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Mayor takes an 'express' ride

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FLORENCE, OREGON

WATCH OUT FOR SCAMS

Police, bankers urge residents to be on alert for fraudulent callers

By RYAN CRONK
Siuslaw News

Lane County Sheriff's Office and Oregon Pacific Bank are warning residents about two different scams hitting the area this week, including a money wiring scam that stole more than \$10,000 from a Florence man.

According to Ellen Huntingdon, marketing coordinator at Oregon Pacific Bank (OPB), the bank has seen an increase in money-wiring scams over the past few months and urges the community to be on alert for instances of fraud.

"The scammers seem to be targeting the elderly and talking them into allowing access to their computers," Huntingdon said.

In the most recent case, a fraudulent company contacted an 80-year-old Florence man over the phone and told him they needed to perform updates on his computer. He agreed and paid them \$350 to access his computer.

The company logged into the man's online banking account and transferred money from his money market account into his checking account. They told him the funds were from them but that they mistakenly deposited \$5,500 instead of \$500 and asked if he could wire the excess amount through Western Union.

This transaction happened twice, and the man ended up wiring a total of \$10,000 of his own money out of his account, Huntingdon said.

Local small businesses also are being targeted by this scam. OPB reminds the community that reputable businesses and financial institutions should never ask customers for their personal or account information over the phone unless you initiated the call and they need to validate your identity.

"If someone calls or emails you asking for personal information, do not respond," Huntingdon said.

Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) also received reports this week from residents who are receiving calls from a male claiming to be from the sheriff's office and identifying himself using names of actual employees.

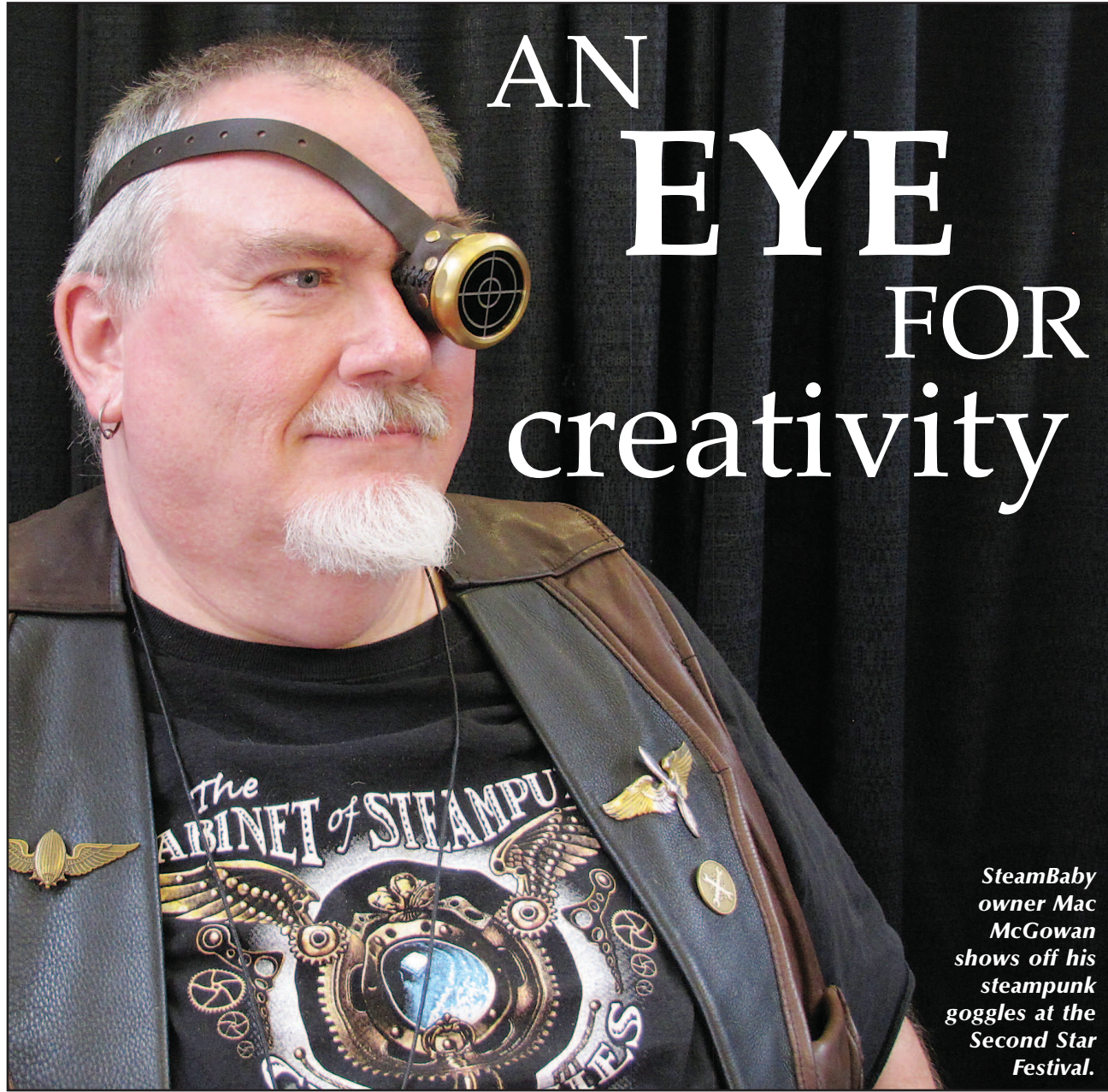
The caller tells the person they owe money because they have a warrant, or have missed jury duty, and if they don't pay immediately, they may be arrested. The person is usually directed to purchase a "green dot money pack" from a local retailer to pay their fine.

