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WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN



Wallowa County Voices



Wes Whitmire
Enterprise

Christmas is about family to him

ENTERPRISE — Wes Whitmire has lived in Enterprise for 11 years, having moved here from Klamath Falls for the scenery.

"You know, the mountains and the lake and all that good stuff," he said.

His mother, aunt, uncle, brother and sister live here so he's far from alone.

He primarily does yard work and odd jobs for a living.

"I've got to keep moving," he said. "I couldn't do a desk job."

He recently shared his thoughts about living in Wallowa County.

What's your favorite thing about Wallowa County?

The wildlife. I fish a lot. I like fishing up at the lake for trout. It's easier to breathe here. You don't have all that smog. In the city, you don't see stuff like elk and deer.

What does Christmas mean to you?

It's time to get together with the family and reminisce about relatives who've passed away.

Do you have a favorite Christmas song?

White Christmas. I like the melody and the beat.

Tell me about your Christmas traditions.

We get together with my mom. She cooks a turkey and a ham and decorates gingerbread houses. The gingerbread houses, they're my favorite. I like decorating them.

What's your advice for people who are thinking about moving here?

It's a good place. Beautiful scenery. Good people. They should move here if they like small towns. If not, they can visit and maybe they'll change their minds.

— Bill Bradshaw,
Wallowa County Chieftain



Sugar Time Bakery's float won third place for its Winterfest Parade entry Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021, at the Enterprise Winterfest.

Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Winterfest returns



Santa and Mrs. Claus (aka Donavon and Margie Shaw) pronounce Rhyatt Neil on the "nice" list Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021, at the Enterprise Winterfest. Rhyatt, who was celebrating his first Christmas, is the son of Trenton and Jessica Neil.

Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Enterprise again celebrates holiday downtown

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Enterprise made significant strides in returning to Christmastime normal as there was a grand turnout for this year's Winterfest held downtown Saturday, Dec. 11.

"We had the most parade entries ever with 26," city Administrator Lacey McQuead said Saturday, not counting the police escorts fore and aft.

Although no concrete estimate on the number of people who attended could be ascertained, there were plenty of people milling around downtown. Also, McQuead said, 136 kids goodie bags were given away, all before Santa left for the parade, and more kids came after that.

Arrowhead Chocolates won first prize for its float in the parade, with Kooch Century Farms coming in second and Sugar Time Bakery coming in third.

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The "North Pole Tree" at the north end of Enterprise Elementary School was decorated by fourth- and fifth-graders Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021, in a Christmas tree contest held at the school.



Second- and sixth-graders decorated the "Santa's Workshop Tree" in a Christmas tree contest Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021, at Enterprise Elementary School.

Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

No rules in Enterprise Elementary School's Christmas tree contest

One side gains an edge by handing out candy

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — It was a "no-rules contest" last week at Enterprise Elementary School when two groups of students pitted their creativity — and a trick — in a Christmas tree contest.

Fourth- and fifth-graders decorated the "North Pole Tree" — complete with the Grinch — set up at the north end of the main hallway at the school. Second- and sixth-graders countered at the opposite end of the hallway with the "Santa's Workshop Tree."

"The 'North Pole Tree' is winning because we handed out candy," said Kelly Brown, school reading specialist who helped. "We're

winning by a landslide, but it was a no-rules contest."

She said the trees were donated by parents.

"The kids worked hard and made all their own ornaments," Brown said.

She said the judges were to be the kindergartners through third-graders. The formal announcement of the winner would come today, Wednesday, Dec. 15, during the school's Christmas assembly.

Schools return to normal with Christmas programs

Kids still keep distance, wear masks

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY — Wallowa County schools are coming out of the COVID-19 blues and celebrating Christmas in traditional ways, making merry and holding the annual programs many had to forego or seriously alter last year during the depth of the pandemic.

Enterprise

Enterprise Elementary School held a program Tuesday, Dec. 14, of Christmas music for parents and anyone who wanted to attend.

Interim District Superintendent Tom Crane said the kids did a fine job of maintaining the social distancing and wearing of face masks during the programs, making it possible for a return to normalcy.

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