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NEWS RELEASE

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Phone Scam

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The Harrisonburg Police Department has received several complaints of a recent scam. A male has called residents in Harrisonburg saying they have an outstanding loan debt that has to be collected.

This caller is very persistent and calls from an out of the country telephone number. In some instances the male threatens criminal prosecution and is verbally abusive to the caller and requests payment over the phone.

Tips to prevent becoming a victim of a financial scam.

- Do not send money to anyone, especially someone requesting money through the telephone.
- Do not provide any banking information or credit card numbers to anyone.
- If you receive a phone call such as this and you have caller ID, write down the phone number and report it to your local police department.
- If you receive a phone call or request that sounds suspicious, do not provide any information to the caller.

Incidents such as this are very difficult to investigate due to the jurisdictional boundaries. Many of these scams are also conducted by individuals, who are located in other countries.