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The Dunkerton News

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VOL. 21—18TH ISSUE—SEPT. 2012

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

Discover Dunkerton—A Good Place To Call Home!

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PTO News

by Jessica Huntley

It's Fundraiser time! Have you seen your favorite sales person around the neighborhood? Elementary students are wrapping up our annual fall fundraiser and there is no better time to support our school! Students need to return their completed order forms to their teachers on September 5th.

Did you know there are other easy ways to support our schools? We collect a variety of items that come on products you purchase for your home! Box Tops for Education, Campbell Soup Labels, Tyson's A+ for Education, Milk Moola (and the circles on the donuts too!) and Hy-Vee receipts. Clip and keep to send with your favorite

school student throughout the year! Did you also know that you can designate our school for rewards for purchases made with the Target Visa Credit Card and Debit Card? You can do the same with the Kwik Card as well! Supporting your school is super easy and can be really fun too! Don't forget to get your student involved with clipping and saving! Who knows, they might be a winner in our upcoming contests just for saving! Lastly, don't forget that contacting the PTO is easy as well! E-mail Jessica at DunkertonPTO@hotmail.com. You are also invited to join us September 6th at 6 p.m. in the elementary computer lab for our monthly meeting. Hope to see you there!



Derek Gamerdinger, #20 for Dunkerton, attempts to take down Riceville's #7

Photo by August Magee

From the Superintendent

by Mr. James C. Stanton, Superintendent

We Continue to Move Forward

We are off to a great start. The staff and students are excited about being in school and we are finding out that the new lunches aren't that bad after all. Patrice and the food service crew are doing a great job of making sure our lunches are both nutritious and delicious. I have tried a couple of things I normally would not have tried and found out that I liked them; sweet potato fries, whole grain chocolate chip cookies, and kiwis are mighty tasty. I am looking forward to trying some of the other "new" offerings we will have at lunch.

Last month I talked about the inevitable change that is happening in schools. In this day and age of accountability and meeting standards and benchmarks, we must either change

some of our delivery methods, or else we can throw in the towel. You will see those changes in both our students and our staff. But we cannot do it without you, the parents at home. Your role in supporting your student and the school are vital to the success of our students and the District as a whole. With this in mind, we will be increasing the eligibility standards for our 7 – 12 students. The plan is really quite simple. In order to stay eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities a student must:

Maintain a 2.0 GPA

Grades will be checked every two weeks

Students that fall below a 2.0 GPA will be ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities until they raise their GPA above a 2.0. They can do this at any time during the two week time period between

grade checks. Once the GPA is above 2.0, they may participate again.

A 2.0 GPA is equivalent to all C's

Not be failing any of his/her classes at the semester. This is a state mandate.

If a student is failing one or more classes at the semester they are automatically ineligible for the next 30 calendar days. No reprieve, no chance to raise your grade(s).

In order for us to increase expectations on the students, we must increase expectations at home and at school. The District is making a conscious effort to improve communication between home and school by committing to have our teachers update the JMC online grade-book on a weekly basis. We have done away with the old JMC parent link and are using a new JMC parent link. The URL is as fol-

lows: <http://dcsdwinjmc/>
Once you have reached this site, you will have four options; choose the parent option. Enter your same username and password as you had last year and the page should become visible to you. If you did not have a username and password in the past, contact the secondary office and ask for your username and password. This is a great way for you to keep up-to-date on how your child is doing in school. By assuring you that the staff will update those grades on a weekly basis, you can use that to monitor your child's progress in school. We cannot do this alone, we need your help. We need you to keep apprised of your student's grades, assignments, etc., and you can do that by checking this site regularly with your child. If you have questions or

SEE SUPER/Page 5

FREE Digital Fingerprinting

Keeping Kids Safe Project will be providing FREE digital fingerprinting for families and their children. They will be joined by other community businesses such as the YWCA of Black Hawk County, Cedar Falls Police Department, The Waterloo Fire Department, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, Cedar Bend Humane Society, YMCA, and many others.

