

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, March 9, the 68th day of 2021. There are 297 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:

On March 9, 1841, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 7-1 in favor of a group of illegally enslaved Africans who were captured off the U.S. coast after seizing control of a Spanish schooner the justices ruled that the Africans should be set free.

ON THIS DATE:

In 1916, more than 400 Mexican raiders led by Pancho Villa attacked Columbus, New Mexico, killing 18 Americans. During the First World War, Germany declared war on Portugal.

In 1933, Congress, called into special session by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, began enacting New Deal legislation.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. B-29 bombers began launching incendiary bomb attacks against Tokyo, resulting in an estimated 100,000 deaths.

In 1954, CBS newsman Edward R. Murrow critically reviewed Wisconsin Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy's anti-communism campaign on "See It Now."

In 1959, Mattel's Barbie doll made its public debut at the American International Toy Fair in New York.

In 1964, the U.S. Supreme Court raised the standard for public officials to prove they'd been libeled in their official capacity by news organizations.

In 1976, a cable car in the Italian ski resort of Cavalese fell some 700 feet to the ground when a supporting line snapped, killing 43 people.

In 1987, Chrysler Corp. announced it had agreed to buy the financially ailing American Motors Corp.

In 1989, the Senate rejected President George H.W. Bush's nomination of John Tower to be defense secretary by a vote of 53-47. (The next day, Bush tapped Wyoming Rep. Dick Cheney, who went on to win unanimous Senate approval.)

In 1990, Dr. Antonia Novello was sworn in as surgeon general, becoming the first woman and the first Hispanic to hold the job.

In 1997, gangsta rapper The Notorious B.I.G. was killed in a still-unsolved drive-by shooting in Los Angeles; he was 24.

In 2000, John McCain suspended his presidential campaign, conceding the Republican nomination to George W. Bush. Bill Bradley ended his presidential bid, conceding the Democratic nomination to Vice President Al Gore.

Ten years ago: After a trip to the International Space Station, shuttle Discovery ended its career as the most flown U.S. spaceship, returning from orbit for the last time. Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn signed legislation abolishing the death penalty in his state and commuting the sentences of all remaining death row inmates.

EOU freezes undergraduate tuition for 2021-22

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University announced it will not raise tuition for current undergraduate students in 2021-22.

The EOU Board of Trustees in a special meeting Friday, March 5, voted unanimously in favor of holding tuition flat for all returning undergraduate students, on-campus and online, the university reported in a press release. Trustees will vote on graduate tuition rates when they reconvene in May for the board's regular meeting.

"This is something we can do for our students hardest hit by the pandemic," said EOU President Tom Insko. "As Oregon's Rural University, meeting students where they are is core to our mission and particularly this year we need to do all we can to carry out that mission and make higher education as affordable as possible."

The decision came earlier than typical tuition announcements, Insko said, to provide greater certainty for students and an extended opportunity for prospective students to make an informed decision.



Ben Lonergan/The Observer, File

Eastern Oregon University is not raising tuition for undergraduate students in 2021-22. The EOU Board of Trustees voted Friday, March 5, 2021, in favor of holding tuition flat for all returning undergraduate students, on-campus and online, the university announced.

National trends show many students are taking more time to decide whether to invest in higher education as the COVID-19 pandemic stretches into its second year.

Nearly two-thirds of EOU students are from lower-income households, identify as ethnically diverse, hail from rural areas or are the first in their families to attend college, according

to the press release. Data suggests students and families from these demographics have been the most adversely impacted by the effects of COVID-19.

EOU returned to offering in-person classes in fall 2020. In holding tuition flat for 2021-22, Insko said, the university has again chosen the more challenging path to

serve its students.

"We've been having robust conversations with the university community about this," Insko said. "This is a conscious choice to forgo tuition revenues that we would otherwise receive in order to prioritize our mission and direct state investment dollars to students when they most need it."

EOU also has split online tuition into two tiers: resident and non-resident. Oregon undergraduates will not see an increase in online tuition this year, but the new non-resident rate will increase from \$265 to \$305 per credit. The change only applies to incoming or new online students, according to the press release. Rates for existing non-resident online students will not increase.

