

Freeze

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The federal grants through the Paycheck Protection Program helped pay employees, even if they weren't working, during the initial lockdown, but Adair said with those funds used up, the restaurant will have to run based on profits.

Adair said the restaurant anticipated another shutdown so they began packaging their baked goods and pre-packaging their beer and merchandise so items can be readily available through online purchases.

"I think we all need to continue to work together and try to support each other and share information as it comes in and try and help each other out," Adair said. "There's a light at the end of the tunnel."

Shawn Duncan, owner of Squeeze-In Restaurant in John Day, said she was upset with the decision from Brown and asked why there was resentment against restaurants when grocery stores and other larger facilities have more people going around.

"Why the restaurants when we are already doing 6-foot spacing and we have tables taken out?" Duncan said. "As long as we have the spacing, why can't we continue on? I just don't know why she thinks the restaurants are the problem. We aren't."



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
1188 Brewing Company Owner Shannon Adair, left, and head brewer John Spencer talk at the restaurant Friday.

Duncan said she thinks a restaurant is a secure facility because many of them have implemented the COVID-19 guidelines to remain open and keep people safe.

The two weeks will have an impact because each day matters during the winter season, especially with the loss of revenue from the lack of summer tourism, Duncan said.

"We were just getting back on our feet again, and people were getting comfortable with coming in again, and now it's going to take forever to get it back to that point again in the winter," Duncan said.

The five-day delay before the freeze takes effect has at least provided Duncan time to prepare for the shutdown by not buying more groceries. Prior to the first shutdown, Duncan lost an abundant amount of produce since there wasn't much warning before it began.

Brenda Coley, owner of The Snaffle Bit Dinner House in John Day, said she is fed up following the announcement from the state.

"I think we've played the game long enough, and we know what it's all about. It's all about the election, and believe me, yes, the virus is real and people are getting tested," Coley said. "Are they sick? No, they are not sick. They are just getting tested, and they are testing positive. That does not mean they're sick. They don't have the symptoms, but they're testing positive."

Harvard Health Publishing, the consumer health education division of Harvard Medical School, said people who test positive for COVID-19 and are without symptoms can refer to two groups. A person who eventually does have symptoms, pre-symptomatic, and those who never



Eagle file photo
Grant County Commissioner Jim Hamsher.

go on to have symptoms, asymptomatic.

"During this pandemic, we have seen that people without symptoms can spread the coronavirus infection to others," according to Harvard Health Publishing. "A person with COVID-19 may be contagious 48 to 72 hours before starting to experience symptoms. In fact, people without symptoms may be more likely to spread the illness, because they are unlikely to be isolating and may not adopt behaviors designed to prevent spread."

The publication added that a recent study compared the amount of coronavirus in the nose, throat, and lungs of symptomatic and asymptomatic adults, and they had similar amounts of virus in their bodies throughout the infection.



Eagle file photo
Rep. Mark Owens, R-Crane.

Coley said free tests are incentivizing more people to get tested, and the positive results are causing people to get scared as the state continues to overstep their boundaries.

"If we're going to die, we might as well take our chances," Coley said. "We could be killed tomorrow in a car wreck. I could be killed on my way home tonight."

Coley said it is important to stick up for her business and what is going to put food on the table, especially since the first shutdown in Oregon ended up being months and not weeks as promised back in spring. Coley said she doubts the shutdown will only last two weeks.

She said the two weeks will hurt many businesses because it is a long time to be closed after the initial, several month shutdown.

"They didn't need another shutdown. It's all about control," Coley said. "Shutting small businesses down is not the answer. If they're going to shut small businesses down, then they need to shut the big businesses down too because it's only fair."

Grant County Commissioner Jim Hamsher said he hopes the people who tested positive recover and his biggest worry has been protecting the most vulnerable and keeping COVID-19 away from care centers, assisted living and retirement homes. However, he said there needs to be more local control because the local hospital and health department can make better decisions than a blanket mandate across the state.

"They say it many times: You see one county in Oregon, you've seen one county," Hamsher said. "What may work in Grant County might not work in Baker County. I just keep pushing for more local control."

State Rep. Mark Owens, R-Crane, said in a press release that he also disagreed with the blanket mandate from the Brown.

"Governor Brown's one-size-fits-all approach to shutting down our state is far too extreme," Owens said. "Our eastern and rural Oregon communities in House District 60 will suffer to the point of no return."

Quarantine

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the health department when they return to work.

"We knew from the beginning how it works," he said. "And they are all in good shape."

Wyllie said he has "been really proud" of the staff that have stepped up amid the quarantine. Most of the crew, he said, has worked six days a week.

"We pretty much rewrote the schedule one day, and we called everybody, and everyone said, 'Hey, we're there to do whatever we need to do,'" Wyllie said.

Wyllie said he thinks the store will go back to regular hours around Nov. 20.

Dairy Queen, like Chester's, was forced to reduce its hours and go to a limited menu after half of the staff went into quarantine after an employee tested positive for the virus.

"My first feeling was that we were not going to make it," Dairy Queen owner Benny Santos said.

Santos said he came up with a plan to get through the 14 days with a skeleton crew.

He said the biggest challenge is making sure everyone on the staff follow procedures. He said what makes the difference is that he treats the crew with "love and respect."

Meanwhile, Santos said he and the staff have kept in touch with the staff member who contracted the virus and have dropped off groceries.

Altogether, seven of his 14 employees are out on quarantine, he said. He said three people come back to work on Nov. 18, and four return the following day.

"We're making it happen," he said. "They're really working with me."



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
Dairy Queen owner Benny Santos.



Chester's Operations Manager Bill Wyllie, right, rings up a customer on Friday.

The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

Teacher

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Prairie City graduates also keep in touch with Colson to ask questions that arise at college.

"There's always something they're not sure of because college is hard for kids to transition to out of



Billy Colson

high school," Colson said. "They go from having advocates all over the place and then they go to college,

and they're on an island by themselves essentially where they've got to figure everything out."

Colson said a prominent highlight of being a teacher comes from witnessing the academic and emotional growth of his students and possibly playing a role in that development.

"Just watching the growth of the kids and the benefit of seeing that, hoping that you had some kind of small part to do with it," Colson said. "It's nice to have those kids

come back years later and say thanks."

Colson said most kids don't realize how much the school does for them, but when they come back years later they share their appreciation for what they were given.

Another goal Colson has for himself is to continue developing his skills as an educator. He is a part

of a collaborative group of math teachers from different schools and counties that meet on a weekly basis.

"That's made me more goal oriented towards the different avenues of education than just teaching on the boards," Colson said.

Hallgarth said what sets Colson aside from other teachers is his drive to continually learn new things while applying his own touch in the process.

Austin Cates, a junior at Prairie City High School and one of Colson's students, said Colson is a very enthusiastic

teacher and it's easy to see that he likes his job.

"If you don't understand something, he'll go deep down and explain it to you in a way you can understand it," Cates said. "He's really fun, and you can talk about other stuff with him."

Colson said he enjoys working at Prairie City School and appreciates the support from the community.

"I enjoy the staff, and I've had huge community support over the years," Colson said. "The community in Prairie City is all in on the school, and what we need, the community often provides."



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