The event is being held at the YWCA, 425 Lafayette St, Waterloo on Saturday, September 29th from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Parents can bring their children of all ages for the fingerprinting and photographs. There is no age limit.

S.I.P. Kids will take a child's picture and fingerprints using a digital inkless fingerprint capture device and include them as part of the child's file which is then provided to the parent. The parents can use the copy they receive to turn directly over

to authorities anywhere in the world to instantly aid in an investigation.

The event is being held due to the current investigation into the missing girls from Evansdale. They want to be sure all the children in the community are fingerprinted in case of future emergencies.

There will also be a short self-defense training session by Seishin Ryu Karate. He will be providing self defense training for children to use in emergency situations. Heinz Dance Academy and Black Hawk Gymnastics and Cheer will be doing demonstrations for the families. Music will be provided by Cindy at Easy Does It Entertainment, face painting, activities, and more. Everything at this event will be free for all families.

For more information, contact Haley Grove 319-268-4111.

Scambusters

By Scambuster Keith
Issue #507 August 29, 2012

Yo-Yo Car Scam Delivers Threats and Bills

A car scam we wrote about a few years ago is back in a new guise that's catching out hundreds of buyers.

If you're a long-time subscriber, you might recall our warning about a "spot delivery" scam in which buyers get their new vehicle "on the spot" but are later told they have to make bigger payments because their original credit application wasn't approved.

<http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=OtAeW&m=K2SX3GaVJGtWfo&b=EEGkT80EBQzq5eIq.83cFw>

Now, shady dealers have gone several steps further by repossessing cars and refusing to return deposits or trade-ins.

The trick has become known as the "yo-yo" car scam and recently attracted the attention of the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL).

What many car buyers don't realize is that when they sign an auto finance deal, the contract the dealer draws up is often sold to a third party financial organization at a price the dealer has to negotiate.

When the dealer can't get the price they want, they demand you return the car or, as we explained in our original report, they ask you to pay a higher rate of interest. They may do this several times over.

Sometimes, dealers knowingly offer interest rate deals they will never be able to sell to a finance house but they offer them anyway to stop you from going elsewhere to buy. They take in a down payment and trade-in before yanking the yo-yo string.

Crooked dealers will imply the financing is firmly arranged when you buy and assure you it won't be changed, while insisting you sign a form that makes clear in the small print that the purchase is conditional on the dealer securing the financing later.

SEE SCAMS/Page 4

BB Shoot

I apologize for slighting Dawson Walker in my report on the BB Gun Shoot held during Dunkerton Days. The "Shoot-Off" to determine the overall champion consisted of each qualifying "expert" shooter given (2) BB's. The shoot-off would continue as long as at least (1) of the two BB's hit the bulls-eye. We had 5 qualify as "expert", and Dawson was the eventual champion. Dawson is the grandson of Russ & Pat Walker of rural Dunkerton. Congratulations to all the experts, and we look forward to all of the shooters returning in 2013.

Our format will be a little different, in that everyone will be given some practice time prior to the competition. I hope to have the National Guard's "climbing wall" here then also.

Tom Smock



Dawson with his trophy and certificate
Photo submitted

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Mon. Sept 3

* Labor Day

TUESDAY, SEP 04, 2012

Cross Country: Varsity Meet
5:00pm Away vs. Waverly-Shell Rock

THURSDAY, SEP 06, 2012

Football: Boys JH Game
4:00pm Away vs. West Central

Volleyball: Girls JH Match
4:00pm Away vs. Tripoli

Volleyball: Girls 9th, JV & V Match 6:00pm GMG Community School District Dunkerton High School - Gym-Main

FRIDAY, SEP 07, 2012

Football: Boys Varsity Game
7:00pm Away vs. Don Bosco Catholic Don Bosco Catholic High School

