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# Holiday Memories

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# Holiday Memories

*The season has begun when we celebrate our families, our friends and the holidays.*

*We gathered a few holiday memories from people in the community to share. We hope*

*you all enjoy the season and create your own memories that will last for years to come.*



The trip up to the Coeur d'Alene Resort is full of fun and adventure for the Froshiesar family. Favorite memories include taking a resort cruise to see Santa, the decorations on the tree and delicious food. Pictured above are Isabella, Alexandria, Eileen and Olivia with their grandpa the late Gene Froshiesar.

## Journey to the North Pole

by *Isabella Froshiesar*

I look forward to every winter. The snow and cold weather that makes your fingers go numb. The hot chocolate that warms you up after playing in the snow. Most of all I look forward to spending time with my family in a car for six hours on our way to Coeur d'Alene.

Each winter my family makes an effort to go up to the Coeur d'Alene Resort. We've been going ever since I can remember. Personally, Coeur d'Alene is my sanctuary and I'm very appreciative whenever we can go. I love going up there in the winter because it looks more beautiful than ever. More than a million holiday lights illuminate the snow covered hills and trees.

The minute we step foot in the resort we hear the jazzy Christmas music and smell the coffee and baked goods from Starbucks. As you make your way to the lobby there's huge ornaments on the Christmas trees that put the children in awe because they're bigger than their faces. When I look around the lobby I can't help but smile because so many strangers are laughing and having a good time enjoying their loved ones' company.

Our Christmas tree at home is decorated with Precious Moment ornaments. My mom loves these ornaments, so you can imagine the face she made when I broke one a couple years back. While we're in Coeur d'Alene we go to the Hall-

mark store and pick out an ornament to put on our tree. This is special to my family and I because we only go to the Hallmark store in Coeur d'Alene, since it's the only one near us that carries these ornaments. We've been doing this for so long that all my sisters, including me, have one from the time we had our first Christmas.

When we go to Coeur d'Alene in the winter, we take one of the resort cruises out on the lake. The cruise in the winter is different from the one in the summer because they take you out to go see Santa Claus.

On the journey out to Santa's workshop they play the story on the cruise of how hard he's been working all year. When you arrive, you go on the outside of the ship to listen to Santa call off all the names of the kids on the ship on the good list. Watching this always brings joy to my family and I because all the children on the ship get extremely excited when they hear their name being called. When you get back inside the ship you can get the warmest cup of hot chocolate and it warms you up in seconds.

After the cruise, my family and I always grab dinner at Dockside, which is the resort's restaurant. I love eating there at Christmas time because the restaurant has big windows where you can see out on the lake and boardwalk. This resort has a record for the longest boardwalk, and it's decorated with hundreds of lights. The lights make

up reindeer, Santa and his sleigh, snowflakes, Christmas trees, almost anything Christmas related.

I love sitting in that restaurant with my family, watching the lights glow on their smiley faces, and even other families being so astonished by how many lights there are.

When dinner is over, we go to Gooney's which is the resort's dessert place. Gooney's is known for their enormous sundaes. Gigantic glasses are filled with ice cream and an assortment of ingredients to make their world famous sundaes. My family personally enjoys the Strawberry Shortcake Gooney Sundae. This sundae is made with chocolate and strawberry ice cream, angel cake, strawberry sauce, and fresh strawberries, and loads of whipped cream.

By the time we get done with dessert, normally elves come to your room and leave you gingerbread cookies with glasses of milk. I absolutely love when they do this because the cookies remind me of cookies made at home, so fresh and rich in flavor. Sometimes I'd get into arguments with my sisters about who gets the last cookie because I always had to have it.

Coeur d'Alene will always have a special place in my heart. My family and I have made so many memories every time we go. Christmas time always reminds me how important family is. No matter where my winter or Christmas is spent, it doesn't matter as long as I'm with the people I love most.



Many Christmas wishes include puppies or kittens and one very memorable Christmas Samantha Kingsbury got her wish of getting a black Labrador puppy. On Christmas Eve the family went to Boise with Samantha thinking they were going to visit friends. When they arrived at a home in Boise the family was greeted by a lady who had three Labrador puppies, one black and two chocolate. To her surprise her father asked which one she would like. It was a tough decision as they were all adorable. Samantha chose a black Lab and named her Molly.

