



Mission: Healthy Heart Seminar 2024

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YOUR PRIVATE BANKING TEAM



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Scams to Expect for Tax Season

What are Tax Scams?

Tax scams involve bad actors — who impersonate the IRS, tax professionals, or government entities over the phone, through text, online, or by email — and are designed to trick you into providing sensitive information or sending money for taxes, penalties, and fees you don't owe. According to the Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigation Team, they initiated 1,409 tax crime investigations and identified \$5.5 billion in tax fraud in 2023.

Tax scams peak during tax season, therefore, it is crucial to remain vigilant and verify the legitimacy of any communication or request related to taxes.

Tax Scam Methods

There are many methods cybercriminals use for tax scams, and they often deploy creative tactics to deceive their victims. The methods listed below are not the only methods a cybercriminal can use.

Fake tax refund: A new scheme that involves bad actors mailing letters impersonating an IRS letter. The letter claims that there is a notice in relation to an unclaimed tax refund.

IRS call: Impersonation phone calls also known as vishing may occur, where callers will pose as IRS agents and use fake credentials in hopes of stealing taxpayer funds or personal information. These scammers may know a lot about their victims and will intimidate them into making a hasty decision.

Phishing email: Scammers will send several email alerts attempting to trick people into thinking their emails are legitimate notices from the IRS. These phishing emails will seek information related to refunds, filing status, confirming personal identity, and late payments.

How to Identify and Deal with Tax Fraud

Tax scams become increasingly popular during tax season, but here are some ways to identify them:

- **Use caution with unsolicited communications.** The IRS typically initiates contact via traditional mail. Be wary of unexpected calls, emails, or texts claiming to be from the IRS or any tax authority, especially if they require immediate payment or threaten legal action.
- **Verify sources.** If you receive any communication claiming to be the IRS or a tax professional, verify its legitimacy by navigating to the official website or contact a verified phone number.
- **Be alert of phishing attempts.** Think twice before interacting with any email requesting sensitive or financial information. Legitimate organizations like the IRS will not ask for this information via email or phone.
- **Resist scare tactics.** Scammers will often use intimidation or urgency to bait victims into making a rushed decision, not in their best interest. We recommend you take your time, thoroughly evaluate requests, and verify all urgent requests.
- **Secure personal information.** Be sure to protect your information, such as Social Security numbers and financial details, to prevent identity theft and tax fraud.
- **Educate yourself.** Stay informed on the latest tax scams used by fraudsters. More awareness allows you mitigate risks and attacks.

What Should I do if I think I am a Victim of a Tax Scam?

1. **Stop all communication.** If you are in contact with a scammer, cease communication immediately.
2. **Report the incident.** You can file a complaint with the IRS on their website. Additionally, you can report the incident to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) on their website.
3. **Protect your identity.** Monitor your financial accounts, credit reports, and any other sensitive information for signs of unauthorized access and activity. With most accounts, you can place a fraud alert or a credit freeze to prevent further compromise.
4. **Document the incident.** Keep any record of communication and documentation related to the scam. This can be extremely useful when reporting the incident and resolving any issues with tax authorities.

Additional Considerations

Continued from page 3

If a scammer accessed your accounts...	Immediately change all passwords associated with the scam. Ensure the new password is strong and do not reuse passwords. Enable Multifactor Authentication (MFA) on all accounts.
If a scammer has access to financial information...	Contact your bank or credit card company immediately. They can help monitor your accounts for suspicious activity.
If a scammer has your social security number...	Place a fraud alert and initiate a credit freeze on your credit reports by contacting one of the three major credit bureaus. Additionally, file a report with the IRS and your bank so that they can protect your identity and monitor your accounts.

This material is for general information only and is not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. This material was prepared by LPL Financial, LLC.



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Contact us today to schedule a complimentary consultation.

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This information is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax advice. We suggest that you discuss your specific tax issues with a qualified tax advisor.

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Not Insured by FDIC or Any Other Government Agency	Not First National Bank Guaranteed
Not First National Bank Deposits or Obligations	May Lose Value

SEMINAR

STRATEGIES TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

Presented by:
Tim Fitzgibbon,
First National Bank



At First Point, we realize paying for college is a major financial event for families. Even the best planners can find the college financial aid maze confusing and difficult to navigate. If you have children or grandchildren planning to attend college, or if you have student loans yourself, we have created this seminar specifically for you!

— AMES —

TUESDAY, JUNE 18

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

First National Bank
405 5th Street, Ames

*Please RSVP to your Private Banker
By June 11*

— ANKENY —

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Kirkendall Public Library (Meeting Room A)
1250 SW District Dr, Ankeny

*Please RSVP to your Private Banker
by June 13*

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

UNLOCK YOUR HOME'S VALUE WHILE LOCKING IN A GREAT RATE
with our Home Equity Line of Credit!

