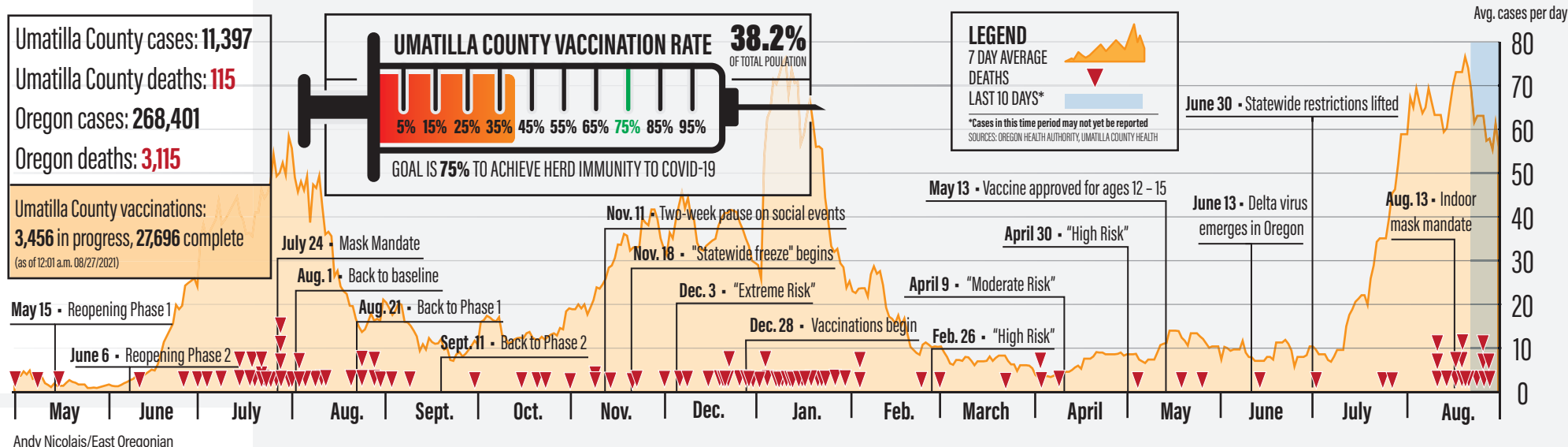


UMATILLA COUNTY COVID-19 TREND - AS OF AUG. 27



Pendleton man crashes motorcycle into traffic on I-84

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — A Pendleton man suffered serious injuries Wednesday, Aug. 25, on the eastbound side of Interstate 84 when he crashed his motorcycle into a passenger car that was stopped because of a semitrailer crash miles ahead.

Oregon State Police reported a helicopter ambulance flew Stephen Chandler Peterson, 71, from the scene.

OSP Lt. Karl Farber of the Pendleton Area Command said traffic on I-84 began backing up after a semitrailer full of 50-gallon barrels of apple juice concentrate crashed at 7:23 a.m. on the bridge at Meacham near milepost 238.

The driver of the semi, a 28-year-old man from Tacoma, fell asleep, and the big rig hit an impact barrier in the road construction zone. The driver over-corrected, Farber said, and the

tractor-trailer spun, flipped and got hung up on the bridge, stopping short of going off.

But the real problem was the mass of apple juice concentrate.

Farber said the substance covered the surface of the bridge, making it slippery and sticky and a priority to clean up before traffic could again pass through safely. Road construction is underway in the area, and the Oregon Department of Transportation has reduced travel on the bridge to one lane of eastbound and one lane of westbound traffic. The wreck shut down both directions of travel on the freeway between Ontario and Pendleton.

Removing the concentrate was the main reason the closure lasted as long as it did, Farber said. ODOT reported the freeway was open again at 5:08 p.m.

“We knew we were going to be shut down a long time, so we closed at the 216 for access to services at Arrowhead

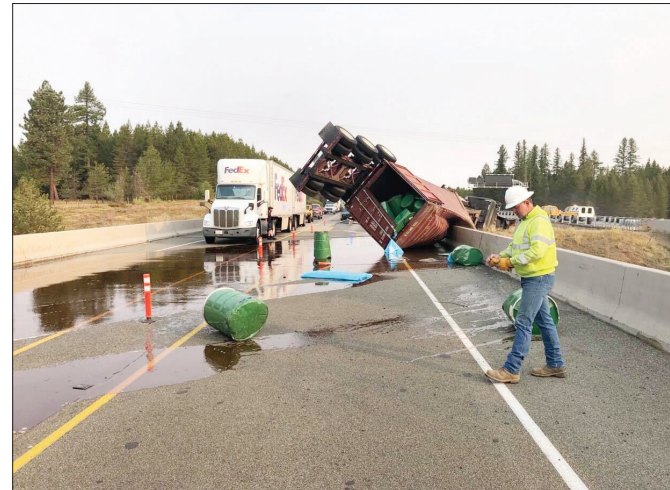
(Truck Plaza),” he said. “We had a lot of traffic backing up on the freeway.”

