



Community Job Fair comes to Three Rivers

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Siuslaw News

128TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 18

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

FRAUD ALERT

Rent fraud scams couple out of \$2,500

Rental agencies, Florence police warn of fraudulent online postings

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
Siuslaw News

When Dora Milner wired her final down payment for a rental in Florentine Estates, she was ecstatic to be moving into a beautiful home in a gated community. Days later, she found herself stranded indefinitely in a hotel and \$2,500 poorer.

The rental, it turned out, was not for rent.

Rental scams are reportedly uncommon in the Florence area and victims rarely make face-to-face contact with the perpetrators. Though Milner never met the purported owner of the Florentine Estate house, this alleged scam was given a human face — a supposed real estate agent, who was “a short woman with short, black hair,” according to Milner, was deployed for a meeting.

“They even had us go out and look at [the house], but not on the inside,” said Milner.

When Milner and her friends arrived to view the house, the agent had no business card, gave no name and claimed the house keys were with a lawyer.

Nonetheless, Milner was allowed to tour the house from the outside and peer through windows to confirm the amenities were all there.

Despite not going inside, the house seemed a remarkably better option than others Milner had seen.

“It was a really nice place,” said Milner. “Real nice.”

Milner and her husband, who requested to not be identified for this article, had moved to Florence from Craig, Alaska, in 2012 for job opportunities. They felt the apartment they settled in left something to be desired as rent began increasing.

“Half the time you can’t even use the bathroom because it’s all plugged up,” said Milner. “We didn’t want to spend our money there. They wanted \$900 for a junky apartment.”

Two weeks ago, Milner began using local real estate agencies to search for other housing options, but it was on Craigslist that a home for rent in Florentine Estates caught her eye. For \$625 a month, including all utilities, the three-bedroom, two-bathroom house in a gated community seemed a stroke of good fortune.

See RENTAL 12A



Siuslaw Valley responds to large blaze on Highway 101

Thursday night fire in vacant restaurant now under investigation by the State Fire Marshal

PHOTOS BY JARED ANDERSON AND NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS



Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue requested mutual aid to assist in battling the structure fire at 1073 Highway 101 on March 1. Crews remained on scene to conduct an investigation through Friday.

BY MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) responded Thursday evening, at approximately 6 p.m., to a building fire at 1073 Highway 101. Upon arrival, fire crews found heavy smoke coming from the unoccupied business, most recently known as La Bu La Restaurant, and the building soon became completely engulfed.

The fire at the structure was determined to be a potential safety hazard due to a large HVAC unit on the roof of the building and the nature of the blaze. It was determined that, due to the uncertain nature of the structural integrity of the building, a defensive posture would be the most effective and safest approach to containing the blaze which quickly spread throughout the building.

See FIRE 9A

Ada Grange #570 celebrates 100 years today

‘The Grange is a channel of giving back to our communities’

Ada Grange #570 is celebrating its 100th anniversary this month, with a gala being held today at the Ada Grange Hall.

BY JARED ANDERSON
Siuslaw News

The hall, which is nestled by the Siltcoos Lake where Fiddle Creek ties into the lake, has been the home of various traditions for the Ada area, which has included dances, pie socials and theatrical productions over the years. The hall has also played a vital role as a place for Grange members to bring much needed changes to the Ada area over the decades.

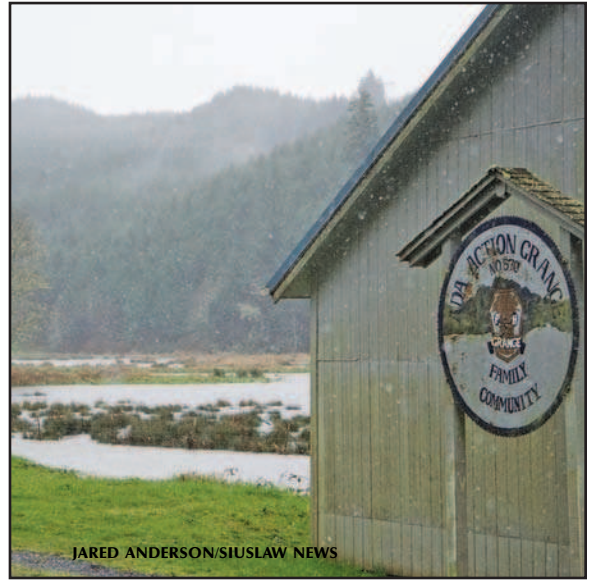
“It’s just been such a big part of my life,” Grange member Linda Pugh said about the

organization. “It holds a special place in my heart. I don’t know why. Maybe it’s because my folks have been members, or I’ve been a member for so long. The Grange is a channel of giving back to our communities.”

The Grange organization, officially known as the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, is a community organization with its roots in agriculture. Last December, the organization celebrated its 150th anniversary.

Ada Grange #570 was first organized in March 1919 as part of the national Grange, with the Grange hall being erected in August of the same year.

See ADA GRANGE 9A



JARED ANDERSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

IT’S NOT JUST THE BEES: PLIGHT OF THE POLLINATORS PART II

Wasps, flies, butterflies and, surprisingly, bats are essential to the process

BY MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

The term “pest” is frequently applied unknowingly to a group of insects that are underappreciated and extremely critical to human existence — pollinators. Pollinators move pollen from the male part of a flower, the anther, to the female part of the flower, the stigma.

This process, known as cross-pollination, results in the fertilization of

the flower, allowing the plant to grow and produce food.

Bees, wasps, ants, flies, mosquitoes, butterflies, moths and beetles are the most common pollinators and their efforts make possible the growth of approximately 70 percent of the fruits and vegetables that humans eat, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The need for cross-pollination continues to grow as agricultural demands increase, partially as a result

of the desire for year-round availability of crops that were once only available seasonally.

Perhaps most damaging is the widespread use of pesticides to control wildflowers and weed growth in agricultural areas. This has the dual impact of poisoning the insects and destroying the uncultivated grasses, shrubs, and trees where the insects live.

One of the major challenges facing the agricultural sector is the decrease of available pollinators, which are essential to the process, mostly due to parasite infestation and pesticide

application.

The USDA reports that there has been a decline from around 6 million beehives, just after World War II, to approximately 2.5 million hives in 2010.

This decrease has led to the mass movement of hundreds of thousand of hives each year, often over long distances, to meet the demand for seasonally critical pollination.

The reduction in the number of beehives is not the only challenge to farmers, as there are numerous other dangers to pollinators.

Many of these challenges are the

result of over use of pesticides and the destruction of pollinator habitats.

Andony Melathopoulos, an Assistant Professor at Oregon State University (OSU), works in the Department of Horticulture and conducts research on Pollinator Health.

He believes honeybee and other pollinator populations are in less danger here in Oregon than in other geographical regions of the country due to the longer growing season and the wide variety of crops grown in the state.

See POLLINATOR 8A