Although tuition won't go up for on-campus or online resident undergraduate students, EOU expects to increase on-campus fees in 2021-22. Insko said the university aims to keep future tuition increases minimal, no more than 1.5-3.5% per year. Administrators held discussions with student leaders and internal groups to garner feedback.

"This is going to take sacrifice, but we are choosing to take that considered risk and prioritize students," Insko said.

EOU and the state's other six public universities are working together to request a \$63 million increase in the Public University Support Fund, bringing the total allocation to \$900 million.

Big donation makes X-rays possible at hospital's clinic

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Grande Ronde Hospital Foundation recently received a big gift — in fact, its biggest cash gift ever.

The foundation in a press release announced a local couple, who want to remain anonymous, gave the foundation an investment fund of \$101,646, the largest non-real estate gift in the 52-year history of the foundation.

The couple gave the donation after reading a newsletter article from the foundation about fundraising efforts for an X-ray machine for the Grande Ronde Hospital Urgent Care in Island City.

"They were inspired to help and chose to give the investment account to the foundation in its entirety," according to the foundation.

"To receive a gift of this magnitude is humbling," hospital President and CEO Jeremy Davis said in the press release. "These funds will improve access to customer-friendly and convenient imaging services within the comfort of our



Grande Ronde Hospital Foundation/Contributed Photo

A cash donation topping \$100,000 made it possible for Grande Ronde Hospital Urgent Care in Island City to install this new X-ray machine in February 2021. The gift is the largest non-real estate gift in the 52-year history of the Grande Ronde Hospital Foundation.

Urgent Care."

The couple felt the new urgent care location and onsite X-ray services are advantageous for county residents as well as visitors to the area. The donors hope their gift encourages others to give as well, according to the foundation.

Foundation Manager Patrick Flynn expressed gratitude for "their amazing gift."

"Having imaging services located within Urgent Care is something that Union County has never

had previously," he said in the release.

The clinic installed the X-ray machine at the end of February, and it should go into service sometime in March.

The Grande Ronde Hospital Foundation has been fundraising for patient care equipment at Grande Ronde Hospital since 1969 and has contributed more than \$4.8 million for hospital projects.

For more information, call 541-963-1431 or go to www.grh.org/foundation.

Film festival celebrates world's beauty, wonder

The Observer

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — The Blue Mountain Land Trust based in Walla Walla, Washington, again has partnered with the South Yuba River Citizens League to bring the Wild & Scenic Film Festival to the Blue Mountain region.

Last year, because of the pandemic, the Land Trust canceled its in-person presentation of the festival and instead hosted the films online. More than 3,400 guests views the films, according to a press release.

This year, the festival again will be online. The premier presentation will be livestreamed Thursday, April 1, beginning at 6:30 p.m. During the event, guests can watch the films, chat with other audience members and vie to win door prizes, all from the comfort of home. A recorded version of the festival will be available online through April 6.

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival celebrates the beauty and wonder

of the natural world and advocates for protecting it. The yearly festival raises funds that go directly to fostering the science, advocacy, activism and education that are crucial to keeping rivers healthy and beautiful.

Among the films at this year's festival are "Here We Stand," a film from Theresa Baker and Save the Redwoods League about improving inclusivity in the outdoors; "Common Ground," which shows how water can bring together the interests of tribes, ranchers and government to work toward a common goal; and "A Message from the Future of Paradise" reflecting on the potential rebuilding process of a community destroyed by fire, providing a model for others.

To register for the film festival, visit bmlt.org/wild2021. Tickets start at \$20. Local dining packages are available in Walla Walla, John Day and Pendleton.

For more information, contact Katy Rizzuti at katy@bmlt.org.

Snowplow driver recounts experiences during harrowing blizzard

By JAYSON JACOBY
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — Driving a snowplow is a daunting task, particularly when you can't see the plow.

The Oregon Department of Transportation's plow drivers are of course accustomed to nasty snowstorms. But even they were "shaken up," as one driver put it, by the ferocity of the blizzard that bombarded the Blue Mountains between Baker City and Prairie City the morning of Friday, Feb. 26.

