

REOPEN

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The governor announced during a press conference Friday morning that she hopes rural counties with few or no confirmed cases of the coronavirus could start to reopen businesses and allow other activities on May 15.

As of Friday afternoon, Baker County was one of four of the state's 36 counties with no confirmed cases.

The other counties are Gilliam, Lake and Wheeler.

A total of 80 Baker County residents have been tested for the virus, according to the Baker County Health Department. Seventy-five of those were negative, and five tests were pending as of Friday afternoon.

Brown said state officials are working on reopening plans for urban areas and for counties with more than five confirmed cases.

Among counties neighboring Baker, Union County has four confirmed cases, Malheur County has 10, and Wallowa and Grant counties one each.

Bennett said officials in the governor's office were impressed with Baker County's reopening plan, although the

county will be making some "tweaks" to the document.

He said he hadn't yet met with the county's management team to talk about the details.

Bennett said county officials will strive to get approval from Brown to start the county's plan before May 15.

He said he was pleased to learn that the governor's office will be more flexible than he expected in some issues. For instance, the county's plan calls for moving from the first phase to the second, and from the second to the third, in two weeks, or possibly sooner, if the county does not have more than eight positive tests during a one-week period.

Bennett said state officials told the county that it's possible that multiple confirmed cases, if they were all members of one household, could be counted as a single case for purposes of the reopening plan.

Bennett has emphasized how vital it is for the county to begin reopening its economy.

More than 550 county residents have filed for unemployment benefits over the past six weeks.

The county plan's overview notes that although social dis-

tancing, business closures and other precautions have helped Baker County avoid any confirmed cases, the "heart-ache, despair, uncertainty and fear caused by the efforts to slow or stop the spread of this terrible disease through the shutdown of non-essential business and commerce is another matter. At this point, with the favorable health condition that exists in Baker County, relative to COVID-19, the devastating economic impact to the county seems even more extreme, and relief to these aspects of the effects of the disease require as much attention as continuing disease mitigation effects."

When the first phase of the county's plan begins, restaurants would continue to be limited to offering takeout and delivery, and bars would remain closed.

Nonessential retail businesses that have been closed since mid-March could reopen, as could a group the plan describes as the "professional/personal services group," which includes beauticians, barbers, accountants and lawyers.

Those businesses would have to ensure their patrons maintain social distancing of

at least 6 feet, and employees would need to do "frequent cleaning of commonly touched surfaces."

Businesses in the professional/personal services group would have to schedule appointments with clients, and those appointment logs would allow a team based at the Baker County Health Department to employ "contact tracing," a method used, in the case of a confirmed case of the virus, to identify people who the infected person could have infected.

During the second phase, restaurants and bars could reopen, provided they maintain social distancing and reduce capacity to about 50% of normal by blocking alternate booths or tables or making similar changes.

Theaters, churches and swimming pools could reopen with social distancing and frequent cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

The county would continue to urge people to follow social distancing, including in groups of more than 10 people. People should avoid gatherings of more than 50 people unless they wear cloth face masks.

County ends camping ban on Snake

Baker County's ban on camping and other overnight activities along the Snake River corridor at the county's eastern border, in effect since April 3, ended Thursday.

County commissioners instituted the ban on overnight recreation, including

fishing, after receiving numerous complaints that visitors, most from outside Oregon, had been congregating along the river, failing to comply with social distancing guidelines.

County officials remind visitors to continue to maintain social distancing

and properly dispose of all waste.

Developed recreation sites remain closed on public land managed by the Forest Service and BLM, although public land itself is open. Visit www.bakercountycovid19.com for links to information about restrictions or closures.

News of Record

FUNERAL PENDING

Charles M. Chinn: Private interment will take place at Mount Hope Cemetery. Contributions in memory of Charles can be made to the First Lutheran Memorial Fund or the Talking Book and Braille Library through Gray's West & Co., 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in memory of Charles, or to leave a condolence for his family, go to www.grayswestco.com

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, citations
FOURTH-DEGREE ASSAULT: Heather Marie Harlow, 36, of 1625 Seventh St., 10:05 a.m. Thursday, at the police department; jailed and later released on bail.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

Arrests, citations
PROBATION VIOLATION and TWO COUNTS OF ATTEMPTING TO ELUDE A POLICE OFFICER (Two Baker County Circuit Court warrants): James Robert Hensen, 33, of Baker City, 11:41 a.m. Thursday, at the Baker County Parole and Probation Office, 3320 K St.; cited and released.

