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Sheriff’s Corner
A Message From the Sheriff

SCOPE is a force multiplier. We could not be as successful as we are in this community without S.C.O.P.E. It is the link between us and the community...it is that bridge. S.C.O.P.E. volunteers provide a presence in Citizens on Patrol; SIRT, Latent Fingerprinting and many other activities that the S.C.O.P.E program provides to the Sheriff’s office. One of the programs in S.C.O.P.E. that people kind of overlook is SIRT. Every time we have a major crime scene, accident or fire, that group is called out to block roads and control the scene. There isn’t a public event in the Spokane County, unincorporated or small town area that would be able to run as cost efficiently as it does without S.C.O.P.E. S.C.O.P.E. volunteers also do all of the crowd and street control for various parades. They are an asset that saves us millions of dollars and provides us with millions of dollars’ worth of services to the community. S.C.O.P.E. is a communication aspect; they have become the voice, eyes, ears and a representative of the Sheriff’s office. Without S.C.O.P.E. we are very much diminished and we wouldn’t have the capabilities we have. They look at police reports, have worked with detectives and everything else...you can’t replace that.

With as much as S.C.O.P.E. provides to the Sheriff’s office and the community, I am concerned that there’s an effort out in the valley started by a former undersheriff of this agency, to undermine and replace S.C.O.P.E. I don’t know how he plans on doing that because who’s going to pay for that? This is not good...all because he is upset with me. This personal agenda, on his part, would disrupt and destroy one of the most community oriented efforts in the nation because of a personal vendetta. I have issues with that. As a Sheriff, you’ve never heard me talk so bluntly about some of the things that go on in our community. What’s going on right now in the valley (in reference to this issue) is very much going to diminish the valley’s ability to have that contact with their law enforcement. This is the “bridge” that S.C.O.P.E. provides.

There are a lot of deputies who really support S.C.O.P.E. For those that get a chance to work with the volunteers, they become sold on the program and how important it is for all of us to work together.

When I first came on, the department was proactive in the internal promotion of S.C.O.P.E., so much so, that deputies that were hired took a promotional exam in which they had to know who the president of each S.C.O.P.E. station was. It was really emphasized and it was effective. We are now getting to the point, where in the agencies histories, we need to reinforce this idea due to a lot of new hires; many of whom are not from this area. It is important that they understand the role of S.C.O.P.E., what it is and what it does as well as the importance of how we interact with them. I know that the deputies who know about S.C.O.P.E. really appreciate it when those SIRT vehicles roll into the area and they no longer have to block off the road. It frees them up to attend to other law enforcement work.

A message that I would like to give to all the members of S.C.O.P.E. is one that they hear me speak about at every picnic, awards ceremony and other events that I have attended. Again, I have never seen an individual want to destroy something that quite frankly, he and his predecessors; in what was taken great pride and importance of how we interact with them. I know that the deputies who know about S.C.O.P.E. really appreciate it when those SIRT vehicles roll into the area and they no longer have to block off the road. It frees them up to attend to other law enforcement work.

A message that I would like to give to all the members of S.C.O.P.E. is one that they hear me speak about at every picnic, awards ceremony and other events that I have attended. They are the backbone of the Sheriff’s office as far as our ability to reach out to the public and be that force multiplier for us. We are not as effective an agency without them. The other message I would like to impart to them is that, this is a time for them to become engaged in the issue that has come to the forefront. Again, I have never seen an individual want to destroy something that quite frankly, he and his predecessors; in what was taken great pride in building, want to destroy...all because of a vendetta...this is a sad, sad day. I think it is time for S.C.O.P.E. volunteer’s from across the County to realize that sometimes politicians need to be reminded of the worth that they present to this community. They are a SUBSTANTIAL voice.

For those in the community who are not involved in S.C.O.P.E., you are missing a great opportunity to serve the public and your fellow citizens. This is an organization that if you become involved, you can do a lot of interesting things, especially depending on your background. We have a great need for people with computer skills. Retired law enforcement does a great job and is a great service for us at times. For those who want to serve their community SIRT is an area where we really need help. Our SIRT volunteers are starting to age and are retiring on us. I think it is really important that if you want to have an impact on the community, volunteer for S.C.O.P.E. and be a part of the many programs that it has to offer. For example, SIRT is one of many programs in which there is a great need right now.
A Message from S.C.O.P.E.

