

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 9, the 40th day of 2021. There are 325 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:

On Feb. 9, 1825, the House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams president after no candidate received a majority of electoral votes.

ON THIS DATE:

In 1870, the U.S. Weather Bureau was established.

In 1942, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff held its first formal meeting to coordinate military strategy during World War II.

In 1943, the World War II battle of Guadalcanal in the southwest Pacific ended with an Allied victory over Japanese forces.

In 1950, in a speech in Wheeling, West Virginia, Sen. Joseph McCarthy, R-Wis., charged the State Department was riddled with Communists.

In 1960, Adolph Coors Co. chairman Adolph Coors III, 44, was shot to death in suburban Denver during a botched kidnapping attempt. (The man who killed him, Joseph Corbett, Jr., served 19 years in prison.)

In 1962, an agreement was signed to make Jamaica an independent nation within the British Commonwealth later in the year.

In 1964, the Beatles made their first live American television appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show," broadcast from New York on CBS.

In 1971, a magnitude 6.6 earthquake in California's San Fernando Valley claimed 65 lives. The crew of Apollo 14 returned to Earth after man's third landing on the moon.

In 1984, Soviet leader Yuri V. Andropov, 69, died 15 months after succeeding Leonid Brezhnev; he was followed by Konstantin U. Chernenko.

In 1986, during its latest visit to the solar system, Halley's Comet came closest to the sun (its next return will be in 2061).

In 1995, Former Senator J. William Fulbright died in Washington at age 89.

Ten years ago: Thousands of workers went on strike across Egypt, adding a new dimension to the uprising as public rage turned to the vast wealth President Hosni Mubarak's family reportedly amassed while close to half the country struggled near the poverty line. Rep. Christopher Lee, R-N.Y., abruptly resigned with only a vague explanation of regret after gossip website Gawker reported that the married congressman had sent a shirtless photo of himself to a woman on Craigslist.

Baker City campus to start truck driving school

By COREY KIRK
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — Baker Technical Institute is starting a truck driving and logistics school that will help students prepare to obtain a commercial driver's license.

The first four-week course starts March 8 at BTI's main campus in Baker City.

"Having your CDL is key when you're working in the construction trade, running heavy equipment, but you have to haul the heavy equipment there," said Sandy Mitchell, BTI's marketing and program coordinator. "It could do a number of different jobs, it is not tailored only for long haul trucking. There can be so many things done in our agriculture communities that you would need a CDL for."

BTI President Doug Dalton in a press release said BTI during the past two years worked with an advisory board of industry leaders from Oregon and the Professional Truck Driving Institute to understand the need.

"They are the experts, and we wanted to listen to industry and build a school that reflects what they need," Dalton said. "One of the biggest things that came from these listening sessions was their focus on producing higher quality drivers than they have traditionally seen from



Tom Strandberg/Oregon Department of Transportation

Semitrailers in August 2020 cruise on Interstate 84 through the Ladd Canyon area. The Baker Technical Institute in Baker City is opening a truck driving school in March 2021.

schools, and we'll do this by giving them a more diverse experience."

The course, which costs \$5,900 per student, will include a driving simulator that allows students to practice a variety of scenarios.

"It trains people in efficiency with shifting, we can change the climate, we can put the driver in this virtual reality simulator in a windstorm or we can put them on snowy or icy roads," Mitchell said. "So their responses are registered and calculated on the computer system and it feeds back what they could've done, what they should've done and it allows a level of training that you just can't get by getting behind the wheel."

The course will total

about 160 hours of training. Students will have 101 hours of classroom lab time, where they work with instructors and spend time in the simulator.

"We strive to do hands-on learning, so whatever we do we want to be in the classroom with the student, present an element of training, then take that element out to a truck that is actually what we call a land lab, identify the part, how it works," Mitchell said. "So it's not sitting in a classroom learning, it is actually learning a practical application and going and doing it on the truck."

Along with the class time, students will complete 44 hours of individual driving time, working one-on-one in a truck with an instructor.

Prospective students who have a learner's permit will start March 15. Those who don't have a permit can start March 8 and, for an additional \$500, obtain the permit needed to take the course.

"We will walk them through the process to get their learner permit, the knowledge they need to pass their written test and be ready to go on the land lab and drive truck," Mitchell said.

Space is limited, but BTI will add future courses based on demand.

"Our goal here is to have people walk away with a Class A CDL without restrictions," Mitchell said,

LEARN MORE

More information will be available soon on Baker Technical Institute website, bakerti.org/school-of-truck-ing-and-logistics/.

"with quality drivers that are confident, competent and capable to operate as a commercial driver."

Though the BTI course is hands-on, it also will address COVID-19 precautions, with health and temperature checks, face masks and 6-foot spacing.

"We monitor heavily, and we maintain all the required protocols for COVID-19, and that goes down with disinfecting and sanitizing all surfaces between people," Mitchell said. "That is why our class sizes are smaller, they are more one-on-one because the cohort of people that are going to come are going to be together, and there won't be a whole lot of interactions with others."

Once students receive their permit and complete the course, they will be able to pursue their basic Class A CDL with an ability to pick up different endorsements, such as hauling hazardous materials.

Like BTI's other training programs, such as welding and heavy equipment operation, the truck driving school is to give students skills they need to qualify for a variety of jobs.

