

Community Comment Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014

By Jon Sapper

### A Visit With The Grandson

In the past, I've shared a few stories about my 3 year old grandson and the travails it has taken to spend a few days with him. He lives in rural Northern Idaho where previous trips have resulted in closed roads, overheated and broken down cars; delayed, missed and cancelled plane flights, and one trip sitting next to a passenger on the plane who should have been required to buy two seats. Well, my 48 hours of travelling to spend 48 hours with my him was worth it even with the freezing rain, black ice, blizzard conditions and temperatures that warmed up to 18 degrees during the day.

I was surprised at how much it cost to fly from Oregon to Idaho. I could have taken out a second mortgage to fly from here, but I still have a problem flying south to go north. Airlines added a fuel surcharge when the cost of fuel skyrocketed. But, I didn't see ticket prices drop through the floor when fuel costs plummeted. Are you as surprised as I am?

Oh well, when I walked in the door of my daughter's home, I was greeted by Kolton who said, "Hi Papa! This is Woosy." I said, "Hi Woosy." He said, "No! Woosy!" My daughter then came in the room saying, "I see Kolton has already introduced you to his new boxer puppy named Lucy." I chuckled, replying "Yes, he did." Kolton then showed me Jake the Pirate, the parrot and Captain Hook who has a steel hook for a left hand. Speaking of a left hook, he accidentally wacked me in the head with his talking sword. He laughed. Then we played with dump trucks that fly only to be outdone by Kolton singing A, B, C, D, E, F, G, etc..... for maybe 30 times. I'm not sure. It was a great visit.

On the way home I did stop at an outlet mall. Yes, I do most of my shopping locally, but I wanted to take a break from driving and decided to stop. Wandering around I went into a candle store that was getting ready for Christmas. The fragrances and smells were strong. A young gal approached me and said, "What scents do you like?" I couldn't resist, so I said, "My favorite is common scents." She said, "I'm sorry. We don't have that." I replied, "You don't have any common scents?" She said, "No, but there is a store in the next building that has candles and they might have some." I said, "Ok, so that other store might have some

common scents.” She said, “Yes,” hesitated, then smiled and laughed saying, “I get it. You’re trying to be funny.” I smiled and said, “Yea, I was.”

So I guess the moral of the story is that with Christmas right around the corner and the hectic pace of the season almost upon us, please be patient with those store clerks who after just a little training, might happily refer you to another store that has some common scents.

This has been Jon Sapper for Community Comment.