As a Republican, Gomez

# **Ashland man dies in motorcycle crash**

#### **Baker City Herald**

A 78-year-old man from Ashland died Monday afternoon, Sept. 13, when he failed to negotiate a curve while riding his motorcycle on Highway 7 south of Sumpter.

Lawrence Clay Drake was riding southbound on the highway near Milepost 23 at about 3:40 p.m. when his

KTM 950 motorcycle went off the highway and crashed, according to Oregon State Police. He died at the scene.

The curve is on the grade below Larch Summit, about two miles south of Sumpter Valley.

Drake was wearing a helmet and "proper motorcycle riding attire," according to an OSP report.

Several passers-by stopped information officer for the to try to help Drake before emergency responders arrived, according to the report.

Baker County Dispatch received a call about the accident at 3:47 p.m., and an ambulance from the Baker City Fire Department, as well as a Life Flight helicopter, were dispatched at 3:48 p.m., said Ashley McClay, public

Baker County Sheriff's Office.

The original call was from the Powder River ambulance district, but the caller had poor cell service and it wasn't clear where the accident had happened, McClay said.

OSP was also assisted by the Powder River Rural Fire Department, Life Flight and ODOT.

## **COVID**

Continued from A1

#### Majority of cases in residents younger than 40

Continuing the trend from August, the largest share of cases in Baker County during September has been in people younger than 40.

That age range accounted for about 58% of cases from Sept. 1-14, and about 50% from Aug. 16-31, according to the Baker County Health Department.

A large majority of the cases have been in unvaccinated residents.

From Aug. 1 through Sept. 5, Baker County had 40 breakthrough cases — positive tests in people who are fully vaccinated. That was 11.1% of the county's 362 cases during that period.

(The weekly breakthrough case report will be released today, Sept. 16.)

As of Tuesday, 50.2% of Baker County residents 18 and older — a total population of about 13,800 — were vaccinated, according to the OHA.

The county, which had had the seventh-lowest vaccination rate among Oregon counties for more than a month, has dropped into a tie for sixth-lowest with Umatilla County.

#### Age group comparisons

The younger age ranges that have accounted for the bulk of Baker County's recent cases also have lower vaccination rates than among older county residents.

#### Ages 30 to 39

**SUIT** 

Continued from A1

This group of about 1,950 people had 19.5% of the

Commissioners Mark Ben-

Commission Chairman Bill

nett and Bruce Nichols voted

for a motion to authorize Sul-

livan to sign the settlement.

county's cases from Sept. 1-14, and 18% from Aug. 16-31. Both were the highest percentages among 10-year age groups during those periods.

The vaccination rate among county residents in their 30s is 33.1%. The statewide average for that age group is 71%.

The vaccination rate for the age range in adjoining counties — Grant, 42%; Malheur, 30.4%; Union, 48.6%; Wallowa, 50.9%.

#### Ages 20 to 29

This group, which numbers about 1,300 in Baker County, accounted for 7.3% of cases from Sept. 1-14, and 14.3% from Aug. 16-31.

The vaccination rate for residents in their 20s is 34.6%. The statewide average is

The vaccination rate for the 20-29 age category in adjoining counties — Grant, 48.2%; Malheur, 26%; Union, 45.4%; Wallowa, 61.7%.

#### Ages 10 to 19

This group, which numbers about 1,350 in Baker County, accounted for 19.1% of cases from Sept. 1-14, and 14.3% from Aug. 16-31.

The vaccination rate for this group is 26.5% — residents 11 and younger are not eligible to be vaccinated. The statewide average is 59%.

The vaccination rate for the age range in adjoining counties — Grant, 22%; Malheur, 29.5%; Union, 29.8%; Wallowa, 37.9%.

#### Ages 40 to 49

There are about 1,650 residents in this age range in Baker County, and they accounted for about 12.2% of cases from Sept. 1-14, and 11.8% from Aug. 16-31.

The vaccination rate

Harvey said in a phone in-

terview Wednesday afternoon

that although he supports the

for this age group is 45%, compared with a statewide average of 73.7%.

The vaccination rate for the age range in adjoining counties — Grant, 41.9%; Malheur, 40.6%; Union, 48.3%; Wallowa, 58.9%.

#### Ages 50 to 59

There are about 2,300 residents in this age range in Baker County, and they accounted for about 11% of cases from Sept. 1-14, and 13% from Aug. 16-31.

The vaccination rate for this age group is 45.4%, compared with a statewide average of 73.5%.

The vaccination rate for the age range in adjoining counties — Grant, 40.5%; Malheur, 45.2%; Union, 48.7%; Wallowa, 56.3%.

