Picking up the scent

Constables conspire with local kids to track down holiday gifts for themselves and their families

BY RALPH BARTHOLODT
OF THE TRIBUNE

Wearing a Superman T-shirt, standing a few shelves high and thinking aloud, Tyler Sims walked the aisles at the Clarkston Walmart and picked out gifts.

The 7-year-old nosed out presents for his family as Asotin Police Chief Monte Renzelman stood behind him and wheeled a cart that contained a football, a candle and a glossy box. Renzelman made calculations in his head as the 7-year-old pulled a plastic remote-controlled helicopter from the shelf, tightly fitted in a box with a cellophane window.

The items bouncing around in the cart were meant for siblings and parents, but the helicopter was the gift that Tyler wanted for himself. He raised it like a hat.

"I can't balance this on my head," the boy said.

Tyler was among almost 50 children and teenagers whose Wednesday shopping spree with law enforcement has become a pre-Christmas tradition in the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley. As the snow in the river breaks down hill like a cotton sheet, cooling the air to a damp sheen,

With an assist from Asotin Police Chief Monte Renzelman, Tyler Sims, 7, smells scented candles Wednesday at the Clarkston Walmart as a possible family Christmas present. Forty-six kids were helped by area police officers in an annual shopping trip provided by Walmart.

> See SCENT, page 6C

Online poll

This week's question is: "Is Main Street the appropriate place for churches to set up." To vote, visit the Tribune's website, lmtribune.com, and fill in the righthand column. Results will be in Sunday's print ed

aig Clohessy / cclohessy@lmtribune.com / (208) 848-2294 ■ ASST. CITY EDITOR: Brad Gary / bgary@lmtribune.com / (208) 848-22