The Sheriff's community Oriented Policing Effort (S.C.O.P.E.) is for you, for me, our neighborhood and our community. In S.C.O.P.E., we come together to provide a helping hand; make our streets, our homes, neighborhoods and communities safe. With crime on the rise, there are people who are afraid to come out of their homes. As a community, we need to be aware of what is going on in our neighborhoods and communicate the happenings with each other and our local law enforcement. We have the right to live in our homes and walk our streets free of fear. The presence of S.C.O.P.E. can be a deterrent and a security for our community.

S.C.O.P.E. was created to foster community spirit and to provide a safe living environment. It was also designed to increase citizen’s awareness of, and involvement in community-oriented services in partnership with the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office. S.C.O.P.E. has several stations in Spokane County: Medical Lake, Central Valley, Spring Hill, Trentwood, North, Elk, University, Deer Park, EWU/Cheney, West Valley, Edgecliff, Fairchild, S.C.O.P.E. East, Liberty Lake, Mounted Patrol, Nine Mile, S.C.O.P.E. North, S.C.O.P.E. South, the S.C.O.P.E. Main office and the Crime Prevention Office at the Spokane Valley Mall.

S.C.O.P.E. is looking for volunteers to man these stations and get involved with the numerous programs that it offers. Programs include: Tent Fingerprinting, Citizens on Patrol, Operation Family ID, Victim Call Back, Mounted Patrol, Registered Sex Offender Notification, Graffiti Task Force and many more. All prospective SCOPE members will receive a background check and need to go through 8 hours of free basic training. Come and be a part of the team and make a difference in making our communities safer.

We need the public in public safety!

Why not start a Neighborhood Watch group!

Whether you live in the City of Spokane, City of Spokane Valley, or other areas of Spokane County, why not consider starting a Neighborhood or Block Watch!

Starting a Watch in your neighborhood is easy. All you need to do is contact the local Neighborhood or Block Watch Coordinator, fill out an application and then plan a get together with your neighbors. We will provide speakers and materials for your event.

To request a presentation:
- For the City of Spokane, contact C.O.P.S. at 625-3300
- For the City of Spokane Valley, contact Deputy Chris Johnston at 389-2771
- For the rest of Spokane County, contact Deputy David Morris at 999-9341

Thank you to all the active Neighborhood/Block Watch Captains for your dedication to “Uniting Our Communities!”

Reflective Address Sign

A reflective address sign or marker helps emergency responders find you quickly and easily. Address numbers on curbs can erode and can get covered up with snow in winter and address numbers on homes are often not easy to find—day or night.

These signs have reflective material on both sides and are highly reflective day or night. They are preferred by responders, especially if placed right by the street at the entrance to your home.

The signs are 6” x 18” and have 3” numbers on one or both sides of the sign. In addition, they have pre-drilled holes that make them easy to mount.

Signs are $15 and help support S.C.O.P.E. (Sheriff Community Oriented Policing Effort).

If you’d like to order a sign, please contact S.C.O.P.E. East at (509) 922-3150.

Note: all fundraising efforts by S.C.O.P.E. stations help them to manage their stations while continuing to provide public safety services for the communities they serve.

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Thank you to all the active Neighborhood/Block Watch Captains for your dedication to “Uniting Our Communities!”
Summertime Tips and Stinging Things

They’re here! Every year all sorts of flying, stinging and biting insects descend upon the unsuspecting human either looking to feed upon or defend territory. So, what can we do to protect ourselves from these pesky little creatures? Here are a few safety tips for prevention and treatment from bees, wasps and yellow jackets.

Like most anything, nothing is 100% effective but when dealing with bees, wasp and yellow jackets precaution is the best protection. Although they don’t actively go looking to attack humans, if you go outside it is nearly impossible not to encounter them (they are especially worse in the months of August and September). One of the best ways to dodge these stinging insects is to avoid strong colognes, perfumes, scented deodorants, sun creams, hairspray and bright colored clothing. Makes sense doesn’t it? Since most of the time you see them pollinating your sweet smelling flowers and strong smelling bushes, you don’t want to look or smell like a flower.

Unfortunately for people who like to picnic, barbeque or camp (a large population of wasps live in camp grounds) it is difficult to keep bees, wasps and yellow jackets away. If they have found a food source, they generally will not leave the area until the food has been removed.

