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Holiday Memories 2022

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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From Your Friends At
Weiser School District

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.



Garrett Walker enjoys the family Christmas traditions that reflect his parent's Scandinavian heritage. One year they got matching pajamas celebrating the Scandinavian concept of HYGGE which means being comfortable and at peace - the way Walker feels at home with his family during the holidays. Pictured from left is Caleb, Garrett, Karsten, Brayden, Ellie, Jordanne, Sherilee, and Delton. Not pictured is Hannah who was on a church mission in Texas. Pictured below from left is Caleb, Brayden, Karsten, Lary, Delton, and Garrett building gingerbread houses.

Family traditions add to the fun of the holiday season

by Garrett Walker

For me, Christmas is the best time of the year. The snow, the Christmas trees, and the joyous caroling makes me feel excited even thinking about it.

Even though there are many things to do during the holiday season, one of my favorite things about Christmas is my family's Christmas Eve traditions. We have lots of fun on Christmas Eve, and every year, I look forward to it.

A lot of our Christmas traditions are unique. Both of my parents have Scandinavian ancestors so our traditions are influenced a lot by that. For as long as I can remember, we started the day off with creating and decorating gingerbread houses. I love this tradition. My family and I have a great time bonding and building our houses.

Next, we light the Swedish chimes. These are candles that

make chimes ring to remind us of those who are not with us. This tradition is very important to me. It is very emotional.

Once we are done, we have a candlelight dinner. We have ham, potatoes, and many other delicious sides. This meal is one of my favorites. Every year, it is always delicious. We sit and tell stories. We talk about the big day coming up and how excited we all are.

Another fun Scandinavian word is Hygge. This is a Danish word that means a calm, comfortable time with people you love, often enjoyed with good drinks, warm blankets, and candlelight. It may seem like a strange word but knowing the definition, it really is calming and peaceful.

Another fun, Danish tradition we have is where my parents put chopped almonds and one full almond in a bowl of ice cream. Whoever eats their ice cream and

has the full almond in their bowl gets a present. I haven't won this very much but it is still fun because of the suspense and being able to eat ice cream.

After all of these fun traditions, we settle down and act out the nativity story. This is really important to me and shows me what Christmas is really about. Then, before we get ready for bed, each of the kids get to open a present. Every year, we get some sort of pajamas. Then, we hang up the stockings and get ready for bed. Christmas Eve is a fun day. I really love it because I get to spend time with my family.

Family is the most important thing in our life, and I love being able to spend as much time with my siblings and parents as I can. The presents are fun and all, but to me, Christmas is remembering Jesus' birth and spending time with family.





The trip to grandma’s house after Christmas to open presents seemed to take forever. The area had received a foot of snow and after the presents were open Zayn Crossley suggested to his brothers that they go outside to make a snow fort. They had a couple of buckets that they filled, packed and dumped to make the base but with only two buckets it was a slow process. Zayn’s dad thought there were more buckets in the chicken coop where, to his surprise, he found a mountain lion. Thankfully everyone was safe.

The Christmas with a close encounter with a mountain lion

by Zayn Crossley

I remember clearly that we were going to my grandma’s house the day after Christmas to open our presents. They lived in the middle of nowhere, but basically in between Council and Cambridge. It was a boring ride.

We listened to music and played with our new toys, or if we were desperate enough we would read a book. When we got to their house we went inside and greeted everyone and gave hugs. I remember that they had got over a foot of snow! I was so happy because we had only gotten a little bit of snow.

After we had opened our presents I told my brothers, “We should go outside and make a snow fort.” They agreed and we put on our snow clothes. When we went outside with some buckets we got from our grandpa I realized how deep the snow really was. We started filling the buckets with snow, packing it and then dumping it. We made a decent circle when we started to stack it to make it taller. The problem was that we had only two buckets and the process was slow. Then my mom, and dad came outside and started to help us.

My dad said, “I think there’s more buckets in the chicken coop. I’ll go grab some.”

There was an old chicken coop that hadn’t held chickens in it since my dad was a kid. He stepped inside when a mountain lion stepped outside from the back room. The chicken coop had a front and back

room where the chickens had laid their eggs. He told us to run, and stepped back inside because he had jumped out. He had to untangle the wire that my grandpa had put so the door would stay open. My dad said this was the scariest part because he had to turn his back to the cat.

