

Weiser Signal American's

2018

Holiday Memories

Festival of Trees is a holiday favorite
Shop local on Small Business Saturday
A Christmas story from the past
Enjoy the many holiday programs
Parade lights up the night



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From Your Friends At
Weiser School District

Christmas Memories

The season has begun when we celebrate our families, our friends and the holidays. We gathered a few Christmas 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.

My best Christmas present ever

by Ashley Kielhorn

Christmas is different to other people, and everyone has a different favorite present.

Well mine, over my 13 years of life, has to be my dog Daisy. Daisy is an old but very energetic dog. She is now 9 years old but she acts more like a puppy than the two puppies I have.

She's a kind dog but people get scared of her. I really don't understand why. She just has the most goofy face that I've ever seen.

I really think it's just because of her size, but we'll never know. She's a female boxer who really likes to lick people and she drools all over the place.

This Christmas was about nine years ago when I got her. Even if it was that long ago, she is still my favorite thing in the world. When we got her I was four about to be five, so that means I was in preschool. This was the Christmas that we also got new bikes and I had to sleep in my own bed.

I believe that my grandma sent us presents in the mail because she lived in California, but I don't really remember. But I do remember that when we got her that she was in a box with red wrapping paper. I ripped the wrapping paper and blamed it on my little



Daisy made Christmas special nine years ago when she arrived in Ashley Kielhorn's life as a puppy. Getting her best friend was the best Christmas present ever.

brother because I didn't want to get in trouble.

I noticed that the box started to move and wondered what was in it. My mom, dad, aunt, and grandpa were all taking pictures and videos so we had to sit there for about two minutes smiling.

My sister, brother, and I were all getting impatient but finally we were able to open the box. As we opened it Daisy's big head popped out and she started barking because she was so happy.

We got her out of the box and played with her for a while before we had to go to everyone's houses. We took her with us so that everyone could see our new puppy. Everyone loved her instantly, and to be honest what's not to love about her.

I highly doubt that anything that I get will ever top getting, not only a dog, but my best friend. You can never really understand the feeling of getting something like a dog unless you get one.

Even though we all love her, my mom tried to get rid of her and was saying she was tearing up the house, but my dad said she was really good with us. Because of that my mom gave her a chance.

I'm really happy we still have her because she has gotten me through some tough times. I'm also pretty sure that my mom is happy we still have her because she lets her sleep on the bed.

That was my best Christmas present. It wasn't a phone, tablet or computer. Instead it was my best friend.

Christmas Eve brings joyous memories

by Aline Cortez

As December approaches, the countdown for Christmas Eve begins.

In my family it is tradition for Christmas celebrations to begin the day before Christmas. My uncles, aunts, cousins, and immediate family gather at my grandparents' house that day and begin the evening by sharing our excitement for the holidays.

Instead of going home when night-

fall comes around, we get comfortable and enjoy the night as we anxiously wait for midnight to approach. Time seems to proceed more slowly than usual, but eventually the five-minute countdown begins. Everyone gracefully gathers around the clock and watches as the second hand ticks continuously. Soon, all that can be heard is the countdown of seconds as Christmas Eve comes to an end and Christmas Day begins.

Immediately, hugs and kisses are distributed among the family and continuous calls of "Merry Christmas" fill the rooms of the house. Without wasting time, the children rush to the Christmas tree, and the distribution of Christmas presents begins.

Although my family opens presents and begins celebrating Christmas on Christmas Eve, it is a tradition that I will forever be grateful for.

Decorating the tree is always special

by Emily Perez

My most favorite memories as a child have always taken place during the holiday season.

Who wouldn't agree? Most people would agree that sitting by the warm fireplace, drinking hot cocoa, and getting a picture with Santa are their favorite Christmas memories.

Mine, however, is decorating our Christmas tree. I come from a small family, small in number and small in height. When we

decorated our Christmas tree, the ladder came out, and my siblings and I each had a chance to stand on top of the ladder to take turns putting on an ornament.

Of course, I only put up the ornaments that I personally made myself at school, and, of course, I was super proud of. Other than putting the ornaments up, the tree wasn't truly in the Christmas spirit until the twinkling lights were put up.

