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The Dunkerton News

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VOL. 21—16TH ISSUE—AUG. 2012

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Editor—Linda Wachal; e-mail WdRoseLady@aol.com

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Welcome Back!

by Jessica Huntley, Dunkerton PTO

Welcome Back to School from Dunkerton PTO!

We would like to welcome everyone back to school! PTO is excited to be working with the students again this year on our biggest fundraiser. Our elementary students will once again be selling Believe products. Please be on the lookout for your favorite sales person! Our kick off assembly is August 22nd and all students should have their order forms returned no later than Wednesday, September 5th.

Back again this year is Raider Rewards! Last year, with your help, the school earned over \$3000 just by you purchasing gift cards to busi-

nesses you use every day! Please log onto dunkerton.k12.ia.us and click the PTO link to print off an order form to send with your student or stop into our local Farmers State Bank during normal hours. What an easy way to support your school!

Lastly, we would like to invite you to join PTO! We meet the first Thursday of the month (except for Dec. and May) at 6:00 in the elementary computer lab. Can't make the meetings? No problem! We need volunteers to help with student and teacher recognitions, sorting all the great stuff we collect to get funds for the school and other tasks throughout the year. Please e-mail Jessica Huntley at jhuntley@ptodunkerton.org to volunteer or with any questions.

Blood Drive

by Jan Jefferson

Dunkerton Women's Club sponsoring Dunkerton Community Blood Drive

Monday, August 20, 2012

2:00- 6:00 p.m.

Dunkerton Community Hall
Walk-ins very much appreciated!

There are usually plenty of time slots without appointments around 3:00 to 4:30.

From the Superintendent

by Mr. James C. Stanton, Superintendent

Change

During the May/June news article I told you that there was going to be significant change in the school for this upcoming year, and that has turned out to be a true statement. We will start the year this year with 16 new teachers, 2 new administrators, and significant changes in the school lunch program.

The lunch program changes are a direct result of the new restrictions being placed upon school food service programs nationwide as the Healthy Kids Act, Federal Nutrition Guidelines, and Childhood Obesity programs have been placed into law and are becoming effective this year. Your child will notice quite a significant change in what and how we serve meals in the

schools. Ms. Patrice Smith, our Food Service Coordinator, has been working hard to make sure that we are compliant when serving meals here at Dunkerton. She has also published materials ready for students, staff, and parents explaining the changes and how they can lead to a healthier lifestyle and eating habits. If you did not receive this material at registration, or your student has not brought it home to share and you would like a copy, please contact Ms. Smith via e-mail (psmith@dunkerton.k12.ia.us) and she will be happy to share this information with you. Ms. Smith also has the webpages available for your perusal which speak to these guidelines and changes.

We have two new administrators starting this year also: Mr. Hlas will be the new Elementary Principal, and Mr. Ur-

banek will be our new Secondary Principal. Both grew up in Eastern Iowa as Mr. Hlas is from the Garwin area and Mr. Urbanek grew up in Hudson. Both come to Dunkerton as first-time principals, and they have been great to work with. I am excited to have Mr. Hlas and Mr. Urbanek on board. Stop in and meet them sometime if you wish.

We also have 16 new teachers starting the year with us this year. We have a nice mix of veteran and first time teachers joining us. New teachers are listed below along with their teaching assignment for this upcoming year:

Ms. Keller – 5th/6th Grade
Ms. Harms – Secondary Science
Ms. Sinnott – 1st Grade
Ms. Peacock – Secondary Math
Ms. Aldrich – Family Con-

sumer Science/Health
Ms. Wacker – Business Education
Ms. Klein – Elementary Special Education
Ms. McCammant – Secondary English
Mr. Healy – 5 – 12 Music
Mr. Heuer – Secondary Math
Ms. Durant – Secondary Guidance
Ms. Gibbons – 1st Grade
Ms. Koenig – MS Special Education
Ms. Mollenbeck – Title I/Special Education
Ms. Gee – 4th Grade
Ms. Opperman – Elementary Guidance

We are excited to have all of these professionals as part of the Dunkerton Community Schools teaching and learning community. We know they will be a super compliment to

SEE SUPERINTENDENT/Page 2

Scambusters

By Scambusters Keith
Issue #504 August 8, 2012

Snagged Photos Used to Support Urban Legends

Urban legends — tales of dubious origin and authenticity — often are accompanied by photos that claim to provide proof that they're true.