Available Through The Library

Although the library is closed, ebooks are available through the Library2Go service. There's a link on the left side of the screen at www.bakerlib.org. Patrons can access Library2Go with their library card number and PIN.

NEWLY ADDED

- "Unorthodox," Deborah Feldman
- "If It Bleeds," Stephen King
- "The House of Kennedy," James Patterson
- "Front Row at the Trump Show," Jonathan Karl
- "A Bad Day for Sunshine," Darynda Jones

ALWAYS AVAILABLE

- "Great Expectations," Charles Dickens
- "Dracula," Bram Stoker
- "The Art of War," Sun Tzu
- "Heart of Darkness," Joseph Conrad
- "The Hound of the Baskervilles," Arthur Conan Doyle
- "Little Women," Louisa May Alcott
- "The Call of the Wild," Jack London
- "Pride & Prejudice," Jane Austen
- "Think and Grow Rich," Napoleon Hill
- "Treasure Island," Robert Louis Stevenson

LEADERS

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The governing rules allow only one member of a local chapter to be chosen for the state team. After a four-day jumble of qualifying interviews and activities that began April 24, Brown was the Baker candidate selected.

She will serve as secretary of the 2020-21 FFA State Officer team.

The two BHS students said they supported and encouraged each other along every step of the process. As it came down to the wire, both were among the 12 finalists from which the six-member team was named on Monday, April 27.

The 24-candidate group was reduced through two preliminary cuts — seven were eliminated on Saturday night and then five more were cut on Sunday.

The final 12 were interviewed once more on Monday morning before the six were chosen for the State Officer Team.

A 12-person student nominating committee evaluated the candidates during the weekend before presenting the executive committee with the chosen slate of officers.

"It's a huge accomplishment for a chapter to have two students make the finals in the process and we are so extremely proud of both of them," Bibiana Giff, FFA adviser, said in a voice mail message to the Herald.

Brown and Morrison spoke proudly of their accomplishments and support for one another from their homes in an online interview Tuesday.

"I'm very grateful and thankful for this opportunity and I'm looking forward to the year and I'm really, really excited for it," Brown said.

Still, she adds, the honor was bittersweet because she was "bummed" knowing her friend, Morrison, wouldn't be serving on the team.

"We talked about it a lot," she said. "Either way, we were going to support the other person."

For his part, Morrison said he was happy for Brown.

"I didn't feel bad," he said. "I made it to the top 12 and I knew that only one member of a chapter can be on the team.

"We had fun and were excited and happy for each other. I was so thankful for that. Ty and I really enjoyed it together."

— **Raimy Brown**

"When Raimy made the team, I was very, very excited for her," Morrison said.

(There was an adjustment made to the original six-person team on Tuesday, Shawn Dooley, Oregon FFA CEO, told The Capital Press. Dooley said "one of the candidates originally chosen for treasurer was found to have previously made 'concerning' posts on social media." Although Dooley did not go into detail, he told The Capital Press that the comments "did not uphold the values that FFA strives to instill in its members." The nominating committee met again Tuesday and recommended one change to the slate of officers, which was again approved by the executive committee. Brown was aware that a change had been made, but didn't know the details at the time of the interview.)

In reflecting on their success in FFA, Brown and Morrison, who also was this year's Baker FFA chapter president, expressed appreciation to everyone who helped them along the way, including their parents, other FFA members and their FFA advisers, Giff and Nichole Merchant.

Brown is the daughter of Riley and Melissa Brown of Haines. Morrison's parents are Clint and Elissa Morrison of Baker City.

The students said their advisers were especially helpful during the four-day selection process.

"They were so great throughout the whole thing," Brown said.

The advisers set up rooms at Baker High School for the two students to use during the online interviews, speeches and problem-solving activities. Giff and Merchant also provided lunches, snacks, drinks, games and music to get the students through the stressful competition.

Although the stress wasn't new, almost everything else about the state officer selec-

"When Raimy made the team, I was very, very excited for her."