Once those lights

turned on, I always felt like the holiday season had really begun. The best part of it all was being able to spend time with my family. Christmas is always the best when one is surrounded by loved ones, especially when it involves cookies, hot cocoa, and tree decorating.

The feeling of standing near the warm fire and making the tree look so festive with my family will always be my absolute favorite Christmas memory.





Spending an afternoon sledding with family was great holiday fun for Emry Hoskins. Sure, it was cold, but it was a day of laughter and a cherished memory of time having fun in the snow together.

Sledding in the freshly fallen snow

by Emry Hoskins

My favorite Christmas time memory was when my brother and I went sledding with my parents.

We went up into a snowy town. It was freezing outside, but luckily my brother and I were snuggled up in our fluffy coats. We looked like some colorful marshmallows in the white canvas of snow.

We stopped at a store to get something to snack on and it was very hard to get out of the cozy truck because of all of the bulky clothing. While waddling like penguins, we finally reached the doors and stepped into the store. We got our snacks and stuffed ourselves back into the truck, which now had a thin layer of snow.

We drove for another half an hour before we reached our destination. We went down a long road that looked to be like nobody had driven down this road, which was perfect for us because we would not be disturbed while sledding.

We got out of the truck feeling very roasted because of all of the clothing and the heat in the truck. It was such a relief to be out of the truck. We climbed up a small hill to slide down with great effort.

The snow kept tripping my brother and I so we would collapse into a heap of really big coats. The snow would bite our

faces when we fell face first and it stung. Finally, reaching the top of the hill, we got onto our colorful sleds, but failed yet again.

Our sleds went on without us because my brother didn't hold them, while I was trying to clear some rocks from our sledding path. Thankfully, our parents were at the bottom of the hill so they brought them back up for us. We got down onto the sleds, making sure not to let them go this time and slid down the slick hill.

The first time my brother and I went down the hill my brother kind of fell off at the very end and the snow encased his rosy face. It was so funny because the snow was just sticking to him and made him look like a snowman.

My mom had to help him get the snow that melted onto his eyebrows off. We slid down the soft snow and as we did packed it down until it looked like a white road. After multiple trips of going up and down that hill, my brother and I got too tuckered out to go up the hill again.

We loaded back into the truck and drove over the freshly fallen snow.

This is my favorite Christmas season memory because of how much laughter there was. My family was so happy and it made me happy to see them like that.

Christmas in Mexico

by Ariadne Perez

Christmas is a time of being with your family, sharing love, and having fun by laughing and enjoying each other's presence.

With that being said, I would like to share some of the traditions that my family does every Christmas.

Where we come from in Chilchota, Michoacán, traditions are done in a similar way as in the states. As Hispanics, there is one special event that takes place shortly after Christmas Day, and that is Rosca de Reyes.

It is a ring of garnished bread with two little plastic toys inside. If you get one

in your piece of bread, you get a consequence. In my house, that consequence is doing all of the household chores for a month.

Another tradition that many people partake in with their families is a gift exchange. My aunt had the wonderful idea six years ago to start a funny gift exchange. Over the years, the gifts have gotten somewhat better, from an egg yolk dispenser to a new iPad.

Such other families do much more than these two simple traditions, but it is, in fact, these two that have the power to bring my family together for a night and to share love and laughter on Christmas.

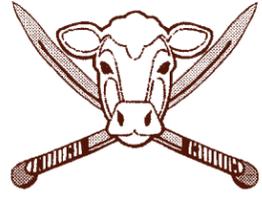


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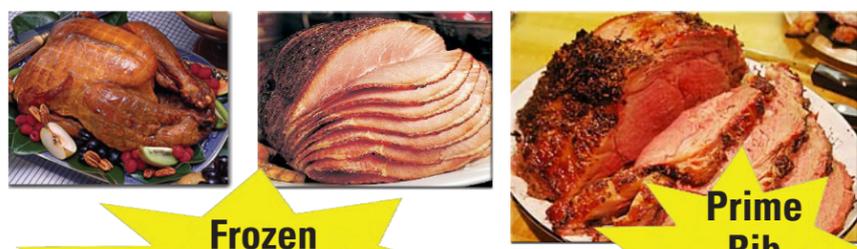
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Support local retailers on Small Business Saturday

The Weiser Chamber of Commerce will hold a holiday open house on Nov. 24

by Steve Lyon

Making cash registers ring and supporting local retailers in Weiser and across the country is the goal of Small Business Saturday, which falls on Nov. 24 this year.

