

Volume 1 - Nisqually Valley News

Celebrating the Holidays

YCS Plans to Make Sure Everyone Has a Full Holiday Season

BY DANIEL WARN
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Cindy Cecil spends a lot of time running a pallet jack during the holidays.

Cecil runs Yelm Community Services, which operates a food bank for the greater Yelm community, and the food bank is currently stocking up turkeys, hams and all the fixings to help make the holidays bright for those in need.

"I think that I have moved more food in the last two weeks than I have all year long," Cecil said.

Currently, Cecil gets shipments in from Safeway, Walmart, the Emergency Food Assistance program and local donors for the food bank, among other sources. These donors have the task of supplying food to feed the Yelm school district area, Rainier and Nisqually Indian Tribe all year round, but when Cecil receives something that will be great for the holidays, she sets it aside.

"Thanksgiving comes of course the fourth Thursday, and Christmas comes at Christmas, but for us — we're getting ready for them all year long," Cecil said.

For Thanksgiving, in addition to turkeys, the food bank gives out potatoes, onions, cranberries, yams, pumpkin, canned milk, olives, fruit cocktail, veggies, fruit, eggs and more, Cecil said. For Christmas, folks are treated to a similar spread, but with hams instead. Extra goodies that will

be handed out at Thanksgiving include dried cherries, dried plums and frozen blueberries.

"The items that I mentioned — we never get enough of," Cecil said. "We have an ongoing need to get yams, pumpkin, canned milk, mandarins, fruit cocktail and olives."

She also said they would usually need cranberries, but the food bank has enough to go around this year.

"We count on the donors to bring food in," Cecil said. "We know that this person is going to do this, and this person is going to do that and this store is going to do this. And we kind of know what we need to have as a benchmark to make sure there is enough food for everyone."

Cecil said that if she could stock up on the non-perishable holiday items, get enough for two years, she would be a happy camper. While the food bank usually sees 350 to 400 community members during the holiday giveaways, anything could happen. The last thing she wants is for there not to be enough food to go around.

Yelm Community Services is giving away the Thanksgiving feasts from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 20 at 624 Crystal Springs Road NW. The Christmas feasts will be given out a month later, on Dec. 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"It's like the whole community comes together and makes it all happen," Cecil said. "So in a way, I think of it as Yelm Community Services being the pencil — if you were writing a letter we would



Photos by Daniel Warn/Nisqually Valley News

A volunteer at Yelm Community Services' food bank wheels a trolley of food into the food bank to be dispersed to the Yelm area's folks in need.

be the pencil — but it's the community causing it all to happen. We facilitate everything, but it's one person at a time, one store at a time, one organization at a time."

The Nisqually Valley News and its advertisers are contributing to the holiday efforts. For every holiday ad package that it sells, one turkey and ham will be donated to Yelm Community Services.

In addition, the organization will give away toys for children up to the age of 12, but the giving won't be done the same way it has in years past.

"This year, we decided to make some changes to our program for the toys," Cecil said. "It used to be called the 'Adopt a Family' program, so people and groups in Yelm would call in and sign up to adopt a family and give them toys and food."

"While that's still an option, what we decided to do was make it to where people just donated toys and then we receive them and put them into bags and give them to families when they come in."

Toys will be distributed Dec. 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"What the change did was eliminate the sign-up part of it because the problem that we were having is that people would come in and sign up their children with a wish list," Cecil said. "But in the age of everything, the present might be a phone, a pad, or whatever it is — sometimes the price tag is \$200 to \$300. We never intended to ask donors to donate for really big ticket items."

All this holiday cheer, and food throughout the year, has roots that date back the better part of 50 years.

"The home of the original Yelm Community Services was actually called United Citizens Betterment Organization," Cecil said. "When the original founder came to Yelm, she looked around and said, 'where's all the social services?' When she found there weren't any, she started having food drives."

Ever since she started the organization in 1971, Yelm has had a food bank, which always worked hand-in-hand with the holiday food program, Cecil said.

To donate, call 360-458-7000 or go to 624 Crystal Springs Road NW.



Volunteers at Yelm Community Services' food bank unload a van full of food onto a trolley. YCS needs all the volunteers it can get, especially during the holidays.



