# **BBB Warning: Avoid These Holiday Scams**

DES MOINES, Iowa ¬- Santa isn't the only one keeping track of who is naughty and who is nice! Better Business Bureau is warning consumers to beware of these common holiday scams:

Look-alike websites: When shopping online, make sure to use only legitimate websites. Watch out for URLs that use the names of wellknown brands along with extra words.

Fake shipping notifications: These can have attachments or links to sites that will download malware on vour computer to steal your identity and your passwords. Don't be fooled by a holiday phishing scam.

E-cards: Electronic cards can be great fun, but be careful. Two red flags to watch out for are: the sender's name is not apparent; you are required to share additional information to get the card.

Letters from Santa: Several trusted companies offer charming and personalized letters from Santa, but

scammers mimic them to get personal information from unsuspecting parents. Check with bbb.org to find out which ones are legitimate.

Grandparents scam: Seniors should be cautious if they get a call from a grandchild claiming to be in an accident, arrested or hospitalized while traveling in another country. Never send money unless you confirm with another family member that it's true.

Phony charities: Everyone is in a generous mood at the holidays, so scammers take advantage of that with fake charity solicitations in email, on social media sites, and even by text. Check out charities at give.org before donating.

Temporary holiday jobs: Retailers and delivery services need extra help at the holidays, but beware of solicitations that require you to share personal information online or pay for a job lead. Apply in person or go to retailers' main websites to find out who is hiring.

Unusual forms of payment: Be wary of anyone who asks you to pay for holiday purchases using prepaid debit cards, gift cards, wire transfers, third parties, etc. These payments cannot be traced and cannot be undone. Use a credit card on a secure website: look for https in the address (the extra "s" is for "secure") and the lock symbol.

Free gift cards: Pop-up ads or email offering free gift cards are often just a ploy to get your personal information that can later be used for identity theft.

Social media gift exchange: It sounds like a great deal; buy one gift and get 36 in return. But it's just a variation on a pyramid scheme and it's illegal.

To find out more about scams or to report one, go to BBB Scam Stopper.

Check out bbb.org to look up a business, file a complaint, write a customer review, report a scam, read tips, follow us on social media, and more



## **Sanford Pentagon Partners** With Samaritan's Feet **For Barefoot Classic**

SIOUX FALLS – The Sanford Pentagon will host the inaugural Samaritan's Feet Barefoot Classic presented by Sanford Health Jan. 2 with 18 boys basketball teams from South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota.

The Sanford Pentagon has partnered with Samaritan's Feet, a 501(c)(3) humanitarian aid organization that shares a message of hope with children in need in the United States and around the world by washing their feet and giving them a new pair of shoes. With the World Health Organization reporting that more than 1.5 billion people infected with diseases that are transmitted through contaminated soil, the mission of Samaritan's Feet is to provide education and economic opportunities through this gift and act of service.

"We are incredibly honored to partner with Sanford Health in this endeavor," said Manny Ohonme, co-founder, president and CEO of Samaritan's Feet. "This region is very special to our organization and through the support of many athletic teams and coaches here, we have been able to serve so many children in the area."

Since its founding in 2003, Samaritan's Feet and its partners have distributed more than 6.5 million pairs of shoes in more than 75 countries and 325 U.S. cities.

Coaches of the participating teams will have the option to coach barefoot to help raise awareness of Samaritan's Feet. Regional college men's basketball coaches like South Dakota State's Scott Nagy and North Dakota State's Dave Richman have in the past partnered with Samaritan's Feet and coached barefoot in the name of awareness.

Sioux Falls O'Gorman, Sioux Falls Lincoln, Sioux Falls Roosevelt, Sioux Falls Washington and Sioux Falls Christian are part of the field. Other South Dakota programs include Clark, Canistota, Tea, Elkton, Chester, Warner, Vermillion, Sioux Valley, Tri-Valley and Madison.

West Lyon and Western Christian will visit the Pentagon from Iowa, while Worthington is the lone Minnesota team.

Samaritan's Feet Barefoot Classic presented by Sanford Health

Jan. 2, 2015 9 a.m. - West Lyon (Iowa) vs. Canistota

10:30 a.m. - Chester vs. Elkton

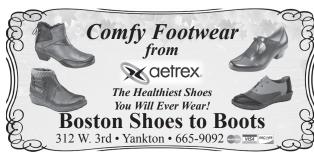
Noon - Vermillion vs. Warner

1:30 p.m. - Tea Area vs. Worthington (Minn.) 3 p.m. - Tri-Valley vs. Clark

4:30 p.m. - Sioux Falls Lincoln vs. Sioux Valley

6 p.m. - Sioux Falls O'Gorman vs. Western Christian (Iowa) 7:30 p.m. - Sioux Falls Washington vs. Sioux Falls Christian

9 p.m. - Sioux Falls Roosevelt vs. Madison





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FREE ESTIMATES



### **Fair Trade Gifts**

Saturday, Dec. 12th ~ 10 am - 2 pm A Haitian lunch will be served from Noon - 1 pm From Sharing the Dream, Heart for Haiti, SERRV, Equal Exchange & More

Featuring fair trade gifts from around the world! Christmas Cookie Corner

United Methodist Church ~ 16 N. Dakota St.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE ON YOUR CHRIST MAS LIST.
YOUR PURCHASES MAKE A DIFFERENCE





#### **Lowest Prices of the Year** Sofas Charles Schneider sofa, 2 chairs, 2 ottomans in a Greige cotton twill, American Furniture Club chair in small "Leopard" print, available in chocolate/beige or Charles Schneider Club chair & ottoman in "Coffee" tweed, reg. \$1299...... NOW \$599 **Curios, Hutches & Chests**

## **Bedroom** Riverside Craftsman oak dresser & mirror w/slate details, reg, \$1710.....NOW \$1093 Dining

#### Occasional Tables

Light cherry round cocktail & end table w/glass insert, reg. \$229... NOW \$119 each 

#### Recliners

Tan rocker recliner, reg. \$769......NOW \$549

#### **Miscellaneous**

Assorted wall art, lamps & barstools 50% off All In-stock Flooring Drastically Reduced

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