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State seizes liquor Saturday, issues summary suspension at Lyons restaurant for public health order violations





LYONS, CO – DECEMBER 4: Lyons Den Restaurant and Taphouse is seen in Lyons on Friday, Dec. 4, 2020. (Matthew Jonas/Staff Photographer)

By **KELSEY HAMMON** | khammon@prairiemountainmedia.com | Longmont Times-Call

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A Lyons restaurant that has continued to operate its indoor dining despite Level Red restrictions had its alcohol seized Saturday by state officials. The restaurant also received a summary suspension of its state liquor license, which is a temporary order to stop the sale of alcohol.

Suzi Karrer, a spokesperson for the Colorado Department of Revenue, said the state Liquor Enforcement Division of the Department of Revenue went to the The Lyons Den Restaurant & Taphouse in the afternoon to issue the summary and seize alcohol.

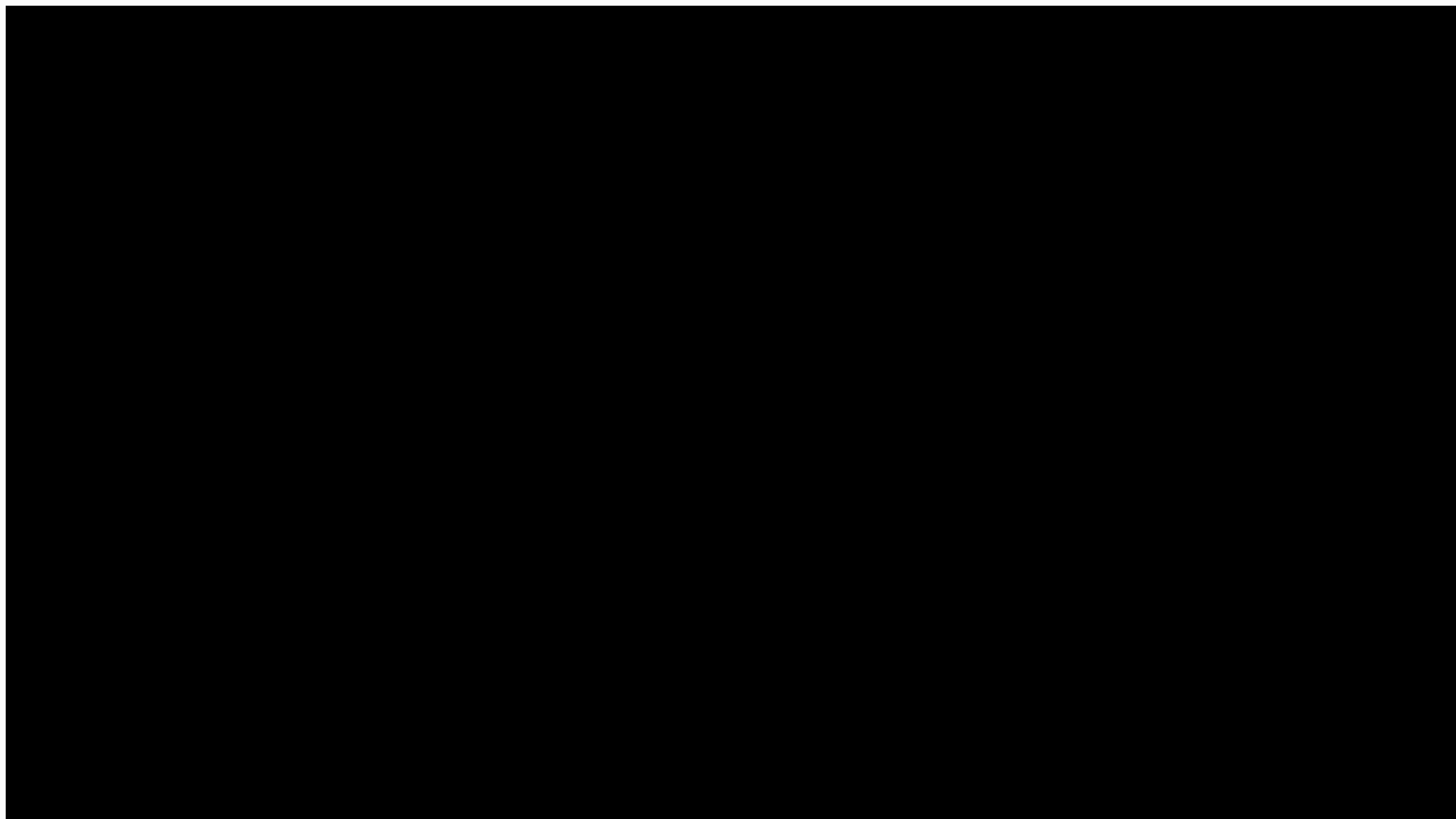
“The Lyons Den had (received) multiple warnings from the local