6-MONTH INTRO RATE AS LOW AS 5.30% APR AND WE'LL PAY YOUR PROCESSING FEES—UP TO \$350!*

**Your approval rate and credit limit will be based upon your creditworthiness and property value. The maximum amount of total loans with us, and others, including this request, may not exceed 90% of your property's value. You will be required to maintain property insurance. Consult a tax advisor regarding potential deductibility of interest. Variable rate lines are available with a 15-year term, with rates ranging from 8.50% APR to 9.25% APR (based upon the Prime Rate as the index as published in the Wall Street Journal plus a margin) as of February 20, 2024, and is subject to change without notice. These rates may change due to an increase or decrease in the Prime Rate, however will never be less than 4.00% APR, or more than 21.00% APR. Applies to owner-occupied residential real*



For more information, contact your Private Banker or apply online at FNB247.com.

estate only. The 6-month introductory fixed rate (80% LTV or less = 5.30% APR, and 81% to 90% LTV = 6.30% APR) is applicable for 15-year variable rate HELOC products only. This promotional offer is available for new applications submitted from March 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024.

Processing fees include: flood report, title search, credit report, mortgage release fee, and recording fees; and First National Bank will pay up to \$350 toward these fees. The borrower will be responsible for the evaluation or appraisal fees (if required), which will range from \$135-\$500. There are no application, annual or non-use fees associated with this product.

Paperless Banking: Save Trees & Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

Really want to make a significant impact on Earth Day...and all year long? Bank paperless.

There are many paperless banking options available today that will make an environmental impact by reducing paper consumption and your carbon footprint. And they are so convenient to use almost anywhere. That's a win for the environment and a win for you. Here are **three** paperless banking solutions that you might find valuable:

Online Statements

Sign up to view Online Statements at your desktop or on your phone or tablet. They look just like traditional paper statements. **To get started**, login to your First National Bank Online Banking or Mobile App, select the "Online Statements" tab and agree to the online statement disclosure. Once your online statements begin populating your account, you will be able to access them using the Online Statements tab.

Mobile Deposit

Simply snap a photo of your check and deposit it into your checking account. Save on gas by eliminating a trip to the bank and eliminate the paper deposit slips. **To get started**, login to First National Bank's Mobile App on your phone or tablet and select the "Check Deposit" option from the menu. Follow the instructions and select submit. You will receive an email notification confirming that we have received your deposit.

Mobile Wallet

First National Bank's debit cards are compatible with digital wallets, like: Apple Pay and Google Pay. Once you set up your debit card in your mobile wallet, you can use your mobile phone to "tap and pay" wherever Apple Pay or Google Pay are accepted...never write a check. **To get started**, login to your First National Bank Online Banking or Mobile App, click on the "Account Management" tab and look for the Card Management link. Simply "add your card" to your mobile wallet and you will be ready to use your phone to make purchases.

These options are not only "green," they make banking more convenient. Contact your Private Banker to learn more about paperless banking. We are here to help!

Client Appreciation

Thursday, June 6 | 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Prairie Moon Winery & Vineyards
3801 West 190th Street, Ames

As a thank you for being a First Point client, join us for charcuterie and drinks in a beautiful winery setting.

Limited seating available



Contact your Private Banker to RSVP by May 23

SEMINAR HIGHLIGHTS

Take advantage of our educational opportunities which are exclusive to First Point clients. Our seminars offer a variety of learning experiences to assist you in making knowledgeable financial decisions.



Our First Point team takes photos of our clients enjoying our events. If you do not wish to have your photo published please let your Private Banker know as we respect your privacy.

UPCOMING EVENTS & TICKETS AVAILABLE

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 6 Client Appreciation Event
- June 18 & 20 Strategies to Pay for College Seminar
- September 19 – 28 Rhine River Cruise (SOLD OUT)

STEPHENS AUDITORIUM

1900 Center Drive, Ames

A First Point benefit is the opportunity to purchase tickets for shows at these local theaters. Secure great seats while saving time and processing fees* by contacting your Private Banker.

Contact your Private Banker for ticket price and availability.

- April 18 - 28 The Crucible, 7:30 p.m.
- May 1 The Golden Girls, 7:30 p.m.
- May 14 Chicago: The Musical, 7:30 p.m.
- October 18 Stayin' Alive: One Night of the Bee Gees, 7:30 p.m.

* Not all processing fees are eligible for discounts



Please bring your printed or electronic tickets to present upon arrival for theatre shows.



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