While Black Friday – the day after Thanksgiving and the unofficial start of the holiday shopping season – and Cyber Monday are big shopping days for national chain stores and online retailers, don't forget the small businesses and mom-and-pop stores that keep the local economy humming along.

Numerous Weiser merchants are offering special deals and promotions on Small Business Saturday to bring shoppers downtown.

Weiser Classic Candy will give away door prizes all day long and one lucky visitor on Small Business Saturday will win a year's worth of chocolates. Tickets for the big prize drawing, which will take place at 4 p.m., will be distributed in the store. A special visit by Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus is planned for noon to 2 p.m.

Pepper's coffee and gift shop on State Street will have drink specials and in-store drawings and sales, along with extended hours, owner Nicole Sharp said.

Sharp said Small Business Saturday, which has been around since 2010, is a good reminder to people to shop locally and it's also a day that small businesses can give back to those people who are

loyal to local retailers.

"I try to shop locally and I appreciate those that do as well," she said.

Other downtown businesses, such as Peoples Furniture, Arrow Creek clothing and Casey Girl Designs also plan to hold special sales and promotions to bring shoppers downtown.

The Weiser Area Chamber of Commerce is also promoting local merchants and service providers on Small Business Saturday.

In conjunction with Small Business Saturday, the Chamber will hold its holiday open house from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The Chamber encourages local businesses to have specials or raffles or refreshments to bring people through the doors.

The Chamber will be offering business bingo and flat Alex contests with prizes for the winners.

A total of 20 businesses will be on the bingo card. Shoppers fill out the bingo cards by visiting the businesses on the cards. They turn completed cards in and the Chamber will draw for the first and second place winners.

The Chamber also is sponsoring a gingerbread contest and will have entertainment and refreshments, a photo booth and more at the holiday open house.

Small Business Saturday was an initiative first launched by American Express in 2010, prompting customers to shop and dine at local businesses on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. In 2011, the U.S. Senate officially recognized Small Business Saturday.



For every \$100 spent at local small businesses, \$68 returns to the community.

– Civic Economics

Small Business Saturday, Nov. 24

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Christmas Memories



April Williams' grandkids are pictured with their Christmas stockings this last December just before she passed away. Each winter, April made sure there was a stocking for each grandkid hanging on her fireplace. In the picture, Bryce, the oldest granddaughter, is holding Grammy April's stocking. Pictured from left, Bryce Boyer, Brooks Boyer, Kenzi Seward, Brylee Williams, Britynn Seward, Carter Williams, Halle Seward and Presley Williams.

Family is the true gift of Christmas

by Carter Williams

We got into the car on Sunday, Dec. 17, and headed over to my grandmas house. Once I opened the front door to the house, I quickly realized that all of my family and relatives were already there.

It was not unusual to see my family at my grandparents during the holidays, as we had always spent every Christmas and most holidays together, but this December it was different.

As I peeked around the corner and looked at my grandma lying in her bed, I realized she was very ill. She had been sick with MS, and she was quickly losing the battle.

Once everyone had shed enough tears, we were getting ready to leave, so I went into her room and said a goodbye not knowing whether or not it was going to be my last.

The next day I went to school, and right afterward my family went straight to my grandma's house again. It was another tough night, and the hardest part about it was saying goodbye to my grandma again. With tears in my eyes I walked out the front doors of their house.

I woke up the next morning to my alarm and started getting ready for school. As I walked down the hall toward my mom, she told me the news. My grandma

had passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 19. I did not go to school that day.

A cold and sunny Christmas Eve quickly came upon us, and we were having all of the family over to our house to eat and open presents.

The cousins went outside and played in the snow for a little while. Once we got cold we came inside and played games as a family, then we watched a Christmas movie.

We tried to focus on the holiday and have fun, but it was one of the toughest Christmas Eves ever, because my grandma had the most Christmas spirit out of all of us. We all celebrated my grandma being in a better place, and we knew that she was with us opening presents as a family.

All of our families were together for a couple days right after she passed, which made getting through the moment way easier. Christmas morning was productive, and I got everything that I wanted.