Jennifer Orr / Nisqually Valley News

Dr. Seuss-style hairdos were popular during Christmas in the Park last year. This young Whoville girl helps make Christmas ornaments.



Jennifer Orr / Nisqually Valley News

Bands from Yelm Community Schools entertained throughout the day at Christmas in the Park.



Michael Wagar / Nisqually Valley News

The Yelm High School marching band helps kick off the beginning of the 2017 Christmas in the Park parade.



Michael Wagar / Nisqually Valley News

Members of the Harding family ride the Grand Marshal float during the 2017 Christmas in the Park parade.

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Mayor, Wife Selected as Grand Marshals for Christmas In The Park Parade

BY ERIC ROSANE
 erosane@yelmtonline.com

Mayor JW Foster and his wife Nicki Foster have been selected as the grand marshals for this year's 30th anniversary Christmas in the Park parade and event.

"My bucket list is full," JW Foster said. "Might need a new bucket now."

The Fosters have been involved within the Yelm and Thurston County communities

for about three decades now. They and their four children have volunteered and been involved in the event in several capacities for about 22 years, he said.

"I've never seen anything like Christmas in the Park... it's all about bringing the community together," JW Foster said.

Not only is he excited to be selected as one of the grand marshals, but he said he's especially excited

"I've never seen anything like Christmas in the Park... it's all about bringing the community together."



YELM MAYOR JW FOSTER

to be selected on the 30th anniversary.

Cecilia Jenkins, co-chair for Christmas in the Park, said the event is a nice gift to families during a particularly expensive time of year. She's been volunteering annually since the event's creation.

"I like Christmas in the Park because it's free, so all the families and little kids can participate," Jenkins said. "Things during Christmas time are so expensive."

Of JW and Nicki Fosters nomination, Jenkins said she couldn't be happier to have them nominated.

"He goes way above and beyond," Jenkins said. "He's just a wonderful leader."

Attendees at this year's Christmas in the Park, in addition to participating in fun, free competitions and events, can also expect plenty of sweets and treats such as hot cocoa, apple cider and hot dogs.

Mr. Doug's Restaurant will be providing food and drinks at this year's event for the fifth year in a row, said owner Tracey Wood. Last year, the restaurant grilled up about 2,400 hotdogs free to attendees.

Wood said he enjoys giving back to the community that graciously brought him in when him and his wife took over the restaurant.

"It's pretty cool to see these folks come out," Wood said.

Christmas in the Park will run all day Saturday, Dec. 1 and will be free to the community. The parade will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the lineup starts at 8:30. Entertainment and music will play all day, from 11 a.m. to 5:20 p.m. The lighting of the community Christmas tree and community blessing will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Hartley Wilcox's Deviled Eggs

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 1 tablespoon Mustard
 2 tablespoons Horseradish
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Directions:

- Cut eggs in half lengthwise. Remove yolks; set whites aside.
- In a bowl, mash the yolks and add mayonnaise, horseradish, cayenne pepper, mustard, salt & pepper; mix well.
- Pipe or spoon into egg whites. Sprinkle with paprika (Optional). Refrigerate until serving.

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Photos by Daniel Warn/Nisqually Valley News

Stuffed animals find a place to live at Tim's Pharmacy until they can be purchased and given away to deserving kiddos.



Tim's Pharmacy sells unique jewelry, perfect for giving that special lady the perfect gift.



An elf boy puts holly on a snowman's hat at Tim's Pharmacy.



Classic men's apparel can be found at Sunbird all year round, but it becomes a gift idea during the holidays.

Shop Local, Observe Small Business Saturday

BY DANIEL WARN
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In a world of online shopping and big box black Friday deals, it can be difficult to remember to shop local.

That's why the Yelm Area Chamber of Commerce is promoting Small Business Saturday, Nov. 24, as a way to support the economic lifeblood of the area.

"It's important to shop local, because you are keeping your tax dollars within our city limits, which in turn helps the Yelm area grow economically," said Line Critchfield, executive director of Yelm Area Chamber of Commerce. "We definitely support Small Business Saturday. We'll have lots of Small Business Saturday stuff to give away to businesses if they want to promote their business. It's a great opportunity to see what the overall impact of one day can have across the whole United States."

Critchfield said the chamber always promotes shopping in the Yelm area before going outside of the immediate region. Angie Evans, president of Yelm Area Chamber of Commerce agrees.

