



The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration
invites you to attend
Christmas Eve Services
Wednesday, December 24
 4 p.m., Family Service and Holy Eucharist
 9 p.m., Traditional Service with Holy Eucharist
Childcare provided at both services.

68825 Brooks Camp Rd.,
 off of Hwy. 242, in Sisters
 541-549-7087
 www.episcopalchurchsisters.org

After shopping come in for a great dinner!

DINNER SPECIALS THURSDAY-SATURDAY
 Family Atmosphere • Good Food • Reasonably Priced
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SISTERS MARKET IS OPEN Thursday-Saturday 6 am-8 pm
Sunday 8 am-5 pm • Monday-Wednesday, 6 am-6 pm

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The Fly Fisher's Place
 SISTERS, OREGON

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So who is Santa Claus, anyway?

By Jim Cornelius, News Editor

He comes to Sisters each year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving to ride in the annual Christmas Parade. Then he heads over to the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce office for a sit-down with hordes of youngsters who have all their Christmas wishes lined out.

Who is that guy?

Well, it's Santa Claus, of course. Y' know, the guy who is featured in countless songs, timeless poems and about four thousand TV commercials? He's a major celebrity.

And he's got a surveillance program that must turn the NSA holly-green with envy: "He sees you when you're sleeping/ He knows when you're awake/He knows if you've been bad or good/So you'd better be good for goodness sake..."

That beats sweeping up metadata by a North Pole mile.

He had humbler roots, of course.

The folkloric figure we know as Santa Claus started out as a third-century Roman Bishop in Anatolia (modern Turkey). The St. Nicholas Center reports that, "Obeying Jesus' words to 'sell what you own and give the money to the poor,' Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while



PHOTO BY JODI SCHNEIDER MCNAMEE

Santa has been fulfilling wishes for more than a millennium.

still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

"Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. The prisons were so full

See **SANTA** on page 17

Bendistillery

Experience the craft spirits revolution first-hand with free distillery tours and spirits tastings.

Since 1996 Bendistillery has been reviving the tradition of handcrafted American-distilled spirits. Using only the freshest natural ingredients and pure Cascade mountain water we create gins, vodkas, and whiskies that are unsurpassed in smoothness and flavor.

We offer tours, product tasting — including unique seasonal and experimental cocktails — bottle sales and a gift shop. It's a great place to find a unique, handcrafted gift for someone special on your Christmas list.

You'll find Crater Lake Gin; Crater Lake Vodka; Crater Lake Sweet Ginger Vodka; Crater Lake Hazelnut Espresso Vodka; Crater Lake Pepper Vodka; Crater Lake Rye Whiskey; Crater Lake Reserve & Estate Spirits.

Stop by and see for yourself why Bendistillery is the most award-winning craft distillery in America. Open Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



The Fly Fisher's Place

The Fly Fisher's Place is marking its 29th season as Sisters' "Christmas headquarters for dudes."

Now, it's true that any dude would love to get a gift from The Fly Fisher's Place, the bounty of the season is not limited to guys. You can get your whole family started in the beautiful sport without breaking the budget. Complete outfits start at just over \$100.

"You don't have to shop a big-box store to get your son or daughter involved in fly fishing," says owner and guide Jeff Perin.

"I think the shop is as nicely stocked for Christmas as it's ever been."

The Fly Fisher's Place also offers a wonderful selection of stylish and functional winter clothing for both men and women, from brands like Patagonia, Howler and Simms. From the base layer to shells and jackets, The Fly Fisher's Place will have you looking good while you stay warm and dry in your frolicking in Sisters Country.