The traffic backed up to about milepost 213, about three miles east of Pendleton, where at 11:43 a.m. Peterson and the Harley Davidson motorcycle he was operating crashed into a Toyota Avalon.

The crash threw Peterson from the motorcycle, according to a report from state police, which then collided with a semitrailer on the shoulder of the freeway.

Farber said Peterson was not able to recount what happened at the scene. Medics from the Umatilla Tribal Fire Department responded and stabilized him. State police shut down westbound traffic near the crash so a Life Flight helicopter could land and fly him to a hospital.

Farber said OSP did not know that destination, nor Peterson’s condition, but was following up on that.



Oregon Department of Transportation/Contributed Photo
A semitrailer crash Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2021, spills apple juice concentrate across the Meacham Bridge on Interstate 84 near milepost 238. The freeway in the area is under construction, reducing travel on the bridge to one lane each for eastbound and westbound traffic. The wreck shut down a long stretch of I-84 in Eastern Oregon most of the day.

GOBHI works to ensure smooth transition of services in Umatilla County

East Oregonian

UMATILLA COUNTY — Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc. on Friday, Aug. 27, announced its board of directors took action to support the continuity of behavioral health services for Oregon Health Plan members in Umatilla County who are members of the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization.

GOBHI serves as an administrative services organization on behalf of the EOCCO and is responsible for administering the behavioral health benefit, nonemergent medical transportation and for facilitating community conversations to improve the healthcare system in Eastern Oregon for EOCCO members.

GOBHI also is one of the owners of EOCCO, the entity the state designated to manage healthcare benefits for Oregon Health Plan members in 12 rural and frontier coun-

ties. There are approximately 23,000 EOCCO members in Umatilla County.

GOBHI’s announcement comes in the wake of the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners selecting Community Counseling Solutions over Lifeways Inc. as the county’s provider for mental health and substance abuse treatment.

GOBHI in a press release reported its board on Aug. 25 voted to terminate its “Comprehensive Behavioral Health Provider agreement” with Lifeways in Umatilla County effective Nov. 30. The board also adopted a new agreement with Community Counseling Solutions fulfilling this role effective Dec. 1. This timeline coincides with the county’s timeline for transitioning providers.

In each Oregon county, community mental health programs offer an array of behavioral health and support

services, as well as crisis response and mobile crisis services. CCS is the provider serving Gilliam, Grant, Morrow and Wheeler counties.

The GOBHI board’s actions represent a step forward in the formal process of service transitioning from Lifeways to CCS.

“We look forward to continuing our work with partners in Umatilla County to make this as smooth a transition as possible,” said Karen Wheeler, GOBHI CEO. “We’re encouraged by conversations with CCS leadership about their commitment to meet the behavioral health needs in this community. We are aligned in our vision to improve service delivery in this county, particularly in the area of crisis response for vulnerable residents.”

CCS will begin operating the Umatilla County substance use disorder

services effective Sept. 1, and mental health provider services effective Dec. 1.

Kimberly Lindsay, CCS executive director, said in the press release the organization is “eager to learn more about what has worked and not worked, and are completely committed to providing high quality behavioral health

services to those we serve.”

Representatives from CCS, Lifeways and GOBHI are in regular communication regarding the transition, according to Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, “to ensure continuity of operations and clinical care for Umatilla County residents, including EOCCO members.”

“These partnerships are critical,” according to Wheeler. “We must not lose sight of our common goal: making sure Umatilla County residents have the quality services they need to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. We look forward to serving the community in the future.”

Save the Date
September 9, 2021, 1:00 pm
Celebration of Life

Pamela Collins Forrester
May 27, 1942 – July 6, 2021

Salem Convention Center
Willamette Room
200 Commercial St SE, Salem, OR 97301

Salem Grand Hotel (adjacent to center) is offering special overnight rates, of \$159 for king room, for Sept 8, 9, 10. When calling mention you are there for the Forrester Celebration of Life.
Call (503) 540-7800 for reservations.

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