## All I want for Christmas is a cute huggable black Lab

by *Samantha Kingsbury*

A week before Christmas, my brother and I are going to my mother to tell her what we want for Christmas. This year I really wanted a puppy, so I went to tell my mom.

I had an expectation for her to say no, but I still had to try. When I made it up to her I asked her the big question, “Mom, I want a black Labrador puppy for Christmas.” Her response was not what I had expected. She responded with, “I’ll think about it.” I was so happy at this point that I had said ok and hugged her, then I had made my way to my room, thinking only about a puppy.

The next day my dad had offered to pull my neighbor and I on our sleds with his tractor! He would tie our sleds to his tractor and drive us around. It was one of the best Christmas things to do!

Walking outside to go to the shop with the cold air blowing against my face, walking into the shop with the stove burning, cold air mixed with warm air felt so comforting, the smell of wood, and the crackling of the fireplace. It’s all so familiar yet so strange, I only get to experience this once a year.

Once we got the sleds tied to the tractor, we would go to our field and ride around, and mostly fall off, but that’s what makes it fun! After we’re done playing in the snow, we would go inside and make hot chocolate. The feeling of warmth going through my cold body felt amazing, and I wanted it to last forever.

After the weekend was over I had to go to school. We would go into our teachers room and play with toys, then we would read a book, after that we would go outside for recess!

At recess we would play in the snow and make snowmen, we would have all of our friends help us make the biggest snowball we could! Then after we couldn’t push it anymore we would go to make the middle! We would have two to five people work on the middle while someone worked on the head, and someone found sticks and rocks. After everything was made and found, we would help each other put on the middle of the snowman, then the head, then we

would put on all of the decorations – the buttons, mouth, arms, we would even go to the cafeteria and get a carrot for the nose!

After school I would go home and my mom would already have dinner made for my brother and I. She always makes the best food like, ham, roast, mashed potatoes, a green bean casserole, it wasn’t even Christmas day yet and she’s making all this wonderful food!

Walking home in my wet clothes drying off and eating her warm delicious meals would always make me so happy. After dinner I would mostly help my mom clean up the table and wash the dishes, even though I probably didn’t help much it still was fun to spend time with my mom.

The next week was mostly the same for school. But on Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, my mom had wanted to go to Boise which is about an hour and a half away from my house. Of course I had said yes, because I love going places with my parents, but my mom had got something and put it in the trunk, but I could not see what it was. I thought it would have just been a cooler, because we would most likely go to Costco and get some frozen foods.

Before we left I had put on my warm jacket that felt so smooth, yet it kept me so warm, I put my snow boots on and walked outside, the cold air hitting my warm face, my nose and ears starting to sting from the wind.

We made it into our car, it seemed to be even colder in the car than it did outside. My dad turned the heat up but there was only cold air coming out. I asked my parents why they said that the car had to warm up first, at the time this had made no sense to me. Why would the car have to warm up if it’s what keeps us warm? After a while the car had warmed up, I had put a blanket over me and layed down in the backseat, the hot air from the heater blowing against my body, while the blanket was over me, felt like I could lay there forever.

I had fallen asleep so my parents had woken me up, but we weren’t at Costco. We were at someone’s house, but this wasn’t

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Claire Matthews was excited on Christmas morning of what special present was under the Christmas tree. Waking up early to look at the presents and the lights on the tree and see what presents belonged to each family member Claire noticed the biggest one was for her. She excitedly woke up her mom and dad, Seth and Patti Matthews, to open presents. She started small and worked up to the big present. Tearing away at the wrapping paper she noticed that it was a rocket suitcase - her suitcase. But the magic was inside with a Disneyland bag, mouse ears, travel brochures and an airplane ticket to California. They were going to Disneyland. The surprise did not end there. Arriving at the airport she heard a familiar whistle and there were her grandparents, Tom and Madeline Burgoon. This was a Christmas to remember, spending time with her family.

## The best magical gift ever is spending time with family

*A trip to Disneyland was made extra special with her parents and a surprise visit from her grandparents*

by Claire Matthews

I climbed out of bed knowing that it was Christmas morning. I was so excited that finally it had come. The days always seemed to slow down as we neared this great holiday.

