

HACKERS BRIEF

from CyberWyoming

MERCHANT ACCOUNT SCAM

If you receive an email with the subject line of “Merchant Account: New Security Document” from “Merchant Services” but really from a kroninc.com email address, don’t open the attachment. Just delete. Reported by a Laramie citizen.

WISH IT WAS THE LAST REMINDER

A Sheridan citizen is still getting emails from a tut.com email address, despite reporting the email as corrupted to the real tut.com. This email’s subject line is “RE, [redacted name]: Last Reminder[12/04/2022]” and the email supposedly came from McAfee and they used the ® registered trademark, obviously illegally. The link that says “Hi [Redacted name]” actually goes to a German (.de) website address that is hosted in Canada. Note that this citizen also reported another fake email from the same email address with the subject line of “Your Transunion Equifax and Experian 2022” from FS360 (also with the registered trademark sign), with a link going to the same German website.

GOVERNMENT IMPERSONATION SCAM

If you receive an email with the subject line of “New Document From the IRS Portal” with the sender’s address listed as “Social Security Administration” but really from a westbrooklawfirm.com email address, don’t download the attachment or call the number in the email. It isn’t a secure message from the IRS or the Social Security Administration. Reported by a Laramie citizen who was questioning why a law firm, the IRS and the Social Security Administration were all collaborating on a ‘secure message’.

NOT SOFIA

Scammers are playing a fake fundraising trick in several places, pretending to be raising money for heart surgery for a child named Sofia. The Sofia Scam, as it’s called, was recently spotted in Palm Beach, Florida, but local police said crooks are pulling the same trick across the nation. The scammers pose with posters pleading for donations but, said Palm Beach Police Department, it’s a fake story. Brought to you by scambusters.org.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Online buying reaches a peak in the next few weeks. There are scores of scams to look out for. Check our earlier issue to learn more: <https://scambusters.org/holidayshopping.html>. Brought to you by scambusters.org.

FREE PHONES

Scammers are offering free phones to people in return for handing over their confidential information, including Social Security numbers. They’ve even been known to set up tables outside of businesses and events, targeting seniors and others on low income - most recently in Sullivan County, New York. The phones usually don’t exist. Otherwise, they are likely cheap, old, and used devices. Harvested info is used for identity theft. Brought to you by scambusters.org.

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 Google’s Chrome Browser and Google’s Android operating system products. If you use these products, make sure the software (or firmware) is updated.

DATA BREACHES IN THE NEWS

Washington State Hospitals that use CommonSpirit including: St. Michael Medical Center, St. Anne Hospital, St. Anthony Hospital, St. Clare Hospital, St. Elizabeth Hospital, St. Francis Hospital and St. Joseph Hospital; What’s App (phone numbers), Connexin Software (affects 120 pediatric physician practices), LastPass, Southampton County (Virginia), Community Health Network, Guilford College (North Carolina), Twitter, Cincinnati State College, Sonder, Tridas Group LLC (leaked HIPAA compliant online questionnaires with children’s information), Home Trust Mortgage, Tehama County (California), Mastodon, Massengale Eye Care, CorrectCare IntegratedHealth (inmates), Amazon’s Relational Database Service, New York Presbyterian Hospital, Woosh (Russian scooter service),

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

VICTIM SUPPORT

The AARP Fraud Watch Network and Volunteers of America (VOA) created a new, free program to provide emotional support for people impacted by a scam or fraud, called ReST. Visit www.aarp.org/fraudsupport to learn more about the free program and register.

Please report scams you may experience to phishing@cyberwyoming.org to alert your friends and neighbors.

Hackers Brief from Cyber Wyoming brought to you by



FIRST FEDERAL
BANK & TRUST

307.674.0464 | www.efirstfederal.bank

GUEST COLUMN

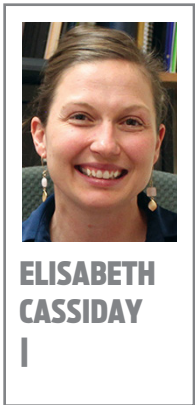
Giving and receiving this Christmas season

When I was growing up we had many Christmas traditions that I still think of fondly. As we formed our own little family, some of those traditions were easy to transpose into our life in Sheridan, and others like feeding cattle on Christmas morning were a bit more challenging to replicate in town.

A tradition we adopted a few years ago started from a gift from our dear neighbors, Elizabeth and JT Craft. It was a gift set with a little wooden manger, a pile of straw and a wonderful book. The book shared a story of a father who carved a little tiny manger the month before Christmas and then shared with his children they could add straw to the manger each time they helped others. In the story, the parents started the tradition by tidying their children’s rooms, and assisting in other ways without being asked. The children then started helping one another and then others in the community.

Every time they helped, the hay was added to the manger and the family grew in the gift of giving rather than receiving. By Christmas the little manger was full of hay to cradle baby Jesus’ head, who was then placed in his soft straw-lined manger.

