

HACKERS BRIEF

from CyberWyoming

EMAIL WITH SUBJECT "TREAT URGENT"

A Laramie citizen report receiving an email which claims to be from Peter Hopkins, a senior engineer with ExxonMobile. He wants you to join with him in a business venture, but it's really a phishing scam. Don't respond. CyberWyoming note: Peter Hopkins is a busy guy! He's also known for romance scams as a soldier deployed in Afghanistan and based in Houston, Texas.

EMAIL WITH SUBJECT "[RANDOM NUMBERS] FOR PAYPAL USER"

A Laramie citizen reported receiving an email from "Paypal Support" that a payment for \$474 was received for their account, and "Paypal must be called" to have it credited to the account. The phone number in the email does not belong to PayPal, and the email address is from post.xero.com. CyberWyoming note: This is a scam, and the first indication is the email address from which it was sent. The second indication is that PayPal always capitalizes both Ps, and, throughout this email, only the initial P is capitalized. Although scammers have gotten better at spelling, they still make mistakes.

EMAIL WITH SUBJECT "[USERNAME], 560 IS A POOR CREDIT SCORE. WHAT'S YOURS?"

A Laramie citizen reported receiving an email from a company "FreeScore360" with a link to "Get Your 3 Scores Now." All links in the email, including to unsubscribe from the emails, are to a website in France. CyberWyoming note: CyberWyoming has reported this as a phishing site. Do not click on any of the links.

IMPERSONATING A SUPPLIER

A Cheyenne business reported an email with a fake invoice from deal.com impersonating a well-known supplier of theirs. The invoice requested a change in the Remit To address. While it isn't unusual for this Cheyenne business to get invoices from this supplier through deal.com, they called to be sure it was accurate. The Ohio supplier confirmed it was a scam. CyberWyoming note: Always verify out of channel.

WARRANT OUT FOR YOUR ARREST

A Casper medical clinic reported a scam targeting physicians. The scammer calls the doctor's work phone number saying there is a warrant out for the doctor's arrest. Because the doctor knows this is a case of mistaken identity, the scammer wants to confirm personal information like the driver's license number and social security number. This scam was also reported by Banner Health in Casper. The Casper Police Department has confirmed it is fake. If you are worried, hang up and call your local law enforcement agency's non-emergency number to confirm the information. CyberWyoming note: Government officials do not request social security numbers over the telephone.

EMAIL WITH SUBJECT PURCHASE ZZEX FOR THE ITEM(S)

A Laramie citizen reported another Geek Squad fake invoice but with a different subject line this time. The email address is from Russia, and the phone numbers in the attached invoice do not belong to Geek Squad.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO YOUR EYEGLASS PRESCRIPTION

The FTC noticed that some eye doctors aren't following the Eyeglass Rule, which gives you the right to get your eyeglass prescription (whether you ask for it or not) at no extra charge. Eye doctors must keep a record of when they provide the prescription to you, so don't be surprised if you are required to sign a form saying you received it. Check out this article by the FTC for your full rights when buying glasses or contacts: <https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/buying-prescription-glasses-or-contact-lenses-your-rights>.

FTC CONSUMER ALERT

Did your dating app match just ask you for money? With Valentine's Day just around the corner, you or your friends might be thinking about love. But not everyone is — some are just looking to get into your pockets. Romance scammers might contact you on social media or dating apps saying they want to get to know you. It's true love, they say, but they live too far away to meet. Maybe because of work, or because they're in the military. Then they start asking for money: it could be for a plane ticket, surgery, or something else urgent — or even to "help" you invest in cryptocurrency. So, how do you spot a romance scam? If an online love interest asks you for money, that's a scam. Period. Don't send a reload, prepaid, or gift card; don't wire money; and don't send cryptocurrency to someone you met online.

DATA BREACHES IN THE NEWS

Charter Communications, Google Fi (cell network provider), PeopleConnect (parent company of TruthFinder and Instant Checkmate), Sharp HealthCare, Money Lover, Weee! Grocery service. CyberWyoming note: If you have an account with one of these companies, be sure to change your password and consider placing a credit freeze on your accounts through the three credit reporting agencies: TransUnion, Experian, and Equifax.

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 vBulletin, Google Chrome, Google Android OS, VMware ESXi, OpenSSL (versions 3.0.0, 2.2.2, and 1.0.2). If you use these products, make sure the software (or firmware) is updated.

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



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GUEST COLUMN

Right up my street

If you're like me, you can't keep up with the ever-evolving world of slang that our society seems to pummel through at lightning speed. It seems like as soon as I figure out how to use "snatched" properly in a sentence (turns out it's got the same meaning as "on fleek"), it's on to the next word. Which is why I'm writing about vintage language and sayings. Not just because they're fun to say, but because I need some old standards to rely on in this world of super-charged changing slang. A few years ago I wrote an article about catchy lines and old phrases along with their origins.