Meanwhile when my dad said run I took off like heck, but with the snow a foot deep and wearing really heavy snow clothes this was hard. My so called mom ran right by us, pushing us over, practically saying save yourself. Eventually everyone had got inside except for my dad. He stayed and took pictures and videos of the mountain lion stuck in the chicken coop. He was not happy.

We told our grandpa and he got two guns and some ammunition and took it out to my dad. They sat there unsure what to do when the mountain lion saw some light in a little window in the back. It jumped towards it and broke the window, and ran all the way across the field to the river. My dad took a few shots, but didn’t get lucky enough to hit him. My grandpa didn’t take a shot.

Later when we asked our grandpa why he didn’t shoot he simply said, “My bullets were in my pocket.” We laughed at how he didn’t even load his gun. In the end it was a scary moment, but I laugh about it today and am glad no one got hurt. But who do you know who has had a mountain lion in their chicken coop during Christmas?

Santa’s visit to Johnson family brings joy and excitement

by Maddie Johnson

One Christmas tradition that I look forward to is my Grandma Johnson’s Christmas Eve Party. The Christmas Eve parties are always filled with lots of fun and enjoyment.

My family celebrates Christmas Eve by making lots of food, playing card games, exchanging

gifts, and getting a visit from Santa.

I have been going to my Grandma Johnson’s house on Christmas Eve for as long as I can remember. Every Christmas Eve that is spent there I am grateful for the family I have. Some of my family members that go to the party I only see once a year and I’m

grateful that this simple tradition brings us together.

The first part of the night is spent setting up and preparing the food and other treats that are brought by my family members. All the adults end up talking and losing track of the time and the

see SANTA Page 6



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Rudolph with his glowing red nose lights the way for Santa Claus as he made his entrance into Weiser during the Christmas night light parade. Santa then led parade goers to a magical moment as he lit the community Christmas tree with his magic dust as the City set off fireworks to the enjoyment of many. Santa has a schedule below that lists the sites he will be available to hear everyone’s Christmas wishes. Over the years Kenny Babb, an eighth grader at Weiser Middle School, enjoyed watching the parade. He has now graduated to the level of being a marcher as his dad is a member of the Weiser Fire District.

Participating in the annual Christmas parade is the best

by Kenny Babb

As we all know, unless the rock you’ve been living under has noise canceling foam on its walls, the annual Christmas parade is split into a set of two people: watchers and marchers.

I happen to be a former watcher, but I am now a marcher. Now that I’ve graduated to this level, I find myself shocked at how the fire trucks never really interested young me as they plowed through the figurative wall of people. These people, who were completely unaware of how much love is put into the big reds, were the average watcher. Most people, sadly, just skip the emergency crews part of the parade due to not finding waiting for the finale to be worth their time.

Despite this, the fire trucks were unusually shiny on the day of the parade, the horns and inside untarnished. While all the volunteers walked into their trucks, me and my father, a firefighter for about ten years, walked into 759 – the biggest truck of all.

As we drove over the dark road, and into the darker night, we took a sudden right. This right brought us to the Middle School, where we waited for the parade to start.

At this point, I was sad that I wasn’t allowed to throw candy at random strangers through my window, but it did not take long for that sadness to disappear.

As the parade moved forward, we were able to barely hear the band in the background. The horn was honked on the command of every child under the age of 10. We had our lights blazing around, as if looking for anyone to be covered in that beautiful red glow.

If that wasn’t enough, the crowd cheered us on, as if diving a firetruck was the start of a voyage out to sea, from which we may never return. We ended up honking the horn in thanks to all those who had made us happy. The road felt like a never ending tunnel, slowly closing in on all sides. As lights from stores and homes appeared, the claustrophobia waned, being the crescendo of the whole event: State Street.

Hundreds gathered around to watch the parade, but not the fire trucks. Many had already left to the comfort of their cars, missing the jolly red giants entirely.

Out of desperation to keep everyone engaged, we honked the horn down the street, possibly making some deaf. As adults screamed in pain and children laughed with joy, we rounded the final corner, ending the parade with one last, loud honk.

We then went to the station, where we hooked up the gasoline pipes and said goodbye to the truck that had carried us through the chaos.

Per usual, as everyone should do after the Weiser Christmas Parade, we rushed out to the train tracks, where blasting fireworks were lit. The sky was filled with maybe 10 fireworks. While the fireworks show was small, it was fun to watch all 10 of the glowing rockets go up, fizzle, and finally disappear into the darkness.

This was an important Christmas parade to me. On those cold December nights, when people cheer you down the road and you spend some time with your father, you truly realize the relationship between watchers and marchers: watchers make marchers happy, and marchers make watchers happy. I think we should try to replicate this cycle in our daily lives, as we all want to be happy at the end of the day.