When I got to thinking about all of the presents that I opened, I realized that I would way rather have my grandma still with our family than receiving presents.

The whole day of opening presents and being around family made me realize that family is the most important thing in life, and their presence is the true gift of Christmas.

Dreaming of cinnamon rolls

by Kelvin Price

Everyone throughout the world has annual traditions, and each is unique to their family.

On the 23rd and 24th of December each year, I wake up to the sweet smell of cinnamon rolls. I get out of bed much more quickly than usual hoping to eat one of these delicious rolls. I quickly make my way into the kitchen to have my mom say, "No, you can't eat these yet;



they're for Christmas."

Throughout the next few days I would try to sneak around my mom to steal a cinnamon roll, but I am never able. After

a long two days, Christmas finally comes. All kids wake up earlier than they should for their Christmas presents. Once all of the presents have been opened, as a family tradition, my family heads to my grandparents' house.

Cousins and neighbors all bring their own breakfast food to share, and I finally get to eat the cinnamon rolls that I've been dreaming of for two days.

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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.

The century ended with Christmas

by Ken Walston

From a population of 52 in 1880, Weiser had grown to about 900 residents in 1896 and was destined to have 1,350 citizens by 1900. The celebration of Christmas had also grown.

In the early days it was a community event with everyone gathering together for a Christmas tree celebration. The tree in those days was the single tree in town and installed in a schoolhouse or other building large enough to accommodate the people of Weiser.

Regrettably, there wasn't a building large enough in Weiser to attend everyone in those later years for a celebration of friendship and Christmas cheer.

The Christmas tree of 1885 was held in the new Baptist Church. Two more churches, the Episcopal and Congregational, were added to Weiser as the population grew. Both the Baptists and the Congregationalists had beautifully decorated trees for Christmas in their buildings.

The Episcopalians used either space in the Vendome Hotel or the opera house for their tree, no less well decorated, during the later years of the nineteenth century.

Christmas was the premier day of the year and a time to set aside everyday concerns and join together in a happy religious celebration. Santa visited all three locations and the little ones in town were only disappointed because, they too, couldn't visit all three.

The age old question came up in Weiser as it did elsewhere. An article ran in the *Weiser Signal* taken from the *New York Sun* of a girl of eight who wrote to the editor and reported some of her friends said there wasn't a Santa Claus.

She asked if there was, and told the editor that her father said if you saw it in the *Sun* then it was so. The editor replied to her letter and lengthily assured Virginia that her friends were wrong and there most certainly was a Santa Claus.

The 1897 holiday season in Weiser was a joyful time experienced by young and old and was both happy and peaceful. There was no sickness nor death to bring sorrow to the folks in the valley.

The church sponsored Christmas gatherings typically used children from their Sunday schools to provide the best of entertainment. The young ones sang, performed tableaux and gave recitations.

Of great interest to the assemblages were the children and their many talents. And certainly there were many happy parents in the audiences. The grand finales were always the appearance of Santa Claus.

In one case he emerged in the church

suspended by a lowering rope from a window. Then came the presentation of presents for the children and some for a few adults. The former brought great happiness to the young ones.

As time went on the celebrations in the churches continued, but also those celebrations in private homes increased. Christmas brought to the home fireside many loved ones and friends for a day of rest, happy retrospection, a royal good time, and perchance once more the family circle was complete.

While seated around the fireside many pleasantries were enjoyed and the fond hope of many returns of the holy day. Good humor was contagious and fun overflowed until the few cold, unresponsive hearts were melted and the saddest persons were restored to well-being.

A Christmas ball was held each year sponsored on a rotating basis among organizations in the town. Sometimes it was a masked event with prizes for the best female and male costumes along with prizes for the best sustained female and male characters. In 1898 the prizes went to Mrs. Lowe as a bride, Ed Short as a Knight Templar, and sustained was Mrs. Lapish, an Irish washer woman and Doc Riggs as an Italian organ grinder.

Christmas day was also a time for sleigh riding. In 1899 the weather was pleasant and the snow was fittingly grand.