The best thing to do if you are going to have food outdoors is to cover it. Once you and your guest have been served, place extras in Ziploc bags and air tight containers. Other things you can do are to place marigolds at the center of your table (bees, wasps and yellow jackets don’t care for the smell) or try scattering cloves or mint leaves around the table. Another thing you can try is to set out bait ahead of time and away from your eating area. You can place meat on a stick over a bowl of oil and water (making sure that the meat does not touch the oil and water mixture so they cannot crawl out) or set up a bottle of flat pop where they can’t get out of and of course, there are many other things that you can try as well. Keep in mind that bees are mostly attracted to sweet things and wasp and yellow jackets mostly protein. Along the lines of strong odors, you will want to keep your garbage cans completely covered. If you are having a picnic a bbq or are camping, keep garbage bins far away from where you and your guests are eating. Also, keep sugary beverages covered; bees, wasps and yellow jackets, especially, will fly into an open container where you are not able to see them and give you a wallop of a sting.

Although, bees, wasps and yellow jackets nest in different ways, here are a few places you may want to take a closer look at before disturbing the area. Look for nests inside of crawl spaces, clumps of grass and leaves, wood piles and under rocks. They also like to build in the ground, in hollow trees and under the eaves, porches, bbq grills and wood fencing with metal brackets. Honestly, there really doesn’t seem to be a lot of places where they will not build, so make sure to be observant of your environment and listen for that familiar buzzing sound. If you happen upon one of these insects do not swat at them or run with arms flailing wildly in their direction, while wasps and yellow jackets will sting you multiple times but do not leave a stinger. If you are stung by a bee, quickly remove the stinger by using your fingernail or a hard credit card (like a credit card) and scrape the stinger away from you. Bees can only sting you once and leave their stinger, while wasps and yellow jackets will sting you multiple times but do not leave a stinger.

And, as always if you are allergic please carry an Epi pen with you at all times.
IDENTIFICATION THEFT AND SCAMS

We all get them back in this day. You know, that knock on the door where someone is trying to sell you encyclopedia or a nec-

ssary chain. Yes, you forget the annoying phone call that the company you can't remember called several times about a "great deal."

No, they are not creating anything new. Yes, they are just trying to scare you into buying something. This is a scam. If you buy it, you get.

Sure, it is a lot of work to find the truth, but the phone calls you receive are legitimate. Yes, there are a lot of people looking to make a few

cents, and will pay you in advance to get the product. You never have to actual product, just an advance payment. If you don't pay, you

are just losing money. Yes, you have to pay to make a purchase. Yes, you have to pay to make a purchase. Yes, you have to pay to make

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Identification Theft and Scams

We all got them, back in the day. You know, that knock on the door where someone was trying to sell you encyclopedias or a vacuum cleaner. Who can forget the annoying phone call that came when you were right in the middle of something important like eating dinner? A telemarketer at the other end was trying to convince you that there was a better telephone service that you needed or a magazine or burial plot that you should buy. These calls were annoying for their tactics, but were legitimate sales offers. Nowadays there are still legitimate telephone solicitations, but there are also many devious scams trying to target us. It was a time of, if you bought it, you got it. Oh, how I miss those days! Now we are bombarded by phone call after phone call of people wanting to steal from you by getting your credit card, social security numbers, computer passwords or anything they can get from your stolen mail or written receipts. And, they don’t stop there. They go as far as to call and say that you have a debt (that you have no idea about) and owe them money, or that you are the recipient of the money but you have to pay a fee to receive it. They call at all hours of the day, early morning, into the night and sometimes up to 5 times a day. These would-be thieves have no boundaries.

Did you know that the United States is second only to China in identity theft in the world? For those of us who have not yet been hit, we are all potential victims. For people who have, don’t be embarrassed. They affect you, me, big chain stores, the rich and the poor. These people are getting very good at the thriving process. For example, in 2013 Target stores were hacked, 70 million Target customers were affected, some whose credit card information was stolen and others, personal information. In another occurrence, an employee at Starbucks left the counter with a customer’s credit card in hand, claiming that the machine needed more receipt paper. Although that was true, the employee used the opportunity to steal information from the card of the customer and later went on a $200 shopping spree.

Sadly, identity theft and scams are not only a big part of our daily lives, but they are also on the rise. Let’s take a look at some of the top scams and what we can do to reduce the chances of it happening to us.