Santa scheduled for appearances in Weiser this December

Kids will have chance to visit with legendary toymaker at Metropole Dec. 2

Although Santa is currently busy making toys at his shop at the North Pole in preparation for Christmas, he has recently announced that he is taking time out of his schedule to visit Weiser.

On Friday, Dec. 2, he will be taking part in the Christmas Night Light Parade, dubbed, “A Magical Eve,” presented by the Weiser Chamber of Commerce. Organizations, businesses, and families will incorporate working lights into their entries. The chamber is asking a \$20 donation for all entrants. The money will benefit a local organization that helps with community food insecurities.

Parade line up is scheduled for 5 p.m. at Weiser Middle School. Deadline to register is Wednesday, Nov. 30. Call for registration details at 208-414-0452.

Santa then plans to be available for pictures and to visit with children at the Metropole coffee shop, located at 339 State St. in downtown Weiser, following the ceremony.

Santa will be on hand again on Dec. 17 when he leads the annual Ho-Ho Express to Ontario.

“It’s a wonderful benefit in all directions,” said Ho-Ho Express coordinator Joe Malay. “I’ve been with Steve, helping out with the golf tournament and the auction, for all 33 years. It’s never-ending how big Steve’s heart is when it comes to giving back to the community.”



Activities with family builds fond memories and teaches how important time with family is. One Christmas Hazie Woodland’s grandma handed her a small wrapped box. Her grandma counted to three and told the family to open them. Inside the box was a note that said they would all be going to McCall for a family adventure in the snow. They enjoyed skiing at Brundage Mountain, staying in a big cabin, snowmobiling and the time spent with family was priceless.

Spending time with family creates amazing memories

by Hazie Woodland

It was Christmas night, my grandma gave my cousins and I all a small box wrapped with festive wrapping paper. I was so curious and excited to open this small box.

“Three, two, one! Open them!” shouted my grandma after passing out all the small boxes. I tore open the box to find a small note.

“We get to go skiing?!” I shouted with excitement after reading the note. “We do, but we have to wait until February,” my grandma said. I had never been so excited for a trip in my life, I couldn’t wait!

One of my favorite holiday memories is going up to McCall during the winter and going skiing with my family. When we go, we rent a big cabin that my whole family can stay in and we go on many adventures together during our time there. The cabin can sleep 28 people. It has a really cool kids room with a slide and a basement with fun games. We get to spend a lot of time together as a family without worrying about school and work.

During our trip we go snowmobiling, skiing or snowboarding, and sometimes tubing. One year, Brundage Mountain – where we go to ski, was so busy that we couldn’t even find a parking spot. We were disappointed that we couldn’t ski but we made the best of our time there by going snowmobiling a lot. My family are big snowmobilers so we spent a lot of that year just snowmobiling around the cabin.

I have so many memories of this trip that make me laugh and make me happy. One of my favorite memories during the trip over the years was when my uncle fell asleep on the couch. The next morning he got rudely awoken to a plate of whipped cream slapped across his bald head. Another one of my favorite memories during the trip was how much it snowed. It snowed so much that my cousins and I were sledding off the roof of the cabin.

It is important to remember all the fun memories with your family and enjoy your time spent with them. This trip is always challeng-

ing without my uncle Robert, who passed away from asthma. We always talk about him during our trip and share our favorite memories that we experienced with him so he is there with us in our hearts. This tradition of my family is starting to fall apart, which is really sad because it’s one of my favorite holiday memories.

I like to look back at pictures of the trip and I get reminded every time that this trip brings me so much joy to be able to spend quality time with my whole family. I will always remember the fun times and memories made during this vacation.

One thing about me is that I really don’t enjoy the cold. When I’m having fun with my family it doesn’t matter what the weather is like. All that matters is that we are all having fun together making memories.

I am so thankful that we got to make all those amazing memories. I hope with all of my heart that we can go again and not break our tradition. This tradition taught me about how important time with family is.

Weiser Community Thanksgiving Dinner

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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 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 classes will perform on Dec. 19 at 9:30 a.m. First grade will perform on Dec. 1 at 1 p.m. Second grade will perform on Dec. 14 at 10:30 a.m. Third grade will perform Dec. 7 at 1 p.m.

Park Intermediate School performances are also going to be held at the Weiser High School auditorium. Fourth grade will take place on Dec. 14 at 1:30 p.m. Fifth grade will take place on Dec. 15 at 1:30 p.m.