Congregational Church



Baptist Church



Episcopal Church

The three churches of the mid 1890s are shown on this page. The Baptist Church was built in 1885 at the corner of what is now East 10th and East Court streets. Later in 1894 it was moved to its present location on East Main Street. The Episcopal Church shown in this photo has been 'aged' to what it probably looked like many years ago. Later additions were constructed to provide more room for events and community affairs. Construction of the church was completed in late 1892 and the building was known to have been used for services in January 1893. The Congregational Church was dedicated on Jan. 24, 1894. It was the largest church in Weiser and had a number of large stained glass windows. It was located on East Main Street on the lots where the Community Church now stands. Unfortunately, the original church burned in 1967. History by Ken Walston

A growing Weiser

The Golden Age of Weiser, Idaho

A History from:

1879 – 1883 Book I, 1884 – 1887 Book II, 1888-1891 Book III, 1892-1895 Book IV

Books are on sale at the following locations:

In Weiser

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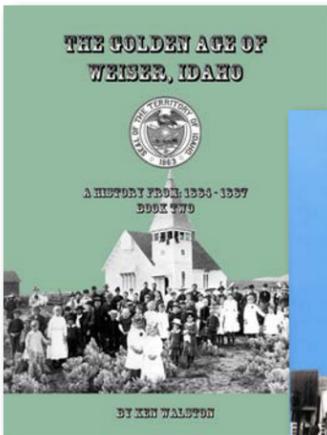
Pepper's, 438 State St.

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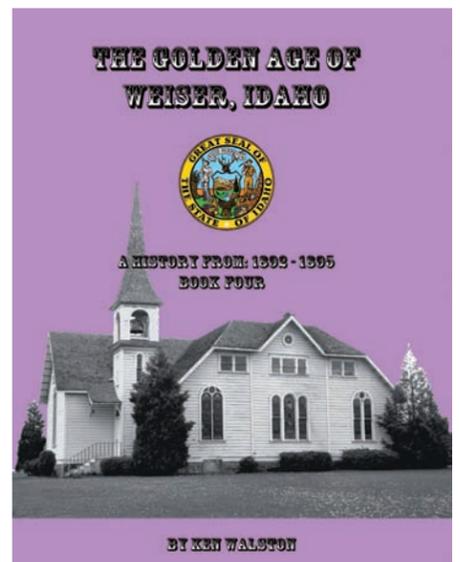
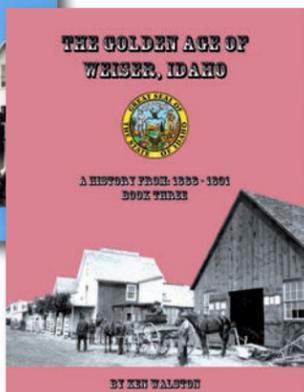
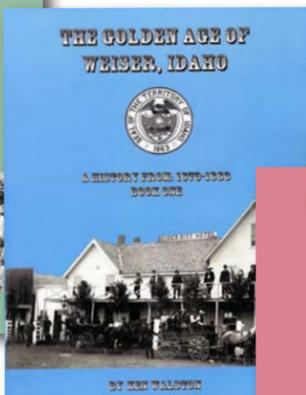
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authored by Ken Walston



These books would make a great souvenir and collectible.

Gifts of food is a family favorite

by Keith Bryant

This year for Christmas I started my plan to give out gifts and wanted it to be a food item that my family could enjoy.

If you have kept up with my food articles for a while, you will see that we are foodie kind of people. With the exception of my younger sister.

I got a call from her one year asking if I had a chicken recipe.

I said sure. She told me she had a cookbook from my mom that told her to go out in the backyard and kill her best chicken, then after removing the feathers take a candle and burn the tail feathers off.

She was very upset and just wanted to cook some chicken breast she got from the store. I laughed and told her a simple recipe for chicken breast.

I have always been the one to call for a recipe idea or if someone in my family had something and didn't know how to cook or what to cook with a special ingredient.

My food articles appear weekly in the *Weiser Signal American* and they get circulated among relatives once my dad receives his newspaper in Texas.

He collects about a month of recipes then sends them to my sister in Georgia who makes photo copies. Then those get sent to my aunt in New Orleans. Once she has a few she sends them to my cousins wife in Canada (who I think just moved to Colorado).

We are an old-school group that still uses snail mail and talk on the phone.