That's a recurring theme in this week's collection of urban legends, part of our continuing alphabetical tour of the states of America that has now reached Idaho, Illinois and Indiana.

Of course, these days computer technology makes it fairly easy to manipulate the contents of photos. The camera may not lie but the photo editor certainly can!

That, however, is probably not the case in our first urban legend in this selection...

Idaho Urban Legends

Wolves have been a controversial subject and a political hot potato in Idaho since Canadian gray wolves were formally reintroduced into the state in the 1990s.

We're not going to enter that debate! But inevitably, urban legends have sprouted concerning the spread of wolves in the state, the growth of populations and the size of the beasts themselves.

According to the latest urban legends, some of these creatures have grown into real giants.

Photos that have circulated online for the past few years show hunters with truly

gargantuan wolves that allegedly were shot in Idaho.

Experts say the photos haven't been doctored but the suggestion they were taken in Idaho is untrue.

They have been copied — “snagged” — off the Internet and are mostly of one animal being held by different people; it's thought they came from remote parts of Canada or even another country.

For the true picture of what's happening in the wolf world of Idaho, visit the state's Department of Fish and Game website at: <http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=OtAeW&m=IocuwqX6dGtWfo&b=l.JD8syPt-Na1WVZMwZ8jtw>

Some fascinating photos have also been produced in support of Idahoans' claims to their share of Bigfoot sightings.

One of the nation's foremost Sasquatch experts, Jeff Meldrum, actually hails from Idaho State University, where he is a professor of anthropology.

Meldrum is really an expert on footprints, which is why he gets drawn into the Big-foot debates. However, he doesn't claim to have seen the rumored man-beast.

On the other hand, plenty of other Idahoans do, including supposed sightings at six locations listed on one of the sites that collates Bigfoot information: http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=OtAeW&m=IocuwqX6dGtWfo&b=iCsGAp_PB51UVK1EsOoNPA

In fact, the vast majority of urban legends nationwide relate to sightings of mythical creatures and ghosts.

Idaho has its fair share of these, notably the ghostly full-time residents of Boise's Egyptian Theatre, supposedly so intensely haunted it even features on TV travel shows.

Illinois Urban Legends

Genuine photographs are also erroneously used to support one of the most commonly circulated email urban legends about the state of Illinois — a jail where inmates apparently lead a life of unadulterated luxu-

Superintendent

Continued from page 1

an already great staff.

Please be on the lookout for several other changes as the school year gets under way. Items on the slate to see change are dress code, eligibility standards for our students, updates to the JMC web-based grade reporting system, changes in the District web page, and further changes in the school lunch program just to name a few.

Thank you again for helping to make Dunkerton a great place to live, and Dunkerton Schools a great place to be a kid!!!

A few other short notes:

Aug. 20: Board of Education Meeting – 7:00

Aug. 20: Pre-School Day one

Aug. 23: K – 6 Open House → 5:00-7:00

Sept: 03: NO SCHOOL

Sept. 05: PK – 6 School Pictures

Sept. 06: 7 – 12 School Pictures

Sept. 12: 1:00 Dismiss – Teacher In-service

Sept. 14: Mid-term of 1st Quarter

Sept. 17: Board of Education Meeting at 7:00

Sept. 28: Homecoming

Stay in touch,

jstanton@dunkerton.k12.ia.us

GO RAIDERS!!!

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7/16-12

7/16-12

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Tuesday, Aug 21
 Senior Potluck at the Community Hall. See article this page for more information
THURSDAY, AUG 23, 2012
 Volleyball: Girls Varsity Match 5:30pm Away vs. Hudson @ Hudson HS
FRIDAY, AUG 24, 2012
 Football: Boys Varsity Game 7:00pm Riceville Community Schools @ Dunkerton High School
MONDAY, AUG 27, 2012
 * Contact Linda with any news for The Dunkerton News
 Football: Boys JV Game 6:00pm Away vs. Don Bosco Catholic @ Don Bosco Catholic High School
TUESDAY, AUG 28, 2012
 Cross Country: Varsity Meet

