

Community News

16 OF OREGON'S COUNTIES IMPROVE IN COVID-19 RISK LEVEL

SALEM—Oregon Gov. Kate Brown announced this week that 16 counties improved in risk level, with 10 of those improving from extreme risk.

“For the second time in a row, we are seeing great progress in stopping the spread of COVID-19 across Oregon and saving lives,” Brown said. “Oregonians continue to step up and make smart choices.”

County risk levels under the state’s public health framework aim to reduce transmission and protect Oregonians from COVID-19. The framework uses four different risk levels for counties based on

COVID-19 spread — extreme risk, high risk, moderate risk, and lower risk—and assigns health and safety measures for each level.

Effective Feb. 26 through March 11, there will be five counties in the extreme risk level, 11 at high risk, 10 at moderate risk, and 10 at lower risk. Lane County joins those able to reintroduce certain activities, including in-person dining at restaurants and the reopening of community center.

“While these county movements are welcome news, we must continue to take seriously health and safety measures, especially as more busi-

nesses reopen and we start to get out more,” Brown continued. “As we see infection rates going down and vaccinations ramping up, now is not the time to let down our guard. Continue to wear your masks, keep physical distance and avoid indoor gatherings.”

Here are a few highlights and how they affect businesses and activities:

- Bars, Restaurants, Breweries and Wineries may now allow indoor dining, though takeout and outdoor dining is still recommended. Indoor capacity may not exceed 25 percent maximum occupancy or 50 people, whichever is smaller.
- Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Funeral Homes now have an indoor capacity of 25 percent occupancy or 150 people total, whichever is smaller. Outdoor can have up to 200 people.
- Indoor Gyms, Fitness Centers and Indoor Pools may have a capacity of 25 percent occupancy or 50 people total, whichever is smaller. Indoor full-contact sports are prohibited.
- Long-Term Care Centers may have inside and outside visitation.
- Museums and Theaters may have a maximum 25 percent occupancy or 50 people total, whichever

is smaller.

- Offices are still advised to work remotely if possible.
- Social and At-Home Gatherings indoor may have a maximum of six people, with only two households recommended. Outdoor gatherings can expand to up to eight people.

Oregon Health Authority will examine and publish county data weekly. County risk levels will be reassigned every two weeks. The next assignment of risk levels will be announced March 9 and take effect March 12.

For more info, visit coronavirus.oregon.gov.

Siuslaw students get modified Winter Music Festival Kiwanis Kids Concert

What would have been the 19th consecutive Florence Winter Music Festival, scheduled for Jan. 29 to 31,

had been cancelled, save for the one element that launched the three-day musical tradition 20 years ago

— the Kiwanis Kids Concert.

The annual three-day festival that draws hundreds from across western states offers bluegrass, new and traditional folk, and Americana music by Grammy and other award winners, and nationally touring groups. The festival has included music performance workshops, on-site jam sessions, an artisan fair, and great food and drink.

But a key foundation of the festival concept was the brainchild of Rachel Pearson, who in the year 2000, along with Lis Farm and the late Anne Rule, staged the very first Kids Concerts.

Pearson, a self-professed “band mom” and music aficionado, has worked tirelessly every year so schoolkids can experience live music at the Florence Events Center. The event became the Kiwanis Kids Concerts in 2019 when the Florence Kiwanis Club adopted the event as Presenting Sponsor.

In a normal year, it is attended by more than 1000 area grade schoolers, teachers, and chaperones in the FEC Main Stage.

This year, a virtual Winter

Music Festival Kids Concert took place Feb. 25 for Siuslaw School District’s K-5 students. The event was produced by Pearson for Florence Arts Culture & Entertainment (FACE, formerly Friends of the Florence Events Center) and sponsored by a contribution from the Florence Kiwanis Club.

Award-winning Americana musicians, Greg Blake and Annie Savage, performed live from Ames, Iowa, with a bit of pre-recorded music to back them up.

Blake and Savage are festival favorites and have performed at previous Winter Music Festivals.

They brought an energetic and educational show, full of fun and participatory learning.