The tree lights were all different colors and they looked as if they were dancing around the tree. The presents under the branches were stacked neatly so they wouldn't fall.

As I looked at the tags I saw that the biggest one was addressed to me! I didn't want to open the package without my parents so I ran to wake them up. I woke them up in a fit of glee. Oh, I wanted to open the packages!

Finally my parents climbed out of bed and came out with me to celebrate Christmas. I opened a small present with reindeer on the paper. It was the fuzziest blanket I had ever seen and was so warm against my cold toes. Oh, how I loved Christmas with my family!

There was one package left and it was for me. I ripped the

paper and saw a rocket suitcase! It was white with black outlines. The odd part was that I already had a rocket suitcase. Why would they give me a suitcase that I already had? My head was jumbled with surprise and confusion. My parents were sitting there with prize-winning grins on their faces like I should know what this is for. My Mom and Dad finally told me to look inside, so I unzipped MY suitcase and looked inside. There was a black bag that had Disneyland on the side, some mouse ears and travel brochures, but the most startling thing ever was the plane ticket to California! I eventually unraveled the clues telling me that we were going to Disneyland. It was the best Christmas of my life!

Shortly after the excitement of opening packages, we were on the airplane flying thousands of feet in the air to our destination. I was very tired and slept the entire time instead of being tortured with the constant popping of my ears. I woke up with a jerk as the plane landed on the

runway. Very slowly all the passengers walked off the plane with a tired gait.

My parents retrieved our luggage from the conveyor belt and then walked with me towards the front doors. As we walked through the airport exit, I heard a familiar whistle. It was the one my Grandpa always gave when he saw me. But here? In California? It was my grandparents! They were part of my Christmas surprise. I ran up and hugged them knowing that this was the greatest Christmas.

We had a wonderful time in California going to Disneyland. We picked fun places to eat we don't have at home in Idaho.

Even though opening lots of gifts on Christmas morning is fun, this was my best Christmas because instead of lots of material gifts, I had the gift of spending time with my parents and my grandparents. I may outgrow clothes, read books over and over, and play with toys until they break, but no one can take away the memories of that Christmas spent with my family.

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## A Christmas wish comes true

too odd because my dad would like to visit his friends a lot when we went somewhere and they lived close by.

When we walked inside I didn't recognize the person, but nothing seemed strange. The lady that was there had a Labrador and it had made me want one even more! My dad had led me outside, and there were Labrador puppies! There was one black and two chocolate Labs.

I had played with them for a while when my dad had asked me a question, "So, which one do you want?" My heart had stopped. I looked down at the puppies, took

a step slightly towards them, my face red from running around, my eyes turned to the black Labrador, but one of the chocolate ones also drew my attention. I thought for a while with my heart racing, but I had to answer my dad, so I said, "all of them!" my dad laughed, "well I don't think we can do that."

After spending some more time with them I had chosen the black Labrador. Once we got home I had wanted to name her Molly. That is the story of how I got my Christmas puppy.



Keith Boles with the help of his father, Jeremy, and sister, Anya are lighting a lantern celebrating the new year. Traditionally the lanterns are used to celebrate the Chinese New Year. The date changes each year and is celebrated on the first new moon of the year. This year it will be Feb. 1 and it will be the year of the Tiger. The Lantern Festival will be held on Feb. 15. In the early days, the Lantern Festival was also called Shang Yuan which was dedicated to the heavenly palace. Throughout history, countless variations of lanterns have been created. A famous variation is the Kongming lantern which represents hope, success and happiness.

# Lighting in the new year

by Keith Boles

I love the Christmas season. It's filled with family traditions from beginning to end. While I love each tradition and the memories throughout the season, one of my favorite holiday traditions actually happens on New Year's Day. I usually sleep until 9 o'clock due to me staying awake playing games and snacking on unhealthy foods like Oreos and cheese and crackers. Even though I sleep in on New Year's day, I'm usually the first one up, followed by my sister. She is usually the one to wake the whole house up due to how loud she can get.

My mom forces me to bundle up in a thick winter coat and play with my sister. Then I usually throw an ice cold snow ball at her causing her to throw a fit which typically ends our outside fun.