Snowmobile crashes result in injuries



Union County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue/Contributed Photo

Members of the Union County Sheriff's Office, La Grande Fire Department, the Life Flight Network and others responded Saturday, Feb. 6, to two snowmobile wrecks with injuries moments apart but at opposite ends of the county. The sheriff's office search and rescue team on its Facebook page reported the first crash occurred approximately 5 miles from the Catherine Summit Sno-Park in the southeast portion of Union County followed by the other near Andies Prairie Sno-Park northwest of Elgin. There was no report of who was involved in the crashes or their conditions.

Documentary follows deer's migration routes

The Observer

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — When following a deer, there is no hiding from the elements. The documentary "Deer 139" takes you through wild places rarely seen, embracing Wyoming's grandeur in all of her moods, hot one minute, blizzard the next — plus fences, otter slides and wobbly-legged fawns.

The Blue Mountain Land Trust is hosting a free online screening of the film through Feb. 11 via its website.

Led by University of



BLMT/Contributed Photo

Wyoming research scientist and adventurer-at-heart Samantha Dwinell, the film's team (including a biologist, a naturalist, a reporter and one scrawny

University of Wyoming researcher Samantha Dwinell and an all-women team of adventurers and naturalists walk a deer's migration trail for 85 miles to make the documentary "Deer 139." The film is free to view via the Blue Mountain Land Trust's website until Feb. 11, 2021. Go to bmlt.org/events to gain access to the film.

pregnant mule deer) "embarks on an 85-mile journey through sagebrush steppe and winter ranges with their wits and humor. 'Deer 139' unveils

the mysteries of long-distance wildlife migration and makes a case for sustaining intact landscapes," according to the press release. For more on the film, visit deer139film.org.

The team walked deer 139's migration trail for 85 miles from her winter range outside LaBarge, Wyoming, up and over the Wyoming Range, across the Greys River, to an alpine cirque in the Salt River Range, to see this long and complex journey.

To gain access to the film, go to bmlt.org/events.

Wallowa County has fourth death from COVID-19

ENTERPRISE — The Oregon Health Authority reported Wallowa County had a fourth death related to COVID-19.

The mortality, which the OHA reported Saturday, Feb. 6, is an 88-year-old man who died at home Feb. 2. He tested positive on Jan. 8, and according to the OHA press release had underlying conditions.

The report came the same day OHA reported three more cases in the Wallowa County, putting the total at 117. There have been 17 cases reported in the last week.

The news of the death comes a day after Wallowa Memorial Hospital reported it received another 200 first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, WMH Communications Director Brooke Pace said Friday, meaning the hospital will be able to complete first-round inoculations for those 80 and above and vaccinate a large portion of the 75-and-up group.

WMH early last week received 100 first doses, which Pace said would finish out first shots for Phase 1A and educators, and allow the hospital to continue immunizing senior citizens. Those shots are set to be administered Tuesday.

Pace said the 200 new shots will allow WMH to get through about 90% of the 75-and-older group.

People who want to be added to the vaccination waiting list can call 541-426-5437.

BMTD leader may resign

LA GRANDE — The Blue Mountain Translator District soon may lose its director.

Alex McHaddad, executive director of the Blue Mountain Translator District, which provides over-the-air television signals in Union and Baker counties, has announced he plans to step down Feb. 16.

The BMTD Board of Directors will vote on whether to accept McHaddad's resignation when it meets Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 6 p.m. McHaddad said if the board does not want to accept his resignation there is a possibility he will remain on.

"I will reconsider if the board asks me to stay," McHaddad said.

McHaddad submitted his notice of intent to resign to seek other career opportunities. He has served as the BMTD executive director since July 2017.

McHaddad said the accomplishments he feels best about during his tenure include the addition of a new public access channel, which hit the airwaves in late 2020. The channel carries public meetings, emergency information for area residents and more.

— EO Media Group

Eastern Oregon University adds cybersecurity degree

By DICK MASON
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University students will have a new degree option in the fall.

The computer science department at EOU has added a bachelor's degree in cybersecurity. Students in the program will be able to earn a degree on campus or online.

Kiel Wadner, a part-time EOU instructor who works full time in the cybersecurity field, helped develop the curriculum. He said classes will focus on hands-on learning.

"There will be a lot of time working on computer skills not just reading about (cybersecurity) in a book," Wadner said.

This will help students develop skills they need to prepare to meet digital security needs of



Eastern Oregon University/Contributed Photo

Eastern Oregon University students in this undated photo participate in a computer science class. EOU is launching a bachelor's degree program in cybersecurity in the fall of 2021.

organizations and businesses. These needs are complex but at

the same time fundamental.

"In cybersecurity you are protecting the confidentiality, availability and integrity of information. You want to make sure that this information remains private and is not leaked online," Wadner said.

He said students will take an extensive number of core computer science classes in addition to those focused on cybersecurity. This means students graduating with cybersecurity degrees will have significant flexibility.

"They will be able to work in information technology, not just cybersecurity," Wadner said.

Hospitals are among the organizations where EOU cybersecurity graduates may find themselves working to fend off cyber attacks and make sure computer systems are up to date. Medical centers have a lot of digital patient records that need protection.

EOU's cybersecurity curric-

ulum will include not only technical classes but also courses addressing the legal and policy side of the field.

"Some people think you have to be a super technical computer person to be in cybersecurity, but the field is broad enough that you don't need to be and still work in cybersecurity," Wadner said. "Cybersecurity has a very human side and a very technical side."

Wadner foresees an increasing need for cybersecurity experts in this region. He said communities in Eastern Oregon face cybersecurity issues just like anywhere else.

"Businesses, government agencies and nonprofits need the ability to protect system information," Wadner said, "regardless of whether they are in a big city or a rural area."