

## LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports



Photo courtesy of ODOT

A jackknifed truck closed Exit 259 on I-84 eastbound on Tuesday for approximately 30 minutes

### Truck jackknifed near Gangloff Park yesterday

LA GRANDE — Around 1 p.m. Tuesday, eastbound Exit 259 of I-84 was closed due to a jackknifed truck near the Gangloff Park overlook in La Grande. The Exit 259 westbound on-ramp was also closed. By 1:30 p.m. ODOT announced that the off-ramp

and on-ramp were open again and that the truck was being cleared from the roadway. For updated conditions check TripCheck.com or call 511 / 800-977-6368.

### Input collected on multi-tenant recycling

LA GRANDE — Beginning in July 2022, residents and businesses that have

shared garbage collection service will have new opportunities to recycle under Oregon law. DEQ is holding an open house from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 1 at Union County's Transit Hub Conference Room, 2204 E. Penn Ave., La Grande, to gather public input. The open house is also available via web conference at [www.connectmeeting.att.com](http://www.connectmeeting.att.com) (meeting number: 8773361828; access code: 7760985); if this is your first time using this service, you must connect 10 minutes early to download the application on your computer. To connect by phone, call 877-336-1828 and enter the participant number: 7760985#.

### Fire season is officially over

SALEM — On Oct. 29, the Oregon Department of Forestry, which protects roughly 16 million acres of private, state and federal lands, officially declared the

end of the 2018 fire season statewide. Of the Department's 12 districts across the state, Central Oregon and Southwest Oregon Districts saw drier, warmer conditions early on, officially kicking off the season June 1. Over the course of the 2018 fire season, ODF and its forest protective association partners suppressed a total of 1,059 fires. An estimated 75,531 acres burned on ODF-protected land this year, more than doubling the 10-year average. In spite of statewide drought conditions, ODF and partners again succeeded in keeping 95 percent of all wildfires to less than 10 acres with aggressive and successful initial attacks.

### Holiday bazaars are starting to pop up

LA GRANDE — A number of holiday bazaars will be held Nov. 3 in La Grande: from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the New Life Center, 10700 S. Walton Road; from 9 a.m. to

1 p.m. at the First Christian Church, 901 Penn Ave.; from 9 a.m. to noon at the United Methodist Church, 1612 Fourth St.; and from 9 a.m. to noon at the Presbyterian Friendship Center, 1204 Spring Ave. Proceeds from the bazaars help community organizations and support missions.

### Literacy Center is closed tomorrow

LA GRANDE — The Literacy Center at Cook Memorial Library will be closed Nov. 1. Regular operating hours, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, will resume next week.

### Dance and dine at the Liberty Grange's fundraiser

JOSEPH — The Liberty Grange is having a fundraiser with a dinner and dance from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Nov. 3 at the grange, 63748 Liberty Road, Joseph. Dinner will be lasagna, tossed salad, garlic

bread and dessert. Music will be provided by Matt Harshman Band. This is a fundraiser to support your rural community space. Tickets are available at the door.

### VA supports caregivers

LA GRANDE — The Walla Walla VA Medical Caregiver support coordinators will be at the La Grande VA clinic, 202 12th St., from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Friday to provide information, support and advice to caregivers. The open house is part of National Family Caregiver Month. Believing that "caregivers are heroes," support coordinators will offer information and refreshments. For more information about VAs caregiver support program, go to [www.caregiver.va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov), call the toll-free Caregiver Support Line at 855-260-3274, or contact your local Caregiver Support Coordinator, Sandy Lenz, at 509-525-5200, ext. 26715.

## OBITUARIES

### Berniss 'Bernie' A. (Caudle) Bechtel

La Grande  
1934-2018

Berniss Ann Bechtel, 84, of La Grande, died Oct. 14 at her residence. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Nov. 3 at Loveland Funeral Chapel.



Known as Bernie, she was born Aug. 25, 1934, in Lostine, to Berl and Buella (Keeler) Caudle. She resided in Enterprise, Chehalis, Washington, McMinnville and La Grande. Bernie graduated from Lostine High School. She married Jack Bechtel in 1955.

Survivors include her daughters, Lori of Scappoose and Lisa of La Grande; sons and daughters-in-law,

Christopher and Danielle of La Grande and Brian and Chevonna of Scappoose; sister, Berlien Haun of Lostine; and four granddaughters.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack; parents, Berl and Buella Caudle; and grandsons, Nicholas and Alexander Bechtel.

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

### Dorothy A. (McCrea) Driscoll

Cove  
1930-2018

Dorothy Ann Driscoll, 88, of Cove, died Oct. 27 at her residence. A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Nov. 3 at Loveland Funeral Chapel, followed by a luncheon at the Urban Vine in Island City.

Dorothy was born Feb. 18, 1930, in Chicago, Illinois, to Francis and Eleanor (Griffith) McCrea. She resided in Wheatfield, Indiana, and moved to Cove in 2011. Dorothy was married to Timothy D. Driscoll until his

passing. She was employed as a school bus driver in Indiana.

Survivors include her children and their spouses, Mick and Mary Driscoll of Lafayette, Indiana, Kathy and Leroy Thompson of Sumpter, Margo and Larry Schlessler of Cove, Dan and Tammy Driscoll of Wheatfield, Indiana, Tina Denny of Chicago, Dee and Tom Tolbert of Hope Mills, North Carolina, Eleanor Driscoll of Cove, Tim Driscoll of Evansville, Indiana, and Mary and Steve Novath of North Judson, Indiana; 22 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Timothy; parents, Francis and Eleanor; brother, Charles McCrea; grandmother, Christina Dorrow; and great-grandson, Conner Polfer.

