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>> LES: 7:45, time to check in with the carbon alert Covid-19 update.

Good morning, do we have everybody here with us this morning?

Good morning, Maggie, are you here?

Maggie, are you here?

>> Maggie: I'm here.

>> LES: Ryan are you here?

>> Ryan: Ryan is here.

>> LES: All righty, sounds good.

First off, welcome, of course, Maggie Karas, part of the Carbon County Covid-19 incident management team.

Ryan Brajcich, bank of red lodge, serving on the Carbon County recovery group.

Maggie latest Covid-19 statistics, good morning.

>> Maggie: Good morning Les king.

Montana had a total of 491 confirmed cases.

We're still seeing a downward trend in new cases in the state with no new cases reported Wednesday.

Overall, six confirmed cases of Covid-19 in carbon county.

Learned last night from public health officials we're now, we have five of those people who have recovered.

Leaving one active case in Carbon County.

>> LES: Well that's good.

>> Ryan: As you know -- isn't that good news?

>> LES: For sure.

>> MAGGIE: Governor Bullock unveiled his reopening the big sky phased approach last week for a gradual reopening.

Which people can find at carbonalert.org.

And just a couple of important dates during that phase one.

As most people might know we're now, we have had the stay at home directive lifted.

Places of worship open, retail business, personal care salon, massage, body art.

Monday May 4 restaurants, bars, breweries, coffee houses may open.

A couple of notes that we'll probably see in restaurants and bars they will be reduced to 50% occupancy.

No more than six people at a table, groups must be six feet apart.

You won't see drink refill stations, self-service condiments, that's something to keep us safe.

We need to practice six feet of physical distance, it is important to know.

Proper hand washing, clean frequently-touched surface, door handles.

Wear masks when six feet of physical distancing is difficult in public places.

We're seeing people getting lax on the masking and you need to stay strong on that.

No more than ten people in a group.

IF are you in the vulnerable age category over 65, or have certain health conditions, self-isolate.

Fitness, gyms, theaters et cetera are going to remain closed.

I do have an update on the schools, too, if I can talk about that real quickly.

All Carbon County public schools will continue online learning for the remainder of the school year.

That's Bridger, Belfry, Joliet, Luther, Roberts.

Special note, though, Fromberg will continue virtual learning for all students but they will reopen the school on a voluntary basis for students needing extra assistance between May 7 and May 22nd.

With that, let's get to

questions for Ryan Brajcich.
Les, you want to start that off?
>> LES: Okay.
Ryan you're a member of the economic recovery group.
Tell us what the group is all about.
Thanks for giving me an opportunity to be on the radio.
I am representative of the Carbon County economic recovery group.
We have a great committee of about 24 people with a broad range of industry experts including restaurants, hotels, retail, banking, ag industry, school, real estate.
We have a really good knowledge base on that committee.
The goal, the ultimate goal of the committee is to be here for our Carbon County businesses and know that to help them know that we have their back through the economic crisis right now.
>> LES: All righty.
>> Ryan: Our mission statement real quick just so everybody knows, we're here to support and sustain our local businesses in this time of significant economic distress and prepare the community for community growth and development.
>> LES: We have a question from a listener, I own a small business and struggling to pay rent and vendors, I don't know if I can hire back the few employees I do have are especially not knowing how long it can be until I fully open without restrictions.
How can you help me?
>> Ryan: Great question.
Couple of good avenues through the SBA, one avenue is the P.P.P. program which is a popular one.
Stands for the paycheck protection program.
And that is a grant through the SBA based on 2.5 times your monthly payroll.
Bank of Red Lodge, bank of Bridger and family of banks have about 400 of them between 129

locations, specifically Carbon County first go-round, \$350 billion available in the P.P.P. program on the first round.
We were roughly a little over 100 P.P.P. loans for over \$7 million.
They rolled out another \$250 billion on Monday do I and in Carbon County alone we're about 25 P.P.P. loans for just under \$400,000.
>> LES: Wow.
>> Ryan: Our ultimate goal as a community lender in Carbon County, Joliet, Bridger, red lodge, is to efficiently get the money into the hands of business owners that need it during these times.
>> LES: That sounds great.
How much federal funding for the various banks, the bank of red lodge, Bridger, Joliet, first interstate?
>> Ryan: That's a good question. I know specifically for bank of Bridger and family of banks, I did not get an updated number for first interstate bank or Altana federal credit union. That's numbers for bank of Bridger, rough estimate.
>> LES: Retail businesses are able to open up this week with many new guidelines, of course. What are some of those precautions?
That are cooperating.
[Missing AUDIO]
the shoulder season in red lodge, adding a pandemic on top of it.
The issue of separation.
Retail businesses are taking extra precautions of sanitizing, doorknobs, hand sanitizers on the counters, marking six feet separation of the TILLS and what not.
The ultimate goal is to open up the retail businesses on main street to get the economy back going again.
But also the main goal is to keep everybody's safety in mind.
>> LES: That's for sure.
Well, so Maggie, any last

thoughts here?

I think that's about all I have for Ryan.

>> Maggie: I have one other question that came, in Ryan, people are wondering, we hear such good things about the businesses and how cooperative they've been.

I know on our group, the incident management, very conscientious about those businesses and caring for them and helping to build their business, their volumes back up. Can you talk a little bit about the general attitude you're feeling from those businesses that you're loaning money to and coming to you for that assistance.

>> Ryan: You bet.

I've been getting a little mix of different ideas. Some businesses are able to open up and get their employees back on payroll to ultimately keep them off unemployment. Other businesses are taking a more conservative route and keeping the doors closed to keep their employees and what not healthy.

So there's a little bit of both that I've seen through the lending at bank of Red Lodge here.

>> LES: Any other thoughts, Maggie?

>> Maggie: We have a little bit of extra time, Les.

I could wade into the frequently asked questions from the governor's reopening the big sky plan.

But I'm almost feeling like we have had such good news today maybe we need good song.

>> LES: Hmm, that sounds good. Let's see, you know it's been interesting and actually maybe magical.

How about "this magic moment". You know?

It's magical moment.

>> Maggie: Yeah!