

OSP offers tips on safeguarding yourself against scam calls

Recently, the Oregon State Police has taken reports from people who have been scammed out of money by people posing as law enforcement officers on the telephone.

Scammers have called and claimed to be members of a police department or sheriff's department and that the victim missed jury duty, had outstanding fines or a warrant for their arrest that could be taken care of over the phone with a payment.

Callers may instruct the victims to purchase re-loadable

cards and call them back with the numbers. Similar scams have been reported in the past year where callers claim to be with a utility or other government agency.

The Oregon State Police reminds citizens to be aware that:

- The Oregon State Police or any other legitimate law enforcement agency does not call community members seeking payment for outstanding traffic citations or warrants.
- The Oregon State Police does not call individuals and

demand money from community members under any circumstances.

- Individuals claiming to collect debts may try to instill fear in potential victims to persuade them to forward money.

Tips to help avoid becoming a victim to this scam include:

- Never give personal or financial information to an unsolicited caller or email.
- Be suspicious of callers who demand immediate payment for any reason.
- Utility companies and government agencies will never

contact you for payment by GreenDot, MoneyPak or Vanilla Reload.

- Remember that anyone who has the number on a pre-paid card has access to the funds on your card.

- Never wire money, provide debit or credit card numbers to a stranger. The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) advises that courts may use an independent collection service to collect unpaid monetary judgments and fines.

If someone believes they are being scammed regarding an

alleged unpaid traffic citation or other court-imposed financial obligation they can:

- Ask the collector (caller) for information specific to the alleged warrant or unpaid traffic citation.

The caller should have the court case number, date of ticket and vehicle license number.

- Verify the debt or confirm other details by calling the OJD collections hot-line at 1-888-564-2828.

Annual Lenten Renewal weekend is Feb. 21-22

The 20th Annual Lenten Renewal weekend will return to its beginnings this month with the New Life Lutheran Church congregation as hosts on Feb. 21 and 22.

At the same church in 1995, five local churches began a tradition that had its roots in Africa, where founder, Dr. A.J. Brauer met Brennan Manning, a Catholic priest doing missionary work.

Brauer persuaded Manning,

an internationally known author, friar, priest, contemplative and speaker, to come to Florence to participate in that first weekend. It was so successful that the five churches continued it the following year.

Over the next two decades, the Lenten Renewal has grown in stature and attracted ministers from all of the participating churches.

For many years, it continued at Florence Events Center. For

the past two years, the weekend was at St. Mary, Our Lady of the Dunes Catholic Church.

At the Feb. 21 and 22 session, Stephen J. Patterson a professor of religion and ethical studies at Willamette University will officiate and explore the meaning of Lent and of Holy Week.

Saturday sessions will be at 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

On Sunday, a 10:30 a.m.

community worship service will be offered. All sessions will be at New Life Lutheran, 2100 Spruce St.

The community of Florence is invited.

Sponsoring churches are New Life Lutheran Church, St. Andrew Episcopal Church, Florence United Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw and St. Mary, Our Lady of the Dunes, Catholic Church.

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