



THE Connection

Cover Photo -

FRS Youth Tour Recipient

We're excited to announce Ethan Petersilie of LaCrosse High School as the winner of the 2024 GBT & Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour Trip to Washington D.C.! Ethan's pictured here with Beau Rebel, GBT General Manager, receiving his award.

Being selected for this trip has granted Ethan an extraordinary chance: an all-expenses-paid trip to our nation's capital, providing him with a unique opportunity to learn its rich history and understand the significant role telecommunications plays within it. Scheduled for June, this trip promises to be an enriching experience. Congratulations, Ethan, on this remarkable achievement!

Shield Our Community & Unite Against Scammers

While technology and communication have brought immense benefits, they've also become tools for exploitation. In the wrong hands, they pose significant threats, potentially costing individuals and businesses substantial sums. Dismissing this as a distant issue is naive; within the last three months alone, Rush County faced three incidents, collectively risking over \$300,000. Nationally, individuals over 60 lost a staggering \$1.7 billion last year. Therefore, it's imperative to familiarize ourselves with common scam tactics, engage in open conversations with loved ones, and establish a protocol of contacting trusted individuals before making financial decisions — be it assisting someone in need, making significant purchases, or addressing legal matters. Below are some examples of the most common scams, but unfortunately are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to criminals trying to exploit your hard-earned money.

"Together, by remaining vigilant and supporting one another, we can thwart the efforts of scammers and safeguard our community's well-being."

Kyle Bahr -
GBT Customer & Business
Development Manager



Grandparent Scam

- Typically, you receive a phone call about a son, daughter, or grandchild that is in danger.
- The caller will typically become violent or threatening and demand money via cash, wire transfer, or gift cards.

Continued -

Government or Utilities Imposter Scam

- Callers representing Medicare, IRS, Social Security, FBI or Local Law Enforcement, Energy, Gas, Internet, or City act like a representative for the organization and claiming you owe money for medical bills, back taxes, a warrant for your arrest, or for services.
- Scammers might even know the names of the local law enforcement or utility companies, with much of this information able to be obtained from county and state websites.
- The caller will typically demand money so you don't get in trouble in the form of cash, wire transfers, or gift cards, and will often ask you to "verify personal information like your social security number, Medicare number, or bank account number."

Tech Support Scam

- Typically your computer or device will get a pop-up or something on the screen that locks up your computer and claims it has a virus or someone is spying on you. These pop-ups often have Microsoft or Apple names on them with phone numbers to call immediately.
- Once you click the pop-up or call the number, the imposter on the other end gains remote access to your computer and convinces you to pay them with a debit/credit card or gift cards to remove the viruses, or asks you to access personal websites like a bank account or credit card account.

Spoof (Imitated) Calls Scam

- It is not hard to "spoof" a phone number and make it look like the scammer is calling from a legit business, city or county sheriff department, the IRS (Internal Revenue Service), a utility company, publisher's

clearinghouse, or any other number for that matter. There is nothing anyone can do to stop these spoofs or imitated numbers except to hang up and call the correct phone number.

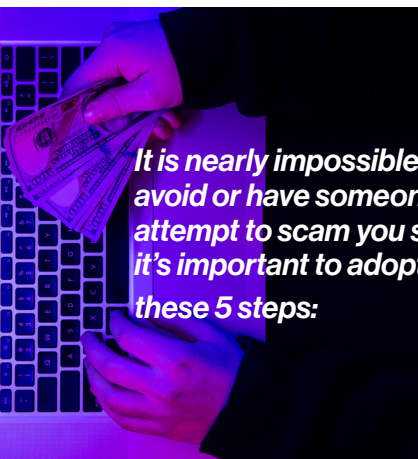
- In recent weeks, scammers have been calling customers with spoofed numbers looking like County Sheriff Departments and Utility companies. It is not hard for scammers to also get basic information like who the county sheriff is or a person that works for a utility company to make the call seem more believable.
- Don't answer the phone if you do not recognize the number. Even if you do recognize the number, if the person on the other end starts requesting money, hang up, look up the authorized or verified number, and then call that number back if you think the request is legit.

Lottery & Sweepstakes Scam

- Scammers call you claiming you've won a new house, boat, camper, publishers clearinghouse, etc. and all you need to do is pay the taxes and fees upfront to get your prize.
- The scammer knows everyone likes winning "free stuff" and will prey on your excitement to get you to pay them with gift cards, wire transfers, your bank information, and will continue to string you along if you keep paying, but sadly the prizes never show up.

Romance & Old Classmate or Friend Scams

- An old high school classmate you haven't seen or heard from forever sends you a friend request or private message asking how you are doing or that they would love to meet up.
- They gain rapport and begin asking if you can send them some money for health issues they are having, or to help them come see you.



It is nearly impossible to avoid or have someone attempt to scam you so it's important to adopt these 5 steps:

1 Stop

Take a moment and think about the situation. Replace what's happening to you with your friend's name, what advice would you give them if they called you with the same situation.

2 Leave

Hang up the phone, close the door, or close the email or pop-up. If someone is pressing you or demanding you do this right now, there's a good chance they are a scammer.

3 Ask

Regardless of what the caller, email, or person says to not do, call a trusted family member or friend and ask them for their advice or help.



Mark your calendars for the 2024 GBT Annual Meeting on April 17th!

Join us for the 2024 GBT Annual Meeting on April 17th from 5-6:30 PM at our headquarters in Rush Center for a drive-through event!

Every customer receives a prize, and random drive-through attendees can win big prizes like TVs, Capital Credit checks, gift certificates, and more. Plus, enjoy hotdogs and hamburgers on us as you drive through!

