

# PLATTE VALLEY COMPANIES - WYOMING

Platte Valley National Bank - Torrington • Platte Valley National Bank - Wheatland  
McBrayer Insurance Ctr.- Torrington • Platte Valley Insurance Ctr. - Wheatland

## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

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2006



### Joe P. Guth

President/COO  
Platte Valley National Bank -  
Torrington



### Keith Geis

President/COO  
Platte Valley National Bank -  
Wheatland

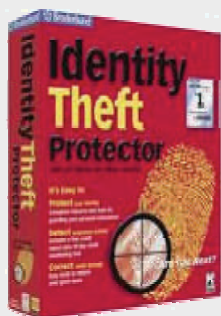
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### **NEVER** give out personal information over the internet, phone or through the mail!

*Study: 9.3 million ID theft victims last year*

Identity theft continues to afflict millions of U.S. consumers, according to a new study released Wednesday, January 26, 2006, conducted by James Van Dyke of Javelin Inc., a research firm sponsored by Visa USA. About 9.3 million people were victims of the crime last year, **or one in every 23 consumers were victims.** In fact, the study shows that the Internet has gotten a bad rap. It suggests personal data is usually stolen in offline ways—such as dumpster diving (*digging through trash cans*)—rather than over the internet. “Only 12 percent of victims believed their information was stolen electronically. Stolen wallets, checkbooks, and mail remain the chief nemesis, Van Dyke said. “The fact is... that *nobody* is more effective at preventing and protecting fraud than *each one of us as individuals!*” he continued.



Contrary to popular wisdom, using the Internet may be a consumer's best fraud fighting tool. ID theft victims who noticed the fraud quickly by viewing their accounts online sharply cut their losses and suffered an average theft of about \$500. Consumer's who wait for paper records, suffer average losses of \$4,500. You may ask, “What can I do if I don't bank on-line? It is imperative to review carefully *each month* your bank statements and credit card statements for any fraudulent activity.

If you are asking yourself, “*I don't remember opening that credit card account, and I certainly didn't buy those items I'm being billed for!*”, it is time to request your Credit Report to see what is on it! You can ask for a free credit report at *anytime* you think you've been taken by identity theft.

You can either *call 1-877-322-8228* or e-mail them at [www.AnnualCreditReport.com](http://www.AnnualCreditReport.com).



### Your Ideas and Comments Are Important to Us!

If you have not completed a Customer Survey *click* below,

[Newsletter Survey](#)

which is located on  
our web site.

Your comments and suggestions will help us to better serve you in the future.

Cont. pg 2

**Identity Theft cont.**

If the credit report confirms fraud, then it's time to:

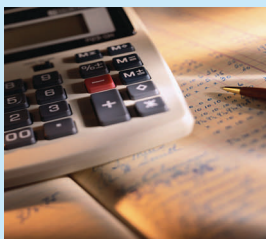
- 1) Complete an **Identity Theft Affidavit** (*click here to download—you will need Adobe*);
- 2) Contact your local police department and file the IT Affidavit;
- 3) Report it to one of the three national credit reporting agencies and ask them to flag your account—*they will report it to the other two agencies*; and
- 4) Contact the creditors or whoever the fraudulent activity appears to be with, followed with a DISPUTE LETTER and the IT Affidavit stating that the accounts and/or bills are not yours.

**“Don't get Phished!”** Phishing works by stealing a corporate “look & feel” via e-mail, regular mail *or* when someone calls pretending to be from your Bank or a reputable company, warning you that a serious problem has occurred with your accounts. They will ask you to update your information, such as... name, home address, date of birth, social security number, driver's license number, credit-card numbers, CW2 security numbers (*on the back of credit cards*), ATM cards, telephone calling cards, mortgage details, and/or passwords & PINS for verification purposes. **NEVER** give any of this out! Thieves are hoping to get this information to withdraw funds from your bank accounts, open accounts using your personal information, and run up bills on your credit cards. Banks and credit card companies will *never* call or e-mail you, asking for this information. They already have it! **Never** click on any links provided in an e-mail. Don't be intimidated by the e-mail *or* caller requesting the information. Thank the caller and tell them *you* will contact your bank or credit card company to clear up the situation.