Keith Bryant, a local chef and co-owner of Weiser Classic Candy, shared a recipe for tasty olives that he makes as holiday gifts.

While on a trip to Boise, I went in to the new Albertson's on Broadway and saw the incredible olive display with fruit

from all over the world and thought that would be fun to play with a mixture of olives, if I can get it sent out in time (we

all know that feeling) for my family to serve at their holiday parties. I found this recipe in *Good Housekeeping* and knew

I had a winner.

Citrus marinated olives

Ingredients

2 lemons
1 orange
6 clove garlic
¼ c. extra virgin olive oil
1 tsp. dried thyme
2 lb. assorted brine-cured olives

Directions

From each lemon, cut three ¾-inch-wide strips peel; place in 1-quart saucepan. Grate any remaining peel from lemons, and place in large bowl. From orange, cut three ¾-inch-wide strips peel and add to saucepan. Grate any remaining peel from orange, and add to lemon peel in bowl.

Peel garlic and cut each clove in half; crush with side of chef's knife. Add garlic, oil, and thyme to saucepan, and heat on low until hot but not smoking, about 1 minute. Remove saucepan from heat; let stand 10 minutes.

Place olives in bowl with grated peels. Pour oil mixture over olive mixture, and toss to coat well. Cover bowl with plastic wrap, and refrigerate olives at least 24 hours to allow flavors to develop, stirring occasionally. (Or place olives in large self-sealing plastic bag, turning to coat olives well. Seal bag, pressing out excess air. Place bag on plate and refrigerate olives, turning bag occasionally.)

Spoon olives into tightly sealed containers or jars for gift giving. Store in refrigerator up to 1 month.

Serving size is based on each ¼ cup.

Weiser's nightlight parade a thrill for kids of all ages

Tree lighting and fireworks to follow at the historic depot

by Steve Lyon

The annual nightlight Christmas Parade is a holiday tradition in Weiser that appeals to kids of all ages.

The Chamber of Commerce-sponsored parade will take place on Friday, Nov. 30. The theme for this year's fun event is "There's snow place like home."

Any business or organization that wants to be part of the parade can fill out an application and return it to the Weiser Area Chamber of Commerce office in the Vendome by Nov. 26. Chamber officials like to know in advance who is going to be in the parade so the lineup can be arranged.

Parade organizers ask that lights be incorporated into the float or the parade entry to add to the visual spectacle. They also don't want any live Santas in the parade.

Inflatable Santas and Santa statues are OK.

As always, the real Santa Claus has taken some time out of his busy schedule this time of year to visit Weiser and ride in the parade. Santa is usually pretty good about bringing plenty of candy to toss to kids along the parade route.

Mr. Claus himself will be making an appearance at the end of the parade when the city's Christmas tree lights are lit in front of the train depot. Santa uses "magic dust" to light the Christmas lights at the depot. He gathers children around the tree and throws up his magical dust. After that, the city fire department shoots off fireworks.

The parade lineup will take place at the Weiser Middle School at 5 p.m. There will be parade coordinators

to direct parking locations and parade placement. The parade will start at the school, travel to Park Street, down Park Street to State Street, where it will head south and end at the depot.

After the parade, the Vendome, which has been turned into a winter wonderland for the Festival of Trees, will be open for people to stroll among the decorated trees. Santa will make an appearance to greet visitors and take a photo or two.

Make sure and dress warmly for what is likely to be a chilly evening. Some of the best parade viewing can be found along State Street. Plus, kids will want to be at the depot to help Santa light the tree.

For more information about the nightlight parade, call the Chamber of Commerce office at 208-414-0452.

Enjoy holiday programs at local schools

The voices of children bring in the Christmas season every year in Weiser.

The Christmas programs are a tradition and will begin in mid-December for parents, friends, and family members to enjoy.

Pioneer Elementary School's grades kindergarten through third grade will perform at the Weiser High School auditorium. The kindergarten redbirds and bluebirds will perform on Dec. 21 at 9:30 a.m. First grade will perform on Dec. 7 at 1 p.m. Second grade will perform on Dec. 19 at 10:30 a.m. Third grade will perform Dec. 13 at 1 p.m.

For those interested in the preschool class give the school a call for more information.