#### Ages 60 to 69

There are about 3,100 residents in this age range. They accounted for 9.8% of cases from Sept. 1-14, and 14.3% from Aug. 16-31.

The vaccination rate for this age group is 55.2%. The statewide average is 78.1%.

The vaccination rate for the age range in adjoining counties — Grant, 46.5%; Malheur, 58.6%; Union, 63.4%; Wallowa, 66.1%.

#### Ages 70 to 79

There are about 2,200 residents in this age group, and they accounted for 6% of cases from Sept. 1-14, and 5.6% from Aug. 16-31.

The vaccination rate for this age range is 67.3%, compared with a statewide average of 86.6%.

The vaccination rate for the age range in adjoining counties — Grant, 55.1%;

Malheur, 59.7%; Union, 71.6%; Wallowa, 81.1%.

#### Ages 80 and older

There are about 1,100 residents in this age category, and they accounted for 2.4% of cases from Sept. 1-14. There were no cases in this age range from Aug. 16-31.

The vaccination rate for people 80 and older is 69.7% — the highest for any age group in the county. The statewide average is 79.7%.

The vaccination rate for the age range in adjoining counties — Grant, 45.9%; Malheur, 61.2%; Union, 59.3%; Wallowa, 63.5%.

#### Ages 9 and younger

There are about 3,000 residents in this age category in the county, and they are not eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations.

This age group accounted for about 12.2% of cases from Sept. 1-14, and 3.7% of cases from Aug. 16-31.

#### Vaccination rate rising slightly

Bennett said he hopes the hospital capacity crisis in Idaho, and the potential that it can put Baker County residents in life-threatening situations they wouldn't otherwise face, will encourage people to get vaccinated.

Idaho officials said that on Sept. 11, of the more than 600 people hospitalized for treatment of COVID-19 in the state, more than 91% were not vaccinated.

In Baker County, the daily average of vaccine doses given was 20.6 from Sept. 1-13, up from a daily average of 20.4 doses during August. The July average was 12.8 doses.

#### Harvey contends that's not true.

"They were only given permission to close a gate by somebody who is representing our road department," he said. "No one person in Baker County has the legal right to close any road in Baker."

### News of Record

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**Baker City Police** 

Arrests, citations

County Justice Court warrant):

Sharon Lee Beck, 35, Baker City,

Pollman Park; cited and released.

County Justice Court warrant):

Alex Cooper Horn, 25, Baker City,

4:56 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14 in the

County Justice Court warrant):

4:56 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14 in the

1500 block of Campbell Street; cited

Trevor James Health, 25, Baker City,

1500 block of Campbell Street; cited

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker

ınogen

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker

5:14 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14 at Geiser

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker

### **DEATHS**

Harvey voted no.

Raymond Howerton: 74, of Baker City, died Sept. 14, 2021, in the comfort of his home. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at www. tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Linda Rae Koplein: 72, of Baker City, died Sept. 14, 2021, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City. No memorial services are planned at this time. Memorial contributions can be made to Step Forward Activities through Gray's West & Company Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. To light a candle in memory of Linda, or to offer online condolences to her family, go to www. grayswestco.com. David Oliver Romine: 62, of

Halfway, died Sept. 12, 2021, at the home of his parents, Dave and Skip Romine, in Richland. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

Carol Ann Peters: 67, of Baker City, died Sept. 10, 2021, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City. No services are planned at this time. To light a candle in Carol's honor or to extend online condolences to her family, go to www. grayswestco.com.

### **FUNERALS PENDING**

Debra Kay Davis: Celebration of life, Saturday, Sept. 18 at 2 p.m. at the Riverside Park Pavilion, 3501 N. Spruce St. in La Grande. Food and drinks will be provided after the service.

David Coughlin: Celebration of life, Sunday, Sept. 19 at 4 p.m. at the Quail Ridge Golf Course, 2801 Indiana Ave. in Baker City.

Viola Perkins: Graveside

part of the settlement that creates a permanent public right of way, requiring that road remain open to the public except during periods of extreme fire danger, he voted no on the motion because the

memorial service Friday, Sept. 24

at 10:30 a.m. at Haines Cemetery.

made to the Eastern Oregon Mu-

Donations in Viola's memory can be

seum in Haines, Haines First Baptist

Church, or the Rock Creek-Muddy

Creek Mutual Improvement Club

through ColesTribute Center, 1950

Place St., Baker City, OR 97814.To

to www.colestributecenter.com.

at the Eagle Valley Cemetery in

light a candle in Viola's memory, go

will be Saturday, Sept. 25 at 11 a.m.

