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News BRIEF

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FHA CHANGE ADDS 2.5 MILLION POTENTIAL BOOMERANG BUYERS TWO YEARS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

Up to 2.5 million formerly foreclosed homeowners — or those who sold while in the foreclosure process — could be re-entering the housing market as buyers much faster than anticipated thanks to a recent change in Federal Housing Administration (FHA) guidelines.

By: Daren Blomquist, Contributor to Forbes, September 18, 2013 // To read the article in full, please visit: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/darenblomquist/2013/09/18/fha-change-adds-2-5-million-potential-boomerang-buyers-two-years-ahead-of-schedule/>

VA PAVES WAY FOR ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that it will begin accepting electronic signatures in conjunction with its VA Home Loan Program. The move anticipates what some hope will be universally acceptable e-signatures and the fully electronic mortgage.

By: Hugh Moore, DSNews, September 25, 2013 // To read the article in full, please visit: <http://www.dsnews.com/articles/va-paves-way-for-electronic-signatures-2013-09-25>

HUD POSTPONES BAN ON DUAL AGENCY IN FHA SHORT SALES

In what appears to be a coup for the National Association of Realtors, a policy originally slated to take effect on Oct. 1 banning real estate agents and brokers from representing both a buyer and a seller in an FHA short-sale transaction has been postponed.

By: Andrea Brambila, Inman News, September 26, 2013 // To read the article in full, please visit: <http://www.inman.com/2013/09/26/proposed-ban-on-dual-agency-in-fha-short-sales-placed-on-hold/>

U.S. SENIORS LOCK IN REVERSE MORTGAGES BEFORE RULES CHANGE

American seniors grappling with strained savings following the deepest recession in generations will soon face new hurdles in tapping a tool some have used to help finance retirement: the federal government's reverse mortgage program.

By: Margaret Chadbourn, Reuters, September 26, 2013 // To read the article in full, please visit: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/26/usa-housing-mortgages-idUSL2N0HL10A20130926>

HOME-PRICE GROWTH SLOWING, CASE-SHILLER SAYS

Home-Price Growth Slowing, Case-Shiller Says U.S. home prices in July rose at the smallest monthly pace since March, as most cities tracked by a gauge from S&P/Case-Shiller saw slower growth, according to data released Tuesday.

By: Ruth Mantell, MarketWatch, September 24, 2013 // To read the article in full, please visit: <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/home-price-growth-edging-down-case-shiller-says-2013-09-24>

FEMA: HALTING FLOOD INSURANCE HIKE REQUIRES CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

Congress must rewrite the federal flood control act if it wants to spare homeowners from skyrocketing rate increases, the nation's top disaster official told a Senate committee Wednesday, because he doesn't have the authority to stop it.

By: Mary Ellen Klas, Tampa Bay Times, September 18, 2013 // To read the article in full, please visit: <http://www.tampabay.com/blogs/the-buzz-florida-politics/fema-halting-flood-insurance-hike-requires-congressional-action/2142623>

WHY THE COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE CRASH NEVER CAME

After the housing market collapsed, many economists predicted a similar fate for commercial real estate. Here's why it never happened.

By: Nin-Hai Tseng, CNNMoney, September 23, 2013 // To read the article in full, please visit: <http://finance.fortune.cnn.com/2013/09/23/commercial-real-estate-hilton/>