SATURDAY, SEP 08, 2012

Volleyball: Girls Varsity Tournament 9:00am Away vs. Jesup Jesup HS

Mon, Sept 10

* Contact Linda with any news for The Dunkerton News

Football: Boys JH Game
4:00pm Janesville Dunkerton High School - Football Field-Main

Volleyball: Girls JH Match
4:00pm Away vs. Don Bosco Catholic Don Bosco Catholic High School

Football: Boys JV Game
6:00pm Janesville Dunkerton High School - Football Field-Main

TUESDAY, SEP 11, 2012

Cross Country: Varsity Meet
5:00pm Away vs. Starmont Starmont

Volleyball: Girls 9th, JV & V Game 6:00pm Don Bosco Catholic Dunkerton High School

THURSDAY, SEP 13, 2012

Volleyball: Girls JH Match
4:00pm North Tama JH Dunkerton High School - Gym- Junior High

Cross Country: Varsity Invitational 5:00pm Away vs. Central Elkader Central Elkader High School

Volleyball: Girls 9th, JV & V Match 6:00pm Away vs. Colo-NESCO Colo-NESCO High School

FRIDAY, SEP 14, 2012

Football: Boys Varsity Game
7:00pm Clarksville High School Dunkerton High School

Mon. Sept. 17

* Next issue of The Dunkerton News
Tues. Sept. 18

* Senior Citizen Potluck at the Dunkerton Community Center
11:45 a.m.

"When your mother asks, 'Do you want a piece of advice?' it's a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway."

— Erma Bombeck

Awana Starts

Awana starts September 12 at 6:30 pm at First Baptist Church. So all of you that have participated before bring Mom or Dad along to register on the first night and bring a friend along too. We are getting ready for another exciting year and we do not want you to miss out on any of it.

Bakery Goods

On the third Tuesday of each month a large variety of baked goods is made available for senior citizens at the Dunkerton Community Center at 11 am. Baked goods range from bread products to pies and cakes and other sweet goodies. This is intended for 60 years plus in age but anyone can pickup products for someone who may not be able to get out. Come on down and stay for senior potluck at 11:45. We have a good time.

Editorial: Speeding

by Dick Ede
Speed limit in the residential area of Dunkerton is 25 mph. I see this limit greatly abused on my street. School is in session now and many kids are in the street. Some are darting in and out around parked cars. Please slow down and be alert. An accident could ruin a lifetime.

Chucky's Tollgate

204 W. Main Dunkerton
319-822-7844

Restaurant hours

11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Locker Fresh Meat and Bigger Better Tenderloins

Sept 3 - 7

Monday-closed

Tuesday-Meatloaf & Tacos

Wednesday-Baked Ham

Thursday-Swiss steak

Friday-Lasagna

Sept. 10-14

Monday-Hot beef

Tuesday-Goulash & Tacos

Wednesday-Cream chicken over biscuits

Thursday-Hamloaf

Friday-Spaghetti

Friday night Sept. 7 & 14 all the fish and BBQ ribs you can eat

Every Saturday Broasted Chicken Specials

Free Pool on Wednesdays

Bar Happy Hour

Mon-Thurs. 4:30-6:30

1/18-20

Barclay Presbyterian Church

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Sunday School
9:30 a.m.

Worship Service
10:30 a.m.

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1/16-12



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1/12-15



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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.



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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

1/8-20

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



LIBRARY NEWS

Starting in September, we will be closing at 7:00 P.M.

on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday instead of at 8:00 P.M. as during the summer. Our hours on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday remain at 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. We are closed Monday, Sept. 3, for Labor Day.

Do you need access to the internet or need to type and print a letter? Visit the library and utilize one of the six comput-

ers available for your use. The cost of printing in black and white is 10¢ per sheet; printing in color is 20¢ per sheet. If you have your own laptop, iPad, etc., we offer free Wi-Fi.

Visit the library and checkout one of the 369 new items added to our collection since July 1. We have books for all ages plus audio books, movies, magazines, and puzzles. Watch the Dunkerton News for details regarding upcoming library events such as a showing of the movie, Hunger Games, a visit by author Jocelyn Green, and a presentation about historical cemeteries.