Park Intermediate School performances are also going to be held at the Weiser High School auditorium. Fourth grade will take

place on Dec. 19 at 1:30 p.m. Fifth grade will take place on Dec. 20 at 1:30 p.m.

Weiser Middle School and Weiser High School choirs will perform in the auditorium at Weiser High School on Dec. 3 at 7 p.m.

Weiser High School and Weiser Middle School band concert will take place at the high school at 7 p.m. on Dec. 17.

Midvale schools will have their Christmas program, all grades, on Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Midvale School.

Cambridge School will have two programs at the Cambridge High School gym. The Christmas program, grades kindergarten through middle school, will perform on Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. The high school band will have their concert on Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.

Annex Charter School will have their program on Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.

As always Santa has a busy schedule this year

Come meet Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Holiday Open House on Saturday, Nov. 24, at Weiser Classic Candy.

Watch for Santa in the Night Light parade on Nov. 30, then come by the Vendome Events Center for the Festival of Trees and visit with him after the tree lighting.

Santa will be making appearances at Peoples Furniture on Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., on Dec. 8 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

On Dec. 14 Santa will be visiting the Weiser Veterinary Clinic from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. for the Santa Paws event.

Santa will also be leading the Ho Ho Express on Dec. 22.



Festival of Trees is a holiday favorite

Event benefits Weiser Memorial Hospital Foundation to help purchase a new CT scanner

by Steve Lyon

One of the most popular holiday events in Weiser and the surrounding communities is right around the corner.

The Festival of Trees and Gala Evening is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the Weiser Memorial Hospital Foundation. This will be the 32nd year for the event and the fundraising goal is more ambitious than ever.

The theme for this year's festival is "There is Snow Place Like Home." It all begins with the arrival at the Vendome of the 18-20 fresh-cut trees. The hospital foundation provides the trees, and organizations, businesses and individuals in the community do the decorating.

In addition to the fresh-cut trees, there will be three artificial trees in three different sizes this year. The tree decorators work their magic from noon to 9 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 26. From 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. the tree decorators will enjoy a "Soup's on" meal.

The decorated trees will have goodies and presents that go with them, along with all the ornaments, to the high bidders. In recent years, some tree themes included an Alice in Wonderland tree, a Western Country Christmas tree and a Bing Crosby Holiday tree, among other themed trees.

The Foundation also had a Fund a Need Giving Tree that



This year's Festival of Trees will start with the arrival of the trees and the decorating on Monday, Nov. 26. There is no shortage of talented and creative decorators in Weiser. The decorated trees will be auctioned at the Gala Evening on Wednesday, Nov. 28. The public will get a chance to see the trees on Friday, Nov. 30. The Festival of Trees, now celebrating its 32nd year in Weiser, is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the Weiser Memorial Hospital Foundation.

allowed people to pick off a tag and buy something for the hospital to use for patient care.

The decorated trees will be auctioned off on the evening of Wednesday, Nov. 28, at the Gala Event at the Vendome. Tickets for dinner are \$40 each. Dinner will be followed by silent auction, raffles and the live auction

of the decorated trees. The doors open at 5:30 p.m. for a fun and festive evening.

One decorated Christmas tree will be raffled off instead of sold at the live auction. The idea is to give everyone the chance to win the tree by buying tickets. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$5 each or five for \$20. Of course, all pro-

ceeds go to the foundation and ultimately benefit the hospital.

On Friday, Nov. 30, the public is invited to view the trees at the Vendome all day and evening from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. there will be local entertainment in

the Vendome providing holiday music.

Friday evening at 6 p.m. is the always fun and popular Night Light Christmas Parade. Dress warm. It might be chilly. At 7:30 p.m. Santa will mosey over to the Vendome to meet kids at the Festival of Trees.

On Saturday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the decorated trees will be available for public viewing in the Vendome and there will be local entertainment.

Foundation Executive Director Casey Clark-Ney said last year's Festival of Trees raised a record \$50,000 for the foundation and this year's financial goal is even larger at \$55,000, with the proceeds pledged to help the hospital acquire a new CT scanner.

The Festival of Trees has become a special holiday tradition in Weiser and the surrounding areas since the first one was held in December of 1986.

The first Festival of Trees was held in the old Merc building downtown, which was vacant and for sale at the time. The event moved to the Vendome when it was completed.



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