

# Tax refund scam continues to show up in e-mails

By Tom Betz

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A scam continuing to make the rounds through the Internet is an e-mail telling the reader he or she has a tax refund due from the Internal Revenue Service.

The message says the person is owed a tax refund of \$238.59 (or a similar amount), and all they have to do is submit a tax refund request and allow six to nine days for it to be processed.

The e-mail address on the scam message is service@irs.com. The real Internal Revenue Service web address is www.irs.gov; this should be the first clue the message is a fake.

The message and logos look official, but when a user clicks on the address to access the "refund form," they are taken to another web site which asks for a lot of personal information. This can be used to steal your identity.

To check the true web address, hold your cursor on the address in the message. It takes you to thescobiestore.co.uk/admin/images/graphs/cvs.php and then to a screen called IRS/refundform.

The IRS issued an updated warning about these e-mails and a couple of new scams on Jan. 30:

"Taxpayers are cautioned to be on the lookout for scams involving advance payment checks...."

"The goals of the scams is to trick people into revealing personal and financial information, such as Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers, which

>>> service@irs.gov<IRS@service.gov> 3/3/2008 12:31 PM >>>

After the last annual calculations of your fiscal activity we have determined that you are eligible to receive a tax refund of \$238.59 Please submit the tax refund request and allow us 2-3 days in order to process it.

To access the form for your tax refund, please [click here](#)

Regards,  
Internal Revenue Service

<http://thescoobiestore.co.uk/admin/images/graphs/cvs.php>

Example of a scam e-mail message supposedly from the Internal Revenue Service. The click here takes the person to a fake web site somewhere in England.

the scammers can use to commit identity theft."

The IRS reports some new versions of a phone scam have shown up as well.

"At least one scheme using the word 'rebate' as part of the lure has been identified. In that scam, consumers receive a phone call from someone identifying himself as an IRS employee. The caller tells the victim he is eligible for a sizable rebate for filing his taxes early. The caller then says he needs the person's bank account information for the direct deposit of the rebate. If the target refuses, he is told he cannot receive the rebate.

"This phone call is a scam. The IRS does not force taxpayers to use direct deposit. Those who opt for direct deposit do so by completing the appropriate section of their tax return, with bank routing and account information, when they file.

"The IRS does not gather the information by telephone."

The latest IRS scam report said there have been several variations of the refund-related bogus e-mail which falsely claims to come from the IRS.

"In a new wrinkle," the IRS notice said, "the current version of the refund scam includes two paragraphs that appear to be

directed toward tax-exempt organizations that distribute funds to other organizations or individuals. The e-mail contains the name and supposed signature of the Director of the IRS's Exempt Organizations business division.

"This e-mail is a phony. The IRS does not send unsolicited e-mail about tax account matters to individuals, businesses, tax-exempt or other taxpayers."

Another new scam brought to IRS attention contains features not seen before.

"Using a technique calculated to get almost anyone's attention, the e-mail notifies the recipient that his or her tax return will

be audited.

"This is the first scam the IRS is aware of that uses this to get the victim to respond.

"Unusual for a scam e-mail, it may contain a salutation in the body addressed to the specific person by name. (Most scam e-mail ... is not personalized.)"

Anyone who has received a questionable e-mail may forward it to a mailbox established to receive such e-mails, phishing@irs.gov. You may not receive an individual response.

"Do not open any attachments to questionable e-mails," the IRS site says. "These may contain malicious code, or a virus, that will infect your computer.

"It is important the original communication that was received is included, as well as Internet headers.

"You can forward a message without double clicking to open it in a new window. Highlight the e-mail in the message list of your inbox and follow the directions:

"Create a new message

"Drag and drop the suspicious e-mail into the body of the new message. This ensures the original message is contained as an attachment with the appropriate Internet headers."

"Address the message to phishing@irs.gov and send it.

Those who have received a questionable telephone call may use the phishing@irs.gov mailbox to notify the IRS of the scam as well.

## Rural fire board buys rescue truck for Goodland

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by Bosch and a 10-year warranty.

He said the Hays Fire body has the tank mounted directly to the bed and the bed is mounted to the frame, with could cause the tank to break loose if the truck is put in a bind. It has only a five-year warranty, he said.