The IRS scam. This is a scam that is hitting every part of the United States. Many people have reported receiving a phone call from the IRS asking for personal information, demanding immediate payment with a credit or debit card or threatening to call the police and having you arrested. These phone calls can be frightening and very convincing. They can use numbers that seem like the phone is coming directly from the IRS (called spoofing) and have personal information such as the last four numbers of your SS#. First off, if you receive a phone call like this…hang up. The IRS will not call you to demand payment or ask for personal information over the phone. If you ever receive a letter from the IRS, look for a certificate letter in your mailbox. If you need to discuss payment options with the IRS call them at 1-800-829-1040. Do not talk to anyone from the “IRS” who has called you. If you know you do not owe money to the IRS, and get one of these calls, please contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at 1-800-366-4484. Lastly, these scammers REALLY want your information. Know that they will try to contact you by texting, e-mail or try to entice you to open websites that ask you for your pin number, for you to confirm your personal information or complete your tax return.

The Tech support scam. Your phone rings and you peek over at your caller ID and see that it is Microsoft calling. The usually heavy-voiced man tells you that he has detected a virus in your computer and that by letting them log into your computer, they can fix it for you. And, they may even be able to tell you what computer software that you are using (which is usually just a guess) to up the ante. Sounds legitimate and since it’s Microsoft, it must be…right? Wrong, this is another scam that is hitting households all around the country. The scammers call and claim to be from a legitimate computer company such as McAfee, Dell, Norton and the most popular, Microsoft. They try and gain access into your computer by telling you that they have detected malware or a virus in your computer. If they have gained your trust, they will either direct you to a website that will download a program that is supposed to fix the problem or, they will help you online. The common thread between both options is that, both lead to threats to your personal information, money that you pay for empty services, access to passwords and lost credit card information. Some of the best ways to protect yourself from this scam is to not rely on caller ID for the legitimacy of the call. Most of these calls are being generated overseas; you may see area codes such as, 844, 020, +91, 855, 866, +1-800 among numerous others which could include a number that looks similar to yours. This is called spoofing and these cons have gotten quite good at it. Other ways of protecting yourself, is to never give out your password over the phone, on the computer or anywhere else. If you think you might have a virus do not click on any ad’s that claim you have a virus, the best thing to do is to take your computer in to a reputable, local computer store and have it serviced, or look for contact information from the company your computer was purchased from.

Always make sure to upload security software on your computer, it should protect you from a lot of viruses. Change your passwords often and don’t use the same password for multiple accounts. If you have been a victim and you gave them any of your personal information, make sure to file a complaint by e-mailing the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov/complaint and contact your local consumer protection office. If you have any changes to your accounts you may have made to the fraudulent company, change them. The Grandparent scam. They hack, go through phone listings, search through social media sites, call or e-mail you. This scam has a specific target…the grandparents. They get you with, “hi, grandma” and if you are a grandparent…they’ve got your attention. Do you know who this is, they say? Struggling to identify which grandchild is on the other end of the line. With a question in your voice, you ask, “Timmy, is that you?” “Yes, it’s Timmy, grandma!” Timmy (actual scammer) asks for money which he needs right now; he says he has a virus and can’t work, he needs your help. The victim (grandparent) feels bad for the “grandchild” and sends the money. If you realize that you have been scammed and send money, immediately call the police where you wired the money and you may be able to have the transfer stopped before the funds are given to the scammer. Call crime check to file a report at 509-456-2223 and contact the Federal trade Commission 1-877-FTC-HELP, 1-877-382-4357.

And lastly, The Jury duty scam. Someone posing as deputy or a clerk for the court calls and says that you have a warrant for your arrest for failing to report for jury duty. After explaining that you never received a letter in the mail, the poser states that he can verify the information on the phone. If you do not take action, you may be charged with contempt of court. If you do not pay the fine, you will be arrested. Although these calls can be convincing, if someone calls you about a court date, you should know about this scam is that no one is coming to get you! The Sheriff’s office will never ask for your financial information over the phone. If you have any questions about fee’s to the court or anything pertaining to the Sheriff’s office or police department, call them directly from a trusted phone number. Never use any numbers that the posers will give you.

Unfortunately, identity theft and fraud is on the rise. If you have been tricked out of your money, the chances of recovering it are extremely low. The best way to protect yourself from fraudsters and thieves is to educate yourself and your family.