4:30pm Away vs. Oelwein @ Oelwein High School
 Volleyball: Girls 9th Match 5:15pm Away vs. Central City @ Central City High School
 Volleyball: Girls JV Match 6:15pm Away vs. Central City @ Central City High School
 Volleyball: Girls Varsity Match 7:30pm Away vs. Central City @ Central City High School
SATURDAY, SEP 01, 2012
 Volleyball: Girls Varsity Tournament 9:00am Away vs. North Tama @ North Tama High School
 Mon. Sept. 3
 * Next issue of The Dunkerton News

BB Gun Shoot Results

by Tom Smock
 Results from the 2012 Dunkerton Days BB-Gun Shoot
 17 boys & girls participated in this years shoot. The following 4 qualified for the Top Gun shoot-off. Cameron Peters, Jayden Downs, Noah Veatch and Kaden Behrens. Kayden, son of Kurt & Julie won the trophy (donated by Steve & Linda at Creative Impact) as the Top Gun. Clare Johnson, daughter of Jeff & Edye won the drawing for a \$20 gift certificate at Dick's Sporting Goods in Waterloo.
 If the following shooters will call me at 822-4513, I have their certificates. Mathew Koopman, Abby Koopman, Elisha Zanders, and Hutson Lillibridge.

Chucky's Tollgate

204 W. Main Dunkerton
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Restaurant hours
 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Locker Fresh Meat and Bigger Better Tenderloins

August 20-24
 Monday – Hot beef
 Tuesday – Goulash & tacos
 Wednesday – Baked Ham
 Thursday – Cream chicken over biscuits
 Friday – Lasagna

August 13-17
 Monday – Hot beef
 Tuesday – Scalloped potato & ham
 Wednesday – BBQ Meatballs
 Thursday – Hamloaf
 Friday – Cavatini

Friday night 24th&25th—All the fish or BBQ ribs you can eat 5 - 8 p.m.

Every Saturday Broasted Chicken Specials
Free Pool on Wednesdays
Bar Happy Hour
Mon-Thurs. 4:30-6:30

Delagardelle Receives Award

News release
 Troy Delagardelle Receives Edward Jones Award for Exceptional Achievement in Building Client Relationships
 Troy Delagardelle of the financial services firm Edward Jones in the Cedar Valley recently won the firm's Jim McKenzie Award for his exceptional achievement in building client relationships.



HAPPY LABOR DAY

As we celebrate the economic and social achievements of workers past and present, we want to wish you a safe and relaxing holiday. And also to thank you for your business.



Troy A Delagardelle, AAMS®
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 4901 University Avenue
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 Cedar Falls, IA 50613
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Edward Jones
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PLEASE WRITE

The Dunkerton News welcomes letters to the editor from readers. We urge you to keep your letters brief and to the point. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, if necessary.

All letters to the editor must be signed and include a phone number or address for verification purposes.

Send letters to: The Dunkerton News, 3511 Lafayette Rd., Evansdale, IA 50707, email WdRoseLady@aol.com or fax 319-287-5941.

Senior Potluck

The senior potluck is August 21st. Bring a dish to share and a small bingo gift. 11:00 a.m. is delivery of goodies from food bank with dinner at 11:45 a.m. For more information, call Pat at 319-464-5384

*You do not need a parachute to skydive.
 You only need a parachute to skydive twice.*

*Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit.
 Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.*



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HVAAA September Meals

(Waterloo, Iowa) August 13, 2012 – Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging has its September meals planned. Each meal includes milk. Meals are offered on a contribution basis for people over 60 year of age. Actual cost for the meal is \$6. People under 60 must pay the actual cost.

There are two menu options on most days of the month. Both congregate and home delivered meals may choose between option A and option B. Meals must be ordered in advance. All meals must be ordered by 9 a.m. the day before receiving a meal. Preference for Option A or B must be given at time of order – if no preference is given, Option A will be served.

Meals are served in Dunkerton Mondays and Thursdays, for reservations call 319-822-7910. Home delivered meals are also available. For more information call 319-272-1767.

