

HACKERS BRIEF

from CyberWyoming

NORTON ANTIVIRUS IMPERSONATION ALERT

A Sheridan citizen reported an email from FOUR different Gmail addresses with the subject line of "Ordering The Product." The branding is terrible and just has in green, all caps lettering "NORTON RECEIPT". It claims that \$199 will be debited from your card on or before June 22. Do not call the phone number in the email.

MORE GEEK SQUAD IMPERSONATION

A Sheridan citizen reported an email from a Gmail address, a subject line of "Invoice_#GSD7/DF67/SDm61" and with an attached invoice for \$499 to renew a Geek Squad subscription for 3 years. The invoice was well branded with Best Buy and Geek Squad logos, but downloading any attachment to view it on your computer is not a good idea. Just delete. The same Sheridan citizen reported a follow up email for the same amount, from a different Gmail address, with Geek Squad branding, and with a subject line of "Thank you for your order!" Do not call the phone number in the email.

AND MORE GEEK SQUAD IMPERSONATION

A Laramie citizen reported a Geek Squad Services fake subscription invoice for \$385.99 from geek-squadservices152.co with the subject line of "Subscription details for #GKS22-19088674." Don't call the phone number in the email.

WIDOW ISN'T GIVING OUT MONEY

Hackers often take advantage of events that make big headlines, in 2013, Alan Greaves, a British citizen, was murdered on Christmas Eve. Ever since, scammers have been taking advantage of the news, claiming to be related (often to be a dying widow), and asking for help disburse funds. A version of this scam was reported by a Mexico City citizen. The scam was from a Gmail address with the name Maureen Greaves in it, expounding Christian language, and asking for help with foreign investments. Just delete.

ANOTHER DYING WIDOW SCAM

A Laramie citizen wants to call your attention to another dying widow email scam. Note that the signature line is "May God Bless yo" (yes, they forgot the u in you) and the email address misspells the dying widow's name in the Gmail address as Josie Wlison instead of Josie Wilson. The subject line is "Greetings."

NORTON LIFELOCK FAKE INVOICE

If you receive an email with the subject line of Purchase Invoice Attachment from a Gmail address about a Norton/Lifelock Renewal for \$349.99, the Sheridan citizen that reported it wants you to know that despite the really good branding and design, it is fake. The clues lay in the extra spacing, urgent wording, and odd apostrophes. Note that this Sheridan citizen received a second fake invoice that looked very similar to the first but the subject line was "Renewal Invoice Copy Reminder Of Norton Security !!" Note the extra spacing before the exclamation points and the capitalization of "of". The second email was from a different Gmail address.

INCREASE IN VISHING AND SMISHING

A Sheridan business has reported a marked increase in Vishing (voice scams using phone calls) and Smishing (text scams) scams. Most of the phone calls are from someone claiming to be a Microsoft employee trying to gain access to the internal network.

Truly Odd: A Sheridan citizen reported an email from "Paul" at a Gmail account saying "Emailworking letme know." Note the incorrect spacing in the sentence. Quite often bad actors use these generic emails to see if you will engage and to see if the email account is active. Best advice is to delete!

CHEYENNE CHAMBER BOARD MEMBER IMPERSONATED

The CEO of the Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce sent a warning on Sunday, June 26, warning the business community that a board member was being impersonated and the bad actors were using his name to ask for money. The CEO reminds members and the business community that any official emails will always come from their Chambermaster software.

COVID SCAMS CONTINUE

A Laramie citizen wants you to know that if you receive an email about the "United States Covid19 Fund relief" from a Gmail address saying you won a \$650,000 prize from the Covid 19 Alleviation Program, which the scammer claimed to be organized by the World Health Organization, it is totally fake.

MS-ISAC AND CISA PATCH NOW ALERT

The Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) or the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has published a patch now (update your software) alert for Splunk's Enterprise Deployment Server, WatchGuard's Firebox and XTM appliances, Mozilla's Firefox browser, Mozilla's Firefox ESR browser, and Mozilla's Thunderbird email client products. If you use these products, make sure the software (or firmware) is updated.

Other ways to report a scam:

- Better Business Bureau Scam Tracker: www.bbb.org/scam-tracker/us/reportscam
- File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at ftc.gov/complaint
- Report your scam to the FBI at <https://www.ic3.gov/complaint>
- Reported unwanted calls to the Federal Trade Commission's Do Not Call Registration. Online at <https://complaints.donotcall.gov/complaint/complaintcheck.aspx> or call 1-888-382-1222, option 3
- Office of the Inspector General: <https://oig.ssa.gov/>
- AARP Fraud Watch Network (any age welcome) Helpline 877-908-3360
- IRS: report email scams impersonating the IRS to phishing@irs.gov
- Call the Wyoming Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) for assistance with potential Medicare fraud, abuse, or errors at 800-856-4398

GUEST COLUMN

The Hub, other nonprofits, rely on generosity of community

Last month I talked about our cultural values and focused on optimism. This month I would like to talk about collaboration.

While our community was slowly getting back to normal after the COVID-19 pandemic, The Hub and many of our patrons remained cautious and did not open fully until late winter. Community outbreaks, staffing issues and an abundance of caution for our patrons led us to continue mask requirements and limit numbers of diners, activities participants and Day Break clients.

