

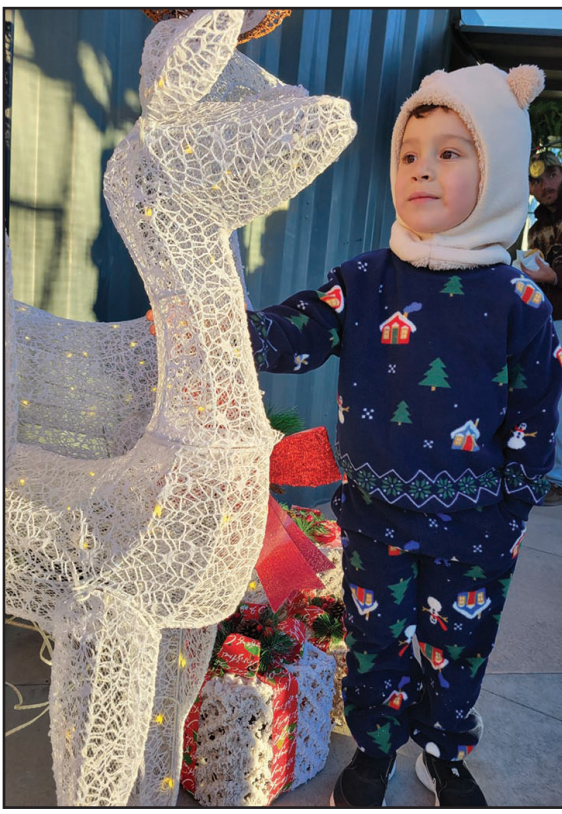


### Hosting elements of German culture

Kinslee Karovic listens as Santa Claus reads off a list of Christmas gifts the child hoped to receive as her family took part in Mountain Home's first-ever Christkindl Markt on Saturday. Elements of German heritage and culture came together that afternoon at the Hub Plaza in the city's downtown area as hundreds of people gathered to enjoy various holiday meals as they took time to check out vendor booths that offered an assortment of authentic German meals along with various handmade jewelry, bookmarks and other unique hand-crafted items along with festive wreaths and traditional German holiday goods. (Photos by Brian S. Orban)



(Above) Uli Danner hangs up an assortment of holiday decorations up for sale that day with the proceeds benefitting the Mountain Home Heroes on the Water organization.



(Left) Anthony Kariotis gives a reindeer decoration some attention as the younger checked out the various displays near the stage at the Hub Plaza area

# A message of how Choices Matter...

Crash survivor explains to Glens Ferry students how bad choices lead to consequences

The consequences of dangerous actions that teenagers and others in this nation often make took the stage at Glens Ferry High School last week as a man shared his message of how to avoid making those life-changing choices.

During a scheduled assembly in the high school gymnasium, Chris Sandy shared with these students how his life changed as the result of an impaired driving crash that happened 25 years ago.

That life-changing moment began one evening as he started pouring beer into various cups.

"We have the music going, and I got this phone call from some of my friends," Sandy said. "They were right down the road at another party."

Sandy didn't think twice about what to do once he answered that phone call. He and his friend, Jesse, jumped up from the table and walked out to Sandy's car.

With the radio blaring, they took off down the road. Telling various jokes that led both of them to laugh, they ended up traveling at speeds of roughly 80 miles per hour.

That's when Sandy's life changed when his car crashed into a vehicle pulling out of a driveway.

"All of a sudden, I see this gold flash shoot in front of my face," he said after he found himself lying on the ground near his car.

He knew he was in trouble.

"I was lying there worried if I was going to jail or worried about what happened to my car or my life being ruined," he said.

It was here that he learned two people had died as a result of his actions while driving while under the influence of alcohol — the husband and wife who were in that other vehicle.

Following a court trial that led to his conviction, he spent 3,117 days inside



Chris Sandy watches as a student from Glens Ferry High School struggles to navigate across the floor of the school's gymnasium while wearing goggles that replicate the way people's vision changes while under the influence of alcohol as part of last week's presentation. It represented a way for these students to gain a first-hand look at the dangers of driving while intoxicated (Photo by Christina Spriggs)

prison because of that choice he made to drive while under the influence of alcohol.

