

COMMUNITY

Computer lock up? Don't call that help number on the screen

Pop-up warnings on the computers of two different local seniors this week snared them in high-dollar scams.

This variation of the persistently durable tech support scam worked like magic because the criminals behind it used especially jarring buzzwords to trigger fear and panic in our senior citizen victims.

In each of these two cases, the affair started the same way — the computer screen locked up for its user, displaying a warning of a security breach. The warning also published a help number to call to resolve the problem. When the confused computer users called the help number, they reached “support” who told a scary story about how hackers stole money from the seniors’ bank accounts, and used it to finance overseas pornography websites, or even more alarming, child porn websites. And, the story went on, someone at your bank is involved in this, but your name will be exposed as the criminal.

So this story deftly set up the victims realizing they faced two panic-causing prospects:

- Authorities will get evidence they financed seriously illegal conduct.
- No one at the banks can be trusted to help figure this out.

One of the victims, a husband and wife team, admitted “we totally panicked”. The husband and wife withdrew \$60,000, and the other senior withdrew \$10,000. Husband and wife followed the scammer directions and bought \$28,000 in gift cards at a home improvement store, then gave the scammer the cards’ access codes. The other victim got instructions to go to a Bitcoin kiosk, but became wary and held on to her money.

In each case, the scammers demanded their victims keep them on the phone. This accomplished two things:

- It kept our seniors from calling for help or advice from anyone else.
- It allowed the scammer



Randy Meier
COLUMNIST

to listen in at the bank and during the gift card purchases.

What happened to the \$28,000? Someone used the money to place online orders in Ontario, Canada within the hour of their purchase. It’s still an open question how much, if any, money the husband/wife team will recover.

The tech support scam won’t disappear. If you use a computer or smartphone with internet access, there’s a pretty decent chance you will unwittingly download a virus or malware sometime. Before that happens, we should all mentally train ourselves how we plan to react. Two key things to keep focused on:

- When your computer locks up, or a warning screen appears, *never* call the help number. Talk to someone you trust for advice.
- If you fail at No. 1, remember, anyone who demands a payment with a gift card, or money transfer, or Bitcoin is *always* a scammer.

Scammers can’t succeed unless they scare or excite us. Don’t make costly decisions in reaction to fear or excitement.

CONTACT SENIORS VS. CRIME

Let me know about scams, fraud, or other crookedness you run across. Most of what I learn, I learn from you. Contact me at Seniors vs. Crime, Clinton County Sheriff’s Office, 242-9211, Ext. 4433, or email me at randymeier@gapa911.us.

Randy Meier is the director of Seniors vs. Crime, which operates in conjunction with the Clinton County Sheriff’s Office.

To list your event here, email it to news@clintonherald.com or mail it to the **Clinton Herald, 221 Sixth Ave. South, Clinton, IA 52732**. Additional events can be viewed at <https://www.clintonherald.com/events/#/>

JULY 4

- Clinton’s Fourth of July festival, Riverview Park. This year, the festival will begin with a Wiffle ball tournament at 8 a.m., a volleyball tournament at 9 a.m., and a bags tournament at 10:30 a.m. Food vendors will open at 11 a.m. and carnival rides will begin at noon. The parade will begin traveling along the riverfront at 1 p.m. The national anthem will be performed by Carter Jargo at 2 p.m., after which, at 2:15 p.m., there will be a petting zoo, carnival games, kiddie tractor races by the Riverview Bandshell and live music by Down 24. Iowa independent professional wrestling company Central Empire Wrestling matches will start at 4:30 p.m., bringing the festival to an end at 6 p.m. A Clinton LumberKing game starts at 6:30 with fireworks to follow at the end of the LumberKings game.

JULY 5

- Lyons Farmers Market, 4-6 p.m., at Main Avenue and Roosevelt Street, Clinton.
- Crochet & Knit Club. Lyons Branch Library, 5-6 p.m. Bring your current crochet or knitting project and join other yarn lovers for a fun and social gathering while you work on your projects. Registration is encouraged. Call 242-5355 or register through our online calendar.
- Berry Bright Pigments,

JUNE 12

- No owner listed, 2915 S. 19th St., plumbing
- Tom Foley, 2414 N. 10th St., water heater
- Almon Sheldon, 309 10th Ave. North, electrical
- Bobbi Coggins, 563 Eighth Ave. South, siding
- National Mortgage Assoc., 302 Second Ave. South, demolition
- Specialized IRA Services, 426 Ninth Ave. South, deck/porch
- Josh Sandholt, 1209 Roosevelt St., electrical
- Harley Davidson, 2519 Lincoln Way, electrical
- Leo Webb, 4041 Valley Oaks Drive, furnace/boiler
- Tracy Bickert, 731 12th Ave. South, water heater
- Andrew and Amanda Smith,

7 p.m., Sherman Park. For the WILDNESS Art Project, we are looking for berries for pigments! We suggest wearing pants, long-sleeved shirt and gloves, along with bug spray. If you would like to be the first to know about pop-up events and to be a part of this process, from collecting to making art, send a text to naturalist Jess at 563-212-0955. Registration is not required but appreciated. Sherman Park is located southwest of Calamus at 2776 160th Ave, Calamus. The event is sponsored by Clinton County Conservation.

