Do You Believe in Santa Claus? Test Your Trivia Knowledge With These St. Nick Facts!

Who is Santa Claus?
For centuries, St. Nicholas has been remembered by Christians for his generosity toward children and the poor. The real St. Nicholas lived in Turkey, where he served as bishop in the town of Myra, during the fourth century. According to Dutch legend, Sinter Klaas (St. Nicholas) brought gifts at Christmastime, either through an open window or down a chimney. This legend is the basis of the Santa Claus we know and love today.

Prior to the 16th century, gifts were exchanged during the feast of St. Nicholas on December 6. After that time, German Protestants began celebrating Christkindl on December 25, a feast day for the Christ Child. Soon the two days merged into one, although, today many people in Europe continue to celebrate both days. As early as 1773, the name "St. A Claus" appeared in print. But Americans did not have a detailed description of St. Nicholas until Washington Irving included a drawing of him in the 1809 publication A History of New York. Then, in 1823, Clement Clarke Moore wrote 'Twas the Night Before Christmas (or A Visit from St. Nicholas). It was Moore’s account that characterized Santa as a jolly old man who rides in a sleigh pulled by flying reindeer and slides down chimneys to deliver gifts.

Who’s Tracking Santa Claus?
"Deter. Detect. Defend." This motto of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, better known as NORAD, applies to the Canadian and American agency's responsibility to defend the airspace of Canada, Alaska, and the continental United States. However, each December 24, NORAD is also involved in tracking Santa Claus's sleigh ride across the globe.

Using data obtained from a worldwide network of radar and satellites in space, NORAD staff and more than 360 volunteers begin reporting on Santa's progress at 5:00 a.m. MST. Real-time updates via e-mail, the Internet, and telecasts are transferred into streaming audio and video updates and then translated into French, Japanese, Spanish, Portuguese, and English.

Does Santa Really Exist?
Yes, Santa Claus really does exist -- and he lives in Rovaniemi, Finland! At Santa's Village, you can visit Santa in his workshop and watch his trusty elves building toys and decorating for the holidays. You can also stop by one of the gift shops and pick up Santa's favorite Finnish candies or a toy from Santa's workshop. In keeping with Santa's North Pole address, Santa's Village is located in the Finnish Lapland on the Arctic Circle. The Lapland is
a region that includes northern Finland, Sweden, and Norway. It is north of the Arctic Circle, an imaginary line on the surface of the earth where the sun does not rise on the winter solstice or set on the summer solstice.

What are Santa's Aliases?
Christmas gifts are bestowed by different gift givers in various countries. These include Père Noël in France, St. Nicholas or Sinter Klaas in Holland, Father Christmas in England, the Three Kings in parts of Latin America and Spain, and Santa Claus in the United States. In Germany, children are visited by Christkind, an angelic messenger of Jesus. Babouschka, a grandmotherly figure, brings presents in Russia, while in Sweden, Jultomten, a gnome who rides a sleigh, does the honors. Syrian children receive gifts from a camel of one of the Three Wise Men, reportedly the smallest one in the caravan. And in Italy, a kindly old witch named La Befana leaves gifts for children.

Can you Name any Reindeer Facts?
- Reindeer are one of several subspecies of caribou found around the world.
- Reindeer are herbivores, which mean they eat vegetation. In the summer, they eat leaves and herbs. In the winter, they eat lichen and moss.
- Reindeer generally don't run very fast. In fact, a white-tailed deer could outrun a reindeer.
- Reindeer use their antlers like a shovel to break through the crust of snow to reach the vegetation underneath.
- Reindeer are various colors, including white, dark gray, and brown. Males can have light-colored manes, necks, and shoulders.
- The only female deer to grow antlers are reindeer. Each summer, both males and females grow their wonderful racks, but males usually shed theirs in late November to mid-December. Females keep their antlers until spring.

Merry Christmas from

Jefferson County Area Chamber of Commerce
Meriden/Ozawkie Area Chamber of Commerce
Valley Falls Chamber of Commerce

Article & Graphic Source: people.howstuffworks.com
December 14th, Wednesday. Jefferson County Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting. 7:30am. Open to local businesses and organizations serving Perry, McLouth, Oskaloosa, and Winchester. December Meeting will be at Highland Community College, Perry Center. For more information contact Kim Everley at clerk@cityofmclouth.org Like us on Facebook! https://www.facebook.com/#!/jeffersoncountyareachamber

December 14th, Wednesday. Weight Watchers! Weigh-in at 5:15pm with Meeting at 5:45pm. Held on the 2nd floor of the Historic Lecompton High School building. For more information contact Kim at kimberly.a.stewart@weightwatchers.com

December 14th, Wednesday. Perry City Council Meeting. 6:30pm. Held at Perry City Hall.


December 15th, Thursday. $1.50 Taco Night! 5:00-7:00pm. Held at the Meriden VFW.

