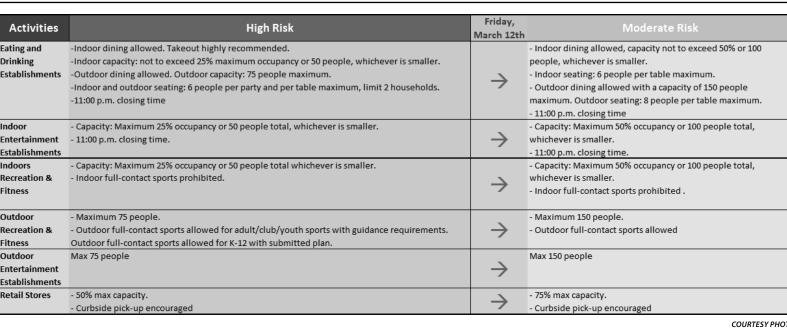
### ELECTION from page 1A

### **Local Candidate** Filings:

- Mapleton School District-#32 — three positions
- Siuslaw School District-#97J — three positions
- Mapleton Fire Department — three positions
- Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue — two positions
- Mapleton Water Dis-
- trict two positions Swisshome-Dead-
- wood RFPD three positions
- Siuslaw Public Library District — three positions
- Port of Siuslaw four positions
- Western Lane Ambulance District — three positions

Go to lanecounty.org/ elections for more infor-



#### RISK from page 1A

On March 12, this will

• Eating and drinking espeople; outdoor dining can hibited have a maximum of eight people

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• Entertainment establishments: indoor capacity can have 50 percent capacity up to 100 people

- Indoor recreation and tablishments: indoor din- fitness: indoor capacity can ing is allowed with 50 per- have 50 percent capacity cent capacity; indoor tables up to 100 people; indoor can have a maximum of six full-contact sports still pro-
  - Outdoor recreation and fitness: outdoor full-contact sports can resume
  - Retail stores: up to 70 percent capacity, though curbside pick-up is still recommended Lane County Economic

Development Management Analyst Jenna Cusimano sent out the updated guidelines Tuesday morning to area businesses and entrepreneurs.

trend in cases and the roll-

out of vaccines in Oregon are encouraging signs, it will take time to reach the level of community immunity we need to fully return to normal life," she said. "Until vaccines are widely available with high participation rates, the surest way to move towards reopening our businesses is to continue practicing health and safety measures. Thank you to each of you who have worked so diligently to keep your staff and customers safe and healthy."

Additionally, the governor introduced a new caution period for counties shifting back to higher risk levels.

Beginning this week "While the downward and continuing until further notice, counties that

reduced their COVID-19 to do before we reach the spread enough to move down in risk level in the previous two-week period, but see their numbers go of normalcy," Brown cauback up in the next two-tioned. "I encourage all week period, will be given Oregonians to keep it up a two-week caution period and to get your vaccine to bring COVID-19 case rates back down again. In this cycle, this includes thority examines and pub-Jackson and Malheur

allow counties to re-focus efforts to drive back down creeping case numbers, and give local businesses additional certainty on their plans for operating. If, at the end of the caution period, case rate data still puts the county at a higher risk level, the county will move to that level.

COURTESY PHOTO level of community-wide protection we need in order to return to a sense when it's available to you."

The Oregon Health Aulishes county data weekly, with county risk levels re-The caution period will assigned every two weeks. The first week's data will provide a "warning week" to prepare counties for potential risk level changes. The next assignment of risk levels will be announced March 23 and take effect March 26.

Updates to Warning Week data and county risk levels will be posted to "We still have more work coronavirus.oregon.gov.

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## FINE from page 1A

The ODJ also shared pricing information from the businesses, which ODJ personnel said indicated an intentional effort to take advantage of the situation.

According to ODJ, Le Chateau Inn typically charged between \$89 to \$125 per night for one room. ODJ's investigation found at least 18 rooms for which the hotel raised the price more than 15 percent. This is in direct violation of Brown's special

there were 22 Oregonians who stayed at Le Chateau Inn who were identified by ODJ as victims of the offense, and they will be receiving restitution in the amount of \$2,188.

In response to the ODJ charges, Bhupen Khalasi, who identified himself as the owner of Le Chateau, made a brief but impassioned statement to the Siuslaw News.

"My comments are simple: the government is trying to screw me. This is unfair, and I will say it again,

"We did nothing wrong here. This is the way we seasonal business. We adjust our prices depending on demand, just like every other hotel or motel."

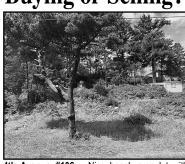
made by ODJ regarding the duty of the office to pursue allegations of misconduct in this area were clear.

and our state really sufthe government is trying families who have already During the wildfires, to screw me," Khalasi said. been through so much," 877-877-9392.

Rosenblum said. "We are also trying our best to always do business. It is a make it clear that Oregon businesses shouldn't try to take advantage of people during difficult times. Our laws protect against this However, the comments type of conduct and my office intends to enforce them."

Anyone with more information or who thinks they "These fires were tragic may have fallen victim to a similar fraud or a scam fered. Through this settle- is asked to contact the Orment, my hope is that we egon Department of Jusare able to provide at least tice online at www.oregon a little comfort for these consumer.gov or call the state consumer hotline at

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# Hyak Awarded \$1.6M to serve outlying rural Lane County

Results were made public recently from the FCC's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, or the RDOF, a program to help encourage the development of high-speed America. Local technology services and fiber internet provider Hyak was awarded \$1.6M to serve areas of the Siuslaw region outside of Florence and Mapleton, such as North Fork Road, Indian Creek, Swisshome, Brickerville and Sweet

Creek Road. These areas are generally served by satellite only today or limited DSL that no longer meets the definition of broadband.

According to Hyak COO internet to rural parts of Neil Ecker, "This represents a significant investment in the outlying areas of Florence and Mapleton that we're excited to make. Federal support of these highcost areas means we're now able to deliver our gigabit fiber internet to some of the most rural portions of western Lane County."

Of the 386 qualified bidders in the program, 180 entities were successful in their bids. "The RDOF program is a great solution

community to create opportunities for families that live in our outlying areas," said Robbie Wright, CEO of Hyak. "Access to quality internet has become even more important with diswork as the current pandemic continues to shape how our rural communities can operate. We want to help build a community where our kids can choose to live and work here. We can't do that without numerous factors, including affordable housing

quality internet." While the RDOF pro-

for rural America and our in the winning areas for Hyak, it is estimated roughly 1,200 homes could have the option to connect to fiber as the project contin-

"We have quite a bit of work in front of us," Wright tance learning and remote added. "We're looking at more than 80 miles of fiber to be deployed with requirements to be built out to 40 percent within three years and 100 percent in six years. While we'd like to expedite those timelines, some of these areas are pretty remote with some challenging aspects of their

build." For more info, visit gram counts 554 locations https://hyak.co/rdof.



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