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FLORENCE, OREGON

FRAUD ALERT

Data breach could impact half of all Americans

Equifax shares steps to take to secure financial information

Equifax Incorporated, one of the largest and most successful credit reporting and technology service companies in the world, has released new details surrounding a massive data

breach the company experienced earlier this year.

According to the company's website, which proudly shares its motto, "Powering the world with Knowledge," the personal and financial information from approximately 143 million Americans was stolen from secured Equifax data bases between May and June 2017.

Last week, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announced an investigation into the Equifax data breach on the agency's website. This is an unusual step for the commission, according to a statement released by the agency.

"The FTC typically does not comment on ongoing investigations," Peter Kaplan, the FTC's acting director of public affairs, said in a statement. "However, in light of the intense public interest and the potential impact of this matter, I can confirm that FTC staff is investigating the Equifax data breach."

A spokesperson for Equifax said the company is "actively engaging with and being responsive to regulators, federal agencies and legislators and expects to continue to do so in the future."

The FTC also posted links on the website to assist consumers in freezing their credit reports and initiating monitoring programs to identify unauthorized use of personal and financial information.

"This is clearly a disappointing event for our company and one that strikes at the heart of who we are and what we do. I apologize to our consumers and our business customers for the concern and frustration this causes," Equifax Chairman and CEO Richard F. Smith said in a news release. "We pride ourselves on being a leader in managing and protecting data, and we are conducting a thorough review of our overall security operations."

Smith added that Equifax is also focusing on consumer protection and has developed a comprehensive portfolio of services to support all U.S. consumers, regardless of whether they were impacted by this incident.

See BREACH 7A

'ON THE FRONT LINE'



COURTESY PHOTOS

On Sept. 6, the Florence Police Chief's Star Award was given to Ali Gharib, Ronnie Pearson, Rob Chance, Dave Rossie and Matt House (not pictured) for their outstanding performance during an incident that occurred at the Florence Justice center, during which two police officers and an inmate were injured. The group, all members of Western Lane Ambulance District, were recognized for their selfless bravery in a dangerous situation in order to help fellow first responders without regard to their personal safety. Also on hand for the award presentation were Florence Mayor Joe Henry and Police Chief Tom Turner.

City of Florence, Police Department hold evening of recognition for responders

On Wednesday, Sept. 6, Florence Police Chief Tom Turner presented a variety of awards honoring members of the Florence Police Department and its partner agency personnel at a special recognition reception held at the Florence Event Center.

Recipients, family members and representatives from the Florence Police Department, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR), Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD)

and the City of Florence gathered for a ceremonial evening where individuals were recognized for their valor and actions during two serious incidents that occurred in May and June of this year.

Turner intensely recounted details of the events in which the recipients were each involved: the May incident at the Florence Municipal Jail and the high-speed car chase that ended just east of the Florence city limits in June. These two events were significant for

local police officers and public safety partners.

"To have two events of this significance in such a short period of time, or any time period for that matter, is unusual," Turner said in his opening remarks. "And not just because we are Florence, but anywhere. To deal with them as a city, a department and a community is very difficult and sometimes disturbing."

See RECOGNITION 7A

Looking to the past to build the future

Outgoing Siuslaw Pioneer Museum President Del Phelps reflects on history

By JARED ANDERSON
Siuslaw News

Resting in the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum, 278 Maple St., underneath three black and white photographs of an era long since passed, is a piece of metal that means a lot to Florence resident Del Phelps.

Phelps, who is retiring as president from the museum's board after 13 years, views that metal object and its corresponding photos as tangible connections to his past. It's also a reminder of why he believes the museum is so important to the Siuslaw region, both to those who live here, and future generations to come.

The first photograph, which is



JARED ANDERSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

Del Phelps stands next to photos of his family in the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum.

of Phelps' grandfather, begins the

The metal comes from a boiler-plate on a steam donkey, a logging

engine that was used to pull logs from the forest.

"My grandfather started the logging up in Indian Creek," Phelps said. "He would log the property and put the logs in the creek, and when the floods came, they would force the logs down to the sawmill in Florence."

The second picture shows the steam donkey, along with its operator — Phelps' father. He ran the donkey for a number of years, until it was dismantled when his grandfather's industry expanded down to Mapleton.

When building the new facility, a piece of metal from the steam donkey was used to build the new

See HISTORY 8A

SIUSLAW NEWS SAYS 'SO LONG' TO SUMMER INTERN

Siuslaw graduate, former Rhody Queen Hanna Anderson wraps up writing internship

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Readers of Siuslaw News might have noticed a new byline on stories several times this summer — "Hanna Anderson, Siuslaw News Intern."

To prepare for a future career in journalism, Anderson, 18, who graduated from Siuslaw High School in June, approached Siuslaw News Publisher Jenna Bartlett and Editor Ned Hickson about a six-week internship before she left for her first semester at Portland State University.

"I really loved working at a newspaper this summer," Anderson said. "As I get older, I would definitely love to work at a newspaper or in TV or radio."

While in the newsroom, Anderson worked on stories about Siuslaw High School's graduation rate and the all-senior bowling team, as well as surveying area youth for and cowriting Part II of "Are the Kids Still Alright?" Her final story, on the ASPIRE mentorship program at Siuslaw High School, will come out in the Saturday edition of Siuslaw News.

"I definitely learned things I have to work on. The No. 1 thing is phone calls, since they're scary. I also learned about deadlines, and how they work," she said. "I really loved it, I just didn't know what would happen while I was at Siuslaw News."

Anderson also learned about Associated Press (AP) style while formatting press releases.

"Writing has a lot of opportunities. More people these days are turning to website journalism ... and I could see myself working for a news magazine," Anderson said.

She added that Portland State has

several options for writing students to get participate in media: a magazine, a newspaper, radio and TV.

"I really want to get involved with all of them," she said.

Anderson has lived in the Florence area all her life. Like many youth in a small town, she struggled with identity and finding where she fit.

"When other people don't care about you, then that just means you have to care about yourself more," she said. "I feel like a lot of people



PHOTO BY CAROL JOLLEY

Hanna Anderson

See INTERN 7A