"I think Small Business Saturday is an awesome idea, and puts a spotlight on what's already a growing issue for people," Evans said. "Instead of going online, instead of going out to the big box stores they can keep their money local, keep their money here to help keep Yelm safe and growing. There are things right here in our backyard. We just need to take advantage of them."

SEE SHOP LOCAL, PAGE 4

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Photos by Daniel Warr/Nisqually Valley News

A line of Father Christmases bring cheer to Tim's Pharmacy.



Washington State University Cougar Gear is ready for purchase at Sunbird for that sports fan you know.



Sunbird has a wide selection of men's a women's apparel, the perfect gift for anyone you may know during the holidays.



A snowman waits to be taken to someone home at Tim's Pharmacy.

SHOP LOCAL:

Continued From Page 3

In fact, Critchfield said that people don't even need to leave town to find all the essential Christmas shopping locations.

"You can do all of your Christmas, your holiday, shopping right here in Yelm," Critchfield said. "Sunbird is a great place for unique, one of a kind gifts. Tim's Pharmacy and JZ Rose have really awesome selections for local, unique, one-of-a-kind items as well."

Here are some ideas for shopping local this holiday season:

For Kids

"You can find some pretty incredible toys at JZ Rose," Evans said. "Tim's Pharmacy has a selection of smaller kids' toys but

also has great stocking stuffers. If you're looking for a gift for somebody that's hard to shop for, I swear by Tim's Pharmacy or JZ Rose."

Parents can also find gift ideas for kids at places like Puget Sound Entertainment Center, Sunbird and the local game shop.

"Phoenix Co. Cards and Games have some unique games and they will work with you on teaching you how to play the games," Evans said. "They're great at that kind of customer service."

For Him

Evans said that there is a great selection of men's apparel at Sunbird Shopping Center, from name-brands like Carhartt, to apparel with sports teams on it.

Another good idea would be to head over to Nisqually Valley Brewing Company to treat him to a growler or two, Critchfield suggested.

Other solid places to look for that elusive gift are Tim's Pharmacy or JZ Rose, Evans said.

For Her

Jewelry is always an acceptable option, and can be found all over town.

"Oh my goodness, we have some incredible jewelers," Evans said. "We have Farwell's Fine Jewelry and Elie Jewelry Design. They both do custom work and are amazing with working within your budget."

Critchfield also pointed out that Tim's Pharmacy or JZ Rose also have jewelry for gift giving.

If you know her size, head over to Giorda E, JZ Rose and Sunbird for great clothing options, Critchfield said. Also, Yelm Co-op has bottles of wine for any occasion, she added.

In addition, Evans said that the spa industry in town is a great place to look for gift certificates.

"Women always love massage gift certificates and nail gift certificates," Evans said. "For massages, Bliss is just amazing. They have such a wonderful menu of things that they offer which is really nice."

For Them

Experiential gifts to make memories can also be a hit, Critchfield said.

"If you are looking for experiences more than gifts, places Yelm Cinemas @ Prairie Park, UpTown Lounge, Puget Sound Entertainment Center and Yelm Prairie Lanes are all good places to pick up experiences and not just things," she said.

Evans added that the Tahoma Valley Golf Course is a great place to make memories as well.

Small Business Saturday helps keep Yelm a special place to live during the holiday season, Critchfield said.

"Yelm is beautiful during the holidays," she said. "It's because Yelm is such a generous city — you really see that during the holidays. When you are driving downtown, so many of the businesses decorate and they have beautiful lights. A lot of the businesses participate in the giving trees and work to make sure that no one goes without during the holidays."

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Angel Tree

TREE

Angel Tree at Christensen's Fills Void for Local Teens

Project Will Help Fulfill Requests for 'Wants' and 'Needs'

BY NISQUALLY VALLEY NEWS

Christensen's Home Furnishings in Yelm is once again hosting Angel Tree, which aims to raise money to help bring one "want" and one "need" to an area teen that otherwise might go without on Christmas morning.

Partnering with Christensen's is Yelm Community Schools, Yelm Community Services and the Nisqually Valley News.

The project matches up a teen, ages 13 to 18, from the Nisqually Valley who could use a bit of Christmas cheer.