Scams

Continued from page 2

A CRL survey of 2,100 complainant buyers found that more than a quarter of them were hit by yo-yo car scams, and almost half of these victims subsequently had trouble getting their down payment or trade-in back. In some cases, the dealer threatened legal action unless the car was promptly returned, or presented victims with a bill for mileage driven in the car or supposed wear and tear.

“In some cases, the dealer may threaten to call law enforcement on charges of auto theft if the consumer does not return the vehicle immediately,” CRL explains in a newly published report.

“Under the mounting pressure of the situation, many consumers agree to the new loan terms.

“A dealer’s refusal to return the trade-in vehicle or down payment pressures the consumer to agree to a more expensive loan. The threat of

legal action or involvement of law enforcement adds even more leverage for the dealer.”

Alongside the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), CRL is calling for a change in the law to stop conditional spot delivery contracts.

So what can you do?

Regardless of your beliefs about the honesty of car dealers, the fact is that the cards are always stacked in their favor. So, we recommend (as we advised last time) that you don’t take the vehicle from the dealer until you’re sure the financing deal is complete.

Better yet, arrange your own financing — if you can — through your bank or other legitimate lending institution. Shop around for the best deal.

Check out the full CRL report — Deal Or No Deal: How Yo-Yo Scams Rig the Game — which you can download from the organization’s website.

<http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=OtAeW&m=K2SX3GaVJGtWfo&b=ILdUgoLHefCfaN5b.KqsNQ> SEE SCAMS/Page 5

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Super

Continued from page 1
concerns you can contact the teacher and we can avoid problems before they become problems.

We are also changing website hosts. Please bear with us as we change over from Trelix to SOCS as our website provider. By the time this is published, the old website will be down and we will be in the process of getting the new site up and running. We will do everything in our power to make this a seamless and uninterrupted transition, but we are not making any promises immediately. The URL will not change: <http://www.dunkerton.k12.ia.us>

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:

- 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!!!

Scams

Continued from page 4

More Auto Scams

As if yo-yo deals weren't bad enough, a number of other auto scam tricks have surfaced recently, targeting people who already own their vehicles.

Here are a couple to be on the lookout for:

* The windshield offer. You may not be planning to sell but you find a note on your windshield, tucked under the wiper, from someone saying they want to buy your car, offering such a great price that you decide to sell.

The buyer pays by check, you sign over the title, then the check bounces.

The "buyer" has disappeared by now and the vehicle is often sold on to another unwitting victim.

Action: You'd be crazy to fall for this, but some people have! Don't part with your car, or that DMV pink slip, until the payment has cleared the bank. And, of course, if someone offers you an outrageously high price for your car, you can be pretty sure it's a scam.

* The car-wrapping scam. Pressed for cash, you fall for an offer to "wrap" your

auto in advertising for a big name company, in return for a large sum of money.

The offer comes via spam email or even in flyers distributed in your neighborhood.

The use of well known brand names makes it seem legitimate and you're delighted when the check arrives.

But this is nothing more than an advance payment scam.

As requested, you deposit the check and wire part of the sum to the person who will supposedly be doing the paintwork.

But, of course, the money is going to the scammer and your untraceable cash is in his pocket before you find out the check bounced.

Action: Just don't do this. The chances of such a proposal being legitimate are tiny — and if you're asked to wire cash then you know for sure it's a scam.

An Old Favorite

Just time enough to remind you of one of the simplest and most common auto scams — people selling cars that victims pay for and never receive.

According to the FBI, 14,000 buyers, yes 14,000, have fallen for this one in the past three years — being sucker-punched

SEE SCAMS/Page 6

Thank yous

Evansdale Library

The Friends of the Evansdale Public Library would like to thank everyone who donated books and other items for the book sale. The response was overwhelming and there are a TON of books to choose from. Be sure to visit the book sale on Saturday, September 8, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Jewett school. Books, DVD's, books on CD, games, jigsaw puzzles and magazines will all be available at this sale. Hard cover books will be 50¢ and paperbacks will be only 25¢. Shop early for the best selection! Proceeds from this event

will go to the Friends of the Evansdale/Elk Run Heights Library.

