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Semi truck rolls over, killing driver and five cattle

Observer staff

A semi truck hauling cattle overturned on the highway after striking the guardrail, killing the driver and five cattle.

Shannon Dwinell, 46, of Great Bend, Kansas, was driving the truck when, for unknown reasons, it left the roadway two miles west of North Powder on I-84 westbound. Dwinell sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene.

The semi truck was hauling 28 cattle, which were later wrangled by crews after the highway was closed.

Driver charged with manslaughter after crash kills passenger

Observer staff

A Union man is in jail facing a second-degree manslaughter charge after police say he was driving a pickup truck that rolled twice and killed one of its two passengers.

Noah Garner Cole Stone, 21, was driving a 1992 Chevrolet pickup downhill on Fox Hill Road at approximately 2 a.m. Oct. 13 when the pickup rolled twice, coming to rest on the road on its wheels.

During the crash, Justin Ryan Long, 23, was ejected from the vehicle. According to a press release from the Union County Sheriff's Office, emergency responders attempted medical aid and LifeFlight was requested, but Long died of his injuries at the scene. Neither the driver nor the unnamed second passenger was seriously injured in the accident.

Union County Sheriff's Capt. Craig Ward said Stone submitted to a Breathalyzer test and registered .12, which is over the legal limit of .08.

Stone, who was arrested at the scene, was arraigned Oct. 15 and charged with manslaughter in the second degree, a felony, and misdemeanors of driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving and two counts of recklessly endangering another person.

Councilor believes marijuana dispensary would help NP

By Dick Mason
The Observer

The City of North Powder would economically benefit in a big way from having a marijuana dispensary, City Councilor Michael Morse said at the Union County Candidate Forum Monday. Morse, who is running

unopposed for re-election to Position 5 on the North Powder City Council, said tax revenue raised by a marijuana dispensary would help his community afford to make improvements.

He said for proof, look no further than Pendleton and Huntington, where local

tax revenue generated by marijuana dispensaries is substantial. Morse believes if North Powder had a marijuana dispensary it would generate enough tax revenue to pay for much of the cost of building a new city hall and library.

"City hall is literally

falling apart," he said. "It desperately needs replacement, and the library is not far behind it."

Should North Powder decide to capitalize on tax revenue from a marijuana dispensary, it wouldn't happen in the near future. This is because North Powder

voters in 2016 rejected Measure 3192, which would have legalized the sale of medical and recreational marijuana dispensaries in the city.

North Powder voters would have to approve a measure similar to M-3192 before a marijuana dispensary. **See North Powder / Page 6A**

VYING FOR VOTES

Observer staff

Candidates from across Union County gathered Oct. 15 at the Candidates Forum, held at the Blue Mountain Conference Center in La Grande to meet face-to-face with potential voters.

Karrine Brogoitti, publisher and advertising manager at The Observer, and Bob Kavanaugh, executive director of the Union County Chamber of Commerce, moderated the event -- which was also live-streamed via La Grande Alive.

Candidates for circuit court judge, city council, mayor and state representative were present to answer audience questions and explain their platforms.

Audrey Love photos / The Observer

Clockwise from top: Circuit Court Judge contenders Mona K. Williams (left) and Wes Williams; mayoral candidates, from left: Jon Rutherford of Elgin, Del Little of Cove, Robb Rea of Island City and Allan Duffy of Elgin; an audience member addresses candidates at the forum; City Council hopefuls, from left: Justin Rock and Ashley O'Toole, both of La Grande, Michael Morse of North Powder and Jim Whitbeck of La Grande; the evening's moderators, Korrine Brogoitti and Bob Kavanaugh.



'A View from the Hot Tub' chronicles life lessons across generations

By Audrey Love
The Observer

Sloths are Joey Mallory's "spirit animal." In one of many musings from his grandparents' hot tub, as chronicled in the recently released "A View from the Hot Tub: Conversations with My Grandson," Joey equates that "sloths are real slow. If you go real slow, slow way down, you understand things."

La Grande native Mike Mallory, co-author and

Joey's grandfather (or "Peapa," as he's colloquially referred to by Joey), had written down and shared his grandson's unusually insightful thoughts for a number of years via Facebook before combining those "nuggets" into a collection of short stories at the urging of co-author, long-time friend and La Grande native Tom Carroll.

"(Sometimes) you get an idea and just feel like it needs to be done," Carroll

said of the book. "It was genuinely a collaboration. Mike wrote down the heart of it, and without that — without his humor and Joey's insight — it wasn't a book."

Documenting Joey's musings began nearly five years ago, when Mike and his wife, Laura, installed a new hot tub in their backyard. Eight-year-old Joey would visit his grandparents after school and following homework would

ease into the hot tub for a nightcap of self-proclaimed "quiet time," grandparents in tow.

"That meant he would talk and we would listen," Mallory explained with a laugh.

Underneath the stars, Joey would provide a running commentary on any number of topics — politics, ecology, nature or God, for example — offering his unscripted, stream-of-consciousness thoughts up to

the universe as much as to the people beside him. Though, Mike admits, many of the boy's contemplations were directed toward Laura, "the second-most original thinker among the three of us."


"He kind of has a special bond with Laura. They're tuned in to the same things," Mallory said. "Laura's intelligence and big heart combine to interpret and, when necessary, **See Hot Tub / Page 6A**


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WEATHER

Full forecast on the back of B section

 **Tonight** 36 Low Clear

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FRIDAY

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