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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 District — two positions
- Swisshome-Deadwood 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 information.

Activities	High Risk	Friday, March 12th	Moderate Risk
Eating and Drinking Establishments	-Indoor dining allowed. Takeout highly recommended. -Indoor capacity: not to exceed 25% maximum occupancy or 50 people, whichever is smaller. -Outdoor dining allowed. Outdoor capacity: 75 people maximum. -Indoor and outdoor seating: 6 people per party and per table maximum, limit 2 households. -11:00 p.m. closing time	→	- Indoor dining allowed, capacity not to exceed 50% or 100 people, whichever is smaller. - Indoor seating: 6 people per table maximum. - Outdoor dining allowed with a capacity of 150 people maximum. Outdoor seating: 8 people per table maximum. - 11:00 p.m. closing time
Indoor Entertainment Establishments	- Capacity: Maximum 25% occupancy or 50 people total, whichever is smaller. - 11:00 p.m. closing time.	→	- Capacity: Maximum 50% occupancy or 100 people total, whichever is smaller. - 11:00 p.m. closing time.
Indoors Recreation & Fitness	- Capacity: Maximum 25% occupancy or 50 people total whichever is smaller. - Indoor full-contact sports prohibited.	→	- Capacity: Maximum 50% occupancy or 100 people total, whichever is smaller. - Indoor full-contact sports prohibited.
Outdoor Recreation & Fitness	- Maximum 75 people. - Outdoor full-contact sports allowed for adult/club/youth sports with guidance requirements. Outdoor full-contact sports allowed for K-12 with submitted plan.	→	- Maximum 150 people. - Outdoor full-contact sports allowed
Outdoor Entertainment Establishments	Max 75 people	→	Max 150 people
Retail Stores	- 50% max capacity. - Curbside pick-up encouraged	→	- 75% max capacity. - Curbside pick-up encouraged

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On March 12, this will mean:

- Eating and drinking establishments: indoor dining is allowed with 50 percent capacity; indoor tables can have a maximum of six people; outdoor dining can have a maximum of eight people

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

- Indoor recreation and fitness: indoor capacity can have 50 percent capacity up to 100 people; indoor full-contact sports still prohibited

- 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.

“While the downward 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 and continuing until further notice, counties that

reduced their COVID-19 spread enough to move down in risk level in the previous two-week period, but see their numbers go back up in the next two-week period, will be given a two-week caution period to bring COVID-19 case rates back down again. In this cycle, this includes Jackson and Malheur counties.

The caution period will 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.


“We still have more work

to do before we reach the level of community-wide protection we need in order to return to a sense of normalcy,” Brown cautioned. “I encourage all Oregonians to keep it up and to get your vaccine when it’s available to you.”

The Oregon Health Authority examines and publishes county data weekly, with county risk levels re-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 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 order.

During the wildfires,

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, the government is trying to screw me,” Khalasi said.

“We did nothing wrong here. This is the way we always do business. It is a seasonal business. We adjust our prices depending on demand, just like every other hotel or motel.”

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

“These fires were tragic and our state really suffered. Through this settlement, my hope is that we are able to provide at least a little comfort for these families who have already been through so much,”

Rosenblum said. “We are also trying our best to make it clear that Oregon businesses shouldn’t try to take advantage of people during difficult times. Our laws protect against this type of conduct and my office intends to enforce them.”

Anyone with more information or who thinks they may have fallen victim to a similar fraud or a scam is asked to contact the Oregon Department of Justice online at www.oregonconsumer.gov or call the state consumer hotline at 877-877-9392.

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 internet to rural parts of 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 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 high-cost 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

for rural America and our 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 distance learning and remote work 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 and quality internet.”

While the RDOF program counts 554 locations

in the winning areas for Hyak, it is estimated roughly 1,200 homes could have the option to connect to fiber as the project continues.

“We have quite a bit of work in front of us,” Wright 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 <https://hyak.co/r dof>.



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