

SWART

Continued from Page A1

At age 5, Swart moved with her parents Gwen and Gladys Coffin from Illinois to the Wallowa Valley for Gwen to practice law and become owner/editor/publisher of The Wallowa County Chieftain. Early on in life, and already a budding talent on the piano, Swart learned an important lesson about giving from her mother. Embarrassed by her mother’s requests for her to

play piano for her friends, Swart pretended not to hear one such request. “I didn’t come, and that was an unhappy event. She said, ‘Gail, you have a God-given gift and you have a responsibility to share it.’ That sounds so uppity, but it’s true, too.” Even through raising five children and teaching music from grades 1-8 for 40 years in the Enterprise school system, Swart tried to volunteer when she could. Two events combined to help throw her

whole-heartedly into volunteer work. “When my children had the nerve to grow up and leave home, I needed to fill the void ...Not only did the kids grow up, but I retired from my teaching job that I dearly loved,” she said. Although probably best known for her musical volunteer work, Swart has a number of non-musical endeavors. She volunteers for the Soroptimists two days a week. To honor her parents, she volunteers on the Wallowa County Health Care

Foundation board and elsewhere as well. Swart plays piano at Wallowa Valley Senior Living twice a week and once a week at the Alpine House in Joseph. She’s also assistant organist at her church. Asked if she always has an ear to the ground to volunteer, Swart replied, “I never thought of it that way, but I guess so, because if there’s something you can do to help, and you have the health to do it, why not?” Although the entire audience at the lodge party cele-

brated Swart’s AARP award and was pleased to be there for the occasion, Swart herself is a little shy about it. “It’s an honor of course, but I love doing what I do, and it doesn’t seem like it needs an honor to go with it,” she said. “It’s good to be 80 years old and still feel like you have a place in the world.” Swart accompanied nearly all the evening’s music entertainment on the piano. She encourages others to volunteer, but with some caution, saying: “Please jump in.

What you get back is far more than you put in, but protect yourself. You can easily get in over your head and find yourself really scattered.” Playing in her church for many years, Swart said her faith helps keep her grounded when it comes to volunteering, which in turn helps her faith. “I feel like I have so many blessings, how could I not give back? I wanted a big family and I have five children. I love to play piano and I have all these opportunities to play ... the blessings never stop.”

TREE

Continued from Page A1

Upon arrival, several other residents, including Raider Heck and John Dundas, jumped in to help, while mill owner/logger Jim Zacharias offered the use of a forklift. Evans said the tree needed extra wires to keep it from blowing down in a windstorm. Once such a system was devised, Northwest Fence Company owner Harold Hartley opened his store after hours to supply the necessary gear. As the makeshift crew tried standing up the tree a stiff wind began to blow, and it became questionable whether enough manpower was available for the job. Just then, in a kind of Christmas miracle, four Silverton high school seniors — Ethan Crofts, Cole Visser, Wade Luthi and Barrett Misenheimer — in the area for a camping trip noticed the scene and stopped for two hours to help

secure the tree in place. Lem McBurney was impressed by the selfless gesture and said the tree may not have gone up without them. “It’s the only time I’ve been around four teenage boys for such a long period and not once did a cellphone or ipad come out. They were so helpful, like they belong here,” McBurney said. After the tree was secured, Embers Brewhouse treated the crew to pizza and beverages. The following day the tree was decorated with ornaments from McBurney’s and Evans’ attics and help from children Annie and Maggie Miller and Charlie Evans — with the aid of a man lift donated by Enterprise Electric. Just as the tree was getting its last ornament, the Silverton youths drove by on their way home and honked their horn in approval while the crew members waved in return. That’s how you grow a Christmas tree in Joseph.

