

WAGES

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them trained at his Forest Grove shop.

"If a guy can weld, we can teach him the rest," he said. "We can make welders better welders."

He also plans to hire a salesman who is familiar with the county and its residents — who has the "gift of gab."

"I'm looking for someone who grew up around here, knows all the farmers, the fish and wildlife," he said.

LaFave is already eyeing expansion. At present, he's leasing the building where he'll soon open, but he's in discussion with the owner about buying it. He's also talking about purchasing an adjoining building to house expanded operations.

He's also considering expanding into Idaho.

"I'm contemplating Boise next," he said. "I have customers there who'd like



Rick LaFave stands by the control computer for the sheet metal shear that cuts metal at his Renaissance Design, Fabrication and Powder Coating business just outside Joseph on Wednesday, May 5, 2021. He plans to open the shop about May 20.

me to open up something."

The company's name — RDF&P — fully describes what it's about, LaFave said. The R, for Renaissance, evokes a prestigious quality. Also, his prior company — Rick's Fasteners

— had a prominent R in the logo. Design is about designing whatever the customer wants. Fabrication is what they do with the design. Powder coating is electrostatic finishing process using a powdered

acrylic-type paint applied in a paint booth. The steel gets a negative charge and the paint powder gets positive charge, which makes them stick together. Then, they're baked in an oven.

"To get powder coating

in Wallowa County, you'd have to go to Lewiston or La Grande," he said, adding

Imnaha Hotel," LaFave said. "They're good people down there. If one couple or

"My wages are going to be based on what my company does as a whole. So if I have a welder/fabricator making, say, \$22 an hour over in Forest Grove doing the same job, he's going to be making \$22 an hour here."

— Rick LaFave, owner of Renaissance Design Fabrication & Powder Coating

he believes RDF&P may be the only company in Oregon that does an entire project from start to finish.

As for the Imnaha River B&B, the LaFaves plan that as a "destination location," handling group events that will book the entire place and it will otherwise be closed.

"I don't want to take business away from the

two couples are coming to town, I'd rather they stay at the hotel."

Overall, he's hoping his business ventures in the county will be seen as a plus.

"It'll be good for Wallowa County. Like I said, I'm going to be hiring local," he said. "I like Joseph and Enterprise, the small-town feel."

SETTLED

Continued from Page 1B

seriously and thanked the industry for their support and cooperation.

"Together with our agricultural partners, ODA is committed to keeping our industry reputable, strong, forward-thinking, and in compliance with state, federal, and international requirements," Taylor said.

Oregon is the largest producer of cool-season forage and turf grasses in the U.S., producing nearly 591 million pounds in 2017. The Willamette Valley, and in particular Linn County, is affectionately referred to as the "Grass Seed Capital of the World."

Grass seed is the fifth-largest agricultural commodity in Oregon, worth more than \$517 million and driving more than \$1 billion in economic activity.

MASKS

Continued from Page 1B

metric for when the rule would automatically be repealed. As a result, Wood said the final rule includes considerably more detail about the process and criteria that will be used to make the decision to repeal the rule.

The rule requires employers make sure that under most circumstances people wear masks while working inside and use face coverings outside if they have to be within 6 feet of people. It also mandates businesses make sure people aren't within 6 feet of each other — unless that's not practical for certain activities.

The agency said it would be considered if the rule can be repealed, starting no later than July. Besides mask and dis-



Mark Ylen/Albany Democrat-Herald via AP, File

In this Wednesday, May 27, 2020, photo, Oregon National Guard members stack boxes of face masks to be given to Willamette Valley farmers at a distribution event at the Oregon State University Extension Service-Linn County office in Tangent. Oregon adopted a controversial rule on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, that indefinitely extends coronavirus mask and social distancing requirements in all businesses in the state.

tancing requirements, the rule — which also includes requirements and guidelines regarding air flow, ventilation, employee notification in case of an out-

break, and sanitation protocols — dovetails with separate actions and restrictions by Gov. Kate Brown, the latest being increased county risk levels.

Oregon two weeks ago recorded the fastest-growing COVID-19 infection rate in the nation, and as a result Brown implemented further

restrictions in 15 counties, including banning indoor dining at restaurants and bars and significantly decreasing capacity in gyms and indoor entertainment spaces.

Business owners and Republican lawmakers criticized the restrictions.

On Tuesday, May 4, those counties were moved back a level, effective May 7, because the statewide seven-day average increase for hospitalized COVID-19 positive patients dropped below 15 percent. This means indoor dining and other activities will be allowed.

"With Oregonians continuing to get vaccinated each week, my expectation is that we will not return to Extreme Risk again for the duration of this pandemic," Brown said.

So far, about one-third of Oregon's population has been fully vaccinated.

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- ACROSS**
- Salve
 - Canine warning
 - Crooked
 - Ready to harvest
 - Estuary
 - Thoroughfare
 - Move inch by inch
 - DJ gear
 - Geological periods
 - Undermine
 - Hydroelectric org.
 - Place (abbr.)
 - Rugged cliffs
 - Knee bone
 - Not built-up
 - Runs up a tab
 - Banking convenience
 - Large lizard
 - Serenity
 - Work day
 - Long-answer exam

- "Westworld" name
- Hard seat
- Desert phenomenon
- Wrist-to-elbow bone
- Unlucky gambler's note
- Hungry for more
- Take advice
- Winter woe
- Exercise system
- Pillars of Islam
- Sullivan and Murrow
- Went in the water
- Devise
- Assistant
- Sorenstam's org.
- Too compliant

Answer to Previous Puzzle

R	I	F	F	F	O	P	W	E	E	D
O	D	O	R	R	I	B	O	G	L	E
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Z	I	R	C	O	N					
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W	A	D	A	U	K	E	R	N	E	S
J	U	N	T	A	M	E	D	A	L	
O	G	E	E	K	O	I	O	L	A	F
S	L	A	T	A	D	S	C	A	M	O
E	L	A	R	E	Y	E	S	K	N	E

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- Trail treat
- Teacup part
- Entranced
- Home furnishings (2 wds.)
- Butter up
- Jogged
- Fabric meas.
- Architect's wing
- Old taping device
- Totally amazes
- Hot drinks
- Adventure
- Oahu attire
- Iris locale
- Wallach or Lilly
- Not a single woman
- Flashlight output
- State openly
- Billion as a prefix
- Red-waxed cheese
- TV band
- Flowery garland
- Ariz. neighbor
- Antique

CLASSIFIEDS Mean Cash

110 Announcements

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