

## OBITUARIES

Continued from Page A2

If you were to ask Mary what she loved most about her life she would have responded first with “family” followed immediately by “grandkids.” Mary had a total of 13 grandchildren: Devan League, Austin League, Brandon League, Kaitlyn Kraxberger, Coletina Trump, Kassey Trump, Kaden Trump, Delaney Trump, Jillian Slater, Christian Anderson, Chad Anderson, Connor Anderson and Maryah Anderson. In addition, she had three and a half great-grandchildren. Mary also had many nieces and nephews all of whom she loved deeply.

Mary Pearl Armon Trump was preceded in death by her father, Francis Harvey Armon, and her mother, Leona Myrtle Marie Weaver Armon; her oldest brother, Lonnie Joe Armon; and the love of her life, Robert Leon Trump.

For those who would like to make a donation in her memory, the family suggests one that Mary was fond of called Paralyzed Veterans of America, through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be made at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneral-home.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneral-home.com).

## GARDEN

Continued from A1

A gate offers access to this sanctuary, where a goat named Sally Fields stands atop a tower of tires to assess the visitors.

Her penmates, goats named Oreo and Oscar, are more friendly and push their noses through the fence to greet Cheryl.

“The kids were moving on,” Cheryl said of her children. “We needed a replacement.”

So she got goats and chickens.

As for the garden area, Cheryl said “Donnie really likes tilling.”

They plant rows north to south because Cheryl said that orientation seems to grow the best. She starts



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Donnie Tholen, owner of Farm & Industrial in Baker City, creates metal works to decorate the yard and garden he shares with his wife, Cheryl.

seeds inside every year.

“I take over the dining room table,” she said.

The Tholens keep notes of each growing season to help them plan the next year.

“First I figure out where we’re going to grow everything,” Cheryl said. “We keep a map of everything and rotate crops.”

This year the garden boasts tomatoes, beets, green beans, peas, carrots, onions, spinach, Swiss chard, pumpkins, corn (decorative and sweet), zucchini and leeks.

“We have so much,” Cheryl said.

And no one gets away without a fresh vegetable if she has her way.

“You need a beet. Maybe two?” she said to an evening visitor.

And she’ll throw in some extras, just because.

“It’s our sharing garden,” she said. “We grow it to give it.”

The pumpkins are growing particularly well this summer.

“The pumpkins took

over — and there’s only six plants,” she said.

A sprinkler pokes up from the middle of the mass.

“I had to raise the sprinkler three times,” Donnie said. “The leaves are so big.”

They water their garden from a well, which provided ample moisture during this year of restricted water use due to the drought.

The well is powered by energy they collect through solar panels and a windmill.

“This is totally self contained,” Donnie said. “We have a garden that’s off the grid.”

He didn’t garden before he met Cheryl, who says she’s gardened all her life.

Now, in addition to helping with the seasonal crops, he’s added decorative grasses to the landscape and metal creations like a sea serpent (he owns Farm & Industrial, a metal fabrication shop in Baker City).

“It’s kind of crazy, but we have fun with it,” Donnie said.

## WATER

Continued from A1

“With colder nights and shorter days I would expect to see a steady reduction in use throughout September,” Owen said.

She started becoming concerned about the water supply during June.

With rainfall just 17% of average for the month at the Baker City Airport, and a record-setting heatwave in the final week, the city’s water use averaged 4.3 million gallons per day during June.

That was an increase of 45% compared with June 2020.

The unusually high water use during June prompted Owen to move the city to Phase 1 of its water curtailment ordinance on June 28 — asking residents and businesses to voluntarily reduce their water use.

Two weeks later, with hot temperatures continuing and no rain falling, the city shifted to Phase 2, in which residents are asked to restrict outdoor watering to between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m., when evaporation rates are lower and less water is needed for lawns and gardens.

At the time, Owen noted that the city had been going through 5 million gallons or more on several days, a rate that the city could not sustain throughout summer, she said.

The city gets most of its water from springs and streams in the 10,000-acre watershed on the east slopes of the Elkhorn Mountains about 10 miles west of town.

The city has two supplementary sources: a well, and Goodrich Lake, which holds about 200 million gallons.

Although water use

declined briefly after the city instituted Phase 2, the heat persisted — July was the hottest month on record at the airport — and the city ended up using more water in July than in June.

Daily use stayed below 5 million gallons, though, and Owen decided that imposing Phase 3 — which bans all outdoor watering and includes the provision for the city to fine violators \$500 — wasn’t necessary.

The city has never moved to Phase 3.

