

# Better watch out! Krampus is coming town

By Jim Cornelius, Editor

*He's making a list  
He's checking it twice;  
He's gonna find out who's naughty or nice  
Santa Claus is coming to town*

In the American Christmas tradition, Santa Claus is stuck with sorting out the naughty from the nice. The ancient central European tradition establishes some more efficient — and effective — division of labor.

Jolly old St. Nicholas has a companion who is not so jolly, not so nice. He's the one who deals with the naughty children, leaving St. Nick to dispense holiday joy to all the "good" children.

They call him Krampus.

Krampus seems to prefer alpine towns — which makes Sisters a likely spot for his visitations. Mostly he hangs out in the alpine regions of Austria, Bavaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, South Tyrol and Northern Italy. In many of those areas, parades are devoted to appeasing his rather fearsome spirit. Krampus traditionally runs the streets on December 5, known as Krampus Night — which sounds better and much more sinister in German: Krampusnacht. It is customary to offer him schnapps.

Krampus is a hairy, demonic critter, with cloven hooves, goat horns and a long, red, lolling tongue. In fact, he looks very much like the Devil. In many depictions, he wears chains, symbolic of Christianity chaining the Devil. He carries birch rods with which to swat naughty children.

The frightful Christmas beast has his origins in pre-Christian pagan imagery. In Norse tradition, he is thought to be the son of Hel, god of the underworld.

The Catholic Church frowned upon celebrations of such a demonic figure, and Italian Fascists and German and Austrian National Socialists suppressed Krampus. Perhaps they didn't like the competition.

At the turn of the millennium, Krampus



PHOTO PROVIDED

Those naughty kids better be good for goodness sake!

made a comeback. Parades and Krampus parties abound, both in his European homeland and in the New World. Probably the revitalization of Krampus is simply the result of people looking for ways to spice up their Yuletide traditions. Or, perhaps, children have grown naughtier.

Inevitably, there have been efforts to tame and commercialize Krampus, but the hairy fellow disdains the "Cute Krampus" trend, and it seems likely that it might be a dangerous affront.

There have been no confirmed Krampus sightings in Sisters, but you never know. If you see a hairy horned figure in the darkness of a Sisters Country winter night, or hear cloven hooves clattering down Cascade Avenue on December 5, give the old demon a belt of schnapps — and tell him that the naughty children all live down the road in Bend.

## Mitch & Michelle Deaderick

For the past four decades, Mitch and Michelle Deaderick have been an integral part of Sisters' ever-growing arts community. They not only create beautiful works that grace homes across the country, they also nurture the arts and fellow artists in their community.

With Michelle's artistic flair and Mitch's experience, they create many unusual one-of-a-kind pieces. They also specialize in functional pieces to use throughout the home.

On December 2-3, they are inviting the community to visit their studio at 17192 Jordan Rd. from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a Pottery Studio Sale. Enjoy some appetizers with the artists while you shop for truly unique, handcrafted gifts.

A brand-new firing will come out of the kiln on Saturday morning.

Their work is also featured at Hood Avenue Art gallery at the corner of Hood Avenue and Pine Street, which has now been in operation for four years.



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Hope to see you there!