Weiser Middle School and Weiser High School choirs will perform in the auditorium at Weiser High

School on Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Weiser High School and Weiser Middle School band concert will take place at the high school at 7 p.m. on Dec. 12.

Midvale

Midvale students will perform their all school holiday program at the Midvale High School gymnasium on Dec. 13 at 6 p.m.

Cambridge

Cambridge Elementary School students from grades kindergarten to fourth grade will have their holiday music concert on Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. The all band concert for Cambridge band will perform on Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. Both performances will take place in the Cambridge High School gymnasium.

Annex Charter School

Annex Charter School will have their program on Dec. 19 at 6 p.m. in the auditorium.



A surprise under the pillows of Brenden Youngberg and his two brothers brought shouts of excitement. The paper under their pillows read ‘It’s a ticket to the BYU game.’ The game was exciting to watch as BYU’s quarterback threw a perfect game, 18 for 18 in passing. The Cougars won the game 49 to 18. Through the years Brenden has found that family memories and building better relationships with them is the best thing to have.

A family gift to a BYU football game was exciting

Having an amazing relationship with family is more important than presents

by Brenden Youngberg

“Why are you still in my room Mom and Dad? Aren’t you going to turn off the lights and go to bed?” I asked my parents, confused. They were still just standing there. I was so confused. I started looking around in my bed for a clue to what was going on. I grabbed my pillow and looked under it. There was some kind of paper thing I picked up and looked at it closer. “IT’S A TICKET TO THE BYU GAME, I’ve always wanted to go to one of their games,” I yelled with excitement.

When my brothers came downstairs my parents did the same thing to them, they were so confused. They both lifted up their pillows at the same time and they were both so shocked to see the BYU tickets just sitting there. That next day at school felt like forever, I sat there doing my work just staring at the clock waiting for the office to call me down to get checked out to go watch the game. The time finally came. I rushed down to the office where my mom was waiting for me. We hopped in the car and

went and picked up my brothers from their school. When we got to the stadium we also saw the BYU buses with the players on it. The game was about to start when the players ran out of the tunnel as all the fans screamed and cheered for them. My friend Garrett was at the game so that made it even more fun. The game was so exciting. BYU won the game 49 to 18. Plus BYU’s quarterback threw a perfect game 18 for 18 in passing. After the game my family and I went out to eat at Smash

Burger. The food was so good it makes my mouth water just thinking about it. When we got back my little sisters and my little brother were so happy to see us when we got home. They rushed to the garage door as we pulled into the driveway. As soon as we walked in the house they said that they saw us on TV, because they were watching the game that we had gone to. That night we stayed up so late just talking about the game. That Christmas I realized that family memories were more important than fancy presents that

could break easily at any moment. But memories last forever. Over this year we have done so many things as a family like snowboarding, going to Disneyland, family reunions, and boating trips, I have a much better relationship with my family than I could ever have imagined. If I could pick between one million dollars and an amazing relationship with my family, I would pick an amazing relationship with my family, because they are so much more enjoyable when you have a better relationship with them.

from page 3

Games, food, gifts and a visit from Santa Claus is a memorable tradition

fact that there’s delicious food that is waiting for us to indulge on. Once they break away from their conversations everyone starts to make their plate and we all sit down to enjoy the meal that was made for us. Some of my uncles get thirds of the dinner since it’s such a good meal. The fun festive pies and cookies are then set out after everyone has finished the meal. Most of the time my young cousins end up eating mostly desert rather than the meal but none of the adults seem to mind. Halfway through the night after our meal and everyone starts to settle down on the couch to visit some more there is a knock on the door. All of my cousins go berserk and are so excited for the visitor that is coming through the door. He comes in with a red and white fluffy

suit, a long white beard, and a tall red and white hat. My cousins can’t wait to tell him what they want for Christmas. He picks one of my cousins to hand out the candy canes to everyone, they always feel very special. Each one of my cousins including myself take a turn sitting on Santa’s lap and telling him what we want for Christmas. I always try to get out of it but it never works. I always end up having to sit on Santa’s lap and tell him what I want for Christmas while getting my picture taken. After Santa leaves our whole family starts to go crazy. The parents are all downstairs playing cards and betting lots of money. Most of the time it’s my grandpas, uncles, and male cousins that are playing cards while my grandmas and aunts sit back and watch thinking