authorities about serving under the (Level Red) public health order,” Karrer said. “They continued to operate.”

Lyons Den Restaurant and Taphouse co-owner Randall Yarbrough talks with a customer in Lyons on Friday. (Matthew Jonas/Staff Photographer)

Karrer said she didn’t know how much alcohol was seized from the restaurant or how many officials responded. She said the business owners weren’t told in advance that the Department of Revenue would be coming to the restaurant for the seizure and summary issuance, but said the business had received numerous local and state warnings asking for compliance.



SKIP AD

A spokesperson at The Lyons Den on Saturday said there will be “charges filed” and they “couldn’t speak on it yet.”

Since late November, The Lyons Den has received warnings from the Boulder County Sheriff’s Office and a warning of violations from Boulder County Public Health, asking that business owners comply with public health orders.

The county warning stated that the restaurant had violated numerous public health orders, including: failure to enforce the facial covering order; permitting dining and seating indoors while this activity is prohibited at Level Red; and serving food and drinks from the bar area while patrons are seated at the bar.

Despite the closure of indoor dining in restaurants under Level Red restrictions, Randall Yarbrough, a restaurant co-owner, told the Times-Call last week he was continuing to operate fully, because his business couldn't survive on outdoor dining and curbside pickup orders.

"If I comply to this new level of shutdown, I might as well put a sign on the door that says, 'Closed for business,'" Yarbrough said Friday, before the state seizure.

The Boulder County Sheriff's Office in late November contacted Yarbrough and issued him a summons and complaint into the state court for the violations.

Friday on its Facebook page, the restaurant said it was "fighting and won't give up."

"Small businesses are closing every day because of our governor," the post read. "If you don't know us but believe in what we are doing please come support us."

The Lyons Board of Trustees is scheduled to host an online meeting Monday and discuss the status of the business's liquor and operating license.

Town Administrator Victoria Simonsen said Saturday the meeting will still proceed Monday to discuss the restaurant's local licenses. Since Nov. 23, The Lyons Den's local liquor license has been under suspension.

The Lyons Den may be subject to administrative action or a hearing with the state, following Saturday's suspension and alcohol seizure, Karrer said. While summary suspensions are typically for

15 days, Karrer said she wasn't sure how long the restaurant's suspension was for.

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Kelsey Hammon | Reporter

Kelsey Hammon covers crime and breaking news in Boulder County. She is a University of Northern Colorado journalism graduate. Prior to writing for the Boulder Daily Camera and Longmont Times-Call, she worked for the Niles Daily Star in southwest Michigan. She can be reached at 303-473-1355 or khammon@prairiemountainmedia.com.

khammon@prairiemountainmedia.com

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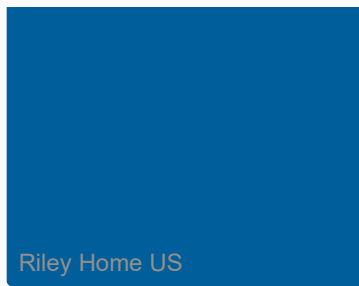
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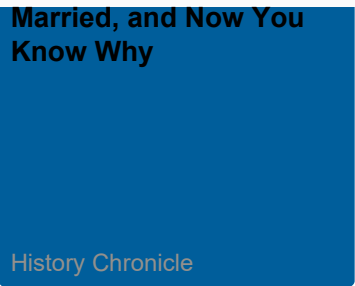
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