## Tax Refund Scam



The Internal Revenue Service has issued a consumer alert about an **Internet Phishing** scam in which consumers receive an e-mail, purportedly from the IRS, informing them that they are eligible to receive a tax refund for a specific amount.



The e-mail, which claims to be from **[tax-refunds@irs.gov](mailto:tax-refunds@irs.gov)**, directs the consumer to a link that requests personal information such as Social Security numbers and credit card information. IRS officials stressed that the agency does not ask for personal identifying or financial information via unsolicited e-mail. Anyone receiving such an e-mail should not open any attachments in case they contain a malicious code that may infect your computer. To determine whether the agency is trying to contact you about a tax refund, call the IRS at 800-829-1040.



## McBrayer Insurance Center

*A Platte Valley Company*

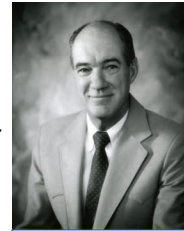
302 W. 21st Ave., Torrington, WY 82240 (307) 532-2147

[www.mcbrayerinsurance.com](http://www.mcbrayerinsurance.com)

### Review Your Auto Policies....

- **DO THESE OWNERSHIP SITUATIONS SOUND FAMILIAR?**
- **Jointly Owned Vehicles**
- **Vehicles Owned By A Trust**
- **Vehicles Furnished or Available For Regular Use**
- **When Individuals Do Not Own A Vehicle**
- **Newly Acquired Vehicles by Family Members**

Your personal auto policy can be endorsed to address these commonly overlooked ownership issues, but they must first be identified and brought to your insurance agent's attention. While those listed are not the only ones to be wary of, they are the most common situations dealing with the ownership of vehicles. Take time today to talk with your insurance agent and possibly avoid problems at claim time. Remember, our staff at McBrayer Insurance Center, as well as our associates at Platte Valley Insurance Center in Wheatland and at J. G. Elliott Insurance Center in Scottsbluff will be available at any time to help you with your insurance needs.



**Mike Vick**  
Manager

## Platte Valley Insurance Center

*A Platte Valley Company*

951 South Street, Wheatland, WY 82201 (307) 322-4025

[www.mcbrayerinsurance.com](http://www.mcbrayerinsurance.com)



**Jerry Orr**  
Manager

Now is a good time to look at  
**Indexed Annuities:**

On May 31, 2005 the S&P 500 Index stood at 1,191.50. As of January 6th the S&P 500 was 1,285.45, an increase of 7.88% since the end of May 2005. If a person wants to participate in the potential upside of market index performance, without any downside market risk, an indexed annuity may be the key investment tool. Many indexed annuity products offer bonuses of up to 12%. With such a bonus a person who has \$100,000 to invest would earn a bonus of \$12,000 in addition to the annual yield.

One may ask, "Can my annuity's value go down due to losses in the indexes I choose?"

The answer is no! If the indexes suffer a loss in any given year, the principal (the money you put into the annuity) and the 12% premium bonus are protected, Any index gains or interest that have been locked in previously are also safe. Persons seeking to invest in the higher yield type annuities must realize that these are longer term investments and often have a ten (10) year surrender charge and possibly a five (5) year payout. When set up properly, annuities can also have great tax advantages. Check with your accountant for current tax laws regarding this type of investment and whether or not it is right for you.

For more information regarding **Indexed Annuities**, or other insurance needs, contact **Jerry Orr** at the **Platte Valley Insurance Center** (307) 322-4025 or stop by their office at 951 South Street in Wheatland, or at our other Insurance Centers in Torrington and Scottsbluff, NE.



## Small Business Financing

Platte Valley National Bank

[www.pvnbank.com](http://www.pvnbank.com)



Jeff Reifschneider  
Vice President/Lender  
308-632-3617 ext. 3005

The SBA (Small Business Administration) offers a number of loan programs to assist small businesses. The basic 7(a) Loan serves as the SBA's primary business loan program to help qualified start-up and existing small businesses obtain financing, when they might not be eligible for loans through normal lending channels. This program is delivered through commercial lending institutions as a guaranteed bank loan.