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

### Gayle Schmeck

Joseph

Gayle Schmeck, 68, of Joseph, died Oct. 25. Private burial was at the Joseph Cemetery. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are entrusted to Bollman Funeral Home.

### Joyce Tompkins

Wallowa

Joyce Tompkins, 65, of Wallowa, died Oct. 25. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are entrusted to Bollman Funeral Home.

### Alfred 'Al' R. Lee

Elgin  
1938-2018

Alfred Roger Lee, 80, of Elgin, died Oct. 26 at Grande Ronde Hospital. A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. Nov. 2 at the Elgin Cemetery.

Known as Al, he was born May 12, 1938, in Portland, to Roger and Ona (Vaughn) Lee. Al resided in Oregon



City, Eureka, Montana, Beaver Creek and Elgin. He attended schools in Oregon City and graduated from Oregon City High School.



Al was in the Oregon National Guard and later attended Clackamas Community College's Truck Driving School. He married Gail M. Miller.

Al was a truck driver for Pacific Intermountain Express. He enjoyed hunting and fishing. He loved Union and Wallowa counties for hunting and fishing and fished in the Willamette River as well. He was a member of the Teamsters union.

Survivors include his wife, Gail of Elgin; daughters, Karen Lee of Eureka, Montana, and Jeanne Kauffman and husband, Steve, of Portland; stepchildren and their spouses, Daniel and Nini Ross of Port Orchard, Washington, Lorrie and Spence Welch of Spokane Valley, Washington, and

Donald Ross of San Francisco, California; siblings and their spouses, Lorna and Erwin Boring of Portland and Norman and Sharon Lee of Oregon City; and nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Roger and Ona, and sister, Janice Bailey.

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

### Local funerals and visitations

The Observer publishes obituaries that conform to its obituary policy at no cost. Obituaries must be under 450 words and are edited for newspaper style. Paid advertising space is also available for those who want additional information included. For more information, call The Observer at 541-963-3161.

## PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

#### LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The La Grande Fire Department responded to seven calls for medical and one fire alarm on Monday and seven calls for medical, one smoke check and one fire alarm on Tuesday.

#### LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Arrested: Eugene Michael Paul, 32, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of driving while suspended, misdemeanor.

Arrested: Kade William Kirschner, 31, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of attempted assault on a public safety officer, resisting arrest and second-degree disorderly conduct.

Arrested: James Robert Martin, 28, unknown address, was arrested on a state parole and probation warrant charging a parole violation. The alleged violation was connected to an original charge of burglary.

#### UNION COUNTY SHERIFF

Arrested: Jeremy Michael Fulton, 37, unknown address, was arrested by Umatilla County law enforcement on a warrant charging failure to appear in court. The warrant was connected to an original charge of second-degree theft.

Arrested: Michael Ray Gibbs, 56, a transient, was arrested on

a charge of failure to report as a sex offender.

Arrested: Eric Lee Wyatt, 29, La Grande, was arrested on a Union County warrant charging a probation violation connected to original charges of unlawful delivery of methamphetamine and unlawful possession of methamphetamine.

#### OREGON STATE POLICE

Arrested: Curtis Dean Cox, 53, unknown address, was arrested on two Union County warrants. One warrant charged second-degree criminal mischief and second warrant charged reckless driving, violating the speed limit and violation of driving while suspended or revoked.

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident on Island Avenue in La Grande on Sunday. The accident was reported at 12:59 a.m.

Arrested: Glen Wayne O'Brien, 42, unknown address, was arrested on a Union County warrant charging a parole violation. The warrant was connected to original charges of first-degree theft and third-degree robbery.

Arrested: Tyrell Garrett Lowe, 34, unknown address, was arrested on a Union County Circuit Court Secret Indictment warrant charging first-degree criminal mistreatment, two counts; third-degree assault, two counts; and strangulation.

## Hermiston Warming Station looking for volunteers

#### By Jade McDowell

East Oregonian

The Hermiston Warming Station still needs dozens more volunteers for the 2018-2019 season.

The nonprofit shelter, which provides a place for homeless individuals and families to sleep during the winter, is holding two trainings for potential volunteers this weekend. Board chair Teesie Hill encouraged people to go through the three-hour training and a background check even if they won't be available most of the season.

"If you do one shift a season or one a month, that's one less shift I have to cover," she said.

Hill said she worked 84 shifts last winter. The warming station's goal is always 200 volunteers, she said, but they usually end up coming in at just over 100, which forces board members to make sacrifices to cover extra shifts so the shelter stays open. This

year, she said, they're even more short-staffed than usual.

Last year, the Hermiston Warming Station served 84 different people during the winter.

Volunteers never work alone, and set their own schedule by signing up for individual shifts online. Shifts run from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., 7 p.m. to midnight, midnight to 4 a.m. and 4 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. To increase safety, Hill said automatically locking doors have been installed this year and board members are going through de-escalation training.

This year's season will run from Nov. 19 to Feb. 28 at the same location as last year (1075 South Highway 395). The shelter has switched to being open every evening during the season instead of depending on temperature.

Trainings for new volunteers will be held Saturday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and

Sunday from 9 a.m. to noon at the warming station. Hill suggested people come about 15 minutes early to fill out paperwork. Trainings for returning volunteers who have gone through training in the last three years will be 6-7:30 p.m. Nov. 7 and Nov. 10. All volunteers must past a background check, and the warming station asks for a \$10 donation to cover it

from those who can afford it.

The Hermiston Warming Station also takes donations of money or supplies. Needed donations include cleaning supplies, laundry supplies, gloves, hand warmers, socks, snacks, hot drinks and ear plugs.

To donate, call 360-508-4523. For questions about volunteering call 541-289-2150.

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31-96

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