"I'm going to tell you what I learned," Sandy told the students at the high school. "Sometimes, living with the choice you make is way harder than dealing with any of these consequences."

As a way to address the consequences he faced, he made it his goal to start a journey in which he dedicated his time to "simply to help students and people understand that every choice they make in their lives matters," he said.

"Every one of you is responsible for making your own choice in life," Sandy reminded the students. "I'm not here to tell you don't do this, and don't do that. It's your choice. It's your life."

However, he remains committed to dedicating his time to continue sharing his message with students in schools across the United States. It became his way of helping make a difference by ensuring teenagers and others he talks to understand their actions often come with severe, life-changing consequences.

Some people out there may believe students simply "coast" through this time of their lives. How-

ever, it's not always true due to certain choices they make in life that lead to certain consequences that remain with them for years.

"I'm hoping that by sharing my story with them and teaching them what I've gone through and how I got through those situations,

I'm hoping that can help touch each person's life," Sandy said.

Over the years, he's taken time to share his message with more than a million students at schools in 35 different states.

"I'm going to continue to strive to get in front of as many students as possible because I do want to make a difference," Sandy said.

His goal following each of his presentations focused on having these students and adults take time to pause and reflect on their own lives. It's a way for them to become more aware of the situations they get themselves into.

"I want them to understand they're not invincible people and they get caught

up in a moment that can change their life forever," he said.

While these students may believe they are the school's best athlete, cheerleader or the holder of a different title, it doesn't really matter since this tends to change after they graduate, he added.

"I want everyone to learn from everything they go through and be open to learn from others," he said. "I want them to understand that they're not invincible."

In addition, he emphasized to students out there to remember that they're not alone. When they make a mistake, they can find the help needed to rebuild their life by taking time to do something positive.

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

• Trimlighting  
• GLOBE LIGHTING  
• Holiday lighting  
• Game day lighting  
• Landscape lights  
• Lifetime warranty.

**Over 50,000 hours of use made for celebrating life's moments!**

Last 10x longer than temporary lighting and uses 1/10 of the energy.

**TRIMLIGHT**

**208-580-3433**

**The Dog Spot LLC**  
Fully Insured  
Where happy dogs go!

10% discount on lodging and grooming for Active Military

We offer:  
• Daycare  
• Short or Long term Lodging  
• Professional Grooming

PandJRanch@Q.com  
208-587-9381  
2956 NW Canal Road  
Special Day Care Program for Military

**La Mode CLEANERS**

Fast, Friendly Service  
Alterations, Repairs, Wedding Dresses, Draperies, Blankets and more  
Same Day service available, call for details  
**290 E. 4th N. • 587-3721**

**Bearfoot Hardwood Floors**

Quality Hardwood Flooring  
Installed or Refinished  
Free Estimates  
Professional Quality Guaranteed

**Brandon Barnes**  
30 yrs Experience

(208) 544-8201 • www.bearfoorthardwood.com  
bearfoorthardwood@hotmail.com

**Pawstitive Pals**

• Training  
• Doggy Daycare  
• Boarding  
• Military Discount  
• Open Daily 7 days  
• Grooming

(208) 580-2134 • 3910 Airbase Rd, Mtn. Home  
Mypawstitivepals@gmail.com

**Mendoza's Lawn Care LLC**

LAWN CARE  
CHAINLINK & WOOD FENCING  
CONCRETE & CURBING: PAVERS, SIDEWALKS, DRIVEWAYS  
CLEAN UP - JUNK REMOVAL  
SNOW REMOVAL  
LICENSED & INSURED

**CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATE**  
**(208) 514-7211**

**CHIMNEY SAFER CHIMNEY LLC**

• Cleaning • Chimney Liners • Relines • Caps & Dampers  
• Smoke Problems Solved • Inspections • Installs  
• Custom Stone, Rock & Mantel Installs

Over 25,000 Chimneys Cleaned or Repaired

**\$229**  
Oct, Nov & Dec

**695-7542**  
25 Years Servicing Idaho!  
Licensed & Insured  
saferchimney.com

All technicians are CSIA/NFPA trained  
IDAHO'S only Master Masons/Stoneman Chimney Company