

VACCINE from page 1A

According to Florence Public Information Officer Megan Messmer, “Wednesday went extremely well and people moved through the process efficiently. We heard from many people as they left how easy and fast

it was. Lane County Search and Rescue managed the registration and administering of vaccines inside the facility, supported by Lane County Public Health.”

The City of Florence was able to provide staff support for sanitation and prep work for the team from Search and Rescue.

“The city also staffed the outside of the facility for traffic flow and wayfinding. Several CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) volunteers assisted city staff in that effort throughout the day,” Messmer said.

The distribution of vaccines will continue at the FEC today, March 6, with a second round of vaccinations being offered to eligible residents. People were already notified of their eligibility by Lane County Public Health.

Bowman hopes for a similar turnout for those inoculations.

“We are looking forward to coming back to Florence on Saturday, for the distribution of another 1,000 doses. These will be available to individuals that have preregistered at the Lane County website,” he said.

There is a wait list for the event, but Bowman suggest interested individuals stay available as they may receive a last-minute call for a vaccination appointment.

People can preregister for their COVID-19 vaccine at lanecounty.org/coronavirus.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown has made several comments about the vaccination of Oregonians in the past week.

“One year in, with our



Florence’s first vaccination clinic was organized to keep traffic flowing and people apart. All safety precautions were taken.

vaccine efforts continuing to ramp up, we truly see light at the end of the tunnel,” Brown said. “We have more than 14 percent of Oregonians vaccinated with their first dose — which is more than half a million Oregonians.”

As of March 1, OHA reported that 973,022 first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in the state. So far, Oregon has received vaccine from both Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE and Moderna Inc., which both arrived in December. OHA is adding a new vaccine, from Johnson & Johnson, this week, with an initial 34,000 doses. Unlike the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, the new vaccine only requires one dose.

The state will receive help from FEMA in administering vaccines to Oregonians.

Brown also announced a new vaccine prioritization schedule, which she hopes will see all Oregonians 16

and older eligible for the vaccine by July 1.

“Come summer, provided supplies from the federal government continue as planned, any Oregonian who wants the vaccine will be eligible to receive it,” Brown said. “While that gives us all a reason to breathe a sigh of relief, it should also serve as a reminder that the finish line is in sight — and we cannot let up.”

The next step for vaccinations will begin March 29, with the following groups eligible:

- Adults age 45 to 64 with underlying health conditions as defined by the CDC
- Seasonally-impacted frontline workers, such as migrant seasonal farm workers, seafood and agricultural workers, and food processing workers
- Currently displaced victims of the September 2020 wildfires
- Wildland firefighters



• People living in low-income and congregate senior housing

• Individuals experiencing homelessness

By May, the prioritization schedule will begin vaccinating frontline workers, 16-45 year olds with underlying health conditions and multigenerational household members.

No later than June 1, Phase 2 of vaccination will begin with all adults aged 45 to 64. And, no later than July 1, all Oregonians 16 and over will be eligible to receive a vaccine.

“As we vaccinate thousands of Oregonians each day and reopen more school buildings and businesses as

safely as possible, now is not the time to let up our guard,” Brown said. “New, more infectious COVID-19 variants are circulating in the United States, including several confirmed cases in Oregon. We will continue to keep each other safe in the months to come by following the same safety measures we have throughout the pandemic — wearing face coverings, staying home when sick, maintaining physical distance and avoiding social gatherings.”

For more information about COVID-19 in Oregon, visit govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19 or covidvaccine.oregon.gov.

DUNES from page 1A

The ordinance was prompted by numerous complaints resulting from bad behavior of individuals renting properties for short periods of time, without proper oversight.

The ordinance was the subject of a public hearing on Thursday and drew comments from both sides of the issue. Since last May, some residents have contacted the council with concerns associated with noise, trespass and liability.

There was also a significant pushback against the implementation of any regulations governing rentals as being unnecessary.

Rich and Lori Olson own Darlings Resort and Marina, which has a small

number of rental spots for campers and RVs on Siltcoos Lake. Darlings has a kitchen and bar and has had to shift services and business plans dramatically over the last year under COVID-19.

But the Olsons are opposed to the plan to regulate others, even though it would have little impact on their particular business.

“I do understand that there is an issue in Dunes City with Airbnbs, but I believe writing another ordinance in Dunes City would be nothing more than governmental overreach,” Rich said. “In the times we are in now, we don’t need more government overreach. I don’t think that is something that is needed in Dunes

City, where we have a limited window of income. By making an ordinance such as this, making the requirements that you have in here, would make it almost impossible for most of these people to come back and afford to rent an Airbnb.”

While Rich’s comments were well received, Councilor Duke Wells said that he believes some type of oversight is needed to respond to the numerous complaints he and other councilors have received.

“I think if you have a piece of property, a home in Dunes City, you bought it and you don’t live in that place and you are renting it out — or whatever you want to call it — you need to be operating under an

ordinance,” said Wells. “And if you are a company and you own property and are renting it out, you need to be under an ordinance.”

A discussion then took place regarding specific concerns over the bad behavior of property owners by allowing renters without oversight or basic rules governing their behavior. The end result of these discussions was a decision by the council to table the issue pending more research and attention to all aspects of the rental paradigm.

The council then moved on to the next item on the agenda: water rights.

Mills again asked the council to move the topic to the forefront of future discussions, as Lane

County has contacted the city looking for an update to the city’s plan for addressing the issue.

The council agreed to address the situation at a future meeting.

After this, there were brief reports about the quality of water in the area.

Mills completed the evening with an update from the Western Lane Emergency Operations Group (WLEOG), to which Dunes City belongs. She reported that the group has updated some aspects of its efforts to communicate with the public and with municipal entities.

The next Dunes City Council meeting is scheduled for March 24.

For more information, visit dunescityhall.com.

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• Tuesday Evening Group (2nd Tuesday) 5-7 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
• Urologist Dr. Bryan Melhluff attends.
• Tuesday Lunch Group (3rd Tuesday) 12 noon - 1:00 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
• Urologist Dr. Roger McKimmy attends.
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