

Ted Wheeler
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www.ost.state.or.us



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State Treasurer Wheeler encourages Oregonians to 'Guard your money,' unveils new web site and tools

New resources will help Oregonians recognize and report scams, to protect their families and others

SALEM – Somewhere, right now, somebody is dreaming up a scheme to separate you from your hard-earned money.

Oregon State Treasurer Ted Wheeler doesn't want them to succeed. To help thwart those efforts, he unveiled today a new public education effort called "Guard Your Money."

"Every day, across our great state, innocent people and families are falling into financial traps," said Treasurer Wheeler. "You need your money, every dollar of it. So you need to know how to protect your wallet, your bank account and your vital private information."

The centerpiece of the Guard Your Money campaign is a new website, which can be reached at www.GuardYourMoney.org. On it, visitors can learn tips to help them spot potential traps and will find ample links to resources and tools from the Oregon Department of Justice, the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Affairs and the Federal Trade Commission.

Treasurer Wheeler also will appear in radio and television announcements urging Oregonians to be wary of financial "red flags." Among those: Unsolicited prizes, promises of guaranteed investment returns and sales pitches to invest a small sum in a "startup kit" with the promises of large rewards later.

The website also will help Oregonians learn to report suspected schemes, in order to protect their own families, and their neighbors.

Some financial traps are scams, but others are perfectly legal. For instance, some companies charge you to search for your unclaimed property in Oregon, but you can do it yourself for free. Every kind of trap could cost you money at a time when your family needs it most.

"Remember, just because something is legal, it doesn't mean it is fair or that somebody isn't trying to take advantage of you," said Treasurer Wheeler.

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