I had such a huge response from people wanting to add to my list of phrases that I began to log all their suggestions. Here are a few fun sayings others have shared with me and that my grandkids currently roll their eyes at me for using.

For starters "See you later gator," "After while crocodile," "Too soon baboon." Or how about "Out the door dinosaur," "Chop, chop lollipop," "Whas'up buttercup," or "How now brown cow?"

My mom recently remarked that something wasn't worth a "hill of beans." This saying began to appear in 1863. Beans, being easy to grow, were commonly used in everyday expres-



SANDY SARE

sions to indicate something of little value. Consequently, something that isn't worth a "hill of beans" is seen as being worth very little, although one could argue that today a "hill of beans" costs a "Pretty penny." And I'm sure mom wasn't referring to me personally; maybe one of my older brothers that got away with everything as we were growing up — everything. (Yes, still carrying that grudge of their Halloween trick-or-treating freedom.)

And another saying that quickly comes to mind is "Many hands make light work." For us, here at the Y that is definitely evident in the last four years of constant construction, growth and movement. This emphasizes the importance of teamwork and cooperation — from fundraising, to planning, to building, to organizing and to celebrating.

And how about, "Don't count your chickens before they are hatched?" The fable goes something like this: A

milkmaid has a pail of milk that she plans to sell. She imagines selling the milk for a good price and using the money to buy some eggs, which will then hatch, then she'll raise the chickens and sell them for a good price and buy herself a nice new hat.

In other words, you should not depend on something that has yet to happen.

I might argue this phrase as I reflect on many individuals, over the last 60 years, vision in continuing to believe and build our Y into a bigger and better organization.

The origin of "Sight for sore eyes" can be traced back to the 1700s. In recent years the meaning of the phrase has changed from negative (you make my eyes hurt) to positive (you make my sore eyes better.)

These expressions let you do everything from give advice to describe your feelings, with charm and originality. Again, there are many, many more. I welcome you to pop in my office and share your favorites because hearing from you is "right up my street" and your visit is worth much more than a "hill of beans."

SANDY SARE is membership director of the Sheridan County YMCA.



MATTHEW GASTON | THE SHERIDAN PRESS

Singing

Tongue River High School students, from left, Elizabeth Heser, Natalie Gilbert, Tassie Doke, Azariah Kennedy and Ivy Dillom sing at Innominate Coffeehouse and Bakery during the Tongue River High School Vocal Showcase Friday, Feb. 17, 2023.

Make your credit cards less vulnerable to fraud

BY LIZ WESTON
NERDWALLET

Last year, one of my family's credit cards was used to rack up hundreds of dollars

in bogus charges at Apple.com. Another card was compromised four times in a row, as thieves repeatedly charged merchandise and Uber rides. We ultimately

got our money back, but repeated credit card fraud can be frustrating and disheartening. Dealing with the aftermath taught me to prize security over convenience, and to change some bad habits that made me an easier target.

far and charged over \$300 in a single month. I contacted Apple and discovered our card had been used to purchase dating apps and virtual phone numbers, which were likely being used to scam other people. The electronic receipts for these purchases were sent to an email address I didn't recognize.

THE CLOCK IS TICKING ON CREDIT CARD FRAUD

Under the Fair Credit Billing Act, consumers have 60 days after bogus charges show up on a statement to report them to the credit card issuer to avoid most liability, says attorney Amy Loftsgordon, legal editor at Nolo, a self-help legal site. (The law limits a consumer's liability to \$50 per series of unauthorized uses, but most issuers waive that, Loftsgordon says.)

So my heart sank when I realized that the fraud on our Apple.com account had started at least six months earlier.

I'd noticed that the Apple.com charges had been ticking up, but assumed my husband was buying more audiobooks and my daughter was downloading more games. I'd grouse at them occasionally, they would proclaim innocence and the charges would continue. Finally, the thief went too

A NEW CARD DIDN'T STOP THE FRAUD

The kicker: The thief was using a credit card number that had already been reported as compromised. Normally, credit card issuers will deny new charges on a compromised number. But according to the card issuer, the thief started their crime spree during the few days that my replacement card was in the mail. Since we already made regular purchases at Apple.com, the card issuer assumed the charges using the old card were legit and allowed them to go through "as a courtesy" — month after month. (I was assured that this sequence of events "is extremely rare and hardly ever happens.")

An Apple customer service representative deleted the most recent month's charges and the issuer removed the rest.

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.

Renew your registration now! Updates are subject to change.

TUESDAY, FEB. 21	WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22	THURSDAY, FEB. 23
Lasagna Vegetable medley Garlic bread Fruit	Baked chicken thighs Roasted sweet potatoes Broccoli Frosted vanilla cake	BBQ pork sandwich Potato wedges Coleslaw Cauliflower fruit
FRIDAY, FEB. 24 Baked cod Basil pesto quinoa Vegetable medley Double chocolate chip cookie	MONDAY, FEB. 27 Beef enchilada bake Ranch beans Corn Fruit	

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

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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