that they are stupid for betting so much money on a card game. During this time everyone receives lottery tickets from my Grandma Johnson. Lottery tickets are her present for everyone. The lottery tickets are mostly meant for the adults but sometimes the kids can receive a few and it’s always fun when you end up winning money. My cousins and I normally make our way upstairs to hang out all together. I never get to see any of my cousins. We all live very far away from each other so when we get to see each other it’s very fun just simply being in each other’s presence. One of our favorite games to play all together is Mother May I. We have played that game every time we are together at my Grandma Johnson’s house

for as long as I can remember. All of my cousins and I go out on the porch in the winter weather sometimes while it’s snowing and play Mother May I while we are giggling and freezing. Last year was heartbreaking, only my dad and brother were able to go to the Christmas Eve party. The party was a tradition I looked forward to going to and not being able to go made my Christmas Eve very dull and sorrowful. I have gone to my Grandma Johnson’s house on Christmas Eve for my whole life and had not missed a single party until last year. Spending time with my family and going to the Christmas Eve party at my Grandma Johnson’s house was not something I realized I had enjoyed and loved so much until I wasn’t able to go.

Help Them to Hope assists families in need during holidays

Hometown Motors' annual auction and golf tourney contributes to cause

by Philip A. Janquart

In the hustle of the Christmas season, it can be easy to forget the true meaning of the holiday.

For over 45 years, however, Help Them to Hope has been laser focused on giving.

The nonprofit charitable organization, based in Ontario, serves local families and seniors in the Tri-County area that might not otherwise have a Christmas.

"We have about 20 volunteers and board members that are heavily involved for about a 45-day period and then we have hundreds of drivers who deliver food boxes to homes," explained Help Them to Hope Board Co-Chair and Vice President Steve Dominguez.

Dominguez owns Hometown Motors in Weiser, as well as dealerships in Fruitland and Ontario.

He has been involved with Help Them to Hope for years and, through his experiences delivering door-to-door, has seen first-hand the need for assistance in local communities that include Weiser, Payette, Fruitland, Ontario, Cambridge, Midvale, Indian Valley, Adrian, Brogan, Harper, Huntington, Nyssa, Parma, Vale, and as far away as Jordan Valley.

"About 25 years ago, I signed up for delivery and took my kids to the warehouse; and to see the rows and rows of food boxes ... I was absolutely shocked. A light went on and I thought, 'Man, there is such a need here. How can I get more involved?'"

Hometown Dealerships annual Community Benefit was originally inspired by Dominguez' mother who worked for the March of Dimes, a nonprofit dedicated to improving the health of mothers and babies.

Launched some 35 years ago, the Hometown Community Benefit also became a critical annual fundraiser for Help Them to Hope.

The main components of the fundraiser include the golf tournament, auction, and Taste of the Treasure Valley, which features wines and food showcased by vendors from Boise to Caldwell, and Ontario to McCall. The benefit, held last September, raised more than \$50,000 for Help Them to Hope for purchasing food, bicycles, and toys.

How it works:

The Help Them to Help campaign, headquartered this year at Dominguez's old Chevrolet building located at 915 Main St. in Payette, serves between 600 and 700 families every year. Families in need can obtain an

application to receive food and toys from the Department of Human Services in Ontario, local WICAP offices, and food banks. Applications must be turned in by Dec. 1, 2022.

Steve Morningstar is the contact at the WICAP office in Weiser. The number is (208) 642-9086.

The application is also available on the Help Them to Hope website at www.helpthemtohopecharity.org.

"We have screening committees that are in the process right now of screening applications to see what families' needs are. We provide up to four food boxes per family, depending on the size of the family," Dominguez said. "We also get toys for the children, so all the children that are listed on the application will receive toys, and if they request a bicycle, we will try to fill that need as well."

This year, the organization has ordered 375 bicycles, according to Dominguez who said that the fundraiser also donates \$10,000 to Joe Malays' annual Ho-Ho Express, which takes 250 kids every year to Walmart in Ontario where they are allowed to spend \$50 on themselves or Christmas presents for family members.

This year, Dominguez has also presented 200 turkeys to the Ontario Food bank, a \$5,000 check to the Next Chapter Food Pantry in Ontario, and recently made a donation to the Weiser Elks for its annual food box campaign.

Help Them to Hope also serves nursing home/care facilities and Meals on Wheels, which provides meals for seniors on a daily basis.

"We service, I think, six retirement homes, the nursing homes where elderly folks might not have families to help them during Christmas," Dominguez said. Last year, Dominguez and his employees delivered two pallets of food boxes left over from the Christmas campaign to the Weiser Senior Center.

