

Reindeer and caribou are similar, but not the same

Reindeer are symbols of the holiday season. Legend states these antlered animals have a busy evening come December 24 - helping Santa Claus pull a sleigh weighed down by toys for the world's children. Why does Santa choose reindeer when caribou may be equally qualified for the job? It may be due to their greater history of domestication.

Although the terms "reindeer" and "caribou" are frequently used interchangeably, leading many people to assume they are the same creature, recent genetic mapping published in the journal Nature Climate Change shows caribou and reindeer are actually different animals. The journal determined that these mammals are quite similar and actually share the same scientific name, Rangifer tarandus, but they are only closely related cousins.

Reindeer may be slightly smaller and are generally more domesticated than caribou. Some people of the Nenets group in Russia keep reindeer for pets. The following are some other similarities and differences, courtesy of the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

- Reindeer are shorter, stouter and more sedentary than the long-legged caribou.
- Caribou migrate longer distances than reindeer between wintering grounds and calving

areas.

- Reindeer have thicker, denser fur than caribou. Both have unique hair in their fur that trap air and provide extra insulation.

see REINDEER page 16

BUMPER
TO
BUMPER

Auto Parts Specialists

Automotive

Truck

Industrial

Tools & Equip.

Small Engine

Echo, Marty J.

Mower

Green Mtn.

Grills

We Wish
You A
Merry
Christmas!

Bumper to
Bumper
Auto Parts

804 E. Main
Lyons, KS
67554

Mon-Fri 8-5:30
Sat 8-3:00

Phone: 620-257-2822
Fax: 620-257-2810

Revisit lesser-known Christmas traditions

Christmas celebrants participate in many different traditions year after year, but some may not fully understand the meaning behind such activities. A Christian holiday, Christmas did not originate with all activities centralized to the church. In fact, many of the traditions people hold dear have pagan roots, which were adapted as Christmas celebrations evolved.

People who hang mistletoe in doorways may be surprised to learn that this tradition dates back to the ancient Druids. The Druids believed mistletoe possessed mystical powers that brought good luck to the household and warded off evil spirits.

Evergreen trees are now associated with Christmas trees, but evergreen boughs were once used to decorate homes during the winter solstice to help people envision the spring to come. Christians often

look at evergreen trees as a sign of everlasting life and their relationship with God.

However, while many Christmas traditions continue to be an integral part of annual celebrations, there are some customs that have fallen out of favor. Although these traditions may no longer be widely practiced, anyone can revive them and make them part of their holiday celebrations.

Wassailing is a custom that has ancient origins

and is not as popular today as it once was. "Wassail" comes from the Anglo-Saxon phrase "waes hael," which means, "good health." Wassail is a drink made of mulled ale, spices and other ingredients. To go wassailing meant to see REVISIT page 11

Wassail is an ancient spirited beverage that was brought house-to-house with the goal of spreading Christmas cheer.

"Tis
the
Season"

We wish you a
Merry Christmas!

SONIC

America's
Drive-In.

114 W. 14th St., Larned, KS
620-285-6400

Happy
Holidays

Thank You for Your Continued Support!

Gift Packs

Jack Daniels • Crown Royal
Baileys • Tequila Rose
Kraken • Rum Chata
and more...

~ HOURS ~

Dec. 24 • 9 am - 7 pm
Dec. 25 • Closed
Dec. 31 • 9 am - 10 pm
Jan. 1 • Closed

Guy's Liquor Store
619 Topeka • Larned
620-285-6321

DQ

Fan Food

not fast food™

215 W. Main • Lyons, KS • 620-257-2882

Let
High Call
Outfitters
be your
Holiday
Guide

Mon-Fri 10-6pm
Sat 10-5pm

4100 10th Great Bend

Text HCO to 51660 for Holiday Specials
www.highcalloutfitters.com

SHOW
STOPPERS

PARTY DRESSES THAT
STEAL THE SCENE

HIGH
CALL

OUTFITTERS

Karen
TIE SLEEVE DRESS

Ho, Ho, Ho,
Merry
Christmas
from
HOME
CONNECTION

2410 Main St. • Great Bend, KS
620-792-4043

There's No Place Like Home!

Ceramic ♦ Quartz ♦ Carpet ♦ Laminate Floor
Cambria ♦ Corian ♦
Granite ♦ Laminate Counter Tops
Vinyl ♦ Hard Wood

Tony & Sandy Muth,
Owners

Merry Christmas!

From all of us at
Farmers Bank & Trust

Farmers Bank
and Trust

Member FDIC

102 W. 6th St., Larned, KS
620-285-3177

- Visit Our Other Locations -
Great Bend, Albert, Bazine, Kinsley,
LaCrosse, Overland Park
www.farmersbankks.com