

LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

**'Discover Downtown' tomorrow**

LA GRANDE — La Grande Main Street Downtown has organized a Discover Downtown event Sept. 29. Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., all are welcome to enjoy raffles and in-store offers. To participate in the raffles, stop by Le Bebe Cakes, 1101 Washington Ave., where you for \$5 (or \$2 with a current student ID) you will receive an official Discover Downtown tote bag, downtown map and stamp card. Visit as many of the participating businesses as you like and have them stamp your card. Return your stamp card to Le Bebe Cakes by 2 p.m. and you will receive raffle tickets based on how many businesses you visited.

**Community invited to Pastor Alan Mortimer's retirement party**

LA GRANDE — The congregation of the La Grande Nazarene Church invites the community to join in a celebration of Pastor Alan Mortimer Sept. 30 as he retires from a lifetime of service to the gospel of Jesus Christ and to the ministry of the

Church of the Nazarene. The celebration begins at 6 p.m., and refreshments will be served.

**MidValley holds auditions for farewell 'Encore' production**

LOSTINE — MidValley Theatre Company will be holding open auditions for its special "Encore" production from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sept. 30 and Oct. 2 in the basement of the Lostine Presbyterian Church, 132 Highway 82. Numerous roles are available. The theatre company will soon be in transition to a new venue, and to celebrate its past and transition, "Encore" includes scenes from many previous shows, short sketches, songs and poems.

**Weaning presentation given at Cattlemen meeting Monday**

ISLAND CITY — Union County Cattlemen will meet at 7 p.m. Oct. 1 at the Ag Service Center in Island City. Guest speaker Leticia Henderson, OSU Extension will present "Nutrition Considerations at Weaning." A business meeting will follow. The meeting is open to the public.

**Translator District Board meets in La Grande**

LA GRANDE — The Blue Mountain Translator District Board of Directors will hold a regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 2 in the Misener Room of the Daniel Chaplin Building, 1001 Fourth St., La Grande. The agenda and board packet will be posted at [www.bmtd.org/public-notice/](http://www.bmtd.org/public-notice/) prior to the meeting.

**Cove City Council meets Tuesday**

COVE — The City of Cove will hold its regular council meeting Oct. 2. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at Cove City Hall, 504 Alder Street.

**Financial Aid Night held for college-hopeful seniors and parents**

LA GRANDE — La Grande High School is hosting a Financial Aid Information Night at 6 p.m. Oct. 3 in the LHS Commons. All local high school seniors who wish to go to college next fall, and their parents, are invited to attend. Financial aid professionals from EOU will present on the FAFSA and the differences between financial aid options.

**Rally supports Kavanaugh's nomination**



Max Denning/The Observer

Five people rallied Thursday morning on the corner of Adams and Fourth Street in support of controversial Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. Kavanaugh has been accused of sexual misconduct by three women. Marla Schad, pictured above in the center, who organized the demonstration, said she doesn't think the accusers have evidence to support their claims. "I also believe Mr. Kavanaugh deserves to be innocent until proven guilty and these are just allegations they are not based on facts they are based on someone's memory and some of those memories were fuzzy," Schad said.

**Public invited to give input on transportation**

ENTERPRISE — Two Wallowa County Statewide Transportation Improvement Advisory Committee public meetings have been

scheduled to discuss this new dedicated source of funding for expanding public transportation service in Oregon. The meetings, both beginning at 10 a.m., will be held Oct. 4 and Oct. 9 in the conference

room at Community Connection, 702 NW First St., Enterprise. Those interested in attending are encouraged to do so. If you are in need of special accommodations or have questions, contact David Ross at 541-426-3840.

OBITUARIES

**Robert 'Bob' E. Tuck**

La Grande  
1939-2018

Robert "Bob" Eugene Tuck, 79, of La Grande, died Sept. 21 at his residence. A viewing will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 30 at Loveland Funeral Chapel. A funeral service will begin at 11 a.m. Oct. 1 at the La Grande

Faith Lutheran Church. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory is handling the arrangements.

Known as Bob, he was born June 27, 1939, in Corvallis, to John and Edith (Bewely) Tuck. He resided in Summerville, Baker City, Seattle, Davenport, Iowa,

and La Grande and attended school in Imbler. Bob served in the U.S. Army from 1959 to 1962. On May 6, 1962, he married Nancy L. Morgan, and they were married for 56 years.

Bob was employed with McLaughlin Body Co. in Moline, Illinois and owned Bob's Window and Screen Repair. He was the United Auto Workers Union President. Bob enjoyed hunting, fishing and buying antlers for 25 years. He coached Little League baseball, volunteered in Boy Scouts and enjoyed taking his grandchildren camping and fishing. He also enjoyed watching basketball, baseball and boxing. Bob was a member of the Sheriff's Posse and the Izaak Walton League and was president of the Jim Beam Bottle

Club.