September 6:

A: Hamburger Gravy over Mashed Potatoes, Brussels Sprouts, Multi Grain Bread, Banana, and Margarine

B: Chef Salad with Turkey, Orange Juice, Crackers, Banana, and Assorted Salad Dressings

September 10:

A: Salisbury Beef, Onion Gravy, Whipped Potatoes, Broccoli, Multi Grain Bread, Creamsicle Pudding, and Margarine

B: Tuna Macaroni Salad, Ranch House Tomatoes, Fiesta Bean Salad, Multi Grain Bread, Creamsicle Pudding, and Margarine

September 13:

A: Meatballs with Sauce, Hot Dog Bun, French Fries, Baked Beans, and a Banana

B: Sliced Ham, Swiss Cheese, Lettuce and Tomato, California Vegetable Salad, Multi Grain Bread, Orange Juice, Banana, and Mustard

September 17:

A: Pork Loin with Mushrooms, Baked Sweet Potato, Northern Beans, Multi Grain Bread, Mandarin Oranges with Pineapple, and Margarine

B: Spinach and Turkey Salad, Orange Juice, Multi Grain Bread, Mandarin Oranges with Pineapple, Margarine, and Assorted Salad Dressings

September 20:

A: Baked Chicken with Gravy, Roasted Potato Medley, Brussels Sprouts with Cream Sauce, Multi Grain Bread, Banana, and Margarine

B: Apple Glazed Pork Patty, Roasted Potato Medley, Brussels Sprouts with Cream Sauce, Multi Grain Bread, Banana, and Margarine

September 24:

A: Grilled Pork with Gravy, Baked Potato, Corn O'Brien, Wheat Bread, Tapioca Pudding, Sour Cream, and Margarine

B: Chicken Salad, Three Bean Salad, Glazed Mixed Fruit, Multi Grain Bread, and Tapioca Pudding

September 27:

A: Turkey with Gravy, Sweet Potato Casserole, Green Beans with Peppers, Multi Grain Bread, Tutti Frutti Pudding, and Margarine

B: Chef Salad, Orange Juice, Crackers, Tutti Frutti Pudding, and Assorted Salad Dressings

Class Reunion

by Pat Ryherd

The Dunkerton Classes of 51 & 52 celebrated during Dunkerton Days July 28th by riding on a float, touring the new school additions and they had a lovely buffet dinner at Bill's Pizza & Smokehouse in the evening.

Those attending from the Class of 51 were Regina (Fettkether) Corkery, Bob Weber, Raleigh Magee, Marvin Schulz, Tom Swanson, Betty (Lemley) Seamans. Class of 52 were Evelyn (Ohl) Brickman, Robert Neubel, Roger Wheeler, Melvin Joens, Pat (DeLong) Ryherd, Donna (LaVelle) Musch, Fonda (Bell) Duncklee, Hardin, KY; Marvin Weisert, Bloomington, IL; James McKinley, San Rafael, CA.

Many were amazed on the growth of our town!

Thank yous

The Dunkerton classes of 51 and 52 would like to thank the Roger Wheeler family for supplying the beautiful float for our parade for Dunkerton Days

60-61 years

The Dunkerton classes of 51 and 52 would like to thank the Dunkerton School for the tour of the new building on Dunkerton Days. The laboratory, which is a state of art room, computer room, library, workshop, work out room and the great gym. It was great to see these!

We also had to stop by and see our old auditorium where we had many memories of our past plays, chorus and our graduation. The students and town need to be very proud of this facility!

Betty Seamans and Pat Ryherd



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Scams

Continued from page 2

ry.

The pictures show a modern, beautifully landscaped building, equipped with high tech facilities, huge exercise and leisure areas, and comfortable furniture of the sort most of us would be delighted to have in our homes — if we could afford it.

This, says the legend, is the Cook County Correctional Center in Chicago. Occasionally, another location in the US or even the UK is named instead.

Well, the photos are genuine but the location is not Cook County, not Illinois, not even the US — but a detention center in Austria.

Another misleading photo on which an urban legend has been built shows what is claimed to be a deadly tornado in Harrisburg in early 2012.

While a ferocious tornado did hit this Illinois city, it was not the grim scene shown in the photo, which is believed to be from Orchard, Iowa, a few years earlier.

Turns out the picture has, in fact, been used in a number of other tornado-related emails and Facebook messages.

The motive of the perpetrators is unclear, although the Harrisburg tornado, which killed seven, was also the focus of several bogus charity fundraising scams and the photo might have been used as part of those.

