

County gears up for Christmas giving

Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa County is gearing up to make sure all residents have a Christmas to remember.

Once again the Enterprise Elks (BPOE 1829) is partnering with more than a dozen local organizations to make sure those in need will have a good Christmas meal and presents. The last piece of the equation is the generosity of Wallowa County residents.

Many residents involved in organizations — from 4-H to FCCLA to VFW and Granges — already are gearing up and contributing to the Christmas Basket Program through food drives and will be involved in gift-wrapping and delivery of the goodies.

Randy Morgan is this year's chairman for the Elk's Christmas Basket Program, which provides the baskets (boxes) containing the basic ingredients for a Christmas dinner.

At the same time the second arm of the program, the Tree of Giving project, gets underway. City of Enterprise office employees Michele Young and Lacey McQuead, along with Department of Youth Services employees Mandy Decker and Amy Stangel, organize that part of the program.

The names of children up to age 17 and seniors who are living alone are collected and put on the Tree of Giving Christmas Tree at Enterprise Flower Shop, 112 S. River St. in Enterprise. The Tree of Giving will be set up on Monday, Nov. 7.

This year all children from the same family will be listed on one tag. The names and ages of the children and seniors (not their real names) along with gift suggestions are written on the tree ornaments.

Anyone can select a family tag and provide a gift or gifts. Your gift should be unwrapped and in a gift bag with the appropriate name attached to the gift. The last day to get your present to the tree is Tuesday, Dec. 13.

To receive a basket of food, look for the form that appeared in last week's Wal-



Chieftain Archives

Andrea Butterfield and classmates help make Christmas for needy families in Wallowa County by helping pack Christmas Baskets for the annual Elks Christmas Basket program last year.

lowa County Chieftain (and in this issue as well) or pick up a form at Community Connection, Wallowa Food City, city of Enterprise and Building Healthy Families. Fill out the forms completely, and turn the form in by Wednesday, Nov. 23. The forms also are available at Enterprise City Hall and the Sheriff's Office and may be turned in at either location, or mailed to Enterprise Elks, P.O. Box K, Enterprise, OR 97828.

Individuals in need who have not already been contacted may make contact themselves by calling Randy Morgan at 541-263-0327 before Friday, Dec. 2.

Anyone is welcome to come down and help with deliveries.

Baskets of groceries will be wrapped and loaded for delivery at Cloverleaf Hall beginning Wednesday, Dec. 21 and delivered on Friday, Dec. 23. Please contact Randy Morgan to volunteer.

Information also is available on the "Tree of Giving and Elks Christmas Basket" Facebook page.

Monetary donations are also welcomed, as the Elks purchase the turkeys and chickens they include in the baskets and often supplement donations if not enough of a particular item has been donated. Individuals who would like to make monetary donations to the program may send a check to: Elks Christmas Basket Program, BPOE 1829, P.O. Box K, Enterprise, OR 97828.

Homecoming for new officer

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

Enterprise Police Department has a new officer in Jacob Curtis, a local man and Enterprise High School graduate, class of 2013. He's the son of Roger Curtis, owner of Mountain Auto Repair in Enterprise.

During his high school career he was a three-year starting lineman on the football team who participated in the FFA Leadership Program, learned ag mechanics and won an American Degree — the highest honor an FFA student can achieve. He also worked on the Dawson Ranch and in his dad's auto repair shop for five years.

Since leaving high school, the energetic Curtis has been preparing himself for a career as a policeman.

"I've always wanted to go into law enforcement," he said. "I've always looked up to police officers; we had a lot of friends who were law enforcement officers. The desire to be a police officer was behind my college choices. And, I wanted to come home to Enterprise."

Those college choices included working toward his degree in sociology at Eastern Oregon University and serving in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). He also worked a traditional Wallowa County starter job for young men — pulling green chain at the Elgin mill.

He said he's happy to be in a position to fulfill his top two life goals: coming back to Enterprise and serving his community as a police officer.

In Oregon a new officer must be hired before he or she can attend the police academy, which Curtis will do in February.

In the meantime he's been "learning the ropes" with Enterprise Police Chief Joel Fish.

Fish hired Curtis out of a pool of five applicants — most from Wallowa County



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

The Casebourn family of Joseph (mom Elizabeth, Gemma, 5, and Ryan, 1) meets new Enterprise police officer Jacob Curtis as everyone enjoys "Trunk or Treat" on Halloween Night in downtown Enterprise.

— because Curtis impressed him during the interview process.

"He interviewed well and we liked his thinking process," Fish said. "Some of his life decisions impressed me, too. Going to college factored in, as well as the Army ROTC. There were multiple factors that made him stand out."

In the week that he's been on duty, Curtis says he's learned that "there's a lot that you have to know. There's a lot that goes into it. You have

to be able to read people and understand what's going on in situations."

Chief Fish, he said, has been testing him a little as they go and "keeping me thinking about what's happening and what should happen."

That's just what he should be doing, said Fish.

"He's realized the amount he has to learn and he's ready to go forward and I'm happy with my decision," Fish said. "We're doing great so far."

Curtis said he's feeling

comfortable with his choices, looking forward to making a home in Enterprise for himself and his two Labrador dogs, Trigger and Daisy.

"I'm looking forward to a career in my hometown in an honest trade, doing something I've always wanted to do," he said.

M. C R O W & C O.



L O S T I N E , O R

Greg Walden
GREGWALDEN.COM

Births

A daughter, Stella Yvonne Perren
was born October 14, 2016 in Enterprise to Matthew and JoAnna Perren of Enterprise. Grandparents are Ginger and Tim Patton, Christina Girtz and Brian Perren.

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