December 16th, Friday. Entires Due! Last day to enter the City of Lecompton Holiday Lights Contest! Call 785-887-6407. Prizes for 1st-3rd place. No entry fee.

December 17th, Saturday. Voting Begins for City of Perry Christmas Lights Contest! Vote on Perry Pride Facebook page through the 20th! $100-1st place, $75-2nd place, $50-3rd place, $25-4th place. Sponsored by Perry Pride! www.perrypride.org

December 17th Saturday. Live Nativity! 6:00-8:00pm. Drive by the live nativity and Grantville United Methodist Church, 3724 South St.

December 18th, Sunday. Breakfast at the Legion! 8:00am-1:00pm. Biscuits and gravy, Belgian waffles, and eggs! At the Perry American Legion. Free will donation.

December 18th, Sunday. Christmas Cantata at Lecompton United Methodist Church. During 10:45am Service. The mid-holiday dinner will follow. Please bring a side dish to share. Dinner will be turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, and dessert.

December 18th Sunday. Chili Feed! 12:30-1:45pm. Fundraiser for the Perry Lecompton High School Music Department, for students traveling to Chicago! Chili and cinnamon roll lunch will be followed by the PLHS winter band and choir concert at 2:00pm. Suggested donation for lunch is $5 per person. Held at PLHS gym.

December 19th, Monday. Survivor Support Group. 5:30pm. Ongoing group with the Sexual Trauma and Abuse Center. No registration needed. Drop in to process whatever is relevant to you that day, or come to listen and relax, or to do a guided activity. Held at the Sexual Trauma & Abuse Care Center, 100 Washington in Oskaloosa. For more information www.stacarecenter.org/counseling

December 20th, Tuesday. Yoga! 6:00pm. Held at the Lecompton Pride Building, 3rd Floor. $7 per class.

December 21st, Wednesday. Weight Watchers! Weigh-in at 5:15pm with Meeting at 5:45pm. Held on the 2nd floor of the Historic Lecompton High School building. For more information contact Kim at kimberly.a.stewart@weightwatchers.com

December 22nd, Thursday. $1.50 Taco Night! 5:00-7:00pm. Held at the Meriden VFW.
December 27th, Tuesday. Yoga! 6:00pm. Held at the Lecompton Pride Building, 3rd Floor. $7 per class.

December 28th, Wednesday. Weight Watchers! Weigh-in at 5:15pm with Meeting at 5:45pm. Held on the 2nd floor of the Historic Lecompton High School building. For more information contact Kim at kimberly.a.stewart@weightwatchers.com

December 28th, Wednesday. Bereavement Support Group. 6:00-7:00pm. Held at the Health Department in Oskaloosa, 1212 Walnut St. Please RSVP to Samantha Black 785-863-2447 or sblack@jfcountyks.com

December 29th, Thursday. $1.50 Taco Night! 5:00-7:00pm. Held at the Meriden VFW.

January 2nd, Monday. Survivor Support Group. 5:30pm. Ongoing group with the Sexual Trauma and Abuse Center. No registration needed. Drop in to process whatever is relevant to you that day, or come to listen and relax, or to do a guided activity. Held at the Sexual Trauma & Abuse Care Center, 100 Washington in Oskaloosa. For more information www.stacarecenter.org/counseling

January 3rd, Tuesday. Yoga! 6:00pm. Held at the Lecompton Pride Building, 3rd Floor. $7 per class.

January 3rd, Tuesday. Perry Pride Monthly Meeting. 6:30pm. Open to anyone interested in the community of Perry! Held at Highland Community College, Perry Center. For more information perrypride-exec@perrykansas.us or visit our website at [http://www.perrypride.org

January 4th, Wednesday. Weight Watchers! Weigh-in at 5:15pm with Meeting at 5:45pm. Held on the 2nd floor of the Historic Lecompton High School building. For more information contact Kim at kimberly.a.stewart@weightwatchers.com


January 5th, Thursday. $1.50 Taco Night! 5:00-7:00pm. Held at the Meriden VFW.

January 7th, Saturday. Sewing and Craft Group! 9:30am-4:00pm. Bring your sewing, quilting, beading, knitting, or craft projects and enjoy the company of others while you work. Held at the Historic Lecompton High School on the 2nd Floor. For more information contact Mary Jane at 785-393-3382 or mjhofer@gmail.com

January 11th, Wednesday. Weight Watchers! Weigh-in at 5:15pm with Meeting at 5:45pm. Held on the 2nd floor of the Historic Lecompton High School building. For more information contact Kim at kimberly.a.stewart@weightwatchers.com
The regular monthly meeting of the Jefferson County Area Chamber of Commerce was held 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at the Winchester Community Building, 411 Spruce, Winchester, KS. President Kim Everley called the meeting to order. There were 20 members in attendance.