For the rest of the day we play with some of our Christmas presents that still feel new. Then we eat a delicious lunch from the leftovers from the other day.

Then before we know it, it's time to go to Grandma's house. The house is a mixture of wondrous smells. The smell of fresh corn, deviled eggs, ham, chocolate pie, pumpkin pie, and mafa chicken.

After the dinner we wait for it to

get dark. While we wait, we usually play board games. We usually start with Exploding Kittens. It was fun for the first 5 minutes. In the game you are supposed to try not to get the exploding kittens card, but towards the end of the game, people actually start trying to get out just so that we could be done.

Then after all the fun board games, it's finally time for my favorite tradition: the floating lanterns. My grandma hands each of us pieces of paper that looked like they were for ants that we write on. We each write just one wish in hopes that they could come true in the coming year.

Then we tie our tiny wishes to the beautiful, brightly colored paper lanterns. Sometimes it's frustrating because the paper lanterns are fragile and sometimes tear in the process. After we have our wishes taped to the lanterns, and each lantern is unfolded, it is time to launch them.

We all bundle up with winter boots, gloves, and coats and head out the door. Each lantern has a little square of fuel that when lit, fills the lantern with air and eventually the lantern floats into the sky like a helium balloon. Usually my Uncle Jeff will light the square of fuel with his lighter.

We all line up in front of him to light our lanterns. When it is my turn, I hold up my lantern carefully as he sets fire to a little piece of hard wax, holding it with two hands and making sure the paper doesn't also catch on fire.

Some of the lanterns launch with ease, immediately soaring into the starry sky. Others we toss into the air, only to watch them fall a second later. Sometimes they take off into the night sky, only to go head first into the nearest tree. However once each lantern is launched, it feels amazing watching it soar above the clouds not knowing where it could go.

When all the lanterns are finally launched into the night sky, we sit down and watch them soar into the night until they look like they are becoming a star with only a little hint of the bright color of the lantern itself, but eventually the light disappears into the night.

After that we would pack up the food and games we brought and head on home.

I don't remember any of my wishes ever coming true, yet we still do it every year. Maybe it's not for the chance that the wishes might come true, but for sharing this New Years tradition and memories with family.

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**Thank You**  
to everyone for sharing your favorite Christmas memory. Have a wonderful holiday season creating new memories and enjoying the special time with family and friends.



Lacie Willet, Miss Three Rivers, shows off one of the decorated trees up for auction at the 34th Festival of Trees in 2019. Due to COVID-19 the event was not held last year. The Festival of Trees is a major fundraiser for the Weiser Memorial Hospital Foundation. This year's event will be held Wednesday, Dec. 1 through Saturday, Dec. 4 at the Vendome Events Center. Photo by Sarah Imada

## Festival of Trees to kick off Christmas season

by Philip A. Janquart

For 35 years, Weiser Memorial Hospital Foundation's Festival of Trees has effectively marked the beginning of the Christmas season.

This year's event, sponsored by Ridley's Family Market Place, will run Wednesday, Dec. 1 through Saturday, Dec. 4 at the Vendome Events Center, located at 309 State St. in downtown Weiser.

Styled as "O' Night Divine," the 2021 installment signals full sleighs ahead for many but also serves as the Foundation's signature annual fundraiser.

"All the money that we raise benefits Weiser Memorial Hospital," said Foundation Director Casey Ney.

In years past, money raised has gone toward things like remodeling the hospital's CT scan room, an update of the emergency department, and other projects.

"This year, we are focusing on specific programming and 'asks' to the Foundation," Ney explained. "Employees can make specific 'asks' for whatever equipment or things that help make their lives easier. I write to other foundations for funding, but if someone comes to me and needs a piece of equipment, the money

from this fundraiser allows us to directly award that."

The Festival of Trees features about 15 festively decorated trees this year, all of them to be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

"This is no joke," Ney said. "Our trees sell for thousands of dollars."

In 2019, the Foundation raised \$89,000 between tree purchases and its ticketed events.

Wednesday is the Foundation's Gala night, which consists of a live auction, individuals putting in their bids for the trees, and food. The trees are created by a range of community members and businesses, including the Memorial Hospital, Peoples Furniture, and more.