Rain and cooler temperatures the first week of August helped curb the city’s thirst, and although water use rose in the middle of the month when hot, dry weather returned, daily use was only a bit more than 4 million gallons.

The second half of August was considerably cooler, with the temperature staying below 90, and water use dipped further.

The city hasn’t used more than 4 million gallons on any day since Aug. 16. The city’s daily use averaged 3.6 million gallons from Aug. 16-31.

That trend pushed the daily average for the whole of August to 3.7 million gallons, compared with 4.8 million during July, and 4.3 million during June.

Water use this August was also much lower than in the same month in 2020, when the daily average was 4.3 million gallons.

Owen said water use typically declines noticeably after school resumes and fewer people are at home during the day.

Given recent trends, Owen said she expects the city will move back to Phase 1 of the water curtailment ordinance as early as this week.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Cheryl Tholen greets her goats — Oreo, Oscar and Sally Fields — after a day at work.

## ROAD

Continued from A1

the junction of the Snake River Road along Brownlee Reservoir.

The 2002 resolution deems the Connor Creek Road as a public right-of-way.

But although the commissioners’ discussion at that time focused on the gate near the Connor Creek mine, the county ended up designating as public a much longer section of road — including the part running through the property Longgood and Hansen bought 15 years later.

Hudson writes in his motion for summary judgment that the county never notified affected landowners about this extension of the public right-of-way, including those who owned the property Longgood and Hansen later bought.

In his response to the lawsuit, Hudson included maps, survey records, property deeds and an easement granted to the Bureau of Land Management to bolster his contention that the gated road at the heart of the lawsuit was built many years after the property was converted from public to private. As a result, Hudson argues, the disputed section of road can’t be designated now as a public right-of-way.

## HARVEY

Continued from A1

“would establish a preponderance of evidence in support of a post-hearing order to find three violations of Oregon Revised Statute 244.120 (2) (b) and five violations of ORS 244.040 (1).”

ORS 244.120 requires public officials to disclose conflicts of interest and to recuse themselves from decisions related to the conflict.

ORS 244.040 prohibits public officials from using their position for financial gain for themselves or for relatives.

## Case dates to 2020

The case started when Greg Baxter, Baker County district attorney, filed a complaint with the Ethics Commission on Sept. 16, 2020. The Ethics Commission voted 6-0 on Nov. 6, 2020, to assign an investigator to look into the allegations in Baxter’s letter.

Susan Myers, an investigator for the Ethics Commission, recommended the Commission make a preliminary finding that Harvey committed eight violations of ethics laws. Myers wrote in her report that she found a “preponderance of evidence” that Harvey, who was elected in 2014 and re-elected to a second four-year term in 2018, used his position to benefit himself, his son and his son’s business, and that the elder Harvey failed to disclose conflicts of interest as

required by state law.

Myers investigated three issues:

- Harvey’s hiring of his son, contractor William Shawn Harvey, to help haul docks to the county-owned Hewitt Park near Richland, for which his son was paid \$1,710.

- Harvey’s proposal, which he later withdrew, to hire his son to help with remodeling of the county’s new health department building on Fourth Street.

- Harvey’s reimbursements from the county for mileage and meal expenses while he was working at the Hewitt and Holcomb parks during the spring of 2020.

In a written response to the Commission, dated May 27, 2021, Harvey wrote that “the thought that I used my County Commission position to benefit myself is absurd. Who would ever want to work seven days a week, for two months away from my family, and ignore what was required of me at home as a father, grandfather and husband? As a salaried elected official, all of the extra hours and workload

was done at no additional pay for myself.”

Harvey asked that the Ethics Commission give him a warning on one conflict of interest allegation — hiring his son to haul docks to Hewitt Park.

Bill Harvey also proposed that the Commission warn him for discussing the possibility of hiring his son to do demolition work at the building the county bought in August 2020 and that now houses the Baker County Health Department.

Bill Harvey requested that the Ethics Commission dismiss all allegations that he received more money for mileage and meals during the spring and summer of 2020 than is authorized under the county’s travel policy.

But during its June 11 meeting, the Ethics Commission reached a preliminary finding that Harvey committed the ethics violations that Myers listed in her report.

According to the stipulated final order, Harvey violated a state law by failing to disclose his conflict of interest in the



## WINDSHIELD DOCTOR

FREE MOBILE SERVICE

“Give us a break, we’ll fix it.”

541-523-5839 Baker City • 541-963-0832 La Grande

With summer here, there is lots of traveling. Be safe & have fun!



**Joe Scott's**  
**Premier**  
**Auto Body, Inc.**  
 2390 Broadway, Baker City  
 541-523-5223