Minutes & Financial Report

After review, Jamie Love moved to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2016 meeting. Gigi Perry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer Stephanie Spencer indicated that year to date income is $2,745.00 and year to date expenses are $4,015.07. Last month there were several gift certificates redeemed and the final plaque payment was made. There is currently a year to date net loss of -$1,140.07. The bank balance November 8, 2016 was $7,853.28. Jamie Love moved to approve the financial report. Brittany Chaplin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Reports

McLouth – The Christmas Tree Lighting is scheduled for 4-6 p.m. on December 3rd in the City Park.

Oskaloosa – The City is seeking input regarding having outside movies available in town during the warm months. Local business news includes a new owner for Chunkie Dunkers and that Donna’s Taqueria may be for sale. Dave Taylor announced that he has a new agent joining Taylor Insurance, Audra Kearney Moore.

Perry – Perry Pride and the Kentucky Township Fire Dept. will host Soup with Santa 4:30-7:00 p.m. on Friday, December 2nd at the Perry Community Building.

Winchester – Winchester’s American Legion has an annual Veteran’s Day pot luck dinner for the community that is planned for this Friday, Nov. 11th at 6:00 p.m. Also, the American Legion will be 70 years old in 2018! Santa’s visit is scheduled for the second Saturday in December. Also, a full sized quilt is being raffled (with proceeds to help purchase a new storm siren) at the annual Thanksgiving Supper, 5-7 p.m. at the Methodist Church on November 22nd.

Valley Falls – The Fall Bazaar is November 12th, 9:00-2:00.

Jefferson Co. Commissioners – Wayne Ledbetter commented that there is a lot going on, but nothing reportable today.

Jefferson County Economic Development Commission – Brittany Chaplain passed out a survey asking participants to rank their interest in various small business workshop topics. She reported that the Housing Committee will plan to have a grass roots conversation of housing needs rather than to conduct an expensive survey. Also, the Food Council is moving forward with efforts to connect producers with end users.

Schools – Denise Jennings, USD 339 Superintendent, reported that many high school students were busy in Nortonville and Winchester during the recent Community Service Day. On Thursday, November 10th, the annual Veterans’ Day Program will be held at the high school. And the JCN production of Singing in the Rain will be held at 7:00 p.m. November 11-12.

Old Business

Membership – Kim has prepared letters and Betsy Kabus plans to mail renewals in December.

New Business

Nominating Committee – A nominating committee of George Bowen, Gigi Perry and Dave Taylor was appointed. They will report back next month with a slate of officers for 2017.

Bear Pride Program – The Chamber has received a letter from Oskaloosa Jr/Sr High requesting support for the Bear Pride Program, a student reward program for the district. It was noted that last year the chamber sent a check for $50 to each school in Jefferson County. One school district lost the check and there may have been some confusion from some recipients about the
purpose of the donation. It was suggested that this year an explanatory letter be included that requests feedback from the school about what school program/s they would like the Chamber to support, i.e. scholarship and reward program vs. other school programs. After discussion George Bowen moved to give $50 to each of the school districts in the Chamber’s area (not the entire county) and to request feedback for next year’s budget regarding the type of support they prefer. Tim Benyshek seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Marilyn Sharkey announced that the Jefferson Co. Humane Society is hosting Santa Paws on Sunday, December 11th, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Bring your pets for pictures with Santa!

Dave Taylor noted that Giant Communications is updating info for its annual telephone book. He will be glad to share contact info for the company representative if anyone is interested.

Events/Announcements/E-mail

Around Town (Perry/Lecompton distribution) is e-mailed every other week on Thursday. There are 1,100 individuals on this distribution list. Information should be sent to Kathy Younquist at kathy@firststateks.com by noon the Wednesday prior.

Information for Chamber Chronicles (county-wide distribution) can be e-mailed to Heather Williams at heatherlwilliams@live.com or to Jilinda white at jilindaw@firststateks.com.

Adjournment

George Bowen moved to adjourn. Terry Taylor seconded the motion. Motion passed & the meeting was adjourned.

Upcoming Meetings – 7:30 a.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

- December 14, 2016, Highland Community College, 203 W. Bridge St., Perry, KS.
- January 11, 2017, Freestate Electric Cooperative, 507 N. Union, McLouth, KS.
- February 8, 2017, Colonial Acres, 8998 US-59, Oskaloosa, KS.
- March 8, 2017, Community Building, 411 Spruce, Winchester, KS.
Announcements/Updates

2016 Trunk or Treat - Scott reported that 418 students participated in this year’s Trunk or Treat, with an especially good “rush” of kids early on. About 50 different volunteers participated. It appears that attendance may have been down a bit from previous years perhaps because the event was held on Friday, Oct 28th (instead of Halloween proper) and because promotional flyers may not have gotten distributed to at least some Seaman students. Regardless, it was a successful year with excellent turnout. Expenses of $487.67 for prizes and $15.43 for food (much of the food was donated), minus $160 in cash contributions for the event, resulted in a net cost to the chamber of $343.10, or about .82/student.