After reading the story each December, my children eagerly go about looking for ways to help others and, as a result, get to place a piece of straw in the manger. Sometimes they make each other’s beds, some-



ELISABETH
CASSIDAY

times they help with laundry or other household chores, or they identify some way they were kind or helpful at school or on the weekends. Other times one sister will identify something the other sister did that was super kind and helpful. And then... inevitably they fight over who gets to be the helper earning hay, and then they often bicker over who should put baby Jesus into the manger based on their personal straw contribution tallies. (We are still working on the finer details of the tradition and motivations behind being helpful).

Overall, the book and the practice of giving of ourselves has brought a surprising amount of energy to our Christmas season. And while I love watching my children’s faces on Christmas morning as their material dreams come true, the new joy of putting straw in the manger has quickly surpassed that Christmas morning momentary explosion of joy.

The giving practice is more pure, longer lasting in its effects. I wanted more of that feeling in our Christmas season; more ways to tie my mindset to the purpose of the season. So, as I have done with all Christmas tasks- I started with a list. I have started

listing all the ways I prepare for Christmas and new ways to give and receive throughout the season. Here are a few ideas I have had in this new path of thought:

- I want to give up more screen time and receive more time for a phone call or real-life conversation.
 - I want to give up grouching about snow removal and start receiving more joy in coming clothed and ready to shovel where I need, and relish in the joy that I can still tromp through snow with relative ease.
 - I want to give up rushing around to buy the right amount of presents and start receiving the mindfulness to pause and think of what that loved one needs most, emotionally, physically, or spiritually this season, and provide a gift that responds to those needs.
 - I want to give up the noise of the season and receive more nights of silent anticipation.
- All of these ideas make me think about the days before my second child was due to arrive. I folded the baby clothes with such care, I cleaned the house with such profound new energy and I held my first daughter tightly in these last minutes of “just us.” Every moment felt like a gift in this perfect anticipation. That is what I want most in this Christmas season, the gift of preparing and waiting with anticipation.

LIZ CASSIDAY is executive director at the Sheridan County YMCA.



MATTHEW GASTON | THE SHERIDAN PRESS

Impending move

John Kendrick (John Goodell) and his wife Eula Kendrick (Barbara Cavanaugh) sit on the sofa in the drawing room and discuss their daughter Rosa-Maye’s impending move to London with Ida Wulfjen (Kitty Norris-Guile) and Mattie Williams (Kathy Pavatt) during Christmas with the Kendricks Friday, Dec. 16, 2022.

Not just for kids: Toymakers aim more products at grown-ups

NEW YORK (AP) — Since the pandemic, Elizabeth Hulanick has turned to toys from her childhood to

relieve stress. She and her co-workers chip in to buy Legos at Target and play at their

desks. She also started playing with Silly Putty again, noting she felt comforted by the bouncy rubbery stuff that changes colors.

Even her American Girl doll called Samantha, which she keeps in her china cabinet, resonates more these days; she waited one year for her mother to buy her that doll when she was a child and now, she says, it served as a reminder to always be patient.

“(This) probably will be with me forever. I always need something to be tinkering with, and that’s probably the safest bet for me to stick with a toy versus keep trying to figure out how to fix cars or something like that,” the 37-year-old Piscataway, New Jersey resident said.

Long before the pandemic, many adults turned to toys from Legos to collectible items to tap into their inner childhood for comfort. But all the stresses from the health crisis accelerated and solidified the trend, according to Jim Silver, editor-in-chief of TTPM, a toy review site.

And even as the pandemic’s threat ebbs, toy makers from Mattel’s American Girl

to Build-a-Bear Workshop Inc. see adults’ interest in playthings as long-lasting and are creating new products, services and websites aimed for the older group.

This so-called “kid-adult” market is significant. Ages 18 and older represented 14% of U.S. toy industry sales, or \$5.7 billion for the 12 months ending September 2022. It grew 19% since the 12 months ending September 2021, according to the NPD Group Inc., a market research firm. This group also enjoyed the second-fastest increase after customers ages 12 to 17.

Starting early this year, Mattel’s American Girl Cafe added more adult fare like beet and goat cheese salads and cocktails like Aperol spritzes and Bloody Marys after seeing adults show up without children.

Last year, Build-a-Bear launched a website called Bear Cave for the 18-year-old and over, highlighting items like stuffed rabbits holding a bottle of wine. And Basic Fun took a high-tech spin on the traditional Lite Brite toy from the 1960s and recreated it as wall art with thousands of pegs and 45 LED lights.



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.

TUESDAY, DEC. 20 Beef stroganoff Cheese and onion roll Vegetable medley Fruit	WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21 Ham and macaroni bake Broccoli French bread Double chocolate cookie	THURSDAY, DEC. 22 Chicken marsala Vegetable medley White roll Fruit crisp
FRIDAY, DEC. 23 Glazed ham Scalloped potatoes au gratin Green beans Wheat roll Traditional fruit cake	MONDAY, DEC. 26 Chicken & sausage jambalaya Corn muffin Peas Pudding	Renew your registration now! Updates are subject to change.

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

Home delivered meals: 307-672-6079

Loan closet: 307-672-1769

Support center: 307-675-4954

Housing: 307-675-4957

Fun and wellness: 307-675-4952

Help at Home services: 307-675-1978

Day Break adult care services: 307-674-496