According to Pearson, “Kids in the Siuslaw region face many challenges, especially in the COVID age, but opportunities for arts education awakens children to a wider world and broader thinking often limited in rural communities.”

Studies have shown that with music instruction, students have been shown to



Musicians Annie Savage and Greg Blake play a virtual concert for local students.

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impossible.

“We are pleased that the state has lifted a ban which, once restaurants were allowed to resume indoor dining, made no logical sense. Oregon now joins the other 50 states in giving theaters a chance to survive the latest shutdowns,” said Michael Falter, co-owner of City Lights Cinemas.

The safety of patrons and staff remain the theater’s our No. 1 priority, according to Education Director Jared Anderson.

“That means all moviegoers should don their favorite and most comfortable masks before entering the business,” he said. “Concession purchases are encouraged, yet we ask patrons to keep their masks

on while watching a film when not eating or drinking for prolonged periods if other parties are present.”

Also on the reopening slate is “Nomadland,” this year’s best-reviewed film and a shoo-in for multiple Oscar nominations, including for Frances McDormand’s revelatory lead performance as a woman who loses everything and journeys through the American West to find herself.

Finally, City Lights is set to feature “Chaos Walking,” a science fiction thriller starring Tom Holland, Mads Mikkelsen and Daisy Ridley, about a dystopian future where there are no women — and all living creatures can hear each other’s thoughts.

City Lights Cinemas presents ‘third time’s the charm’

Lending history an opportunity to prove the old adage, “the third time’s the charm,” City Lights Cinemas, 1930 Highway 101, will reopen its doors to the public on Friday, March 5, with Disney’s highly anticipated family film “Raya and the Last Dragon” leading the marquee.

The theater learned on Feb. 25 that the state government has revised their guidance and lifted the concession ban that made reopening next to

be less aggressive and more engaged in school. Teaching through the arts motivates children and increases their aptitude for learning.

“Music enhances the learning process and nourishes their integrated sensory, attention, cognitive, emotional and motor capacities; and that enhances all other learning. That’s why FACE is continuing this tradition this year,” Pearson said.

School district tech specialist Chris Rowbotham brought the live event to the “hybrid school” setting, with some students in classrooms and others participating from home.

“Chris did an amazing

job at getting the technical side of FACE’s 2021 ‘Living Voices: Ellis Island’ project streamed effectively to eighth graders on Feb. 4. It was also a live/partially pre-recorded presentation, so we have that experience to draw upon,” Pearson explained.

The Florence Winter Music Festival is produced by the 501(c)3 nonprofit FACE, an all-volunteer membership organization that helps fund capital improvements and performance grants at the FEC.

For more info about FACE, its many events, or how to join or volunteer, contact Pearson at 541-997-1994.

Alex Grady, Director of Operations, and more recently known in Florence as “the man in the butter suit” during Curbside Concession days, has urged the owners to maintain those popcorn popping evenings due to popular demand.

“Not only does the butter suit keep me warm during inclement weather, but we’re all warmed by the generosity of Florence’s City Lights fans,” he said.

Curbside Concessions will continue Friday and Saturday nights from 4 to 7 p.m. Operations resume for in-person moviegoing with strict limits on audience size on March 5. Advance tickets are recommended.

Visit citylightscinemas.com.

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FEBRUARY 27	FEBRUARY 28	MARCH 1	MARCH 2	MARCH 3	MARCH 4	MARCH 5
Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Showers	Showers
49°F 38°F	55°F 48°F	52°F 48°F	50°F 38°F	54°F 43°F	56°F 45°F	53°F 44°F

Health is our #1 Priority!

At Shervin’s we are taking extra precaution in order to ensure that our customers and staff are kept safe and healthy during this quickly changing situation.

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- 2 Hand Sanitation** - Our staff will continue to wash their hands throughout the day and change gloves after each car they service.
- 3 Give Customers Options** - We will pick up and deliver your vehicle to your home. You may also drop your key in our secure mailbox for drop-offs to avoid or minimize contact.
- 4 Employee Illness is Serious** - We are encouraging employees not to shake hands. We are practicing “personal distancing” and encouraging employees to stay home if they feel under the weather.
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