We can't leave Illinois without stopping off at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, where President Abraham Lincoln is interred. Or is he?

Thousands of people believe Lincoln's final resting place was the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC and not Springfield.

But no, they ARE in his Illinois hometown, apparently encased in steel under 10 feet of concrete — though, according to another urban legend, his family once discussed the idea of a reburial in DC when the monument was built.

Who knows? The only thing we can say with certainty is that the man certainly was, and is, a real legend!

Indiana Urban Legends

Back to hauntings for our visit to Indiana, where perhaps the most famous urban legend concerns the so-called House of Blue Lights. And you thought it was just a line in a popular Little Richard song!

According to this 20th century tale, a millionaire eccentric named Skiles Test turned his house into a sort of mausoleum for his deceased wife, whose favorite color was blue. The legend says he kept his wife in a glass casket in the living room and lit up both the house and the surrounding gardens with blue lights.

It's said the blue glow could be seen for miles around and became a macabre tourist attraction, with all kinds of lurid tales about eerie sounds and gunshots.

Test died in the 1970s and no casket was ever found in the house, which eventually fell into disrepair. But, to this day, people claim to see a faint blue glow over the deserted site where the house once stood.

Other famous Indiana hauntings include the Edna Collins Bridge in Rockville, a covered bridge where the ghost of a child killed nearby supposedly will appear if you sound your car horn three times.

And at the 100 Steps Cemetery in Hillsdale, if you count the 100 steps going up but find only 99 when going down (actually an easy thing to do depending on whether you include the top or bottom of the climb in your count), your time on Earth is said to be just about up.

In fact, an online search suggests there seem to be more haunting and ghostly urban legends in Indiana than almost any other state — with lots of photographic “evidence” to back it up.

Come Halloween, urban legends or not, it must be the place to be!

Time to close today, but we'll be back next week with another

issue. See you then!

By Scambusters Keith

Issue #505 August 15, 2012

National Consumers League Targets Telemarketers and Online Scams

Although, as we reported in our recent 500th issue, Scambusters is probably the Internet's longest-running anti-scam publication, we're still youngsters in the world of fraud protection compared with the National Consumers League (NCL).

NCL is America's oldest consumer organization (founded in 1899) and takes center stage this week in our occasional series spotlighting some of the nation's leading anti-scam campaigners.

<http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=OtAeW&m=JF1OvvLs->

dGtWfo&b=sfA9oMiny.s2jVzDdP0_YA It's a non-profit membership organization, based in Washington DC, whose mission is “to protect and promote social and economic justice for consumers and workers in the United States and abroad.”

That's rather a broad sweep, but the National Consumers League has a particular remit for tracking down and exposing fraud against consumers.

The organization has its own Fraud Center, which is actually hosted on a separate website with a separate mission: “...to give consumers the information they need to avoid becoming victims of telemarketing and Internet fraud and to help them get their complaints to law enforcement agencies quickly and easily.”

SEE SCAMS/Page 7

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 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service
 10:00 a.m.

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1/16-28

7/16-12

80th Birthday Celebration

Jim Gamerdinger's 80th birthday is being celebrated September 1st at 4 p.m. at Lakeside Ballroom, Guttenberg, Iowa. with a dinner and live band. The event is being hosted by the family.

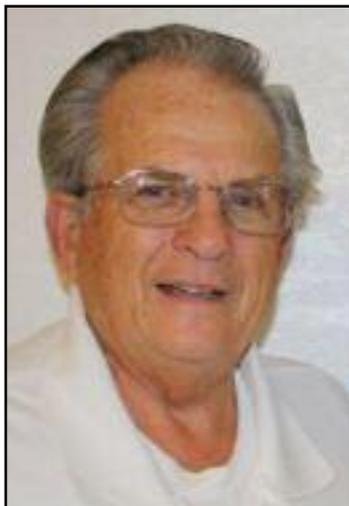
Jim is the father of 12 and grandfather and great grandfather of 63.

Your presence is your gift.