"If you have ever been to a live auction, they play other games," Ney said. "For example, you can buy a card out of a deck, basically like a 50-50 split, so they have some other games the auctioneers like to play to raise money."

Ney said she has already pre-sold 150 tickets at \$60 each. Normally, the event hosts over 40 tables and approximately 350 people but is being scaled down a bit this year.

"We are going to host 34 tables, which averages out to about 272 guests," she said. "There are options for people to buy a four-top, six-top, eight-top, or 10-top, so people can sit more privately. We sell out every year."

On Thursday, Dec. 2, the Foundation will hold its Sip and Paint event sponsored by Bonnie Akbar, owner of Artful Bon's, which gives individuals the opportunity to paint a scene and bring the work home. Cost is \$40.

"It's a great opportunity. So, you go, and you don't know how to paint, but somehow you create this magnificent thing under Bonnie's direction," Ney said. "You get a little commemorative wine glass. Not everyone has wine, you can have some Martinelli's if you'd like, but some people like to sip on wine as they paint."

There are only 40 tickets for this event, so order tickets early.

The Open House portion of the Festival begins on Friday, Dec. 3, running from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On Friday, students will take time off from school to experience the Festival in person.

"We partner with the schools, so the second graders come in; they get bussed over and they come and get to see the trees, and we give them cookies and hot cocoa," Ney said. "It's a time to enjoy the festival and to brush up on table manners, so it's like an adult thing for the kids to practice."

Ney added that music will be performed during the Open House.

"We will have local talent; singers, dancers and stuff like that," she said. "When the kids come in, there is a singer or two and they get to witness the whole festival experience."

In addition, there will be a decorated "Opportunity Tree," which people can enter to win. The tree will be delivered to the winner on Sunday. Trees won at the auction earlier in the week will be delivered on Sunday as well.

"We want to thank Ridley's for once again sponsoring our event," Ney said. "That's a really big deal because they donate a lot of money to us and support us in a big way during the festival."

Those interested in purchasing tickets can email Ney at [foundation@weiserhospital.org](mailto:foundation@weiserhospital.org). For questions, call (208) 549-4410.

## Midvale tree lighting set for Nov. 28

by Philip A. Janquart

It's old fashioned, and that's how the residents of Midvale like it – carolers, hot chocolate, and the warmth of each other's company.

The community is set to hold its annual tree lighting ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 28 at 6 p.m. in Tin Pan Alley.

Organizer B.J. Whitener described the event as a small, intimate setting, although over 100 area residents showed up for last year's event to take part in the enthusiasm surrounding the kick-off to the Christmas season.

"It pretty great. Everybody comes out and we light the tree, and then we go into the [Midvale] Merc for cookies and hot chocolate," she said. "Everybody comes out the weeks prior to help decorate the town, get the tree set up and decorated. It's really old fashioned, but it's so great and we love it."

Preparations for the ceremony began almost two weeks ago, dozens of community members coming together to make the town a festive place for the holidays, and although decorating a town for Christmas can be expensive, there is never any lack

of funds.

"It costs a lot to do what we do, but we never have to go out and ask for money," Whitener said. "People just donate, not just money but time."

Decorating the town and the tree was once the passion of June Craig and Marilyn Williams, who made it their mission to do it right. Both have since passed away, and there was a short lull in decorating activity that followed, but people like Whitener and many others stepped up to keep the tradition alive.

"They started it years ago

and the whole town would help; it was their legacy," Whitener said. "A lot of us have taken over. There are so many people involved, like Kenny Cantrell. He has so much enthusiasm and I love that. He's the one who always wants to go bigger and better. He has had the tree picked out for months."

As is the custom in Midvale, this year's tree comes from Tom and Fawn Seid's ranch.

"It's fun because all the kids come to get the tree," Whitener said. "They are excited and are climbing all of the other trees."

This year's tree is 35-foot tall

and was put into a six-foot hole, and then anchored to keep it in place. Those with heavy equipment, which is most everybody in Midvale, come to help decorate, including Midvale Mayor Brian Graham, who has a bucket truck.

"If we really need something more, my husband, Jesse, works for Midvale Telephone, and we can bring a bigger bucket truck out," Whitener said. "It's such a great time of year and so many people help make it happen. Then, we light the tree, sing some carols and go have cookies and hot chocolate."