Palmgren said the Brewster firemen are happy with the trucks they have from Hays Fire, and that he had talked to the firemen in St. Francis who were happy with their trucks from Hays Fire.

The board looked at the financing options. Palmgren asked David where the banks got the figure of \$112,198 to use for their bids. David said he had given the banks the figure that had been used for a grant application.

"I think we got the cart before the horse on this," Palmgren said.

The bids included Western State Bank for 4.29 percent for a three-, four- or five-year lease; People's State Bank, 5.5 percent for all three; and First National, 5.86 percent for three years and 4.26 percent for four

or five years.

Board member Darrel Cloyd said the figures from the banks did not appear to match up, and suggested going with a three-year lease. Dick Allaman said he felt it would be better to go with a four-year lease, noting that if the money is there, the district could pay it off early.

Palmgren made a motion to use First National for a four-year lease if they stay with the lower interest rate.

After some discussion it was decided to rescind the motion until Palmgren, Rohr and any other board members present could check with First National to get the breakdown of payments and the correct amount.

Rohr said on Wednesday board members met with First National and had reviewed the lease-purchase with the bank agreeing to keep the interest rate at the 4.26 percent. The lease payment would require a down payment of \$28,624, and three more payments. The board will review the details at their meeting at 7 p.m. (Mountain Time) on Monday at the Brewster fire station.

## City buys rock for streets

By Tom Betz

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Goodland has a list of street projects to start this spring, including an increase in the number of streets to be chip sealed, and Monday the City Commission accepted a bid for \$68,632 for rock to be delivered from Holyoke, Colo.

Rich Simon, city public works director, told the commission he had received one bid for the rock from Blackwolf Brokerage of Holyoke at \$24.75 per ton for 2,773 tons.

Simon said the bid was a couple hundred dollars higher than expected.

Mayor Rick Billinger asked if it was the same price as last year.

Simon said the city did not purchase any rock last year, but used what they had on hand. Simon said the rock cost about \$22 a couple of years ago from a firm down by Sharon Springs.

The commission unanimously approved the bid.

In other business, the commissioners

- Approved a list of changes for business electrical rates based usage. City Clerk Mary Volk said, based on the prior year, the city changes businesses from one com-

mercial rate level to another.

One group of businesses will move up from Commercial I to Commercial II and another from Commercial II down to Commercial I. Volk said the difference is the Commercial I is nondemand and the Commercial II requires a demand meter. She said the kilowatt-hour price is the same for both categories, but the regular rates has a base monthly fee of \$19.75, while the demand rate has a lower monthly fee of \$6.58 with metered demand of \$6.58 per kilowatt hour.

Moving up from I to II are Morrison Optometric, Smitteps Videos, Melvin Nemechek, Snappy Snacks, Reynaldo's, Schlosser Construction, Overhead Door and Frontier Ag.

Moving from II down to I are Lovell Dentistry, J.C. Penney, Walt Adams, Parkway Plaza, Herl Chevrolet, Wonderful House, The Goodland Star-News, Kansasland Tire and Bowladium Lanes.

She said three businesses are moving from Commercial II to the Industrial rate, including S&T Communications, Mid-America Camp-Inn and Holiday Inn Express. The difference is a monthly base fee of \$15.75 plus choice of metered demand at \$6.58 per kilowatt hour.

## Kanorado to get new fire radios, clothing

By Tom Betz

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Meeting in special session last Monday, the Sherman County Rural Fire Board approved purchase of protective clothing and radios for the Goodland and Kanorado stations for \$38,000 last Monday.

The board decided to buy radios from Prairie States Communications of Imperial, Neb., for \$13,222, and bunker gear and other fire clothing from Weis Fire Equipment of Salina for \$22,937.

Goodland Fire Chief Alan David had gathered some bids on the equipment and financing options from three banks for the board to review.

Board member Darrel Cloyd, a Kanorado area farmer, said he did not think the board should be considering a lease purchase on

the radios and clothing. He said he thought there would be enough in the budget.

Board member Kenneth Palmgren, an Edson farmer, agreed, adding that he felt it was important to provide updated equipment to the Kanorado and Goodland volunteers.

David said 12 of the suits are intended for Kanorado, and the list included getting some new boots and at least two new fire helmets. He said some of the old suits have dates back to 1986, and the newest was 1994. He said a fire suit should last about 10 years if it is well cared for.