Much of the food and donations come from private individuals and groups such as the Boy Scouts who specifically collect food to benefit Help Them to Hope during the holiday season. They also come from local grocery stores, including Ridley's in Weiser.

Weiser schools are currently participating in a food drive this year that includes school districts in Payette, Fruitland, and Ontario.

"Weiser did a fantastic job last year getting us food," Dominguez said.

ez said.

Dominguez added that the Herb Haun, Maxa, and Appleton families have been critical in supplying onions, potatoes, and apples every year.

The food is picked up by volunteers on Dec. 5 and 6 and is taken to the Payette warehouse where more volunteers separate it and put it into boxes for distribution on Dec. 15.

Those in Weiser wishing to donate food and toys can still do so by visiting Columbia Bank, Peoples Furniture, Ridley's Hometown Market, or Steve's Hometown Motors, where people can drop off brand new bicycle donations.

For questions or if you would like to make a cash donation, call Help Them to Hope President Rich Contreras at (208) 605-0634, Vice-President Steve Dominguez (208) 337-8410, or Treasurer Laura Watts (208) 740-4166 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dominguez said he and his family and employees are happy to contribute their time and effort.

"Being a part of a community means you have to be a part of the community," he said. "We've been very fortunate with our businesses and with that comes an obligation to give back. It's something near and dear to my family's heart."

"I would like to thank all the people that supported the golf tournament and all the people that are involved with Help Them to Hope. There are so many volunteers. When they say it takes a village to run an organization,

ait truly does because one person can't do it all."

For more information on Help

Them to Hope, call (208) 740-4166 or visit www.helpthemtohopecharity.org.



Ridley's Giving Tree is one of four where people can fulfill the wish of a family in need this Christmas. Other locations include Steve's Hometown Motors, Peoples Furniture, and Columbia Bank, all located in Weiser. Photo by Philip A. Janquart



Steve's Hometown Dealerships golf tournament, auction and Taste of the Treasure Valley raised more than \$50,000 to help charitable organizations for the holidays. The co-ed team sponsored by Oregon Community Credit Union took first gross. Team members were Bob Price, ReNae and Carl Smith and Eric McKelvie. ReNae Smith also won closest to the pin on hole 15 and Carl Smith had the longest putt for a senior man over 60 on hole 8.



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‘The Sounds of Christmas’ concert scheduled for Dec. 4

35 Upper Country singers represent many area communities

by Philip A. Janquart

The Upper Country Singers have scheduled their annual Christmas concert for Sunday, Dec. 4 at 3 p.m.

The event will take place at the Washington County Fairgrounds exhibit hall in Cambridge. Also on tap is the Upper Country Children’s Choir.

All are invited to attend an afternoon of holiday entertainment and free refreshments. The concert is free, but donations are welcome and encouraged.

The theme, “The Sounds of Christmas,” recalls holiday memories of carolers, sleigh bells, drums, laughing children, church bells, angels singing, joyous conversations with family and friends, and even sacred quietness.

Audience members will be entertained with favorites such as “Silver Bells” and “The Little Drummer Boy”, as well as new arrangements of “Sing We Now of Christmas” and “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day.”

The afternoon entertainment also includes instrumental selections by the Rasmussen Family, solos by Davy Nudo and Claire Woodruff, and numbers by the Upper Country Children’s Choir.

The Upper Country Singers have existed in one form or another for decades, showcasing the musical talents of



The Children’s Choir performs to a packed crowd during the Upper Country Singers’ 2021 performance in Cambridge. This year, the group’s ‘Sounds of Christmas’ concert will feature songs meant to evoke memories of Christmas past. The event is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4 at the Washington County Fairgrounds exhibit hall in Cambridge. Photo by Philip A. Janquart

community residents from Council, Mesa, Indian Valley, Cambridge, Midvale and Weiser.

“Our singers come from all over,” said Debbie Warren who is in her 13th year serving as di-

rector of the choir. “They are a really good representation of all our communities.”

Planning each year begins in January and choir members begin practicing in September. In the last several years, the con-

cert has become a highly anticipated event, drawing crowds from far and near.

Refreshments will be served during intermission. Monies collected from donations are used to produce next year’s

concert.

The Upper Country Singers will also be performing during the tree lighting ceremony in Midvale, which is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 28 from 6 to 8 p.m. in downtown Midvale.

Keep your littles warm this holiday season!

Proudly serving the community.
May you have a blessed Thanksgiving!

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