

**WATER from page 1A**

equipment, has been successful and there is no longer a need for the boil notice.

"Please help us spread the word the boil water notice is lifted. Notices will soon be posted publicly at the post office, library, etc. and online in local Mapleton/Florence Facebook groups," Basurto said. "I personally cannot heap enough praise on District Manager Terry Saubert. It would take volumes just to relate the efforts and ways he goes beyond the duties of his job to make things happen here in Mapleton."

The MWD board member also thanked other friends of the district including the Walker family, Sharon Schrenk and newly elected State Rep. Boomer Wright.

"Wright supported the district behind the scenes and continues to work for Mapleton in the state legislature. Thanks to Boomer for getting the district in

touch with Rep. Gary Leif, and at Rep. Leif's suggestion, copying Rep. McKee in on the request for emergency funding," Basurto continued. "With these contacts, we were able to fast tract the Grant approval and funding of the grant. Especially the funding, as the grant had basically been approved."

Last week, Saubert worked with technicians from Westech Co. and The Automation Group to upgrade pumps and auxiliary equipment which had failed or simply reached the end of its usable lifespan. This included the installation of a 140GPM temporary treatment skid, a new movable water storage tank.

"The district appreciates everyone's patience and understanding. Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year," Basurto said.

Residents with questions or concerns can contact the MWD office at 541-268-4348.

**VACCINE from page 1A**

Currently all of PeaceHealth Oregon's hospitalized COVID-19 patients are treated at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend in Springfield, in two designated units — one in Intensive Care and one on the Medical Unit. Vaccinations began at RiverBend on Dec. 21, after receiving a shipment of Pfizer vaccine.

Peace Harbor's first shipment contained approximately 1,200 doses of the Moderna vaccine.

PeaceHealth, based in Vancouver, Wash., is a not-for-profit Catholic health

system offering care to communities in Washington, Oregon and Alaska. PeaceHealth has approximately 16,000 caregivers, a group practice with more than 900 providers and 10 medical centers serving both urban and rural communities throughout the Northwest. In 1890, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace founded what has become PeaceHealth Today, PeaceHealth is the legacy of the founding Sisters and continues with a spirit of respect, stewardship, collaboration and social justice in fulfilling its mission.

Learn more at peacehealth.org.



PHOTOS BY NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

**Despite the best efforts of local firefighters, four people have been displaced after the loss of a home on Sand Dunes Park Drive on Christmas Day. In addition, two family pets are still missing as of press time on Tuesday.**



**FIRE from page 1A**

Firefighters were hampered by strong winds gusting at 15 to 20 mph, as well as a lack of fire hydrants in the area.

"The fire was very advanced upon our arrival and we were in a defensive fire position almost immediately," said Fire and EMS Chief Michael Schick.

Despite the efforts, the home received extensive damage from the fire and is considered to be a total loss. In addition, a neighboring garage adjacent to the home was slightly damaged and power was out in the area for several hours due to the fire and a downed power line.

The occupants of the home, Katherine Wesler and Brian Walker and two children, evacuated the home and were uninjured but were transported to Peace Harbor Hospital by WLAD as a precaution due to smoke inhalation. However, two family dogs remain unaccounted for.

One Siuslaw Valley Firefighter was evaluated at the scene for exhaustion but was not transported to Peace Harbor.

The investigation into the cause of the fire is underway and being led by SVFR Fire Marshal Tony Miller with assistance from the Oregon State Police Arson Investigation team and personnel from the

State Fire Marshal's Office.

The American Red Cross is in contact with the family and several requests have been made via social media for clothing and other needed items. There are several ways to donate to the family, including two GoFundMe campaigns at [www.gofundme.com/f/8qqggeg-ryan-walker](http://www.gofundme.com/f/8qqggeg-ryan-walker) and [www.gofundme.com/f/28gyt8z9uo](http://www.gofundme.com/f/28gyt8z9uo).

On Tuesday, Dec. 29, firefighters were again called out for a residential fire, this time for a unit at the Timber Apartments on Eighth and Quince streets behind Safeway. Read more about this fire in the Saturday, Jan. 2, edition of the *Siuslaw News*.

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