Currently, we are open to all with no limitations but we are finding some of our patrons are still remaining cautious and have not returned to in-person services, which impacts our revenue and budget. We do continue to support these individuals to avoid isolation and loneliness by continuing to monitor their status with volunteer check-in calls and home-delivered meals. Though we are hopeful they will come back to The Hub when they are ready, we are definitely missing some of our favorites.

The economic impact of the pandemic and the current rate of inflation is affecting everyone. Rising food and gas prices are causing all of us to



MEREDITH SOPKO

tighten our belts, but the impact is severe for certain members of the community. Some of our patrons have to discontinue services that are vital to them living safely in their homes. At a minimum, we are seeing lower suggested contributions from those that do receive our services because

they simply cannot afford to pay more. The programs feeling the greatest impact are congregate and home-delivered meals, as well as Goose Creek Transit. All three of these programs are vital to our whole community.

The board and staff are working diligently to address our budget shortfalls in other ways so we may continue offering uninterrupted services to all in need. We are working on process efficiencies — expense reduction and fee increases where they make sense. This is where collaboration comes into play. We are so thankful for our partners, both internal and external, who have stepped in and helped us either financially or with increased

volunteer hours. We are not out of the woods yet and would be so appreciative of any additional donations of time, items for Urban Thrift or The Loan Closet or a financial contribution. Every dollar, minute and item help. As I said, we recognize nobody is immune to the current hardships and we remain grateful and humbled by the generosity of our community.

One way you can contribute financially to our efforts is by participating in WyoGives this Wednesday, July 13. Thanks to a dollar-for-dollar match by The Hughes Foundation, your donation will have an even greater impact on our patrons and community. You can visit wyogives.org/organizations/the-hub-on-smith any time that day to donate. We are proud of the work we do and we are proud of our on-going collaboration and partnership with so many in our community. These collaborations create an extraordinary, shared responsibility to care for our community. I would encourage everyone to collaborate where you can, if not with The Hub, then with another of the many wonderful and deserving non-profits in our community.

MEREDITH SOPKO is director of development at The Hub on Smith.



CARSYN THOMPSON | THE SHERIDAN PRESS

All in the details

Judy Myrstol uses the details of her surroundings to create her own landscape at the Plein Air painting workshop at The Brinton Museum Friday, July 8, 2022.

Crypto plunge is cautionary tale for public pension funds

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — When the Houston Firefighters Relief and Retirement Fund bought \$25 million in cryptocurren-

cies, with the fund's chief investment officer touting their potential, retired fire Capt. Russell Harris was concerned.

Harris, 62, has attended the funerals of 34 firefighters killed in the line of duty. He was already worried about his pension after an overhaul by state and city officials cut payments as they grappled with the ability to pay out benefits. He didn't see crypto, unproven in his eyes, as an answer. "I don't like it," Harris said. "There's too many pyramid schemes that everybody gets wrapped up in. That's the way I see this cryptocurrency at this time. ... There might be a place for it, but it's still new and nobody understands it."

The plunge in prices for Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies in recent weeks provides a cautionary tale for the handful of public pension funds that have dipped their toes in the crypto pool over the past few years. Most have done it indirectly through stocks or investment funds that serve as proxies for the larger crypto market. A lack of transparency makes it difficult to tell whether they've made or lost money, let alone how much, and for the most part fund officials won't say. But the recent crypto meltdown has prompted a larger question: For pension

funds that ensure teachers, firefighters, police and other public workers receive guaranteed benefits in retirement after public service, is any amount of crypto investment too risky?

Many public pension funds across the U.S. are underfunded, sometimes seriously so, which leads them to take risks to try to catch up. That doesn't always work out, and the risk extends not just to the funds but to taxpayers who might have to bail them out, either through higher taxes or diverting spending away from other needs.

Keith Brainard, research director for the National Association of State Retirement Administrators, said he wasn't aware of more than a handful of public pension funds that have invested in crypto. "There may come a day when crypto settles down and becomes adequately understood and mature as a potential investment that public pension funds might embrace," Brainard said. "I'm just not sure that we're there yet."

The U.S. Department of Labor urges "extreme care" in crypto investments because of the high risks.

DINING ROOM HOURS:
Monday-Friday • 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

BREAKFAST
7:00-9:00 a.m.

LUNCH
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Entrée choice or soup/salad. Entrée only offered for home delivered meals.

<p>TUESDAY, JULY 12 Beef gyros w/ tzatziki sauce Waffle fries Roasted zucchini Baklava</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY, JULY 13 Sloppy Joes Roasted red potatoes Peas Yellow cake w/ frosting</p>	<p>THURSDAY, JULY 14 Rotisserie chicken Baked sweet potatoes Vegetable medley Fruit</p>
<p>FRIDAY, JULY 15 ¼ Pound beef hot dog Beans Coleslaw Chocolate chip cookie</p>	<p>MONDAY, JULY 18 Chicken Lo Mein Asian blend vegetables Mini egg rolls Fruit</p>	<p>Renew your registration now! Updates are subject to change.</p>

Find us on the internet at www.thehubsheridan.org or on Facebook: The Hub on Smith, a Center for All Generations.

Front desk: 307-672-2240	Housing: 307-675-4957
Home delivered meals: 307-672-6079	Fun and wellness: 307-675-4952
Loan closet: 307-672-1769	Help at Home services: 307-675-1978
Support center: 307-675-4954	Day Break adult care services: 307-674-496

Hackers Brief from Cyber Wyoming brought to you by



FIRST FEDERAL
BANK & TRUST

307.674.0464 | www.efirstfederal.bank