For more on scams and what you can do to prevent yourself go to:
www.consumer.ftc.gov/scamalerts
http://www.atg.wa.gov/
Honorable Mentions: Michael Brown

With a strong belief in God and desire to give back to the community, Michael Brown, the President and Founder of the not-for-profit organization, Spokane's Eastside Reunion Association believes in being out to give back. For years now, Michael Brown has been doing much of his time to preaching Spokane's underdeveloped youngs, with a summer basketball camp. (Come from a Hunters Park, and was forming from the age of 14 and a half years old through hard work and determination, he now coaches and mentors the next generation of basketball players.

For more than 20 years, the Eastside Reunion Association has been a leader in the community, providing basketball programs for children of all ages. The organization has a strong commitment to helping children achieve their full potential through basketball and education. With the support of local businesses and community leaders, the association has been able to provide scholarships to children who may not otherwise have access to quality basketball programs.

Michael Brown's passion for basketball has not only inspired him to coach and mentor youth, but also to give back to the community. He believes that basketball is more than just a game; it is a way to develop life skills and values that will serve children well in all areas of their lives. With his dedication to the community and his belief in the power of basketball to make a difference, Michael Brown is a true role model for young people.


don't your street (the street that is having the party can block their street only, do not block off

of thanks to the Sheriff's department to Darin for his heroics and that his extraordinary, skill and effort helped to ... training definitely helps. But he goes on to say that on that day, "God was the one who did it. This man was dead… he was

neighboring neighborhood camps, and Spokane's local universities and community colleges, Michael Brown and his staff of coaches will accept no less.

brown as he lay there mortally wounded. "That was the day, "God saw that the man's face was completely blue. Immediately he began assisting. The woman had checked to see if he was breathing, he

Neighborhoods across the United States come together with law enforcement, city officials, and other community organizations to participate in National Night Out. This event is held annually on the first Tuesday of August and is designed to build community spirit and neighborhood pride through block parties, festivals, and other similar activities. These events are intended to bring neighbors together to enjoy each other's company, learn about local resources and emergency services, and strengthen relationships with law enforcement.

The Sheriff’s community Oriented Policing Effort (S.C.O.P.E.) is for

A Night Out Against Crime

Summertime Tips and Stingy Things

They're everywhere! Every year cats of flying, stinging and biting insects discount upon the

they are a few safety tips for prevention and treatment from bee, wasp, and yellow jacket stings. Be aware that you may not be able to identify a likely suspect human either looking to feed upon or defend territory. So, what can we do to pro-

egger and attract more of them.

To all the staff at the training center, thank you so much for the space and your assistance at our recent Crime Prevention

AVISTA

DeVries Business Services

Thank you to DeVries for their continued support of S.C.O.P.E. and the

Spokane County Neighborhoods Newsletter

Honorable Mention: Darin Brown

On March 27, 2016, Easter Sunday, Darin Brown, captain, with the Spokane Sheriff's department was vadulating with his wife and children to their vacation in Mexico. However, when all of a sudden their rental vehicle came to rest outside. Losing control of the vehicle, Darin Brown was thrown from the car and came to rest in a field off Old Galvin Road near in the town of Harbin. Darin was able to get his life jacket off. However, he was having trouble breathing and was without oxygen for about 8-10 minutes. The town fire department responded to the scene and began CPR while the police department contained the vehicle. Darin was flown to the hospital by Lifeflight.

Upon returning from the hospital, Darin Brown decided to purchase a motorcycle. (As an example of a way not to augment your own safety, Darin

insect repellent and a security for our commu-

Middle Class and Spokane County Neighborhoods

leafs and community has brought them together, so if you see the teams in green, just know that the Sheriff Community Oriented Policing Effort is on  your side and there to

A big thanks to Jaclyn Jacot, Director of ACT 2 with the Community Colleges of Spokane, Institute of  Extended Learning.

Thank you for your donation and support of our Latent fingerprinting team and car prowl victims.

Inland Power

Thank you for your generous donation and support of our OFID and COP program.

Papa Murphy's

Thank you for your support to our OFID and COP program

Spokane Valley Mall Management

Thank you to DeVries for their continued support of S.C.O.P.E., Neighborhood Watch, National Night Out and our Crime Prevention Office at the Spokane Valley Mall

Thank you A-Z continues to be a great supporter of S.C.O.P.E. every year, thank you!

Thank you for your dedication to "Uniting Our Communities!"

Thrivent Choice and Thrivent Employee Gift Matching

Thank you for your donation and support of our Latent fingerprinting team and car prowl victims.

Harbor Freight Tools

Thank you for your generous donation and support of our Latent fingerprinting team and car prowl victims.

