



FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021

# Peace Harbor provides first COVID-19 caregiver vaccinations

STORY & PHOTO

PROVIDED BY PEACE HARBOR

PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center held its first COVID-19 vaccination clinic for caregivers and providers on Dec. 24, with additional clinics planned over the next several weeks.

Peace Harbor's first shipment of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine arrived on Dec. 22. The hospital piloted the vaccination process with 10 frontline providers and caregivers on Dec. 23; Hospital Medical Director Heather McArthur, DO, an Emergency Department physician and hospital medical director, volunteered to be first.

"I was honored and thrilled to be the first one to roll up my sleeve,"



Peace Harbor Hospital Medical Director Heather McArthur, DO, was the first caregiver in Florence to receive the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

said McArthur. "This is a momentous day for Peace Harbor, and for this community. Finally, we see a light at the end of this long, dark tunnel. We can't wait for our caregivers and community members, especially those whose age or medical condition make them especially vulnerable, to be protected against this virus."

Because the vaccine supply is limited, PeaceHealth is prioritizing the first doses of vaccines for healthcare workers with direct patient contact. Peace Harbor expected to vaccinate at least 75 caregivers, and in coming weeks will provide the vaccine to every caregiver who wants it.

See VACCINE page 5A

Siuslaw News NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY VOL. 130, NO. 105 FLORENCE, OREGON

### WEATHER



Rain and wind with a high of 51 and a low tonight of 46. Full forecast on A3

### COMMUNITY



Food Backpacks receive donation INSIDE — A3

### LIFESTYLE



Elks feed annual Christmas Dinner INSIDE — B

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## Christmas Day fire displaces Florence family

NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

Multiple first response agencies responded to a house fire on Sand Dunes Park Drive on Christmas Day, but the house was a total loss. Four occupants are currently getting help from SOS and the American Red Cross, as well as through community donations and two GoFundMe campaigns.

SIUSLAW NEWS STAFF REPORT

Just before 5 p.m. on Christmas Day, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) and Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD) responded to reports of a structure fire located

at 5352 Sand Dunes Park Dr.

Four fire engines, 15 firefighters, one water tender, a ladder truck and two ambulances staffed by four WLAD crews arrived to find the structure — a double-wide mobile home that included wooden decks in the front and rear — fully

engulfed in flames. In addition to local responders from Florence, a three-person fire crew from Reed-sport also responded as mutual aid, along with Oregon State Police and officers from the Lane County Sheriff's Office.

See FIRE page 5A

## Mapleton officially lifts boil notice

Installation of water treatment skid ends 6-month concern

BY MARK BRENNAN SIUSLAW NEWS

The Mapleton Water District (MWD) has announced an end to the water boil notice for the district's residents. The cautionary notice has been in effect since July and recommended all customers of the MWD to boil all water used for cooking and drinking.

There have been a number of repair and upgrade in the past six months.

MWD Board Vice Chair Dustin Basurto wants area residents to know the recent installation of new equipment at the main district building, and the testing of that

See WATER page 5A

## Commission approves fencing, lighting plans for applicants

BY MARK BRENNAN SIUSLAW NEWS

The Florence Planning Commission met virtually on Dec. 22 with all commissioners in attendance. The agenda for the meeting was short on action items, with the main decision in front of the group a discussion and decision regarding a request for a design review by Larry and Crystal Farnsworth regarding a commercial development project.

Resolution PC 20 30 DR 07 asked the commissioners to approve lighting and fencing designs for a city-owned parcel, on behalf of Heceta Self Storage Corporation, to construct a phased 470-unit storage See PLANNING page 6A

## Cold Weather Shelter opens for first night

Individual units allow people to shelter, keep warm during COVID

BY CHANTELE MEYER SIUSLAW NEWS

On Monday night, the weather in Florence dropped to 34 degrees, warranting the first opening of the Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter (FECWS) of the 2020-21 winter season.

The cold weather shelter used Pallet Shelters, located at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, to house nine attendees in a safe, warm manner.

"It went very well," reported FECWS President Patricia Burke on Tuesday morning. "It was brutally cold, but they reported that they slept. One fellow said, 'I haven't had as good a night sleep in a long time.'"

Masks and proper physical distancing were required by both attendees and volunteers.

Earlier this year, FECWS received 20 Pallet Shelters from Lane



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

Individual Pallet-brand shelters have been set up at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw as the Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter seeks to protect people from both the cold and COVID-19.

County's supply of 120 Pallet-brand shelters from Pallet, a company based in Everett and Seattle, Wash.

These shelters allow people to have a warm, dry and safe place to spend See SHELTER page 6A

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