

BAER HOUSE

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The house was built by Daniel Smith, who sold it two years later to Samuel Baer, the eventual namesake of the house. Baer was married to Sally Hirsch, the sister of Laura Adler, who was the mother of Leo Adler and his siblings, Sanford and Theresa.

The Solmonssons live in Newberg, but they plan to move to Baker City some time in the next two to five years. The couple own about 10 other rental properties, two in Baker City, including the White House building at 1829 Main St. All the houses the couple rents out are historic homes, with the Baer house being the oldest. They are waiting for one of them to find a job in town before moving east to Baker City.

The Solmonssons have thought about doing Airbnb

"I think that there is going to be a market for people who like the idea of staying in a historic house."

— Raneë Solmonsson of Newberg, owner of the Baer House along with her husband, Jody

before but didn't because none of their other properties fit the platform like the Baer house does. Airbnb is an online site where people can book lodging or host other users at their properties.

"A house like this should be filled with people, families, gatherings and we would like to bring that energy back to it," Raneë Solmonsson stated in a letter.

This is the first time the Solmonssons have used Airbnb with one of their properties. The couple will have the property managed

by Tori Brown, who has previous experience managing Airbnbs and it has a 5-star rating, according to Solmonsson.

Nov. 1 was the first day that the house was open to those interested in staying in the house. On Nov. 2 the Solmonssons had an open house. The home can house up to 14 guests and has six bedrooms and three bathrooms.

"I think that there is going to be a market for people who like the idea of staying in a historic house," Solmonsson said.

Brown will be able to ensure that people do not bring larger groups than they are suppose to because she works at Barley Brown's as a marketing manager. Barley Brown's is across Main Street from the Baer house.

On Airbnb, hosts can talk with guests before deciding to rent their properties, so Brown can screen potential guests to ensure they will take care of the house.

Solmonsson is a former teacher who now mainly works on renovating the couple's properties and on their farm in Newberg. Jody Solmonsson works as an engineer for Portland General Electric.

In 2016, the couple decided that they wanted to explore Eastern Oregon for the first time. At the advice of some friends, they made Baker City their first visit. During their visit they fell in love with a home at 1520 Fourth St., which eventually became their first property in Baker.

"When we walk into a house we can kind of get a feel for it right away," Solmonsson said.

Since buying the Baer House, the couple has done minimal renovations with most of the work being cleaning and furnishing the house. They did have



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

The Solmonssons say furnishing the Baer House has taken precedence over remodeling. However, they did build new steps at the front entrance.

to replace the front steps of the home. The house still needs some updates, but the couple's goal was to have it open by Nov. 1.

Much of the furniture in the house comes from antique shops and thrift stores. While they weren't able to get everything accurate to

the era in which the house was built, the Solmonssons tried to get it as close as they could. They plan to complete the fence around the yard so guests can bring dogs if they would like.

Next, the couple plans to work on the upstairs of the White House building on

Main Street. The building currently houses an art gallery on the street level. That will be the first commercial building they have rented out.

"It's neat to be a part of all the long history here and we feel we're just stewards of the house," Solmonsson said.



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Connecting upstairs bedrooms in the Baer House flaunt historic furnishings and decor.

Voters reject most state measures

By Gillian Flaccus
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Oregon voters weren't afraid to say no this election as they weighed in on an array of hot-button social issues from abortion to immigration to taxes.

Ballot measures to repeal the state's first-in-the-nation immigrant sanctuary law, prohibit state funding of abortions and add a ban on future grocery taxes all failed at the polls Tuesday.

Voters also rejected a measure that would have required a legislative supermajority to approve bills that raise revenue in any way — not just through taxes.

The only statewide ballot measure to pass was one that will make it easier for government entities to finance and build much-needed affordable housing.

The measure to repeal Oregon's 31-year-old sanctuary law came against a backdrop of growing national anxiety over immigration.

Oregon adopted a law in 1987 preventing law enforcement from detaining people who are in the U.S. illegally but have not broken other laws.

Measure 106, which would have banned the use of public funds for abortion coverage, also failed.

BROWN

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"With this election cycle we tripled the number of Democratic women governors serving in this country," Brown told



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a cheering crowd at another Portland hotel. "Tonight, we can say we fought to keep Oregon a welcoming and inclusive place for all."

Brown had 49.3 percent of the vote and her opponent Republican Knute Buehler with 44.4 percent. Polls had predicted a tighter race.

"It's not a toss up. It's not even a close call," she said. "It's a slam dunk!"

Knute Buehler, a Republican member of the Oregon House whose term expires around the end of the year, conceded defeat before a group of dejected supporters at a Portland hotel.

"Tonight I lost an election, but I do think this competitive governor's race has made all of us better, that democracy has won," he said. "Competition is good for all of us — and we offered voters a choice."

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