FEST

Continued from Page A1

Kids can hop aboard the North Pole Barrel Train Ride for trips around scenic downtown from noon to 5 p.m. The Wallowa County Humane Society will hold their Santa Paws photo shoot at their location on River Street. Bring your own camera to get your favorite pet’s picture with Santa. Chestnuts will be roasting at Wild Carrot starting at 3 p.m. From 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., Ted Hayes present his special Christmas Karaoke, and the Enterprise Fire Department will offer their annual Four Alarm Chili Feed. The chili event is a fundraiser for the fire department fund. The evening will culminate with the wonderful Winterfest lighted parade at 5:30 p.m. Saturday. Be sure to bundle up and vote for your favorite entry. Awards will be present-



Santa and Mrs. Claus await their next photo shoot at Santa Central on Main Street during the 2015 Enterprise Winterfest celebration.

ed the following Monday. Following the parade, there will be a drawing for prizes donated by the city of Enterprise for four lucky children. Entry forms will be available at Santa Central. Greater Enterprise Main Streets (GEMS) and the city of Enterprise invite you to visit downtown for lots of holiday fun for the whole family.

BAZAARS

Continued from Page A1

Looking out over his remaining creations, he said: “Every one of these has a major flaw in it, but people are willing to overlook it.” “Having these pop-up markets and bazaars keeps people excited to shop locally,” gallery owner Julia Zeise said. “It creates a place for artists and artisans to get their products to the public. For being a somewhat isolated area, it allows shoppers to pick up some useful and unique pre-owned items people are ready to let go of, too.” Stage One on Main street also hosted a number of



The Jingle Thru Joseph Holiday Bazaar kept hopping with customers last weekend.

customers for their event throughout the day. Rev. Clarissa Beattie of the Wallowa Buddhist Temple said her booth had been busy all day Saturday. “We’ve had a great day,”

market manager Janet Pulsifer said. “The vendors are doing well and the busload of shoppers from La Grande really helped. I’m hoping we’ll do even better next weekend during Winterfest.”

Whether you’re planning for next year’s working capital, expansion, or equipment... now is the time to come visit BEO.

Happy holidays from our family to yours.

Term Loans • Lines of Credit • Ag & Commercial Real Estate

Enterprise Branch

Bank of Eastern Oregon

beobank.com

Member FDIC

DOUBLE ARROW VETERINARY CLINIC PC

Along with the Wallowa County Humane Society Presents

“The Good Shepherd Honor”

To be awarded to one resident of Wallowa County who is struggling to keep up with health care costs for their companion animal. Consideration is upon nomination by filling out the below questionnaire and returning to Double Arrow Veterinary Clinic or by emailing a nomination to doublearrowvet@gmail.com. Nominations accepted until December 16th. Honor to be awarded on Christmas Day.

This honor will entitle one person/pet to the following at no cost for one year:

- All recommended annual vaccinations
- Annual wellness exam
- Choice of a spay/neuter, or microchip
- Flea and tick preventive
- Dewormer
- 1 bag of Purina Pro Plan food every month for 12 months

Nominee: _____ Phone: _____

Name and type of pet: _____

Address: _____

Tell us about the nominee/pet and their story: _____

Most Needed Assistance (ie, food, vaccines, spay/neuter, etc): _____

All submissions will be anonymously placed on Double Arrow’s In Clinic “Tree of Giving” to help give the pets and people of Wallowa County a brighter holiday season. For more information call 541.426.4470

simple basic toys

THE ONES THEY PLAY WITH AGAIN AND AGAIN

THE ONES THEY REMEMBER FOREVER

Inland Octopus provides an extraordinary assortment of toys that inspire thought, activity and happiness through accomplishment.

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

closed Thanksgiving

FREE GIFT WRAPPING!

7 EAST MAIN

WALLA WALLA

WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN

wallowa.com

No matter what your business is, the Wallowa County Chieftain has the audience you need!

We have many options to market your business in an affordable and effective manner.

Call Jennifer Powell today!

541-426-4567 (office) or email jpowell@wallowa.com

Merry Christmas from

LAMB

TRADING COMPANY

Huge 25th Anniversary Sale

30%-50% OFF STOREWIDE

Genuine Gemstone Jewelry

Sapphires, Rubies, Emeralds, Diamonds and more

Set in Gold and Sterling Silver

203 N. Main St. Joseph, Oregon

10am - 5pm

541.432.5304