

EDITORIALS

'A Visit from St. Nicholas'

(Also known as, "Twas the Night Before Christmas")

By Clement Clarke Moore

'Twas the night before Christmas,
when all through the house

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds;
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below,
When what to my wondering eyes did appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment he must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:
"Now, Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! On, Cupid! On, Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"

As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;
So up to the housetop the coursers they flew
With a sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too —
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes — how they twinkled! His dimples, how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow;
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly
That shook when he laughed like a bowl full of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And he filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight —
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

Source: *The Random House Book of Poetry for Children, 1983*

PUBLIC AGENDA

Public Agenda is a listing of upcoming meetings for governmental and nongovernmental agencies in Polk County. To submit a meeting, send it the *Itemizer-ObsERVER* via email (ionews@polkio.com).

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21

• **Glenn-Gibson Watershed Council** — 5:30 p.m., Salem-towne Breezeway Room, West Salem. 503-623-9680.

THURSDAY, DEC. 22

• **Monmouth-Independence Networks Board of Directors** — 7:30 a.m., Henry Hill Education Support Center, 750 S. Fifth St., Independence. 503-837-0700.

TUESDAY, DEC. 27

• **Independence City Council** — 7:30 a.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
• **Polk County Board of Commission work session** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, BOC office, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.

PDX Commuters
December 14 at 8:07pm

This winter weather is a total nightmare! It took me THREE HOURS to drive TWO MILES to get home tonight! I hate the snow!!!!!!

Willamette Delivery, ODOT and 403,578 others

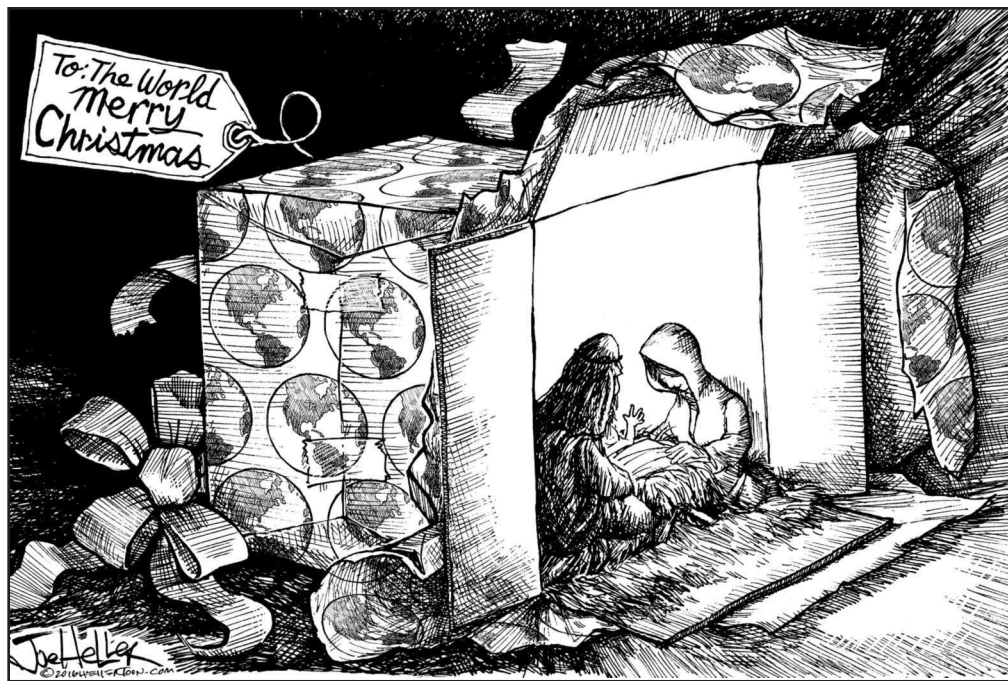
Oregon Farmers Gotta love this winter snow, though!
Like · Reply · December 14 at 10:12pm

Ski Oregon Amen to that, bruh!
Like · Reply · December 15 at 2:03am

Oregon Skool Kidz Snow Day- WAHOOOOO!!!!
Like · Reply · December 15 at 7:24am

Bonneville Dam Snow makes the electricity flow, yo!
Like · Reply · December 16 at 9:17am

Wild Salmon
Like · Reply · December 17 at 12:32pm



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dance troupe raises money, food

The Polk County France School of Dance would like to thank all the dancers and families that helped with the Dec. 13 performance/food drive at LaCreole Middle School.

We collected \$252 and 420 pounds of food for the Dallas emergency food bank. The France studios have collected over 60,000 pounds and thousands of dollars for Marion-Polk counties. Admission to the performance was three cans of food or \$3 per person and per dancer. All proceeds benefit Dallas Food Bank.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to rent LaCreole. We will be having our next performance/food drive at LaCreole in late May.

For more information, please contact us at 503-390-3481, www.fsodance.com, like us on Facebook.

Linda France Martin
CITY

Dallas community pulls together

We at the Dallas Food Bank would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Safeway and the Dallas community for the enormous success of the Thanksgiving "Turkey

Bucks" fundraiser. Safeway collected \$11,154 to donate over 3,222 pounds of food to the Dallas Food Bank. These donations allowed about 200 families to partake in a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

We also would like to say a big thank you to the Dallas Merchants Association for their donation of 28 turkeys.

Thanks again to all for making Thanksgiving a special, delicious and happy day for these families.

Mona Ordonez
Dallas Food Bank

Reader shares own candy failures

We have been enjoying your feature articles regarding the *I-O* staff making Christmas candy, and we give you a huge kudos for "sticking" with it (pardon the pun).

I would like to share this 35-year-old story about the candy maker who resides at our home.

Greg is known for his wonderful peanut brittle, and has even received some high marks at our local fairs for it.

However, when he made his first few batches, it resembled peanut syrup. We raise chickens, and keep a "chicken bowl" that receives leftover stuff from the

kitchen (non-meat stuff). So we rationed maybe the chickens would like the peanuts that was in the syrup state.

We fed the chickens, and the next day, three of our birds were sitting in the coop with their heads down and not moving. I picked one bird up, and instead of squawking, it just looked at me, closed beak.

I noticed its beak seemed to be sealed shut. You guessed it: the peanut brittle syrup had sealed the poor bird's beak closed. So, after working the beak open, we looked for the remaining syrup to get it out of the coop, and it was gone.

What we also noticed was a small hole under the fencing in the coop. Strange, the hole wasn't there before.

A few days later, one of our neighbors told us their dog had vomited in their house, and the vomit contained peanuts.

I guess even if your candy making isn't as picture perfect as it shows on the internet, if it's eatable, then you're still in the game.

Deb Darr
Falls City

Editor's note: We appreciate you sharing your experience, Deb Darr and family. We will keep working on our baking and candy making skills.



WANT TO WRITE A LETTER?

Letters to the editor are limited to 300 words. Longer letters will be edited.

Each writer is restricted to one letter per 30-day period.

Letters that are libelous, obscene or in bad taste will not be printed. Attacks by name on businesses or individuals will not be printed.

Letters to the editor that are

obvious promotions for a business, products or services will not be printed.

The *Itemizer-ObsERVER* does not guarantee the accuracy of facts presented by letter writers; dissenters are welcome to respond. Letter writers who disagree with other published letter writers should maintain a civil discourse and address the

subject, not the author.

Letters, like all editorial material submitted to the newspaper, are edited for length, grammar and content.

Letters must include the author's name, address and telephone number.

For the full letters policy: www.polkio.com, or call 503-623-2373 ext. 117.

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