Cooperative members can vote on their 2024 GBT Board of Directors representatives (*this year's candidates and bio's in the right-hand column.*)

Don't miss out on this chance to cast your vote, chat with GBT employees, enjoy good food, and win prizes. See you there!

District 3 – Beeler and Ness City



Clyde Sutton, Ness City

Clyde and wife, Terry, live on their farm northwest of Ness City. Clyde, a farmer-stockman, is a lifetime resident of Ness County. Terry is retired from teaching Title 1 in the Ness City school system. They have 3 grown daughters, 9 grandchildren, and 2 great grandsons. Clyde currently represents GBT District 3 and has for the past 18 years.



Tanner Rider, Ness City

Tanner lives on a farm southwest of Ness City. Tanner, a farmer-stockman, is a lifetime resident of Ness County.

District 7 – Garfield and Lewis



Ron Gruber, Lewis

Ron and wife, Kathy, live in Lewis, and have 2 grown sons, 5 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. He enjoyed a career as the general manager of Southern Plains Co-op. Ron currently represents GBT District #7 and has for the past 14 years.



Tom Holaday, Garfield

Tom and wife, Patty, live outside of Garfield and have 2 grown daughters and 4 grandchildren. Following graduation in 1986 from FHSU in Ag Business, Tom began a 35-year career as controller at Southern Plains Co-op and retired in January 2021. He now is a contract oilfield pumper.

4 Pause Take time to digest what you've been told or learned before deciding. Do not rush to any decisions.

5 Act Only visit legit websites and call verified, safe phone numbers that you've looked up or had friends and family look up for you.

Kansas Relay Center

What Is Kansas Relay? Kansas Relay is a public service which guarantees all citizens access to prompt, professional and accurate communication through the telephone. Consumers of these specialized services, specifically individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing or have difficulty speaking, can communicate on the telephone via TTY, Voice Carry Over (VCO), Hearing Carry Over (HCO), Speech-to-Speech (STS), Spanish Relay and Captioned Telephone in order to connect with family, friends or businesses with ease.

How Does Kansas Relay Work? Simply dial 711 or the appropriate toll-free number provided to connect with Kansas Relay. A qualified Communication Assistant (CA) will ask for the area code and number of the person you wish to call and begin the relay call. Generally, the CA will voice the typed message from the text telephone (TTY) user to you. The CA relays your voiced message by typing it to the TTY user.

Captioned Telephone: Captioned Telephone is also available and ideal for individuals with hearing loss who are able to speak for themselves. A captioned telephone works like any other telephone with an essential difference: it allows users to listen to their phone conversations while reading word-for-word captions of what's said to them.

Speech-To-Speech (Sts): STS is especially useful for people who have difficulty speaking or being understood on the phone. STS involves a specially-trained CA who is familiar with the speech patterns of a wide variety of individuals who have difficulty being understood.

Spanish Relay: Kansas Relay allows Spanish-speaking relay users to

access all relay call types. Calls can be translated between Spanish and English if you and the person you are calling are both in Kansas.

Access To Services: Both 711 and the 800 numbers are toll-free calls and provide access to the same relay services. If you are experiencing trouble dialing 711 to reach Kansas Relay, please call Kansas Relay Customer Care. All TRS and English Captioned Telephone services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Spanish Captioned Telephone is available daily from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. CST. By law, each conversation is handled with strict confidentiality. Oversight for Kansas Relay is provided by Assistive Technology for Kansas. If you have questions or concern, contact: atkapps@ku.edu or call 800-526-3648.

Emergency Calls: Please note that 711 is only to be used to reach Kansas Relay Center. In an EMERGENCY you should continue to use 911. For emergencies, call 911 or your local emergency service TTY number directly, without using relay. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that 911 centers have a TTY and be prepared to handle emergency calls placed in this manner. Kansas Relay will make every effort to assist you in an emergency. However, it is important to understand that relay centers are not 911 centers and do not assume responsibility for emergency calls.

To Place A Call Using Kansas Relay Center

Dial 711 or one of the toll-free numbers below:
TTY/Voice: 1-800-766-3777 | Spanish: 1-866-305-1343
Sts: 1-866-305-1344

Customer Care Information

1-866-735-2957 V/TTY | P.O. Box 285, Aurora, NE 68818
KSRelay@HamiltonRelay.com | www.KansasRelay.com

Recipe of the Month:

Ham Salad

This old-school spread always stays in style - and it's a great use of leftover Easter ham!

Ingredients

- 4 oz. cream cheese, at room temperature
- 2 scallions, finely chopped
- 2 Tbsp. finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 1 Tbsp. mustard
- 1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- 8 oz. smoked fully cooked ham, finely chopped

Instructions

Step 1: Combine cheese and seasonings.

Step 2: Fold in 8 ounces of ham.

Notes

Instead of the usual mayonnaise or salad dressing, we combine all of the ham salad ingredients with cream cheese for extra richness. Be sure to use full-fat cream cheese, and make sure that it is at room temperature when you're ready to make the ham salad so that the cream cheese is soft enough to work with.

Are you cooking several days ahead for a party? This ham salad can be made up to five days in advance. Store in the refrigerator, and bring to room temperature before serving.



Recipe Source: www.southernliving.com



785-372-4236
www.gbta.net

Ellis
101 W 9th | Open: Mon., Wed., Fri.
8 am - 12:30 pm; 1:30 pm - 5 pm

Ness City
114 W. Main | Open: Mon.-Fri.
8 am - 5 pm

St. John
602 N US Hwy 281 | Open: Mon.-Fri.
8 am - 1 pm; 2pm - 5pm

Larned
122 W. 5th | Open: Mon.-Fri.
8 am - 11:30 am; 12:30 pm - 5 pm

Rush Center
103 Lincoln St. | Open: Mon.-Fri.
8 am - 5 pm



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