Volunteers work to secure strings of lights that will light the Cambridge water tower on Dec. 4, marking the beginning of the Christmas season in Cambridge. The hardy and cheerful volunteers were part of a group that spent over 100 hours over the last seven weeks preparing the tower for the Dec. 4 event. From left, Harvey Braun, Gia Bilboa, Lola Warren, Chris Braun, Stella Warren, and Sara Kindall. Photos courtesy of Cambridge Commercial Club

# Cambridge water tower to be lighted Dec. 4

by Philip A. Janquart

The water tower in Cambridge has been serving residents long before most were born, but on Saturday, Dec. 4 it will serve an additional purpose.

Since October, volunteers have been busy rigging it with hundreds of strings of lights that will cascade down from the top to its base, forming the shape of a Christmas tree, which is topped with a massive lighted star.

Spectators are invited to come witness the Dec. 4 lighting ceremony to be held at Water Tower Park at 7 p.m. The event effectively marks the beginning of the 2021 Christmas season in Cambridge.

Santa Claus and his elves will be on hand to help kick it off, along with the Upper Country Singers and local FFA kids handing out cookies and hot chocolate. There will also be a toy drive and a local pastor will also provide some comments on the true meaning behind the season.

There are few cities that light their water towers to start the Christmas season.

In fact, Cambridge is the only known community in the area to utilize its water tower in lieu of a traditional Christmas tree. But when all is done, those who witness the event, and see the tower as they motor by on Highway 95, will understand why.

Standing at 110-feet tall, it is about three times taller than some of the largest Christmas trees installed in cities all over the country and once lighted, it can be seen for miles.

“It’s strung out on cable, so there are something like 12 strands per tree – there will be trees on two sides of the tower – and they are gathered at the top and spread out as they go all the way down, creating the illusion of a tree,” said local business owner and Cambridge Commercial Club member Megan Warren. “It’s a beautiful thing to see and people love it.”

The grandeur and Christmas ambiance it creates comes at a price and takes time to organize and execute.

The cost, however, is covered by funds generated by the annual Hells Canyon Jam held every summer and generous individual donations.

“It’s pretty expensive; We’ve done a good job getting quality, commercial grade outdoor lights, and the rigging is really important,” Warren said. “We had to change the rigging from last year. Our goal is to have a tree on all four sides of the water tower. This year we were able to raise enough money through community donations and Hells Canyon Jam to get more lights for the project. All the money

from the Jam goes to scholarships and things like this.”

It has taken dozens of volunteers, some of them local Idaho Power employees, over 100 hours over seven weeks to accomplish.

“The community just gives from the heart, I mean, we didn’t have to ask for money. People just give money. They always ask how they can help, how they can volunteer. It has really been genuinely magical and it’s going to be a magical night to set off Christmas. I hope people will take a little trip to come see it because it is worth seeing.”



The Cambridge water tower, shown above in 2020, stands 110-feet tall. A Christmas lighting ceremony is planned at the city’s Water Tower Park for Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. Santa Claus and his elves will be there to greet spectators and local FFA members will be handing out cookies and hot chocolate.