JULY 6

- Sunset Eco Cruise, 7 p.m., Rock Creek, Camanche. Call 259-1876 to reserve your free spot on the 24-passenger pontoon boat, the Blue Heron Eco Cruiser!
- Music on the Avenue featuring Cody Road, 6 to 8 p.m. on Clinton’s Fifth Avenue South. Free to attend.

JULY 7

- Finally Friday, 6-9 p.m., Clinton’s Riverview Bandshell. The Avey Grouws Band will perform.

JULY 8

- Lyons Farmers Market, 8 a.m. to noon at Main Avenue and Roosevelt Street, Clinton.

JULY 9

- To celebrate Morrison/Fulton Day at the LumberKings game at NelsonCorp Field, Morrison Community Hospital, in conjunction with MedForce Air Ambulance, is bringing in the MedForce helicopter for a special appearance. The helicopter land near the stadium at 1 p.m., pending weather

conditions. Kids of all ages are encouraged to climb inside to see what an air ambulance helicopter looks like. Photos are encouraged. Gift bags will be given to the first 100 kids. The helicopter will remain on the ground until about 3 p.m.

- Spring Valley Reformed Church, 10960 Spring Valley Road, Fulton Ill., welcomes The Farm Hands to their outdoor stage at 6 p.m. A free-will offering will be taken. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be moved indoors. Root beer floats will be served after the concert.

JULY 11

- Totally Tuesday at Drives Park in Fulton, Illinois. A beer garden is open from 5 to 8 p.m. with live music by Wild Oatz from 6 to 8 p.m. Food trucks will serve from 5 to 7 p.m. Organized by the Fulton Fun Crew.

JULY 12

- Stonecroft Clinton Women’s Connection will meet at 9:30 a.m. at Community Reformed Church, 727 N. 12th St., Clinton. All women are invited to the brunch followed by music provided by Randy Venema, of Fulton, Illinois. A non-denominational, inspiring speaker, Joyce Buseman, of Centerville, South Dakota, will share “Insurance for a Secure Future.” She’s an insurance agent who talks about growing up in a secure environment. The cost is \$13. Contact Donna at (563) 357-6843 or Nancy at 242-8819 or (563) 357-8859 no later than Friday, July 7, for reservations.
- Lyons Farmers Market, 4-6 p.m., at Main Avenue and Roosevelt Street, Clinton.
- Market Music 2023 at

Lyons Four Square Park featuring Cody Wilkerson from 5-7 p.m. Shop the farmers market, bring your lawn chair, and get ready for some great music! D-Lectable D-Lites will have food available to purchase.

JULY 13

- Tai Chi for Health for Arthritis/Falls Prevention. The Sawmill Museum, 2231 Grant Street, Clinton, 10-11 a.m. Sponsored by the Clinton Public Library, sessions will run from July 13-Nov. 16. Class meets one hour per week for 16 sessions. There is no class on Aug. 17, Sept. 14, or Oct. 19. Space is limited to 20 participants age 60 and older. Due to renovations at the Clinton Public Library, classes will be held at The Sawmill Museum. The movements of Tai Chi are gentle, graceful, and a safe way to relieve pain and gain balance, strength, and flexibility. Tai Chi for Arthritis is easy and enjoyable to learn. This workshop is led by Sonita Carlson, program facilitator for Milestones Area Agency on Aging, and certified TCA instructor by the Tai Chi for Health Institute. Call Milestones in Davenport to register at (563) 723-5969 or pre-enroll online at milestonesaaa.org/wellness-programs.
- Music on the Avenue featuring 10 of Soul, 6 to 8 p.m. on Clinton’s Fifth Avenue South. Free to attend.

JULY 15

- Lyons Farmers Market, 8 a.m. to noon at Main Avenue and Roosevelt Street, Clinton.
- The Ski Bellevue Water Ski Show Team, 4 p.m., south of Lock 12 on Riverview Street in Bellevue.

