receive them, so she was honored to be able to send them for her. LaPlace said, "It made her feel like Santa Claus all year long and her face just lit up talking about it."