Prizes and prize winners included:
Step 2 Car Tenley Eck
Guitar Elijah Baker
Desk/Chair Dalton Homes
Game table Malachi Carper
Scooter/suitcase Raelyn Mollenkamp
Building Blocks Joslynn Sutton
“Minnie” Kellie Poley, Jeff Perry

“Mickey” Avery McCune, Nick Herrman
Balance Bike Payton Norris
Boy’s 12” Caydence Dehncke
Girls 14” Minnie J.D. Dunham
Boy’s 18” Blue Creighton Lloyd
Girl’s 20” Pink Logan Lafountain

Community Welcome Signs - Steve Buss and his middle school students have expressed a willingness to work with the chamber on developing more attractive landscaping around the community welcome signs. They will be submitting three proposals for the chamber board to consider. The chamber expressed its gratitude for Mr. Buss’s willingness!

Chamber “After Hours” - The annual Chamber “After Hours” has been shifted to January 19, 2017. Any chamber member with interest in hosting this event should speak with Chamber president Scott Stanley or any chamber board member soon. The chamber board will determine a location at their December meeting.

Christmas Lights Contest - The Chamber, in cooperation with Meriden Pride, will sponsor the Christmas Lights Contest again this year. The Chamber will award a $50 Chamber gift certificate to winners in three categories (within the city of Ozawkie, within the rural areas outside of Ozawkie and Meriden, and to a business within the city of Meriden) and Meriden Pride will sponsor and award a gift certificate to a residence within Meriden. For more information, contact DeDee Skaggs or Jim McGrath.

Special Guest

Brittany Chaplin, Director of Economic Development for Jefferson County was present to highlight continued development within the various committees she is leading and to “pick the brains” of chamber members with regard, particularly, to various business development workshops that Economic Development is considering hosting.

Among other exercises, Brittany distributed a brief survey allowing those present to offer input between various topics for small-business workshops, discussed potential meeting times and meeting lengths, and brainstormed about ways to assure that any workshops included ways to implement the materials covered. Chamber members produced several good ideas Brittany could utilize.

Next Meeting
The Chamber meets again at noon at the Gambino’s “community room” on Thurs, Dec 15th.
The Valley Falls Chamber of Commerce met November 3, 2016 at the Kendall Bank Room. There were 15 members present.

Co-President Denise Streeter called the meeting to order.

Andy Conser made the motion to approve the minutes with one revision. Jim Braum second, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Leslee Heinen presented the treasurer's report. Jayne Coleman made the motion to approve the treasurer's report, Brittany Chaplain second. Motion carried.

CITY OF VALLEY FALLS: Lucy Thomas spoke about the pool bids. The bid came in about $200,000 over the first estimate, with the pool itself about $116,000 over. The numbers will be looked at very closely -- more to come. The Senior Housing Development with Mesner and Moderate Housing Grant went in. The projects will most likely start in the spring. The Mesner project is built with tax credits. The City will cover the street and infrastructure costs.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Brittany provided a voting sheet with different workshop ideas. She would like to see what people would want to be better informed on and what people would want to see.

The Food Council has a survey for community food producers. The Farmer's Market info will try to match up producers and users.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pancake Feed: The Pancake Feed went very well. Dianne reported that there were 131 attendees and a profit of about $545.00 was made. Carry out will be advertised more next year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Andy meets November 17, 2016 to go over the Jefferson Co Fair schedule.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:

November 12th Fall Bazaar
Kendall State Bank in Nortonville Open House - November 6th
December 10th Hometown Christmas
Next meeting December 1st

Secretary-Jerry Heinen
JEFFERSON ASSEMBLY OF GOD'S STUDENT MINISTRY

CO*MOTION presents...

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM
A LIVING NATIVITY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2016
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

MERIDEN THRESHING GROUNDS – K4 HWY

No Admission Fee – our gift to you!
Jefferson County Humane Society

Let's Bring Them Home For the Holidays!

Special Adoption Fees
November 11th – December 31st, 2016

Dogs: $50
Puppies (under 1 yr.): $75
Cats: $25
Kittens (under 1 yr.): $75
# December 2016

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  - Storytime @ 11:15
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  - Video Game Tournament @ 4:00
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  - No Storytimes for the Holiday Break.
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  - Happy Holidays!
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  - Closed for Christmas!  
  - Happy Holidays!
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**Free Computers Classes are always available!**

Give us a call at 785-484-3933 to set up an appointment for a class or for one-on-one help with any of your technology needs.

Meriden-Ozawkie Public Library will be closed
December 23rd-26th and January 2nd for the Holidays! Sorry for any inconvenience!