



Scammers call Saintry grandparent

By Karen Krien

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Imagine getting a call about one of your grandchildren. The caller says he or she is traveling overseas, has been arrested, and needs money for bond.

Many grandparents would be sympathetic to this situation and would want to do what they can to help their grandkids out in a crisis.

In St. Francis, out in the northwest corner of Kansas, most people don't think about this affecting them in any way. However, Virginia Feidler, St. Francis, got one of those calls.

"I played right into their hand," she said.

She had received a call from a sobbing, frantic-sounding girl who called her "Grandma" and said she had ended up in jail in Niagra Falls. Mrs. Feidler said she made her first mistake by calling the person on the phone, "January," her granddaughter's name.

"She was convincing," Mrs. Feidler said but, in the back of her mind, she was wondering why January was in Niagra Falls as it

would have been unusual for her to go that far without at least saying something about it.

Now, the caller had the name "January." I didn't think about it until after I had hung up. Mrs. Feidler said. Mrs. Feidler had been instructed to call a Peter Morgan in Niagra Falls, Canada. She called, thinking this was the lawyer. He told her that she should contact another number to make the payment. In the meantime, Mrs. Feidler decided to make a call to January.

No, January wasn't in jail but was at home.

At first, Mrs. Feidler said she was so mad she just threw the phone number away but, then she got to thinking about it, so called Mr. Morgan back. The number was no longer in service.

She called the Kansas attorney general's office and gave them the information. She had to dig the number out of the trash but, she said, they were glad to have the information. They wanted to know, she said.

Had she sent the money, it

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RICKY SKAGGS entertained for a small group Sunday evening at the Ringneck Country lodge. One of the songs, 'You Can't Shake Jesus,' is on his newest CD which has just come out. Mr. Skaggs was at the lodge to enjoy some hunting and be part of the television show, 'Spiritual Outdoors Adventures.'

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

Grammy winner hunts in county

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Ricky Skaggs, Grammy Award winner, country-bluegrass singer, spent several days at Ringneck Country hunting lodge. He was hunting pheasant and deer as well as being part of the filming of Spiritual Outdoors Adventures, an award-winning national television show.

Rex Murray, owner of Ringneck Country, picked up Mr. Skaggs at the airport in Denver on Sunday. They met Dr. Jimmy Sites, producer and host of Spiritual Outdoors Adventures, and the filming crew.

They arrived at the hunting lodge where they had a welcoming group, friends and family of the Murrays. They ate supper, then Mr. Skaggs sang several hymns, accompanying himself on the guitar. The last song, "You Can't Shake Jesus," is featured on his newest CD.

Dr. Sites commended him on the quality and depth of the words of the song. The CD, he said, tells a story of Jesus. You are using your music as a platform for God's glory, he said.

Mr. Skaggs, in between songs, told about listening to a radio program which was talking about the statistics of abortion. God, he said, is love but he hates the shedding of blood of the innocent. But, he said, our nation turned a blind eye on abortion.

We have kicked God out of our lives and out of our services. But, he said, we have got to have a Christ awakening - it is the only hope we have for America.

In a summary of his life, Mr. Skaggs said that he was just trying to make a living by playing the music he loves.

Following Mr. Skaggs' performance, Dr. Sites then held a brief religious service, noting that they

had spent the day traveling and didn't have time to go to church that morning.

Mr. Murray met Dr. Sites at a hunting show. They talked about advertising on the television program but Mr. Murray said it was pretty expensive. However, as they talked, they worked out a plan to have someone come to the lodge and film them hunting. Dr. Sites lined up Mr. Skaggs.

Mr. Skaggs and the film crew were hunting at the Murray's on Monday and Tuesday. They left Wednesday.

Spiritual Outdoors Adventures is an award-winning national television show for the whole family. To find out more about the show and to find dates and channels where it can be watched, go to www.SpiritualOutdoorAdventures.org or www.JimmySites.com.

Ringneck Country

Ringneck Country is a hunting

lodge located between Goodland and Wheeler. Mr. Murray and his wife, Sandi, not only provide lodging for hunters but Mr. Murray, with his Vizslas hunting dogs, is a hunting guide.

Four years ago, the lodge was burned to the ground. At the time, Mr. Murray was discouraged and questioned whether or not he would rebuild.

A year later, he had erected a new lodge and they were back in business. The Murrays have a variety of hunters ranging from celebrities to local hunters, young and old, men, women and children.

We are doing what we love, Rex said. And, guests and hunters will enjoy the special attention they get while there. National calling contests are also held at Ringneck Country.

For more information on Ringneck Country, go to the web at www.ringneckcountry.com.

Benefit dinner set to help family

A benefit dinner and bake sale has been planned from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 20, at the St. Francis high school cafeteria.

The week before Thanksgiving, the community is invited to be thankful and help the family of David Sowers. The benefit is to help the family raise funds to help with medical expenses which occurred while Dave was hospitalized in Denver. He died suddenly on Sept. 27.

Teresa Sowers, wife of Dave, works as a resource paraprofessional at the St. Francis grade school. Members of the school

staff and other volunteers are coordinating the meal. The PTA and Thrivent members are holding a bake sale in conjunction with the dinner. There will also be a quilt given away.

Meals can be delivered to homes within the city limits by calling Carla Schiltz at 332-3017 or e-mailing Robin Burr at rburr@usd297.k12.ks.us. Please make arrangements for home deliveries by Friday.

People are urged to come enjoy the meal and buy some baked goods for the holidays in support of this worthwhile cause.

People fill and wrap shoe boxes full of Christmas gifts

In St. Francis homes, businesses, schools and churches, people are piling up shoe boxes filled not with shoes, but toys, school supplies and necessity items, lovingly selected for a child in need. St. Francis kids are participating in Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of its kind, to make a statement to needy children worldwide:

"You are not forgotten!" Operation Christmas Child uses simple gift-filled shoe boxes to let hurting children know that they are loved. Kids, families, groups, businesses and schools pack and wrap empty shoe box gifts with items most people take for granted, including toothpaste, toys and pencils, and drop them off at one of the 11 collection

sites in the St. Francis area.

The shoe boxes are then processed and prepared to be hand-delivered to children worldwide using whatever means necessary - sea containers, trucks, trains, airplanes, helicopters, boats, elephants and dog sleds.

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected 86 million shoe box gifts and hand-delivered them to impoverished children in more than 130 countries. This year, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect another 8.5 million gift-filled shoe boxes which will be delivered to Haiti or Mexico.

"In St. Francis, we're aiming to contribute 277 shoe box gifts," said JaNelle Glidewell, volunteer area coordinator for St. Francis. "It's a big goal, but I believe we can reach it."

"St. Francis kids realize that as tough as things are here in the United States, there are children around the world who have so much less. This small sacrifice can have lifelong impact on a needy child."

If people want to leave a filled shoe box which is encouraged, it can be at the First Baptist Church, as the church is the local Relay Center. Collection hours were 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, 1 to 2 p.m. on Thursday, 10 to 11 a.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 5 to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

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PILING UP the filled shoe boxes with gifts inside was Casey Keller.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien



PUTTING THE FINISHING touches on the wrapped Christmas shoe boxes were Carol Wolters, front left, Stephanie Nelson, Ryan Grover, Ben Nelson and Jake Rath.