



# 3 killed, 27 hospitalized after boat capsizes off San Diego

#### Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Three people were killed and more than two dozen others were hosServices Lt. Rick Romero. "There are people in the water, drowning, getting sucked out the rip current there," he said overcrowded on a 40-foot cabin cruiser that is larger than the typical open-top wooden panga-style boats often used by smugglers to bring people illegally into the U.S. from Mexico. "Every indication from our perspective was this was a smuggling vessel. We haven't confirmed their nationality," said Jeff Stephenson, a supervising agent with U.S. Border Patrol.

A young flowering pear tree in the warm spring sun appears windswept Thursday in La Grande.

### **Trees**

#### **Continued from A1**

One of the earliest pioneers to the area, James Baker, happened across the treeless plain and began planting in the mid-19th century. The Baker black locust tree at Eastern Oregon University is one of the surviving trees that he planted during his stay. The tree stood above the grave of Baker's wife, Elizabeth. Trees that tell a story are one criteria for earning the honor, according to the Heritage Tree Committee's website.

Gustafson said the black locust may be the oldest planted tree in La Grande at 136 years old.

In contrast, the newest legacy tree planted in La Grande came at last year's Arbor Day celebration — a Hiroshima Peace tree planted from the seeds of trees that survived the nuclear bombing in 1945. Oregon holds the largest collection of such trees, and La Grande has two of them. The newest peace tree is in the greenway at Riverside Park.

Among other notable trees is a massive silver maple along Washington Avenue and Fir Street. August Stange, the man who once owned Stange Manor on Walnut Street, planted the tree, which now



The Baker black locust tree stands about 180 feet tall outside Hunt Hall at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande and is possibly the oldest tree planted in town.

sits outside La Grande's First Presbyterian Church.

Another set of noteworthy trees is a known as Victory Way, Norwegian maple trees planted in 1923 along Spruce Street, near Greenwood Elementary School, in celebration of the end of World War I.

Originally, there were nearly 250 trees, though construction and road widening over the years have reduced their numbers to just under two dozen.

Possibly the most photographed tree in the area lies

#### Planting a tree in La Grande

The city of La Grande will provide a tree to plant in the right-of-way for just \$40, and the city's Grow La Grande volunteers will plant it for residents.

If you want to learn more about Oregon Heritage Trees, visit oregontic.com/oregonheritage-trees/

outside of La Grande along Wallowa Lake Highway north of the city. There, motorists often stop and view the lone maple tree standing in a field in front of the Blue Mountains.

Travelers pull off to the side of the road lining up a shot of the massive tree as sun sets behind it. Local homebuilder Stacey Bowman of Mega Tiny Homes said it is one of his favorites.

Gustafson said she hopes the city will have a fully interactive tree inventory for horticulturists and hobbyists to peruse a way to see what trees are in the area, their species names, and possibly even their history in an ArcGIS map. She said she is trying to complete the project by next Arbor Day. pitalized Sunday after a boat capsized and broke apart in rough water just off the San Diego coast during a suspected human smuggling operation, authorities said.

Lifeguards, the U.S. Coast Guard and other agencies responded around 10 a.m. following reports of an overturned vessel in the waves near the rugged peninsula of Point Loma, according to the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department.

The original call was for a handful of people overboard but as rescuers arrived in boats and jet skis they quickly realized "it was going to be a bigger situation with more people," said San Diego Lifeguard salu.

Seven people were pulled from the waves, including three who drowned, said Romero. One person was rescued from a cliff and 22 others managed to make it to shore on their own, he said.

"Once we arrived on scene, the boat had basically been broken apart," Romero said. "Conditions were pretty rough: 5 to 6 feet of surf, windy, cold."

A total of 27 people were transported to hospitals with "a wide variety of injuries" including hypothermia, Romero said. Most of the victims were able to walk themselves to ambulances, he said.

Officials said the group was

Border Patrol on Friday said law enforcement officials would be ramping up operations to disrupt maritime smuggling off the coast of San Diego this weekend.

As warmer weather comes to San Diego, there is a misperception that it will make illegal crossings safer or easier, the agency said in a statement.

## Attention Parents of 2021 Grads! Help make some memories! The Bulletin is publishing a special

Class of 2021 Graduation section on May 30 to celebrate graduating Central Oregon high school students.

Enter a congratulatory message or a short biography along with a photo for just \$25. Your messages will be grouped together by school and published in full color.

Call The Bulletin Advertising Dept. for more information. 541-385-5809

Advertising deadline: Monday, May 17

The Bulletin EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY