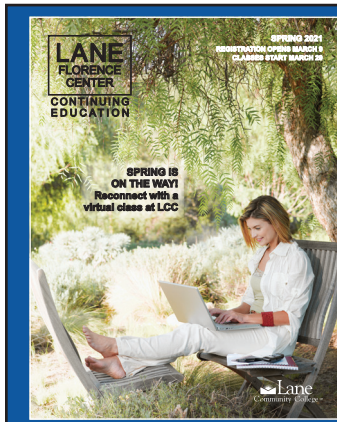


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INSIDE Today's Issue



MONDAY, MARCH 8

Siuslaw News
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
VOL. 131, NO. 19
MARCH 6, 2021
FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Rain showers with a high of 49 and a low of 41.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Travel Oregon awards City of Florence
INSIDE — A3

SPORTS



Cross Country takes off
INSIDE — B

RECORDS

Obituaries & emergency response logs
Inside — A2

SIDE SHOW

Activities and comics every Saturday
Inside — B4

CLASSIFIEDS

Listings and public notices
Inside — B5

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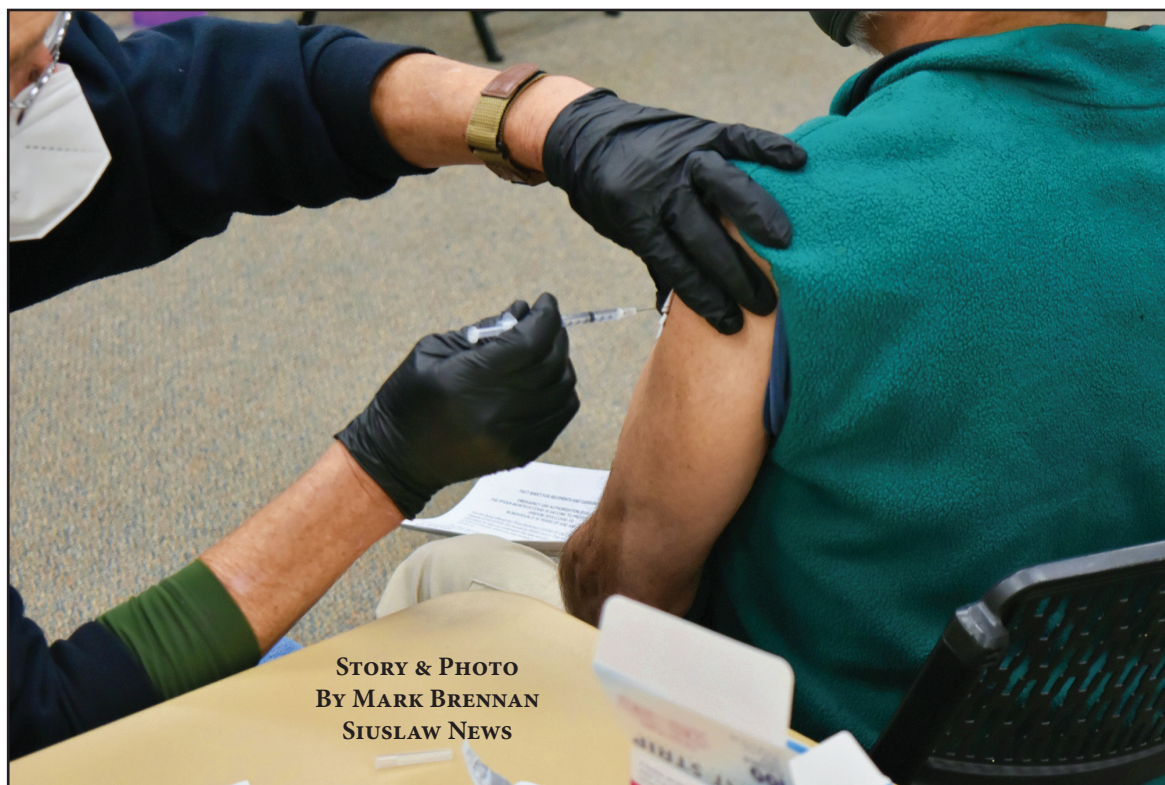
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2 SECTIONS | 16 PAGES
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Bringing the vaccine to Florence

Lane County hosts vaccination clinic for more than 1,000 at FEC



STORY & PHOTO
BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

A team from Lane County Sheriff's Office's Search and Rescue administered first doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to more than 1,000 people in Florence on Wednesday. City staff and CERT volunteers helped the event run smoothly at the Florence Events Center.

The first public offering of a vaccine for the COVID-19 virus in Florence took place at the Florence Events Center (FEC) on March 3, as Lane County oversaw the vaccination of 1,105 people who had pre-registered and were determined to be eligible to receive the vaccination.

The organized process had all potential recipients checking in at the entrance to the FEC, where they were identified, and temperature tested before entering the main hall. There was a long-rope line which separated the

public from the healthcare workers who were busy speaking with clients and performing injections.

This is also where the effort's incident commander, Jason Bowman, drew out the individual doses available in the larger vials provided and separated them into six different syringes.

Bowman is assigned to the Lane County Sheriff's Office as a member of the county's Search and Rescue Team, but has taken on responsibilities associated with the vaccination effort in Oregon.

"We think things went real-

ly on Wednesday," he said. "The Search and Rescue Team from Lane County was really happy to bring the vaccines to Florence. We know it might be difficult for some individuals that are eligible to receive the vaccine to make the trip into Eugene, so we were really pleased to be able to help them receive the vaccination without having to make the trip to Eugene."

Staff from the City of Florence were on hand throughout the day to help with the process.

See VACCINE page 6A

Dunes City continues talks on short term rentals

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Dunes City Council held an in-person meeting last week at Dunes City Hall to talk about short term vacation rentals, a topic first discussed last spring.

The meeting was called to order by City Council President Sheldon Meyer, with Councilor Tom Mallen and Mayor Bob Forsythe absent and excused.

Meyer then asked fellow councilors for suggestions or changes to the consent agenda and receiving none, moved to accept the agenda, which included previous meeting minutes and a Profit and Loss statement distributed at the last council meeting, as presented.

Next, City Administrator Jaime Mills updated the council on an opening in the Dunes City administrative office for a planning secretary and provided an update on work being done by Spectrum to improve service to the area.

The main issue at the meeting was next on the agenda, and it centered around the council's intention to regulate in some way the area's short term rental market. Ordinance 256 would provide some framework to deal with the ramifications of short-term rentals on residents and their properties.

See DUNES page 6A

Work session highlights Florence City Council changes

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Florence City Council is in the final stages of creating an updated City Work Plan, which serves as a template for achieving the long-term goals previous councils and city staff have identified as priorities for area residents, along with new ideas and initiatives suggested by recently seated councilors and committee and commission members.

Over the past two months, all city commissions and committees have updated and reconfigured their recommendations to the council on areas they are representing. There have been significant changes in the make-up of the committees and on the city council, which has shifted some previous priorities and objectives.

These updated committee and commission recommendations were incorporated into a new set of possible additions or subtractions to the overall city workplan, which was presented to councilors at an extended work session Thursday. All councilors were in attendance at the virtual meeting.

See WORK page 5A

Kids (back) in the hall

Mapleton juniors, seniors return to on-campus learning

STORY & PHOTOS
BY CHANTELE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS

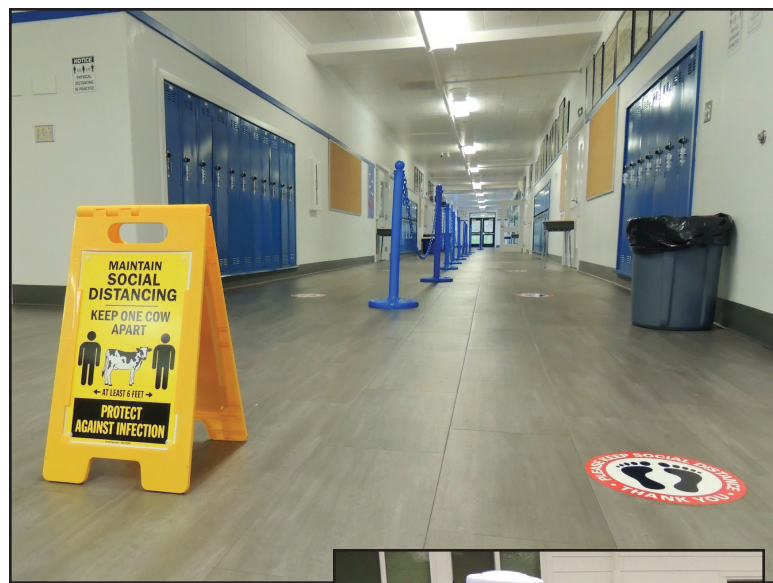
Mapleton staff members lined the high school entrance next to the iconic blue anchor. Conversation flowed about their excitement for the day — March 3 — when juniors and seniors could return to campus after nearly a year of comprehensive distance learning and limited in-person instruction.

Cheers erupted as the first student walked up.

As if there wasn't enough joy for one day, a special guest also made an appearance. Salty the Sailor, Mapleton's long-time mascot, handed each student a navy-blue mask adorned with white anchors.

"That was very special for Salty to welcome our juniors and seniors back. It was special for the people who donated the costume, and it was special for the person in the costume. You could tell none of the kids had ever seen it and none of the staff had seen it," said Mapleton Superintendent Jodi O'Mara.

Salty also made an appearance at Mapleton Elementary, where



Mapleton High School reopened for juniors and seniors on Wednesday, with Salty, the Mapleton Sailors' mascot, joining teachers and staff in greeting students on their return to campus.

students have been back on campus since Feb. 10.

Once the juniors and seniors arrived, students were ushered into the gym, where they sat six feet apart. Their places were marked with stickers saying, "Anchor Here."

Teachers and staff got the chance to greet the students as O'Mara and Principal Brenda Moyer gave a presentation on how the school year will look now that students are actively on campus for a full day of education.



"We brought you back first because, whether you like it or not, you are leaders of the school," O'Mara told the juniors and seniors, who together make up one 19-person cohort. "The middle schoolers, freshmen and sophomores look up to see what you're doing, and they mimic and model that."

See MAPLETON page 8A

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