Blood Donors

Blood donors make a significant contribution to their community each and every time they donate blood. LifeServe Blood Center would like to encourage community members to thank the blood donors in their community, especially the donors who participated in the recent Dunkerton Community blood drive. A total of 25 people registered to donate blood and 20 units of blood were collected at this blood drive.

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1/16-28

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1/16-12

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Dunkerton, IA

Making Christ Known

Sunday School
Adult and children
9:00 a.m.

Worship Service
10:00 a.m.

www.fbcdunkerton.com

1/16-12

Silver Anniversary

Bill and Lisa Shook celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary with a family trip at a beach house on the ocean front at Virginia Beach, Virginia in May. It was an amazing week with the kids and grandkids.

Bill Shook and Lisa DeLong, Morris were married at the First Baptist Church in Dunkerton on August 29th, 1987. Bill retired from John Deeres in 2002 and drives school bus for Dunkerton Community School and does daycare with Lisa. Lisa is a registered day care provider.

His children are Nathan Shook of Waterloo and Nicole Bantz (Jason Kastli) of Fairbank. Their children are Amy (Mark) Dixon of Dunkerton, Eric (Sara) Shook of Urbana, Illinois, Kaleb Shook (Ally Alshesfski) of Chattanooga, Tennessee. They have 8 grandkids, Alexis Fowler, Tanner Bantz, Braden Bantz of Fairbank, Sierra, Savannah, Kaydence Swanson of Dunkerton, and Oliver, Parker and Baby Shook due in September from Urbana, Illinois.



“When everything goes to hell, the people who stand by you without flinching -- they are your family.”

— Jim Butcher

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.

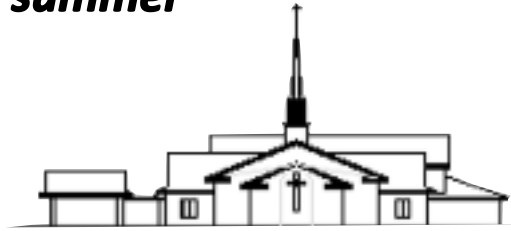
Individuals who wish to advise the FCC of facts relating to our renewal application and to whether this station has operated in the public interest should file comments and petitions with the FCC by January 2, 2013.

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.

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

Scams

Continued from page 5

by prices that are simply too good to be true, and then wiring money untraceably for vehicles they’ve never seen.

Buying a car is one of the biggest one-off purchases you make in life and there are lots of crooks out there just waiting to trick you.

What more reason do you need to keep all your wits about you?

Double-check everything you do when you buy or sell a car, never wire money to people you don’t know, never sign anything without reading the small print, and don’t take delivery of or part with a car until the financial arrangements are complete and watertight.

Follow these rules and you’ll be well placed to steer clear of a car scam.

By Scambuster Keith
Issue #506 August 22, 2012

FTC Plans Fall Summit to Tackle Robocalls

One of our pet subjects, robocalls — automated telemarketing phone calls often associated with scams — is back in the spotlight this week.

First, as we’ve previously warned, robocalls are being used to perpetrate one of the most successful ID theft con tricks of recent times.

This cruel trick uses automated calls to tell victims they’re entitled to government grants to pay for their utility bills, and then asks for personal details including their Social Security number.

There is, of course, no such grant program. Instead, victims end up out of pocket when their bank and credit card accounts are rifled by the crooks.

Other robocall tricks we’ve seen recently include calls claiming to come from Google, which eventually connects victims to high-pressure sales people selling bogus interest rate reduction services and extended warranties.

Robocalls are also commonly used to try to sell home security systems and dubious loan modification programs.

By coincidence, the utility grants scam reached its peak just as the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) was unveiling plans to clamp down further on robocalls.