The idea for Angel Tree came

from Tim and Lyndi Baublits, owners of Christensen's. They approached the newspaper with the idea to help the community during the holidays. From that early idea of an Angel Tree, the project moved forward. Chrissy DeHan with Yelm Community Schools is helping coordinate collecting the needs and wants of teens from throughout the community.

Yelm Community Services for years has collected toys and other items for children 12 and under. Angel Tree is helping serve those children beyond that program.

Tim Baublits said last year's Angel Tree served around 100 teens and that they hope to serve even more this year.

"Yelm is a small community, the Yelm community supports local businesses and we felt that as a business and the business community, we should give back to the people

that support all the local businesses," Tim Baublits said. "We know that it is hard during the Christmas holiday season and we just want to support those who support us."

Forms for Angel Tree recipients are available at Christensen's, Yelm Community Schools and Yelm Community Services. They must be turned into the store by Friday, Nov. 16.

Christensen's will be putting up a Christmas tree on Black Friday in the store at 16628 state Route 507 in Yelm. Tags will be available at that time.

The Angel Tree will have the age and gender of the teen, as well as a request for a "want" and a "need." People can come pluck the request off of the tree, and also make a donation if moved to do so. If interested, come to the store and nominate a teen to go up on the Angel Tree.



Jennifer Orr / Nisqually Valley News

Christensen's Home Furnishings in Yelm put up an "Angel Tree" last year in its showroom. The project aims to connect the giving community of Yelm with area teens in need of a bit of Christmas cheer this holiday season.

ANGEL TREE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AT CHRISTENSEN'S:

- Nov. 16 — Forms due
- Nov. 23 — Angel Tree goes up in time for Black Friday shoppers
- Dec. 14 — All presents shopped for and returned to the store
- Dec. 21 — All presents wrapped and ready to be delivered to families
- Dec. 18-22 — Presents can be picked up at the store

You Can Sponsor a Teen Through Angel Trees:

Together, Christensen's Home Furnishings, Yelm Community Schools and the Nisqually Valley News bring you the Angel Tree project. The effort is joined by local businesses which each generously donated \$50 to the Angel Tree project.

This program helps match people willing to give needy area teens \$50 each to supply listed "wants" and "needs" for Christmas. If anyone wants to be a major sponsor of Angel Tree, the project offers three levels of sponsorship (call Nisqually Valley News sales reps Karli Shaw and Alex Pellegrini for more information):

- The Angel Level at \$1,000 or above
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Lions, Cinemas Offering Free Movie With Toy Donation

Watch 'Christmas Carol' or 'Fred Claus'

BY NISQUALLY VALLEY NEWS

Feel like catching a movie? Yelm Cinemas is offering a chance to do some good while watching an entertaining flick.

Yelm Cinemas is teaming up with the Yelm Lions Club, Timberland Bank and the Nisqually Valley News for its toy drive and free movie. It is the sixth year they've held the event and for the first time the event will feature two theatrical options.

Families or individuals can bring an unwrapped, new toy to the cinemas. In exchange, they'll be able to watch either of the films for free before the cinema's normal operating hours.

The event starts at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 15 with Fred Claus starting at 9 a.m. and A Christmas Carol starting at 9:10 a.m. Previous years have seen around 100 to 150 people. The film can be shown on more than one screen at once, so if one theater fills up, they'll open up another one.

All the toys will be donated to Yelm Community Services, which will distribute them to families in need.

"The Lions Club has always been active in the community and the focus of the Midday Branch is local children," said Yelm Midday Lions Club President Beatrix Austin. "It is an event that people look forward to. Some kids might not have a chance to go to the movie



Parents and children line up for the free movie last year. Kids received a free kids pack.

theater. This allows them to come to the movie, wear pajamas, get their picture taken with Santa and get a free snack pack. This is something special for them to kick off their winter break."

Yelm Cinemas rents the movie and provides staff and the facility. Timberland Bank has donated funds for the snack packs where every kid gets free popcorn, pop and candy. The Nisqually Valley News donates advertising to promote the event.

"When you see the children taking pictures with Santa, it's a special event for them that they'll always remember," Austin said. "We, as a club, are very excited. The (cinemas) employees are usually just delighted to see the children. It's a win-win for everyone, and a special holiday thing for us all."



Toy donations are delivered to Yelm Community Services.

Nisqually Valley News File Photos



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