Or, if you cannot make it, shower with cards:

James Gamerdinger, PO Box 11, Guttenberg, IA 52052

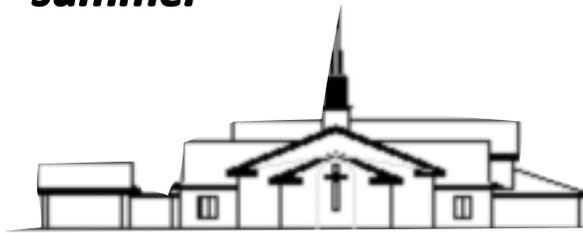
If you have any questions, please call 319-984-9200.



St. John's Lutheran Church Bennington

Worship 9:00 a.m.

No Sunday School through the summer



4110 E Mount Vernon Rd. • 291-6225

e-mail: stjohnsbenn@myapplemail.com

web: <http://www.stjohnsbennington.com>

Pastor: Wm. Thalacker e-mail: billthalacker@yahoo.com 319-287-7836

1/6-28



LIBRARY NEWS

Fun Summer at the Library

The summer reading program encouraged many kids

to keep reading over the summer. We had 89 participants in the program. Weekly prizes were earned, plus every time 160 minutes were read, the child's name was put in a drawing for the grand prize. Three hundred seventy-one names were in the drawing, which represents 59,360 minutes of reading. Not only were many minutes read, but there were lots of fun activities during the 6 week program. A

total of 323 children and family members enjoyed the Incredible Bats, Mrs. G - the puppet lady, Bob Kaan - magician/story teller, crafts, and several movies. At the finale, seventeen prizes were awarded, the top six being:

- 4 tickets each to Starlight Cinema - winners Bailey Bartholomew, Abby Koppman, and Elizabeth Peterson
- 4 tickets each to Lost Island - winners Elizabeth Dolan and Matthew Koppman
- Grand Prize: a Nook Tablet - winner Cole Grieves.

Thank you to the following generous donors who made the prizes possible:

- Bart Brothers, Best Powerhouse, Cadillac Lanes, Carlos O'Kelly's, Dunkerton Co-op, Dunkerton Telephone Co., Eldridge, Tom & Nancy, Etringer Electric, Everlast Auto, Farmers State Bank, Jefferson's Greenhouse, Kwik Star, Lost Island, McDonald's, Pancharo's, Smock, Tom & Bev, Starlight Cinema (Independence), Steffen Services, Sunset Theatre (Sumner), Thomas James, Tollgate Cafe & Bar

We want to also thank Kohl's volunteers for helping at the Incredible Bat's program for the reading program kick-off. Not only was their help invaluable on that exciting first night, but their participation allowed the Friends of the Library to receive a \$500 Kohl's Cares grant. If the library took your photo with the bat, you may pick up your copy at the circulation desk.

Reminder - If you have any overdue books, return them in August and the fine will be forgiven. As of September 1, 2012, there will no longer be "no fine Thursdays". We will continue to offer a two week grace period after the due date. If a book is returned beyond that time, there is a 5 cents per day per book fine going back to the due date. This applies to all items except DVD's, which have \$1 per day fine per DVD and only a two day check-out (no grace period). Summer

hours end August 31st. Starting September 1, we will return to the following hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs.: 2:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. Wed., Fri., and Sat.: 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.



Ellie Magee and an Egyptian Fruit Bat



Mrs. G-the puppet lady



Bob Kaan - magician/story teller

Scams

Continued from page 5

http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct?!=OtAeW&m=JF1OvvLsdGtWfo&b=mlkRhHqKpUDG6iDrHWx1_Q

To this end, NCL includes an online complaint form for victims of these particular frauds. Find it at:

http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct?!=OtAeW&m=JF1OvvLsdGtWfo&b=hCRnI_7o2_7Bq06kjEM6xw

When completed, complaints are sent to law enforcement agencies, which, says NCL, will treat them the same way as if they received the complaint directly.

The advantage is that you only have to fill in one form, which is then sent to local, state and federal law enforcement.

“Since most agencies cannot take legal action on every individual complaint, they look for patterns of fraud,” the organization explains.

“That’s why it’s so important to report it. We can’t make any guarantees about what will happen, but we know that the information that consumers provide is essential for stopping fraud.”

The site also has a useful collection of Internet fraud tips worth checking out at: <http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct?!=OtAeW&m=JF1OvvLsdGtWfo&b=1XMhKxOtivXeKTIkKXcdFw>

The National Consumers League also runs a number of scam awareness education programs.