The 7(a) is the SBA's most flexible business loan program. Financing under this program can be guaranteed for most sound business purposes including working capital, machinery and equipment, furniture and fixtures, land and building (including purchase, renovation and new construction), leasehold improvements, and debt refinancing (under special conditions).

Loan maturity is up to 10 years for working capital and generally up to 25 years for fixed assets. Interest rates can be fixed or variable indexed off Wall Street Journal Prime. The SBA can guaranty up to 85 percent of loans of \$150,000 and less, and up to 75 percent of loans above \$150,000. Give me a call or call Platte Valley National, where you do your banking.

## Platte Valley National Bank, Trust Services

1212 Circle Dr., Scottsbluff, NE (888) 632-7004



Clark Wisniewski,  
Trust Officer  
/COO/CTFA

### THE MORE COMPLEX YOUR FINANCIAL NEEDS, THE MORE YOU NEED A CTFA

When it comes to providing the highest quality professional advice, a Certified Trust and Financial Advisor (CTFA) performs at a whole different level.

A CTFA has demonstrated knowledge and expertise not only in general financial planning, but also in complex estate and tax planning areas.

#### Your CTFA can:

- Help you grow your wealth, preserve it for your heirs, and transfer it according to your wishes.
- Advise you on your full range of financial needs – estate holdings, bank accounts, investments, collectibles, business interests, and more.
- Provide customized advice superior to off-the-shelf products and services.
- Coordinate the services of your team of advisors and help provide a comprehensive perspective on your wealth.

CTFA is the only certification that focuses on the fiduciary responsibilities of a personal trust professional. A CTFA offers you competence, accountability, and adherence to a strict code of ethics – the peace of mind that only expert advice brings.

Clark Wisniewski, Trust Officer & COO, is a Certified Trust and Financial Advisor and is available to discuss your estate needs in detail.

Please call Clark at (308) 632-7004, ext. 3201, or 888-632-7004, or e-mail him at [cwisniewski@pvnbank.com](mailto:cwisniewski@pvnbank.com) and get started today.



# February 2006

# March 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 * Presidents Day	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28					26	27	28	29	30	31	

\* = TORRINGTON Bank Closing at 12 noon for President's Day.  = Bank Event  
 \* = WHEATLAND Bank Closing at 12 noon for President's Day.

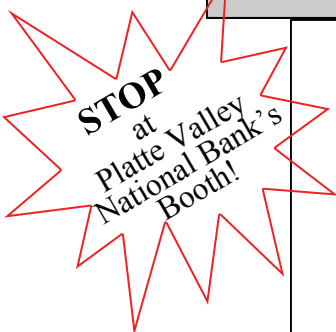
### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **Feb 9 - Ambassador Club BINGO, Torrington, at the VFW**
- **Feb 9 - Ambassador Club BINGO, Wheatland, at the Bank**
- **Feb 14 - Ambassador Club Valentine Party, Torrington, 3:00 pm at the Cottonwood Country Club, RSVP to Deb or Sandi at 532-2111**
- **Feb 15 - Ambassador Club Movie, Torrington, Coffee & Donuts at 8:45 am and the Movie at 9:20 am**
- **Feb 16 - Ambassador Club Valentine Party, Wheatland, 5:30 pm at the PVNB Community Room, RSVP to Glenda or Cheryl at 322-9215**
- **Feb 20—President's Day—Banks open from 8:30 am to Noon**
- **Feb 23 - Ambassador Club Movie, Wheatland, Coffee & Donuts at 8:45 am and the Movie at 9:20 am**
- **Feb 23 - Business After Hours - 5-8 p.m.**

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **Mar 9 - Ambassador Club BINGO, Torrington, at the VFW**
- **Mar 9 - Ambassador Club BINGO, Wheatland, at the Bank**
- **Mar 15 - Ambassador Club Movie, Torrington, Coffee & Donuts at 8:45 am and the Movie at 9:20 am**
- **Mar 23 - Ambassador Club Movie, Torrington, Coffee & Donuts at 8:45 am and the Movie at 9:20 am**

## 2006 Goshen County Business Expo



**Platte Valley National Bank ~ Torrington**  
 will be at the  
**2006 Goshen County Business Expo.**  
 It will be held on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>  
 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the  
 Goshen County Fairgrounds Rendezvous Center.  
 We will be giving prizes away, so  
 stop and see the Torrington staff  
 at the Platte Valley National Bank booth.



