

On The Record

Fraudulent letters sent to area homeowners with 'USDA Mortgage Loans'

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development recently received reports of homeowners with USDA mortgage loans receiving letters offering special assistance through the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP) and Making Home Affordable trial program for loans that are delinquent. The letter claims to provide a payment plan and asks the customer to complete a form to be faxed or mailed that asks for private information, including a social security number and signature. Do not respond to this inquiry; this is not a legitimate request. If you receive a suspicious call or letter regarding your Rural Development home loan, do not follow the instructions and instead contact Rural Development directly at 1-800-414-1226 or rdquestion@stl.usda.gov. If you suspect you have been a victim of identity fraud, you should contact your local authorities.

LCC board seeks applicants to fill Zone 1, Zone 3 budget committee vacancies

The Lane Community College Board of Education invites applications for appointment to its Zone 1 and Zone 3 Budget Committee vacancies. Applicants need not reside in those zones but must be a registered voter residing in the college district. The appointees will serve a three-year term which ends June 30, 2023. To apply, applicants should send a letter of interest and resume to LCC Executive Assistant to the President and Board Donna Zmolek, President's Office, 4000 E. 30th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97405, or email zmolekd@lanecc.edu. The deadline to apply is Feb. 3. LCC is committed to building an inclusive environment for people of all backgrounds and ages. Women, people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, veterans, and individuals with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply. Applicants will not be discriminated against because of race, religion, sex, national origin, ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, color, marital status or medical condition.

Resources now available for renters to prevent eviction, access rental assistance

With the passage of an extension of the eviction moratorium and additional funds to help pay back rent, Dec. 31 no longer brought the risk of eviction to renters who have faced financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are a few important elements of the legislation for both renters and landlords to pay attention to:

- Evictions for non-payment: Now prohibited until July 1, 2021 for tenants who qualify based on financial hardship and who file a declaration with their landlord.
- Tenants still owe rent, but eviction and credit history protections apply until the end of the moratorium.
- New rent assistance resources funded: \$200 million for rent assistance, to help tenants and landlords with unpaid rent obligations:
 - \$150 million to a landlord compensation fund that can be accessed by landlords through Oregon Housing and Community Services.
 - If a landlord applies for and receives payments from this fund, a tenant's back rent is taken care of.
 - \$50 million in rent assistance that can be accessed by tenants through community-based organizations.
 - Tenants must apply for these funds individually. Payments go directly to landlords towards resolving rent debt.
- New grace period to pay back rent owed where landlord compensation fund or other rental assistance hasn't resolved the debt:
 - Until March 31, 2021 for all tenants
 - Until July 1, 2021 for hardship qualifying tenants
- Tenant financial hardship and June 30, 2021 to allow landlords to qualify for compensation fund.

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4836 Laguna Ave – Lake and forest views from this 4,000 sqft home just minutes from Florence. Boat, fish and kayak from your private dock. Remodeled in 2003. This house has hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen, and large master suite with walk-in closet. Pole barn and large 3 bay RV barn provide plenty of parking. \$1,369,000. #2850-18330278

1749 Highway 101 • 541-997-1200

1285 RESTO BAR

Open for take-out and patio seating!

Patio will be open for seating starting this Friday Dec. 4th.
First come, first served, no reservations.

We are doing everything we can to safely serve our community.
We are open: 11-7 daily

1285 Bay Street, Old Town Florence
(541) 902-8338

www.1285Restobar.com

Important note: To access protections under the state law, a tenant must give their landlord a signed declaration of financial hardship. There are legal penalties for submitting a false declaration.

Tenants can find information and the declaration form in English and in Spanish at www.oregonlawhelp.org.

To our valued readers:
Help small businesses affected by coronavirus right now, including ours.

Businesses of all sizes have been hit hard in this challenging new age of social distancing and self-isolation, but the blow has been catastrophic for small operations that rely on in-person transactions. There are many ways to help this holiday season, like purchasing gift certificates or memberships, and yet there are many service-type businesses that don't have that option.

As we look to a new year, we're celebrating what connects us as a community, and what we can do to support our local businesses!

THAT'S WHY WE CREATED THE SUPPORT LOCAL TOGETHER CAMPAIGN.
The Support Local Together campaign will help local businesses who have to choose between promoting their business and paying the electric bill. It will also help support the *Siuslaw News*, who has seen a strong decrease in advertising revenue, but an increase in readership.

IT DOES TWO THINGS.

- 1. Funds advertising dollars for local businesses**
Your financial support will go directly to fund advertising that our local businesses need to stay top of mind.
- 2. Supports local journalism**
By becoming a supporting member, you are helping to replace some of the advertising revenue the *Siuslaw News* has lost over the past ten months, due to the pandemic.

HERE IS HOW TO SUPPORT:

- Call 541-902-3524
- Make a donation of your choosing.
- Choose a specific local business that you would like the advertising credit to go to, or leave that blank and we will designate it to a business we know needs help.

Our community is small but generous and we recognize there are many great organizations, like ours, that could use your help.

We believe the vast majority of our readers have always shared our view of the value and necessity of a strong local media and are willing to provide support equal to two or three cups of coffee a month to secure its future.

Thank you in advance for doing your share to secure a strong local economy in the community we are proud to serve.

Jenna Bartlett
Publisher
jbartlett@thesiuslawnews.com
541-902-3524

SIUSLAW NEWS
UNITY WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

The Oregon Public Utility Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$21.00 per month and business services are \$33.00-\$37.00 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone or broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain Lifeline telephone or broadband service can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-888-833-9522 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.



Yes, I would like to become a 2020/21 Support Local Together Sponsor
Call 541-902-3524

Mail sponsorship form to: **Siuslaw News Supporter**
PO Box 10 Florence Oregon 97439

☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other Amount _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

☐ Check ☐ Credit Card

Name on Card: _____ Expiration date: _____

Number: _____

Billing Zip Code: _____ 3 Digit Security Code: _____

Do you have a specific business you would like to sponsor:
List here: _____

☐ We will send a gift card to the business(es) of your choice with your name. If would like to remain anonymous please check here.
***This sponsorship is not tax deductible.**