

Fake AI videos are raising scam fears



Fake AI-generated videos feature President Donald Trump promoting cryptocurrency.

Velishchuk/iStockphoto

Crypto ads during football games raise suspicions

By Dominic Genetti
STAFF WRITER

Are AI scammers targeting football fans? Claims tied to the Super Bowl earlier this year and a preseason game last month are drawing attention to the issue.

A fake AI-generated video of President Donald Trump appeared in unauthorized streams during the Super Bowl earlier this year, according to the Ohio-based law firm Meyer, Wilson and Werning. It directed viewers to Trump2026.org with promises of doubling cryptocurrency investments. The website was not affiliated with Trump or the federal government.

Attorney David Meyer said an investor had a brokerage wire \$500,000 to the site. Meyer said the investor called back minutes later and warned the brokerage the transaction could be part of a scam, but the brokerage sent the money anyway. Meyer said the in-

vestor later contacted his firm and that they reached out to the FBI.

The claims come amid warnings from AI developers and researchers that generative AI can make fake videos easier to create and use in scams.

"I am very nervous that we have a significant impending fraud crisis because of this," Sam Altman, OpenAI's co-founder and CEO, said during a July 22, 2025, fireside chat, according to a Federal Reserve transcript.

Another YouTube video purports to show a deepfake of Trump promoting cryptocurrency, but it has apparent flaws that could raise questions about its legitimacy. The president's voice sounds higher than usual, and he speaks at a faster pace. The setting appears to mimic the East Room of the White House, where presidents often make addresses and hold media events.

The video's YouTube metadata said it was posted four weeks ago

and purported to show a scam during a Cowboys-Seahawks game. The Cowboys and Seahawks played a preseason game Aug. 15.

In a Dec. 3, 2024, public service announcement, the FBI described ways criminals use AI. The organization said criminals use generative AI to create believable text, fictitious social media profiles, faster scam messages, fraudulent cryptocurrency websites and AI-powered chatbots that prompt people to click malicious links.

"Generative AI reduces the time and effort criminals must expend to deceive their targets," the FBI said in the public service announcement. "Generative AI takes what it has learned from examples input by a user and synthesizes something entirely new based on that information. These tools assist with content creation and can correct for human errors that might otherwise serve as warning signs of fraud."

Gardens to host Southern bulb sale, seminar

By Tessa Noble
STAFF WRITER

The Beaumont Botanical Gardens will host a bulb sale and seminar as part of its new educational program.

The Sept. 29. event will focus on gardening, education and Southern horticultural history. The bulb sale will run from 5 to 6 p.m., followed by a free seminar from 6 to 7



p.m. led by renowned bulb expert Chris Wiesinger, "The Bulb Hunter."

Wiesinger founded Southern Bulb Company to find and preserve bulbs that grow well in the South, including rare heirloom varieties that have been forgotten or overlooked. During his seminar, he will discuss his search for unusual bulbs and explain how gardeners can choose varieties suited to warm climates.

The bulb sale will feature unique Southern-friendly bulbs. Attendees will learn how to incorporate heirloom Southern bulbs into their own landscapes while preserving a piece of the region's gardening history. Advance registration is required. The bulb sale will accept cash and credit cards. Credit card purchases will incur a processing fee. No checks will be accepted.

This event is part of the garden's Amelie Cobb Education Program, established to provide educational seminars, workshops and learning opportunities for the community.

Beaumont police set event for National Night Out

By Megan Zapalac
STAFF WRITER

Beaumont Police Department has announced two October events.

Next month, the department will be hosting its National Night Out and a Trunk or Treat.

BPD's National Night Out 2026 will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 6 at Central Park, 640 South 4th Street, according to its Facebook event page.

At the free event, residents will be able to meet local police officers and community partners and enjoy free food, games, activities, music and giveaways, to name a few, according to the event page.

Trunk or Treat will be hosted from 2 to 5 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Beaumont Police Department, 255 College St.

The SWAT Team, traffic officers, police dogs and more will be at the event. Families will also get to do a meet-and-greet with local officers, civilian personnel and some of the department's community partners, according to the event's Facebook page.

"Put on your costume and head over to the Beaumont Police Department for a spooktacular afternoon of treats, laughs and Halloween fun," the event page read.

Art, music, culture: McFaddin-Ward events set

By Tessa Noble
STAFF WRITER

The McFaddin-Ward House Museum has finalized its fall programming lineup through December, which includes its monthly lecture series, outdoor concerts, craft and homeschool workshops and its holiday open house.

The museum's 2026 fall schedule includes 12 free events. The museum's education department will offer free workshops for homeschool students and adults. Registration is not required, but seating and supplies are limited. The museum's Craft and Share Workshop is for adults 21 and older. The workshops are from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at

Events continues on A3



Courtesy of McFaddin-Ward House

The McFaddin-Ward House Museum has a diverse lineup of events planned through December.