Deer Park, EWU/Cheney, West Val-

East, Liberty Lake, Mounted Patrol, Nine Mile, S.C.O.P.E. North, Spokane's Eastside Reunion Association is not just about basketball, it also takes care of the youth off the courts too!... camp, Mr. Brown also works with students from Ferris High school and Spokane's local universities and community colleges, Michael Brown

Neighborhoods across the United States come together with law enforcement, city officials, and other community organizations to participate in National Night Out. This event is held annually on the first Tuesday of August and is designed to build community spirit and neighborhood pride through block parties, festivals, and other similar activities. These events are intended to bring neighbors together to enjoy each other's company, learn about local resources and emergency services, and strengthen relationships with law enforcement.

National Night Out

North by night.

Neighborhoods across the United States come together with law enforcement, city officials, and other community organizations to participate in National Night Out. This event is held annually on the first Tuesday of August and is designed to build community spirit and neighborhood pride through block parties, festivals, and other similar activities. These events are intended to bring neighbors together to enjoy each other's company, learn about local resources and emergency services, and strengthen relationships with law enforcement.

This is an event that everyone can enjoy the benefits of. Everyone can have a good time, but not everyone may be able to participate in a large event. However, several smaller events can be considered as National Night Out events.

For those who may not be able to participate in a larger event, several smaller events can be considered as National Night Out events.
Thank You from S.C.O.P.E.

Without the support of individuals and businesses, we would not be able to expand our services for the community. Thank you all so much!

**ACT2**
A big thanks to Jaclyn Jacot, Director of ACT 2 with the Community Colleges of Spokane, Institute of Extended Learning. They offered S.C.O.P.E. and its volunteers the use of their computer lab.

**AVISTA**
Thank you for your continued support of our S.I.R.T. program

**A-Z Rental**
A-Z continues to be a great supporter of S.C.O.P.E. every year, thank you!

**Denny Patterson**
A big thank you for your donation!

**DeVries Business Services**
Thank you to DeVries for their continued support of S.C.O.P.E. and the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office

**Harbor Freight Tools (N. Nevada)**
Thank you for your generous donation and support of our Latent fingerprinting team and car prowl victims.

**Inland Power**
Thank you for your donation to S.C.O.P.E. OFID

**McDonald’s**
A great big thank you for your generosity for S.C.O.P.E. Open House

**Papa Murphy’s**
A huge thank you for your generosity for S.C.O.P.E. Open House

**S.C.O.P.E., on Fairchild**
Thank you so much for your contribution to our Citizen’s Crime Prevention Conference for 2014 & 2015

**Sheriff’s Training Center**
To all the staff at the training center, thank you so much for the space and your assistance at our recent Crime Prevention Conference.

**Shopko Foundation**
Thank you for your support to our OFID and COP program

**Spokane Valley Mall Management**
Thank you to the Valley Mall management and staff, and Mall Security personnel for their support of staff, deputies and volunteers at our Crime Prevention Office in the Spokane Valley Mall

**Target Spokane Valley**
David Tasca, Alexandria Vik and the Spokane Valley Target continue to support S.C.O.P.E., Neighborhood Watch, National Night Out and our Crime Prevention Office at the Spokane Valley Mall—thank you!!!

**Thrivent Choice and Thrivent Employee Gift Matching (Bryan Pruess, Gary Baldwin, Skip Blodnick)**
A huge thank you for your support and generosity to S.C.O.P.E. OFID!

And to all the businesses supporting individual S.C.O.P.E. stations, thank you so, so much!

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First off, if you receive a phone call like this…hang up. The IRS will not call you to demand payment or ask for personal information.

Second, do not open a link in any email that requests financial information. Scammers frequently use email to try and trick you into giving them your personal information. Stay alert and do not click on any links that Request financial information.

Third, use reputable antivirus software and keep it up to date. Scammers often use fake antivirus software to trick you into downloading malware to your computer. Use reputable software and update it regularly to stay protected.

Finally, do not give out any personal information over the phone or online. Scammers often try to trick you into giving out personal information such as your Social Security number, bank account number, or credit card number. Do not give out this information unless you are sure that the person on the other end is legitimate.

In conclusion, identity theft and scams are a serious problem that affects many people. By staying alert and taking steps to protect yourself, you can help to prevent this from happening to you. Remember to stay vigilant and protect yourself from identity theft and scams.