Survivors include his wife, Nancy; son and daughter-in-law, Christopher and Mona Tuck of La Grande; sisters, Anita Smith of Island City, Louise Leary and husband, Paul, of Boise, Idaho, and Nellie Burnett of Forest Grove; two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and -nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Edith; brother, Johnny LeRoy Tuck; and son, Michael Tuck.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Grande Ronde Hospital Hospice, 2502 Cove Ave., La Grande, or the Faith Lutheran Church SHINE Preschool, 104 S.

12th St., La Grande.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com](http://www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com).

**Gina L. Tierce**

La Grande

Gina L. Tierce, 43, of La Grande, died Sept. 26 at her residence. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

**Delbert Makin**

La Grande

Delbert Makin, 91, of La Grande, died Sept. 26 at a local care facility. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

**LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident at Adams Avenue and Second Street on Wednesday. The accident was reported at 7:21 a.m.

Accident: Nobody was hurt in a traffic accident on Cove Avenue Wednesday. The accident was reported at 10:02 a.m.

Arrested: Joshua Matthew Clayton, 31, unknown address, was arrested on a Wallowa County warrant charging a probation violation connected to an original charge of disorderly conduct.

Arrested: Matthew Stiles, 34, a transient, was arrested on charges of offensive littering, second-degree theft and second-degree criminal mischief.

Arrested: Sarah Farmer, 32, a transient, was arrested on charges of second-degree theft, and offensive littering

Arrested: Bryan Allen Pace, 36, La Grande was arrested on a charge of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Arrested: Trishila Lynne Sorensen, 35, La Grande, was arrested on a charge of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident at G Avenue and Fourth Street

on Thursday. The accident was reported at 12:16 p.m.

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident at Sixth Street and G Avenue on Thursday. The accident was reported at 8:29 p.m.

**UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Arrested: Bald Balwinder, 53, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of harassment.

Arrested: Joshua Darren Matte, 26, Elgin, was arrested on a charge of second-degree theft.

Arrested: Tina Lucinda Ray, 18, unknown address, was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance and distribution of a controlled substance, methamphetamine.

Cited: A Union County juvenile was cited on charges of being a minor in possession of marijuana and being minor in possession of tobacco.

Arrested: Alfredo Ramirea Ayala, 40, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of unlawful possession of a weapon.

**LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The La Grande Fire Department responded to eight calls for medical and one smoke alarm on Monday and 11 calls for medical on Thursday.

**Missing Yamhill County woman died instantly in jump from mom's car**

By Gillian Flaccus

Associated Press

PORTLAND — The young mother whose disappearance last month on the way home from a wedding in rural Oregon prompted a days-long search did not wander off but died instantly when she exited her mother's moving car, hit her head on a guard rail and slid down an embankment, a prosecutor said Thursday.

Meighan Cordie's body, hidden at the bottom of the steep slope, wasn't discovered until some joggers spotted it off the roadway four days after the Aug. 18 incident, Yamhill County District Attorney Brad Berry said at a news conference.

Cordie's mother is not being charged in her daughter's death but was cited for driving while intoxicated and reckless endangerment, he said. She has a court appearance next week.

The announcement provides the first public accounting of a bizarre disappearance that continued to baffle investigators even after Cordie's body was found.

Search crews scoured the rural area of agricultural fields for days, believing that Cordie had left her mother's car in anger during a fight

on the way home from the wedding and walked into the dark alone without shoes or her cellphone.

But when found, Cordie's body showed signs of blunt force trauma. An autopsy subsequently revealed she had suffered an aortic separation, likely after her back hit the guard rail, and also had head trauma, Berry said.

The Oregon Medical Examiner's Office ruled the death accidental.

On Thursday, Berry described a complicated investigation that pieced together clues from the scene — including Cordie's hair found in the guard rail — cellphone records, lie detector tests and interviews with Cordie's 3½-year-old daughter who was in the car and witnessed the incident.

Cordie's boyfriend overheard her fighting with her mother in a cellphone call that provided a narrow timeframe for the death, Berry said. And a clump of Cordie's mother's hair was found in the car, Berry said, indicating a violent altercation.

Investigators concluded the death was tragic, but was not a crime, he said.

"Every crime consists of elements," he said of the

decision not to charge Cordie's mother. "We can prove elements of certain crimes (but) we just can't prove all of the elements of a single crime. Clearly leaving her daughter there, if we're talking right versus wrong, it's hard for me to fathom that somebody would do that — but it doesn't mean that I've got a crime."

Berry said Cordie and her mother had a "difficult" relationship and began arguing as they left the wedding.

The mother was intoxicated and wanted to stay longer, but Cordie wanted to get home because her young daughter was getting tired. Cordie got out of the car once, only to be coaxed back in by her mother.

Cordie then called her boyfriend and asked him to come get her.

Then, the evidence shows,

she opened the car door and either fell or intentionally jumped from the moving car, Berry said. Cordie's young daughter told police her mother was in the backseat at the time.

The mother has not cooperated with authorities since taking an initial polygraph test and it's unclear if she realized her daughter had been killed, Berry said. The results of the test were inconclusive, he said.

She told investigators that she had looked for her daughter in the dark and then went home.

Cordie's mother has a court appearance next week on her DUI citation.

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