In fact, the FTC, which recently returned \$3.2 million to extended warranty robocall vic-

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Scams

Continued from page 6

times, is so worried about the alarming increase in the use of automated messages, it has called a special summit meeting for later this year to try to identify new solutions.

As we mentioned, the number of complaints about robocalls the Commission receives now exceeds 200,000 a month, more than three times the level seen a couple of years ago.

“Consumers are getting more robocalls than ever,” the Commission says. “Technology is the reason: Companies are using autodialers that can send out thousands of phone calls every minute for an incredibly low cost.

“Using its enforcement authority, the FTC has stopped companies responsible for billions of illegal robocalls that have offered fraudulent credit card services, so-called auto warranty protection plans, home security systems, and grant procurement programs.

“We’re continuing aggressive law enforcement efforts, pursuing innovative strategies to gather evidence against robocall kingpins, producing consumer education, and hosting a public summit on October 18, 2012, for consumer groups, legitimate industries, technologists, policymakers, and other stakeholders to develop solutions to the rapid rise in illegal robocalls.”

The summit will be held in Washington DC and will be open to the public.

We predicted this worrying surge in automated calls in an earlier issue, highlighting the current state of the law and the fact that even legitimate robocalls will likely increase in the run-up to the Presidential election in November, since political parties are allowed to use them.

http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=OtAeW&m=J8pZqhMIJGtWfo&b=L3QSGpYw9jA_Rk-twrunMoQ

Now, the FTC has issued a new set of guidelines and educational videos to help people understand how to deal with

robocalls, many of which come from overseas, or use fake caller ID so as to appear to come from a legitimate caller, or are made over the Internet (but still to landlines or cellphones) so they’re untraceable.

In simple terms, a robocall is one that uses a recorded message instead of a live person. With a few exceptions (charities as well as political parties — see our earlier article) these are illegal, and there are three key things the Commission says you should do if you receive a recorded sales message:

* First, just hang up. Often, calls invite you to press a number — usually a “1” — supposedly to put you through to a live operator.

That may or may not happen but, as soon as you press a key, you’ve identified yourself as a potential victim and, if nothing else, you’ll start getting a lot more calls.

Sometimes, pressing a key connects with a premium-charge number or other scam project, like the utility grants one we mentioned earlier.

* Second, says the FTC, think about contacting your phone company and asking them to block the number.

However, some phone companies charge for blocking numbers. If they do, it’s probably not worth paying because robocall scammers often change their numbers. So ask first if there’s a charge.

* Finally, report the incident to the Do Not Call Registry on their website or by calling 1-888-382-1222.

<http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=OtAeW&m=J8pZqhMIJGtWfo&b=bXP6HNniNZ6S6rEco7ogww>

This will help in the quest of tracking down the crooks.

In the first of the two new videos, “Robocalls Gone Wrong,” FTC attorney Kati Daffan warns that crooked

robocallers don’t use the Do Not Call registry to screen numbers.

“If a company doesn’t care about obeying the law,” she explains, “you can be sure they’re trying to scam you.”

The videos, both viewable and downloadable, are listed on the following FTC page.

http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=OtAeW&m=J8pZqhMIJGtWfo&b=VdWy1F56_AWnJ7e60guCRA

They are also posted on the FTC’s YouTube channel. This channel is worth bookmarking anyway. It contains more than

70 helpful FTC videos.

http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=OtAeW&m=J8pZqhMIJGtWfo&b=.JO_K0T4LbauhT-DyK5Nntg

In the coming months, there’s no doubt we’ll not only be hearing more about robocalls but, as election fever ramps up, receiving more of them.

In the meanwhile, let’s hope the FTC summit can come up with some new and effective ideas to beat the robocalls — we need a break, and a breakthrough!

Time to conclude for today — have a great week!

**“What can you do to promote world peace?
Go home and love your family.”**

—Mother Teresa

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Dunkerton's #3, Jason Bedard, attempts to tackle Riceville's quarterback

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