

HEALTH from page 1A

“Vaccination limits severe symptoms, if nothing else. There’s still a 5 percent chance that you can get the illness after you’ve been vaccinated, but vaccination does a phenomenal job at limiting severe

symptoms, disease and death. So, we’ve been very fortunate in that case.”

The patients who received a positive COVID-19 diagnosis were moved to PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend in Springfield.

“We have specialists in infectious disease and intensive care specialists there, and they can get the highest quality of care for COVID-19,” McArthur said. “We’re also able to keep them under those special isolation precautions.”

This keeps COVID-positive cases away from other patients who are at risk.

According to Dr. Bob Pelz, medical director of infection prevention for PeaceHealth Oregon, “People can test negative on the way in the hospital, but be incubating it, or they could pick it up from a staff member or from somebody visiting them. Re-testing picks all that up. If we had not tested our patients at five days, then we would have had more transmission within the hospital and we wouldn’t have been able to respond to it.”

This surveillance testing has helped PeaceHealth prevent outbreaks and further transmission.

It could also help prevent the spread of the new COVID-19 variants being traced in Oregon. At the moment, Pelz said that Oregon has cases of B.1.1.7 — or the UK variant — as well as the Brazil and South Af-

rica variants. Some of the variants spread infection at a faster rate. However, the current use of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, with Johnson & Johnson again approved by the CDC, will help prevent even these strains of COVID.

“The illness is unlikely to kill people if they’ve been vaccinated,” Pelz said. “Ninety-nine percent of the people that are getting COVID in Oregon right now are people that have not been vaccinated.”

Peace Harbor was the first Florence-area organization to begin administering vaccinations, with the first taking place on Dec. 23.

“We were able to initially vaccinate about 3,000 members of the community, right up front, that were health care workers or in that vulnerable age group over 80,” McArthur said. “Now, we are partnering with Lane County, which is providing 100 doses of Moderna every week. They provide the appointments for us.”

People can register at www.lanecounty.org/vax-clinics to get vaccines in the Florence area. They can also contact pharmacies at Fred Meyer, Safeway and Bi-Mart.

Peace Harbor is issuing the Moderna vaccine,

which requires two shots spaced four weeks apart.

“The beautiful part is that in a bottle of 10 Mod-

easier to access a vaccine. “If people could just realize that one or two little pokes can really make a

and dying from it. And I don’t have to worry as much about getting it and giving it to my patients.

“If I’ve been vaccinated, I don’t have to worry about getting COVID and dying from it. And I don’t have to worry as much about getting it and giving it to my patients. For a healthcare worker to choose not to get vaccinated is to choose to put your patients at risk unnecessarily. And that’s true with anybody that chooses not to get vaccinated — whether you’re taking care of patients who are just circulating in the community or living with somebody else that might get sick from COVID.”

— Dr. Bob Pelz, PeaceHealth Oregon Medical Director of Infection Prevention

huge difference in turning this pandemic around and getting people back to the lives that they want, and not making it a political movement, it will be about being a good neighbor and a good citizen,” McArthur said. “That will bring an end to this so that we can have normalcy again.”

For Pelz, “It just seems so obvious to me that you’d want to get vaccinated, because if I’ve been vaccinated, I don’t have to worry about getting COVID

are just circulating in the community or living with somebody else that might get sick from COVID.”

PeaceHealth Oregon is continuing to follow all leadership concerning the novel coronavirus.

Williams said, “We want to emphasize to the community that it’s important not to let down our guard when it comes to masking, physical distancing and avoiding large gatherings.”

For more information, visit www.peacehealth.org.

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PLANNING from page 1A

the newest member of her team, Sharon Barker, who will be functioning in the role of planning technician. Barker previously served as a public works technician in the City of Lakeside, Ore.

The consent agenda was passed quickly and the first major order of business, a request for annexation and a zoning request from Stonefield Investments, was considered.

Senior Planner Roxanne Johnston reviewed Resolutions PC 21 03 ANN 01 & PC 21 04 ZC 01 - which, if approved, would allow for annexation of approximately 4.53 acres of property and apply a City of Florence zoning designation to annexed lands. The applicant’s proposal consisted of annexing property located approximately 410 feet northeast of the intersection at Rhododendron Drive and Sebastian Street.

The application proposed that the property receive a zoning assignment of Medium Density Residential.

The application for annexation was filed by Stonefield, whose owner, Robbie Wright, was on hand to answer any questions but did not make a presentation, citing the excellent work done by staff in preparing the resolution for consideration.

Johnston reviewed the applicable Oregon statutes and the city process, which the applicant had met, and then she covered the reports from Public Works and other city entities which supported the annexation request.

Commissioners asked no additional questions for either the applicant or staff and the motion passed unanimously and was forwarded.

Next, Resolutions PC 21 07 ANN 02 and PC 21 08 ZC 02, were petitions from

Claudia Hale to annex approximately 7.87 acres of property and apply a City of Florence zoning designation to annexed lands.

The applicant’s proposal consists of annexing property located approximately 1,260 feet northeast of the intersection at Highway 101 and Munsel Lake Road, west of Highway 101. The property is proposed to receive a zoning assignment of Service Industrial.

FarleyCampbell took the lead reviewing the applicable Oregon Statutes and also the reports received from the relevant city departments, which explained the staff recommendation for approval. There were no speakers opposed to either of the evenings annexations and again the request for annexation was approved and forwarded to the City Council for further action.

For more information, visit ci.florence.or.us.

The deadline for Press Releases and Letters to the Editor is every Monday and Thursday by noon. Email PRESSRELEASES@THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM.

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5-7 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
• Urologist Dr. Bryan Melhlhoff 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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