"These calls are a scam, and community members should hang up immediately and not engage with the caller," said Sgt. Carrie Carver, LCSO public information officer. "These calls are not associated with the Lane County Sheriff's Office in any way."

Carver said LCSO does not make phone calls to community members regarding warrants and would never ask a community member to purchase "cash cards" to pay fees. Anyone who is a victim of a phone scam should report it to local law enforcement.

See SCAM 7A

SECOND STAR FESTIVAL



AN EYE FOR creativity

SteamBaby owner Mac McGowan shows off his steampunk goggles at the Second Star Festival.

PHOTOS BY CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Eugene couple brings two days of 'mirth, myth and mayhem'

By CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News



Matt and Kesha Hawk organized this year's festival at the Florence Events Center.

Since J.M. Barrie wrote "Peter Pan, or The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up" in 1904, people have been captivated by the eternal youthfulness of Pan, the mischief of Tinker Bell, the antics of the Lost Boys and delight in the imaginative world of Neverland. For Matt and Kesha Hawk of the Second Star Festival, Neverland is a real place, or at least a real feeling. Last week, they brought a little Neverland to the Florence Events Center.

See FESTIVAL 7A

Police 'pick up' vehicles

City gains truck, SUV; transfers old car to Dunes City

By CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Florence City Council approved the purchase of two new Florence Police Department (FPD) vehicles at its Aug. 3 meeting. During the same night, the council also authorized giving an out-of-use vehicle away.

According to Police Chief Tom Turner, "You need to sit on a phone book just to see over the dashboard" of the 2005 Crown Victoria he currently uses.

In the council packet, city staff said that the 2015-16 budget included \$55,000 in the police department fund for the purchase of replacement vehicles.

The FPD purchased a new 2016 Ford F250 XL 4x4 crew cab pick-up truck at \$31,588 from Johnston Motors in Florence.

There were enough funds in the budget to also purchase and install a new two-way radio, siren and grill-mounted emergency lights, including taillights and mirror lights, for the new truck.

"Everyone's happy with this proposal," Florence Mayor Joe Henry said. "We're also replacing another vehicle within the same cost. That's good."

The FPD had enough funds to purchase a 2007 Ford Explorer that will be used by the department's detective.

City Manager Erin Reynolds thanked staff for their work on the proposal and budget and for teaming up with Turner.

"This was a good way of showing how the tone at the top (of the department) in encouraging partnerships, even amongst the internal staff, has really been paying off for us," Reynolds said.

Later in the council session, Reynolds again mentioned partnerships.

See CITY 7A

Explore new full-day kindergarten facility at open house

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Siuslaw Elementary School will hold a kindergarten open house Tuesday, Aug. 18, from 9 a.m. to noon, and Thursday, Aug. 27, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the new kindergarten building located next to the elementary school north parking lot on Oak Street.

During the Aug. 27 open

house, a ribbon-cutting ceremony and hot-dog barbecue will start at 6 p.m.

Parents and students are invited.

This is the first year the school will offer full-day Kindergarten to all students.

The new kindergarten facility has four classrooms and more than 5,000 square feet dedicated exclusively to the kindergarten program.

Kindergarten student

enrollment will be Sept. 8 through 10 and will consist of a 30-minute individual family conference and student assessment to determine appropriate classroom assignment.

Families will be notified of homeroom placements on Sept. 11, and kindergarten classes will begin Sept. 14.

Parents are reminded that kindergarten classes begin on a different date than the



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

New Siuslaw school building offers separate classrooms just for kindergartners.

elementary school. For more information, call the elementary school office at 541-997-2514.

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