"We're used to the heavy snowfall," said Toby Gan-

gler, the coordinator at ODOT's maintenance station at Austin Junction in Grant County.

That station is near the junction of Highways 26 and 7, about 50 miles southwest of Baker City.

But it was the gusting wind that made the storm so noteworthy.

"It was unlike anything we've seen," Gangler said.

Gangler said John Burke, a plow driver who's in his 25th winter working the storm-prone Blue Mountains, told him he could remember only one storm during his career

comparable to the recent tempest.

For about two hours starting around 7:30 a.m. that day, the section of Highway 7 from Austin Junction to Sumpter Valley was hit by a blizzard that reduced visibility to, well, basically zero, Gangler said.

Burke radioed in an estimate of "maybe 20 feet."

Gangler, who later went out in another plow to help Burke, said, "You couldn't see the plow at the front of your truck."

Gangler's crew is responsible for about half of

Highway 7 — from Austin Junction to the Sumpter Valley Railroad crossing. Often the worst sections are the two mountain passes, Larch Summit near Sumpter Valley and Tipton Summit about 8 miles from Austin Junction.

But during Friday's blizzard the storm was most fierce in Whitney Valley, about 33 miles southwest of Baker City, Gangler said.

On that stretch, where the highway runs between the meadows along the North Fork of Burnt River and Camp Creek, the wind and snow created a whiteout

— a situation where the lack of visual references means drivers are, almost literally, flying blind.

Conditions were similarly atrocious from Whitney Valley to around Larch Summit, a distance of about 5 miles, Gangler said.

At times that morning, Gangler said, the wind was whipping the light, powdery snow to the point the plows were less effective than usual because some of the snow their blades pushed along ended up back on the road.

"We probably shouldn't

have been out there," he said of the snowplow drivers. "Much less the traveling public."

The conditions were so dangerous that ODOT issued a public notice urging drivers to avoid Highway 7 as well as Highways 245 (Dooley Mountain) and 26.

Gangler said the wind made it difficult to estimate how much snow actually fell during the storm, which in places continued into Saturday morning, Feb. 27.

"We might have had a foot in one place and 5 feet in another," he said.

Fishtrap Fireside focuses on Women's History Month

Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Fishtrap Fireside has a multi-generational lineup to mark Women's History Month in March, with work from three Wallowa County writers: Lynne Curry, Talia Galvin and Janie Tippet.

It became available online Friday, March 5, at fishtrap.org and on Fishtrap's YouTube Channel.

According to a press release, Lynne Curry moved to Joseph in 2001

with her husband, Benjamin, and they are the parents of Molly, 15, and Cece, 12. Raised on the New England coast, Curry took up hiking and skiing in the Wallowa Mountains to adapt to the region.

A former professional cook, food influences much of her writing. She works as a freelance journalist focused on small-scale farming, animal welfare



Curry



Tippet



Galvin

and sustainable agriculture.

Her food essays have appeared in Tin House, including the anthology "Food & Booze: A Tin House Literary Feast, Eating Well" and "Leite's Culinaria." Curry is the author of the grassfed beef

cookbook, "Pure Beef," that features several local ranching families. She is working on a follow-up book that explores the range of pasture-raised foods through narrative nonfiction.

Talia Galvin lives in Enterprise. Growing up, Galvin visited here with her Eastern Oregon-based family many summers to camp and explore, and then returned as a young adult to work for the U.S. Forest

Service as a ranger. Her professional career includes work in design, photography and social sciences.

Beyond park ranger blogging and college literary zines, her writing often has been a practice of personal reflection. Her reading at Fishtrap Fireside was a premiere of some inner workings.

Janie Tippet was a columnist for Agritimes NW for 31 years, is the author of "Four Lines a Day:

The Life and Times of an Imnaha Ranch Woman." Her work has been published in anthologies of Western writers and is a freelance writer. She is a fourth-generation rancher, mother of four, stepmother to three, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Tippet also is a photographer, outdoor enthusiast, and a long-time Fishtrapper.

To learn more, visit <https://fishtrap.org/fishtrap-fireside-2>.