Earlier this year, it helped launch ThinkB4U.com, a site and program to help consumers learn how to navigate the Internet safely.

<http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct?!=OtAeW&m=JF1OvvLsdGtWfo&b=wA1eDuydGUwxdl38DgOu2A>

The interactive site, a partnership initiative with Google, Common Sense Media and Connect Safely, tracks the way a family typically uses the Internet during the course of a day, highlighting good and bad practices.

ThinkB4U is aimed at all sections of the population, but the National Consumers League also specifically targets the

younger generation about scams through its LifeSmarts program.

LifeSmarts — “The Ultimate Consumer Challenge” — is an interactive, education-oriented competition for teens, run in conjunction with various partners and with separate programs in each state. http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct?!=OtAeW&m=JF1OvvLsdGtWfo&b=9G_k7NI5zFVp-Mgos8axHtQ

It doesn’t deal just with fraud, but teaching teens about technology-related scams is high on its list of priorities.

“Teens online need to play it safe,” NCL warns. “A few simple guidelines include guarding personal information from strangers, learning about the privacy policies of the sites they visit, distinguishing advertising from other content, and recognizing that offers that are ‘too good to be true’ are possible frauds.”

LifeSmarts offers a huge range of educational material and study programs for teachers, youth leaders and volunteers.

Its competition is a nationwide, online team challenge. Learn more about it here: <http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct?!=OtAeW&m=JF1OvvLsdGtWfo&b=ZRiKVC7Hxn.dVSTjBTKFNg>

Among its advocacy issues, the National Consumers League has recently filed a complaint against a confusing nutritional scoring system being used in some grocery stores that suggests, for example, that potato chips are three times more nutritious than canned peaches.

The organization has also been a vocal campaigner against phone bill cramming, notably third-party billing for non-phone services that consumers often get tricked into signing up for.

Like Scambusters, NCL also publishes its own Top 10 list of scams based on filed complaints. Its 2011 chart, released a couple months back, lists the following order:

1. Bogus lotteries and prizes.
2. Fake checks.
3. Phony or non-existent mer-



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chandise offered on the Internet.

4. Phishing for identity theft (#1 in the Scambusters chart).
5. Upfront fees for bogus loan modification programs.
6. Phony scholarship schemes.
7. Sweetheart scams.
8. Nigerian letter scams.
9. Grandparent scams — bogus distress calls from supposed grandchildren.
10. Internet auctions.

As we have previously highlighted, one of the most significant aspects of many of these scams is the extent to which some of them specifically target older folk.

So, for example, although lottery/sweepstakes scams accounted for around 30% of all complaints, with the 65-plus age group they made up twice that proportion — around 60% of all senior scams were lottery-related.

On the other hand, young people in the 18-25 years age range were most vulnerable to fake check scams, NCL report-

ed.

It’s no surprise that the most common form of financial loss in scams was through untraceable money wiring and that the scammers behind them are heartless crooks who don’t care one bit about the pain, loss and misery they cause.

“Fraudulent telemarketers and web-based scammers are hardened criminals out to take their victims’ life savings,” says NCL Executive Director Sally Greenberg. “The best way for consumers to fight back is to get educated and not be afraid to report such fraud to law enforcement. Scammers know all too well that their victims are often embarrassed and count on this to continue to perpetrate their crimes.”

It’s good to know that a venerable organization like the National Consumers League is still playing such a vital role in the battle against scams.

That’s all for today — we’ll see you next week.



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On March 18, 2011, Station KCOO(FM) was granted a license by the Federal Communications Commission to serve the public interest as a public trustee until February 1, 2013.

Our license will expire on February 1, 2013. We must file an application for license renewal with the FCC by October 1, 2012. When filed, a copy of this application will be available for public inspection during our regular business hours. It contains information concerning this station's performance since March 18, 2011.

Individuals who wish to advise the FCC of facts relating to our renewal application and to whether this station has operated in the public interest should file comments and petitions with the FCC by January 2, 2013.

Further information concerning the Commission's broadcast license renewal process is available at Station KCOO(FM), 1921 Wimberly Lane, Austin, Texas 78735 or may be obtained from the FCC, Washington, DC 20554, www.fcc.gov.

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