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 NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
 VOL. 131, NO. 11
 FEBRUARY 6, 2021
 FLORENCE, OREGON

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Sign up now for vaccination registration

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
 SIUSLAW NEWS

On Thursday, Lane County announced the opening of COVID-19 vaccination preregistration. People can go to www.cognitofirms.com/LaneCountyCOVID/COVID-19VaccinePreregistration in English and www.cognitofirms.com/LaneCountyCOVID/COVID19VaccinePreregistrationSpanish en Español to fill out the form.

Shortly after, the Lane County Government website went down, partly due to the volume of people wanting to access the form.

“We continue to experience technical difficulties on our website, but the preregistration form is working,” Lane County reported on its social media pages.

While vaccine availability remains limited even among those that are currently eligible, the preregistration form will help Lane County get people scheduled to receive the vaccine. This will depend on eligibility and when supply is available.

Information collected using the preregistration form will allow vaccinating health care partners to contact people to schedule an appointment when vaccine is available for your phase/group eligibility. People will then be contacted through either the phone or email information provided on the form.

Each week, Lane County will send an email with updates about who is getting vaccinated in order.

For more information COVID-19 locally, visit lanecounty.org/corona virus.



The former Hans Petersen Field on Quince Street below the Florence Events Center may see new life as a new community and recreation center for the Siuslaw Region.

Regional community & recreation center still in initial stages

STORY & PHOTOS
 BY MARK BRENNAN
 SIUSLAW NEWS

Major development plans for underutilized residential and commercially zoned properties in the area continue to be announced and approved by the City of Florence, including a large, multi-family residential development application approved for Rhododendron Drive and 35th Street, as well as an expansive, mixed-use motel complex in the initial stages of development on a 40-acre parcel across from the Florence Events Center (FEC) on Quince Street.

Both of these projects will require solid financing and community support to succeed, as will the most recent major development announced by local entrepreneurs: the Siuslaw Regional Community

and Recreation Center (SRCRC).

The project is being proposed by area residents Graham Ross and Kurt Vander Bogart, who have been working together developing the framework and vision for the multi-use facility to be located at the former Hans Petersen Field on Quince Street, below the FEC.

“We plan to offer sustainable, health-related quality of life to the Siuslaw community, accomplished through the coordination of a multi-faceted community project by building the Siuslaw Regional Recreation Center, which will be named The Hans Petersen Recreation Center,” Ross said in an interview with Siuslaw News. “It will include the Siuslaw Regional Community Center and restoration of the Siuslaw Regional Aquatic Center [in Mapleton].”

The recreation center will even-

tually house many tenants, including a public market offering a variety of products and services from low-price leased spaces.

The two developers hope to have fresh produce, baked goods, art, crafts, wine and beer available for purchase, primarily obtained from local businesses and farms.

“All the revenue generated by the market at SRCRC flows directly back into sustaining the Recreation Center, Community Center and Aquatic Center,” said Ross. “The Siuslaw Vision will be assisting us in reaching out to the Siuslaw community to define what residents want in their rec center, community center and aquatic center.”

Additionally, each of the centers will be dynamic, varying their offerings based on the changing needs of the community.

See CENTER page 5A

EMS responds to high-profile emergency calls



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

A mid-day accident on Highway 101 across from McDonald's prompted the highway's closure for 40 minutes Wednesday.

BY MARK BRENNAN
 SIUSLAW NEWS

It was a busy day on Wednesday as Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) got a call-out first thing in the morning and stayed active throughout the day.

Starting at 6:25 a.m. on Feb. 3, SVFR responded to reports of a fire at Goodwill, 1310 Highway 101 in Florence.

SVFR personnel were joined at the scene by members of both Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD) and Florence Police Department, according to Fire/EMS

Chief Michael Schick.

“The first crews on scene found a small fire on the loading dock at the rear of the building, which appeared to have started directly behind a semi-trailer that was parked against the dock,” Schick said. “The fire was quickly extinguished with minimal damage noted to the exterior of the building. A small amount of smoke did enter the warehouse storage area in the building requiring ventilation fans to be used and no injuries were reported.”

The central location of the
 See EMS page 5A

Mapleton begins ‘careful phasing in’ of on-site learning

Elementary students to arrive back on campus as early as Feb. 10

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
 SIUSLAW NEWS

The Mapleton School District Board of Directors met for a work session on Feb. 3 with District Superintendent Jodi O’Mara and Mapleton High School Principal Brenda Moyer. The meeting detailed O’Mara’s plans to reopen the school district under guidance from Ready Schools, Safe Learners.

With the current plan, Mapleton Elementary School will be able to have on-site student instruction beginning this Wednesday, Feb. 10.

Districts across the state will be able to reopen schools to students depending on COVID-19 case metrics in their county. According to Ready Schools, Safe Learners guidance, counties must have a positive COVID-19 case rate between 200 and 350 people per 100,000 to allow for an elementary on-site and hybrid transition.

For the two weeks ending Jan. 30, Lane County had a positive

case rate of 222.5, which is below the 283.5 rate from the previous period.

“That’s a significant drop,” O’Mara said. “It’s nice to see that the metrics are trending down.”

In addition, it means that Mapleton can bring students back to campus.

“The county case rate puts us in the elementary on-site and hybrid transition model. What that means is, we prioritize careful phasing in of on-site or hybrid for elementary students, starting with younger students and adding additional grades over time,” O’Mara said.

The district has been teaching students in comprehensive distance learning (CDL) since last March. At the end of 2020, it began to bring students to campus for short periods of time under limited in-person instruction (LIPI). Now, a majority of the students will be able to attend in-person by the end of next month, as long as county metrics allow.

See MAPLETON page 7A

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