BUILDING PERMITS

644 Third Ave. South, roof
• Bonnie Michl, 534 Breezy Point Drive, plumbing

JUNE 13

- Thomas Torode, 1428 25th Ave. South, furnace/boiler
- John and Kimberly Lueders, 3601 Valley Oaks Drive, furnace/boiler
- Scott Schultz, 218 Seventh Ave. North, siding
- Charles Monkman, 1104 19th Ave. North, solar
- Bradley Crouch, 1136 N. 12th St., solar
- Alexis Velez, 2475 S. 14th St., plumbing
- Michael and Cindy Littrell, 800 Beaver Island, electrical

JUNE 14

- Keystone, Inc., 741 10th Ave. South, exterior remodel

- No owner listed, 2308 Pershing Blvd., roof
- Keystone, Inc., 641 Fourth Ave. South, exterior remodel
- Marty Wilslef, 603 Fourth Ave. South, solar
- Steve and Mary Dopson, 559 30th Ave. North, roof
- c Bradley and Kimberly Spittler, 1706 Circle Drive, roof
- James Mathiesen, 265 30th Ave. North, roof
- Mark and Susan Mickelson, 747 Fifth Ave. South, pool/hot tub
- Fabrication & Machine, 3106 Lincoln Way, demolition
- William and Brenda Waters, 1633 Eighth Ave. South, furnace/boiler

JUNE 15

- Kevin and Diana Morris, 554 Scenic Drive, electrical
- BDPM Properties, 319

Fourth Ave. North, roof
• Charles and Brenda Cooley, 611 N. 13th St., roof
• City of Clinton, 4025 S. 30th St., electrical
• Andrea Platz, 1235 Second Ave. South, roof

JUNE 16

- Teresa Hager, 251 Ninth Ave. North, rehabilitation, siding
- Mark and Deanna Posey, Darcy Andresen, 827 Fifth Ave. South, pool/hot tub
- Robert and Karen Burns, 1008 S. Eighth St., fence/shed/retaining wall
- Eric and Mary Jensen, 89 21st Ave. North, deck/porch
- Delbert and Donna Licht, 3726 Stockwell Lane, electrical
- Keith, Carol, Richard and Pamela Skiff, 240 S. 14th St., pool/hot tub

Van Scoy’s paintings on display at CCC Library Art Gallery

HERALD STAFF REPORT

CLINTON — The Clinton Community College Library Art Gallery is hosting an exhibit of pieces by Jerry Van Scoy through August.

Van Scoy’s artwork includes seasonal scenes and other unique pieces. The Library Art Gallery is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is located at the CCC main campus, 1000 Lincoln Blvd., Clinton.

A retired Clinton attorney, Van Scoy has been painting for about 25 years. He stated, “A gradual accumulation of experiences led me to actually painting myself. Probably the most influential was handy access to the Chicago Art Institute both in terms of attending special exhibits and events closer to home factored into the process. Also, appreciating my environment, observing the change in colors in different light sources, such as time

of day for example, and recognizing the beauty of nature also served as motivators.”

When asked about his paints and technique, Van Scoy commented, “I typically use oil paint. Lately, however, I have been tinkering with cold wax and oil in order to achieve an actual three dimensional effect. Over time I have learned what type of brush or other instrument will make the kind of mark I want to achieve. It is a continuing process and involves

a bit of trial and error.”

Van Scoy also shared his process to select subject matter saying, “The Art Institute afforded an opportunity in a single setting, to see many styles of painting as they evolved over hundreds of years. I quickly gravitated to impressionistic and post impressionistic works which are the basis of most of my paintings.”

He continued, “The time involved in choosing a subject matter for painting and making

the first brush stroke is highly variable. The season of year, whether I am doing a piece as a gift, recent experiences, longstanding thoughts and images, and environment are a few of a whole host of factors that come in to play. It is not unusual to have more than one painting in the works at the same time. Completion time is also highly variable. My paintings are done when I stop making marks and I am never sure when to stop making marks.”

CCC President Brian Kelly commented, “It is fantastic to have Jerry’s work in our gallery. His use of color and appreciation of light spans multiple mediums and seasons. I am amazed at the diversity of subject matters Jerry is able to bring to life.”

Clinton Community College is one of the Eastern Iowa Community Colleges. For more information about the CCC Library Art Gallery, call 244-7001.

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THE BIG CATCH

PHOTO CONTEST

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BASS - CRAPPIE - BLUE GILL - CATFISH

Submit photos of your BIG Catch for a chance to win a \$200 Gift Card to Farm & Fleet!

- 1
Submit Your BIG CATCH Photo!
 Submit your photo through our online contest, now through 8/18.
- 2
Voting Begins on August 21st!
 Share with your friends & family for more votes!
- 3
Voting Ends at 5pm on August 26th.
 The photo with the most votes will win!

(4) Random entries will be selected to win \$50 gift cards!

Must be 13 years or older to enter. No limit on entries. The photo with the most votes wins. Winner will be selected on Monday, August 28, 2023.