Cloyd asked about the radios, and how many are needed at Kanorado.

Assistant Fire Chief Chris Bauman said he thought nine are needed

at Kanorado and four for Goodland. He said some of the batteries do not last more than two hours while some will get six.

David said he felt the Motorola

radios were the way to go, and that was what Prairie States bid.

The fire board will meet at 7 p.m. (Mountain Time) Monday at the Brewster fire station.

## Sheriff warns about e-mail scam

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or she agrees to pay him thousands of dollars.

The site says the e-mails vary in style and content and usually contain misspellings and broken English, but the underlying message remains the same.

"While there have been no recent reports of monetary loss or of any threats being carried out," the FBI site said, "these types of extortion scams can be intimidating.

"Your best defense is to delete any unsolicited spam e-mail without opening it. A reply indicates the sender has reached a 'live' account. It can also serve to escalate the intimidation."

Anyone receiving such threats can call the sheriff's office at 890-4835 or the Goodland police at 890-4570.

To report an Internet scam to the FBI, go to their web site at www.fbi.gov and click on Report Internet Crime button.

### A Familiar Face

Chapter Three - by Kay Hively

Scotty left his library books at home the next day.

At school, his classmates were talking about their research. Everyone was eager to tell about the man or woman they had researched. And, of course, everyone was excited because it was Friday.

Friday was the best day at school. Everyone worked to get their lessons done. Then, in the afternoon, the students got to do special things. They had spelling bees or math contests. Scotty liked the math competitions. He could add numbers without using a piece of paper.

The morning went by quickly. After lunch, the teacher said the class was going to visit the city museum. Many of the students had been there before. Scotty remembered seeing army uniforms and a model airplane. He liked model planes.

After the students finished their lessons, they gathered outside and hiked to the museum. The lady who worked there was always happy to see the students. Up and down the aisles, she led Scotty and his classmates. She told all about the wonderful and interesting things in the museum.

At every stop she talked about what was on display. She told how things were used by people long ago. She pointed to photographs and paintings, and identified all the people in the pictures.

The students were very polite as they listened to the stories the lady told. Scotty enjoyed himself very much.

Then, about half way through the big exhibition room, Scotty saw something that made him stop and stare. Hanging on the wall was a large picture. It was a picture of the county courthouse that Scotty saw every day on his way to school.

But the thing that made Scotty stop and stare was not the courthouse, but the man in a white suit standing in front of the building. Right away Scotty recognized the man. It was Harry Truman.

Scotty raised his hand and asked about the picture. The lady said when the courthouse was built in 1939, Harry Truman came to town and helped dedicate the new building. At that time, Mr. Truman was a United States Senator from Missouri, the lady said.

Looking at the picture, Scotty could hardly believe that Harry Truman had actually come to his town. As the group moved to the next exhibit, he kept looking back at the courthouse picture. Tomorrow, he promised himself, he would go down to the courthouse and stand where Harry Truman had stood.

That night, Scotty began reading the little book about President Truman. And after he went to bed, he dreamed he was there in the crowd when Senator Truman dedicated the big courthouse.

Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Gofourth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri. Truman photo by Harry Barth. Produced by the Missouri Press Foundation. Copyright 2007.

**Things to Think About and Do**

A. If you have a museum in your town, visit it with a friend or family member. Most small museums need volunteers. Ask someone at the museum if you could be a volunteer or do a special project for the museum.

B. Have you ever been a volunteer? Make a list of things that a boy or girl volunteer could do for a museum.

C. Cut 10 items from the newspaper that you believe in 100 years could be on display in a museum. Glue these on paper and write a description beside each that could be used in that museum display in the future, explaining what the item is or what it was used for.

Visit the Truman Presidential Museum & Library at [www.trumanlibrary.org](http://www.trumanlibrary.org)

Next Week: Chapter Four - Grandfather remembers

## Need a Ride?

Call General Public Transportation Bus Services are available within the City limits of Goodland, Kansas

**To schedule a ride call:**  
Monday thru Friday  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm MST  
785-899-5082

Donations are accepted  
Handicap Accessible

"Project Funded in part by the KDOT Public Transit Program"