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## A growing Weiser

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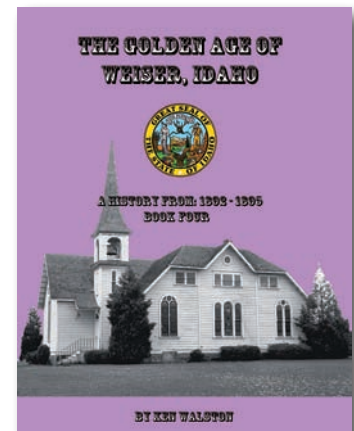
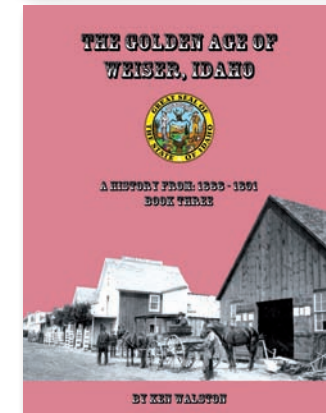
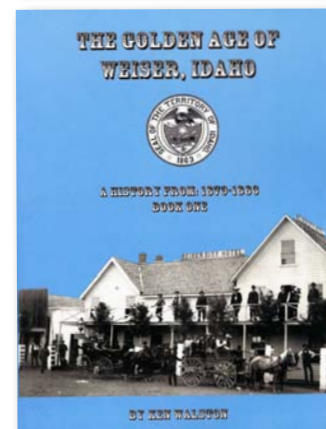
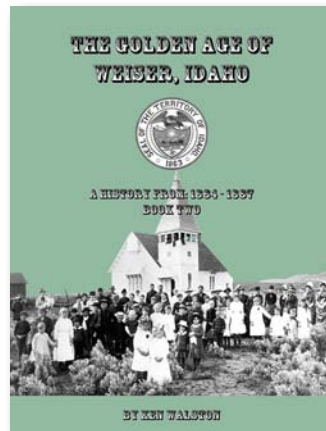
- A History of Weiser from:
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authored by Ken Walston

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# Local businesses ramp up for Small Business Saturday

by Philip A. Janquart

Big retailers have enjoyed the fruits of Black Friday for decades.

It might be interesting to note that the phrase was originally coined in Philadelphia in the 1960s, marking the beginning of the Christmas buying season, the day after Thanksgiving, when most businesses start making the “big” money, transitioning from the “red,” in accounting vernacular, to the “black.”

It has become a tradition that has served the retail industry well.

Over the years, however, many have asked why the smaller guys shouldn’t have something to boost their businesses, too.

Enter Small Business Saturday (SBS), a time carved out between Black Friday and Cyber Monday where the public is invited to do some of its Christmas shopping someplace other than Walmart, Costco, or Target.

American Express founded SBS in 2010 to encourage consumers to support local businesses and communities. The U.S. Senate passed a resolution recognizing and supporting the day in 2011, consumers spending a reported \$140 billion nationwide over the course of SBS’s relatively short history.

In Weiser, the event technically kicked off Monday, Nov. 22, the Weiser Chamber of Commerce initiating a “Blackout Bingo” game played throughout the entire Thanksgiving week.

Shoppers can pick up Bingo



The wonder of the holiday season can be seen in Peoples Furniture’s window display. The twinkling lights bring the spirit of joy to the downtown corridor. Enjoy playing ‘Blackout Bingo’ sponsored by the Weiser Chamber of Commerce. Pick up a bingo card and visit the local businesses participating to get your card stamped for a chance to win a prize. Small Business Saturday is a great opportunity to buy some local Christmas gifts. Visit the many local businesses to see what they have to offer and enjoy dining at the local restaurants.

cards at the Chamber of Commerce, Peoples Furniture, GSG Pawn, Ruszoni’s, and other locations.

The names and locations of local businesses occupy the squares. Shoppers receive a stamp from each business they visit but must visit all participating businesses to “Blackout” their cards in order to be eligible for prizes.

The number of prizes awarded depends on the number of participating businesses, but Weiser Chamber president and Peoples Furniture co-owner Sally Frye

said there could be as many as 10 winners.

“They have to come visit the participating businesses and get a stamp for each one to be entered into a drawing for prizes,” she said. “I will draw the winners after the close of business on Saturday and then post them online on the Chamber website Monday. But we will also call the winners, and then they can come pick up their prizes.”

Prizes include gift certificates or anything participating businesses can fit into the prize bas-

kets.

“We are doing multiple little gift baskets,” Frye said. “We had something like 50 businesses sign up for Trick or Treat, so if we get 50 more to sign up for this, I’m sure we will have around 10 different prizes. That’s why we are giving them all week long because you can’t get to so many businesses in one day, and we want them to come in and shop and look around, not just make it a buzz in and buzz out type of thing.”

The intent behind Small Busi-

ness Saturday is to support local businesses and put money back into the community.

“Small Business Saturday, I think people are really getting aware of it,” Frye said. “It’s nice to have people come support small businesses. It’s just an opportunity for people to really think about their holiday purchases and promote doing it for small businesses rather than big box stores.”

For more information, call the Weiser Chamber of Commerce at (208) 414-0452.

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