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Siuslaw News  
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY  
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FLORENCE, OREGON

**WEATHER**

Mostly sunny with a high of 53 and a low of 42.  
Full forecast on A3

**COMMUNITY**

Backstreet Gallery showcases artists  
INSIDE — A3

**SPORTS**

Sports seasons race on  
INSIDE — B

**RECORDS**

Obituaries & response logs  
Inside — A2

**TV GUIDE**

Inside — B4-B5

**KIDS CORNER**

Activities for kids  
Inside — B3

**CLASSIFIEDS**

Listings & notices  
Inside — B6

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2 SECTIONS | 20 PAGES  
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## How to get the COVID-19 vaccine in western Lane County

Lane County Public Health details best ways to access info

BY CHANTELE MEYER  
SIUSLAW NEWS

Just three months into vaccinating Oregon's population, the state has fully vaccinated 493,440 Oregonians against the novel coronavirus COVID-19. More than 1.3 million doses of vaccine have been administered in the state since Dec. 14.

More locally, Lane County has vaccinated 79,040 people out of its population of 378,879. Of those vaccines, 63,102 have been Pfizer, 57,915 have been Moderna and 1,778 have been the newest vaccine, Johnson & Johnson.

As of Tuesday, 44,521 people in the county are fully vaccinated.

"I believe that your zip code is the second most vaccinated zip code proportionally in Lane County right now," stated Lane County Public Health (LCPH) Public Information Officer Jason Davis. "In terms of the percentage of overall people that have been vaccinated, Florence is really high up there.

This is in large part due to two mass vaccination clinics conducted by Lane County Search and Rescue, LCPH and the City of Florence at the Florence Events Center on March 3 and 6.

"Right now in Florence, we have several different options for you to get a vaccination," Davis said. "First of all, preregistering with the county will continue to be a good option — because that's how you get your vaccinations from Fred Meyer, PeaceHealth Peace Harbor, Bi-Mart or at a mass vaccination event."

See VACCINE page 6A

## COLORFUL CLASSICS



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

The nice weather over the weekend, and the risk reduction criteria released last Friday by Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, prompted a spontaneous gathering of local classic car owners at the Port of Siuslaw parking lot on Saturday. Approximately 25 classic cars, owned by local automobile enthusiasts, were on display for a short period of time before the owners drove the cars through Historic Old Town.



## OCHS names new executive director

Elizabeth Thompson officially began March 1

BY SCOTT STEWARD  
CREATIVE WAVE MARKETING

After a nationwide search, the Oregon Coast Humane Society (OCHS) Board of Directors has named a new executive director, Elizabeth Thompson.

"I couldn't be more thrilled. The Oregon Coast Humane Society is an outstanding organization," said Thompson. "It's a no-kill facility that bettered the lives of about 1,000 animals last year. We have a great staff both at the shelter and the Paws Boutique Thrift Shop in Old Town. We have a bunch of sweet, adoptable dogs and cats right now, and the board has a solid vision for a very bright and vibrant future."

Thompson comes to OCHS with both extensive retail and

nonprofit experience. For the past eight years, she managed Goodwill Stores in Eugene/Springfield and has deep and relevant experience at Lane County Animal Services' (LCAS) First Avenue Shelter in Eugene. She holds a bachelor's degree in marketing education/fashion merchandising from Virginia Tech with additional education in leadership, grant writing and employee training.

While at Goodwill, she hired, trained, and supervised a team of more than 45 employees for the multimillion-dollar store where she increased sales on a regular basis. At Lane County's animal shelter, she helped manage the operation, organized volunteers, raised thousands of dollars, partnered with media, and appeared weekly on KEZI-TV's "Pet of the Week" segments.

"My experience in animal rescue has been some of the most rewarding in my life," Thompson said. "I am passionate about advo-



COURTESY PHOTO

Oregon Coast Humane Society Executive Director Elizabeth Thompson

cating for animals and educating people about the importance of spay/neuter and how to care for their pets. My time at LCAS was the most rewarding in my career so far. Every day brought new challenges and new rewards. I was eager to find a shelter position where I can make a difference in the lives of animals and their humans."

See OCHS page 7A

## Florence considers intergovernmental agreement with Port

Public comments asks for consideration on climate issues

BY MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

The March 15 Florence City Council meeting was brought to order virtually Monday evening by Mayor Joe Henry, with a mix of issues for councilors to consider.

To begin the meeting, there were nine speaker cards submitted for the public comments, with climate change as the focus for many. There were also references made supporting the mayor's suggestion, made at the council's March 1 meeting, that the Environmental Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) should consider city policy option recommendations which might include some form of methane recovery in the future.

There was also a suggestion by area resident Ivy Medow that the council consider contacting Lane County to participate in a program to incentivize the installation of electric cars charging stations.

"Here is something I would like to see incorporated into the City Work Plan," Medow wrote. "I think Florence has a great opportunity to incorporate electric vehicle charging stations into its profile as 'A City in Motion' and vacation destination. People traveling up and down the coast from out of state, and those coming over from the east ... will welcome the opportunity to charge up while they are here."

She proceeded to list several sites for charging stations.

In addition, Meadow clarified she does not care if the council ever officially proclaims a climate emergency.

"If you and the citizens of Flor-

ence can continue to seek, identify and implement strategies aimed at making a positive difference, that's good enough for me," she wrote. "We all know that grants and other monies can be accessed based on specific programmatic proposals — particularly when collaboration with diverse (private, public and nonprofit) partners are involved in the proposals."

The comments offered by the nine individuals were then entered into the record and can be viewed in the meeting's materials.

After the public comments, City Senior Planner Roxanne Johnston led the council on its first action item of the evening, which was a request for a status change in an underused piece of property owned by the city. Basically, the applicant was asking to purchase a small piece of ground from the city to use as a right-of-way.

Johnston presented a request from Simone Calfee to apply for a "vacation" procedure of the 20th Street pedestrian way between 1499 and 1545 20th Street. In this usage, vacation refers to a public right-of-way or a public service easement "abandoned" by the city. Once the subject right-of-way or easement is abandoned, the public use of the land or easement area is relinquished without restrictions to the property owner.

The discussion began with Johnston providing an aerial view of the area, pointing out other easements which are already in effect in the area. The value of the property is an essential part of this process, according to Johnston, and it must be accurately determined.

In order to be granted easement, the city would be recuperated by the petitioner the decided-on amount.

See CITY page 10A



See them online at [www.thesiuslawnews.com](http://www.thesiuslawnews.com)  
Winner's edition will be published in the Siuslaw News on March 27th.