— **Ty Morrison**

tion process changed this year because of the coronavirus pandemic that forced the organization to schedule a "virtual" state convention.

The event, scheduled annually in March, is the highlight of the year for FFA members — second only to attendance at the national convention in Indianapolis. In most years the state convention, which takes place at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center in Redmond, culminates with the election of a new six-member officer team.

The new members are announced in a ceremony during which candidates appear on stage in front of a state-wide audience. Those chosen for the team are announced one by one until the full slate of six has been named.

Needless to say, that didn't happen this year. Rather than going through the required activities in person, this year's candidate selections were postponed until the last weekend of April and conducted using the Zoom app.

Morrison and Brown said they missed the opportunity of getting better acquainted with the other officer candidates. That's usually a part of the process, with students hanging out during the state convention and being able to talk face to face throughout

Baker FFA plant sale underway

The Baker FFA's spring plant sale is underway with an online ordering site, <https://bakerffaplantsale.square.site/>

The club, which has a greenhouse at Baker High School, is selling hanging baskets, bedding plants, ornamentals, succulents, herbs and vegetables.

Customers can order online and pick up their orders Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Customers will get details on where to park through the ordering process.

their candidacies.

But Brown and Morrison said having each other to go through the process helped them cope with the changes required under the new system.

"We were already really close and good friends being from the same chapter," said Brown, who transferred to Baker from North Powder in her senior year.

As the weekend progressed, the two watched as they both successfully advanced through the different stages of the competition.

VOTE

LAURIE

DRAPER

OTEC

Board of Directors

Position 3

Harney County



Raised in Grant County and a Harney County Resident for 37+ years, my entire working career has been in customer service (US Bank, small business owner, and ODFW). I hope to continue that service for the member-owners of Oregon Trail Electric. Now retired, I have the time and energy to work with the OTEC Board and offer a fresh perspective to continue to provide reasonable, reliable power for you.

I ask for your vote.

"We had fun and were excited and happy for each other," Brown said. "I was so thankful for that. Ty and I really enjoyed it together."

As they consider their futures, Morrison said he will start his college education at Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario before transferring to Eastern Oregon University where he plans to work toward an agri-business degree through the Oregon State University program at Eastern.

First, though, he'll spend time healing from a broken shoulder blade. Morrison broke his right shoulder blade a week before the state officer selection process when his dirt bike flip-flopped on him while he was riding with friends at Virtue Flat east of Baker City.

His arm is in a sling, and he's charged with resting, stretching and letting his shoulder blade heal as he recovers, he said.

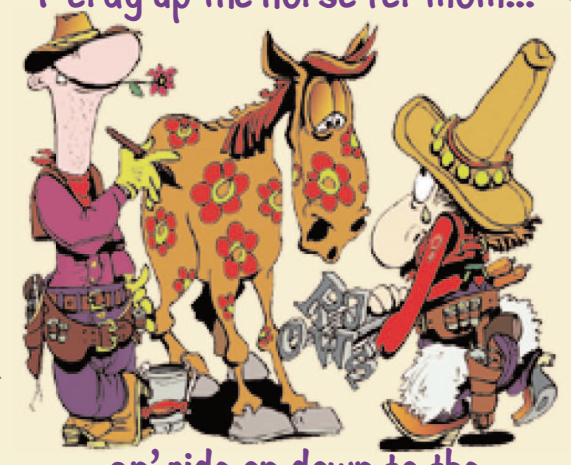
As for Brown, she'll put her

college plans on hold. Instead of studying, she'll spend her first year out of high school providing training and advice to members of Oregon's 12 FFA districts with an average of about 10 chapters per district. The Eastern Oregon District comprises the Baker, Cove, Elgin, Enterprise, Imbler, Joseph, La Grande, North Powder, Pine Eagle, Union and Wallowa chapters.

Because of the social distancing requirements in place during the coronavirus pandemic, the state officers still are not sure how much of their service will be fulfilled online.

When her year on the FFA State Officer Team is over in March 2021 Brown said she'll welcome the time off. She says she will work some in the interim to help pay for college before heading off to her first year at Northwest Nazarene University at Nampa, Idaho, in the fall of 2021 to study elementary education.

Perdy up the horse fer mom...



an' ride on down to the



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