Richland. Arrangements are under

neral Home & Cremation Services.

the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Fu-

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Donna Weir: Graveside service

graph he believes misstates the situation.

settlement includes a para-

That paragraph states that when Longgood locked the gate on the road in 2017, "one or more responsible officials at Baker County" advised him that he was "legally authorized to do so."

> County Circuit Court warrant): Kyle Dean Arthur, 31, Baker City, 2:01 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14 in the 3900 block of 17th Street; cited and

FOURTH-DEGREE ASSAULT: John Scott Urlacher, 26, Baker City, 10:48 a.m. Monday, Sept. 13 in the 2200 block of 15th Street; cited and released.

#### **Baker County Sheriff's** Office

Arrests, citations CONTEMPT OF COURT (Baker County Justice Court warrant):

JacobThomas Grant, 45, Baker City, 5:09 p.m. Monday, Sept. 13 at the Sheriff's Office; cited and released. DRIVING WHILE SUSPENDED:

Robert Wayne Jarboe, 46, Huntington, 3:52 p.m. Monday, Sept. 13 in Huntington; cited and released

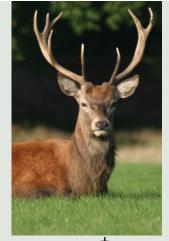
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#### ijacoby@bakercityherald.com understands the challenge Jessica Gomez wants to that her party faces in trybe Oregon's next governor, ing to win the gubernatorial race. Oregon voters haven't elected a Republican as governor since 1982,

GOP governor

**By JAYSON JACOBY** 

and as she travels

the state she's hear-

ing a lot about how

Concerns about

the current drought,

and fears about wa-

ter shortages in the

future, have been a major

farmers and ranchers this

summer, especially east of

the Cascades, Gomez said.

"The biggest issue is wa-

ter out this way," she said on

Tuesday, Sept. 14, during her

candidacy for the Republican

Gomez also traveled to

On Tuesday she met with

**Baker City during Miners** 

Baker County Republicans.

Gomez, who owns a

business in Medford, said

the water users she's met

with "want to have a voice"

in efforts to deal with water

based," Gomez said. "They

Besides the drought,

Gomez said a frequent topic

scarcity of workers for avail-

able jobs, and a shortage of

from residents frustrated

Gomez said she's heard

by land use regulations that

make it difficult to build new

shortage, she said one chal-

lenge for parents is finding

she would promote more

flexibility in zoning regula-

tions to help businesses, in-

onsite childcare to make it

easier for parents to work.

The pandemic is a

ubiquitous topic, Gomez

Kate Brown's mandates

health care workers and

school staff, be vaccinated,

workers wear face masks

indoors.

and that students and school

"People are frustrated

about the vaccine mandate,"

ried about losing employees,

and they think their voices

opposes the mandate that

"People don't want to be

are not being heard."

she is vaccinated, she

forced," Gomez said.

Gomez said. "They're wor-

said, and in particular Gov.

that many people, including

cluding manufacturing, have

In terms of the workforce

She said that as governor

want to solve a problem.

raised by residents is the

"People here are solutions

Jubilee in July.

shortages.

housing.

housing.

childcare.

second visit to Baker City

since she announced her

nomination in late June.

topic in her discussions with

little there is of a

vital resource. Water.

hopeful visits Baker

won his second fouryear term. Gomez But Gomez said she believes the

when Victor Atiyeh

widespread dissatisfaction with Brown's tenure, including executive orders related to the pandemic as well as a general sense of "lawlessness" due to riots and violence in Portland, has given Republicans a unique opportunity.

"We probably have the best chance to make it to the governor's office that we've had in a long time,' Gomez said. "I think people are frustrated with a lack of leadership." She also believes

Oregon's public education system is not producing the results it should based on the amount of money the state is spending. Gomez has seen — and,

indeed, smelled — the effects of this summer's wildfires as she drove throughout the state. Although she acknowl-

edges that the federal government, not the state, manages much of the public land that has burned in recent years, Gomez contends that Brown has failed to lobby federal agencies to improve forest health and to allow salvage logging after

"The governor has a huge role on the advocacy side," Gomez said. "As governor I would band together with other western governors to advocate for our states with federal agencies. I don't think we've gotten aggressive enough about advocating for ourselves.'

Trying to overcome nearly four decades of GOP failures at the ballot box is the latest challenge for Gomez.

She grew up in New York and struggled to read at age 9. When she was 12 her family moved to Southern Oregon, and after her parents separated she was homeless for a time as a teenager.

She moved back to the East Coast and graduated from high school and Gomez said that although community college. Gomez returned to Oregon in 2003, at age 26, and she and her husband started Brown announced in August. a microchip manufacturing business.

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