## Platte Valley National Bank

2201 Main St. / P.O. Box 1057  
Torrington, WY 82240  
(307) 532-2111

200 16th St.  
Wheatland, WY 82201  
(307) 322-9215

1212 Circle Drive / P.O. Box 2308  
Scottsbluff, NE 69363  
(308) 632-7004



We're on the web!  
[www.pvnbank.com](http://www.pvnbank.com)



## Platte Valley Companies

*"...your Hometeam financial &  
insurance network that works  
for YOU!"*

## Platte Valley Investment Center, Inc.

2201 Main Street, Torrington, WY (307) 532-2030  
1212 Circle Dr., Scottsbluff, NE (308) 635-7766



Rick A. Morehouse,  
CPA, CFP®  
Financial Advisor

### SECURITIES OFFERED THROUGH RAYMOND JAMES FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.

Member NASD/SIPC --  
An Independent Broker/Dealer

## "Everyone Can Relax and Stretchout"

Rick A. Morehouse, CPA, CFP®  
Financial Advisor  
Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.

Over the last several years, we have read and heard much about the "stretchout" IRA. Many IRA holders have painstakingly learned about the extreme complexities of Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) and the ability to provide a stream of income to their beneficiaries at their death. Planners carefully outlined the land mines to avoid and prompted IRA holders to ask their financial firm if they offer "stretchout" IRAs. Well, we can all relax now, the IRS issued proposed regulations that have all but eliminated the fear of making bad decisions and essentially allow a "stretchout" IRA for everyone.

RMD rules state that once a participant reaches the age of 70 ½, funds must be withdrawn each year from their IRA. RMD calculations are based on the participant's birth date and the previous year's ending value of the IRA account. Based on these ingredients the required minimum distribution (RMD) is determined by simply dividing the previous year's ending value of the IRA by the factor from the appropriate IRS life expectancy table.

Upon the death of an IRA participant who has begun RMDs, the beneficiary is required to continue (or accelerate) withdrawals from the IRA. The "stretchout" IRA concept simply addresses the availability of beneficiaries (often younger beneficiaries) to continue the "life" of the IRA. This allows the beneficiaries to receive the benefits, such as continued tax deferral, of the IRA over the remaining "life" of the IRA. In the past, it took careful planning to make an IRA a "stretchout" IRA. However, in 2001, new regulations from the IRS have made stretching out an IRA easier than ever before.

Under the new rules, as long as all of the IRA beneficiaries are living people, then the "stretchout" IRA will be the default election. Each beneficiary may take RMD's according to his or her own life expectancy provided the IRA is divided into separate beneficiary IRA's by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year following the year of the participant's death. If the IRA is not split into separate IRA's, then the RMD's will be taken according to the eldest beneficiary's life expectancy. If a trust is the IRA beneficiary, then a "stretchout" may be accomplished, provided the trust is deemed to be a "designated beneficiary." Basically, in order for a trust to be deemed a "designated beneficiary" all of the beneficiaries must be people, although there are some administrative requirements as well. However, even if a trust is deemed a "designated beneficiary," the RMD's will be calculated according to the life expectancy of the eldest trust beneficiary.

While these issues are a very important part in future planning of an IRA, remember each case is different and only part of an overall financial strategy. With this in mind, solutions for these issues are best addressed with the assistance of your financial advisor and/or tax professional.

#### SECURITIES ARE:

- \* Not FDIC Insured
- \* May Lose Value
- \* Not Guaranteed by Platte Valley National Bank

