

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, April 20, the 110th day of 2021. There are 255 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:

On April 20, 1999, the Columbine High School massacre took place in Colorado as two students shot and killed 12 classmates and a teacher before taking their own lives.

ON THIS DATE:

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed a proclamation admitting West Virginia to the Union, effective in 60 days (on June 20, 1863).

In 1914, the Ludlow Massacre took place when the Colorado National Guard opened fire on a tent colony of striking miners; about 20 (accounts vary) strikers, women and children died.

In 1916, the Chicago Cubs played their first game at Wrigley Field (then known as Weeghanan Park); the Cubs defeated the Cincinnati Reds 7-6.

In 1938, "Olympia," Leni Riefenstahl's documentary about the 1936 Berlin Olympic games, was first shown in Nazi Germany.

In 1945, during World War II, allied forces took control of the German cities of Nuremberg and Stuttgart.

In 1971, the Supreme Court unanimously upheld the use of busing to achieve racial desegregation in schools.

In 1972, Apollo 16's lunar module, carrying astronauts John W. Young and Charles M. Duke Jr., landed on the moon.

In 1986, following an absence of six decades, Russian-born pianist Vladimir Horowitz performed in the Soviet Union to a packed audience at the Grand Hall of the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow.

In 1988, gunmen who had hijacked a Kuwait Airways jumbo jet were allowed safe passage out of Algeria under an agreement that freed the remaining 31 hostages and ended a 15-day siege in which two passengers were slain.

In 2003, U.S. Army forces took control of Baghdad from the Marines in a changing of the guard that thinned the military presence in the capital.

In 2010, an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil platform, leased by BP, killed 11 workers and caused a blow-out that began spewing an estimated 200 million gallons of crude into the Gulf of Mexico. (The well was finally capped nearly three months later.)

Ten years ago: Two Western photojournalists, including Oscar-nominated film director Tim Hetherington, were killed in the besieged Libyan city of Misrata while covering battles between rebels and government forces. The U.S. government announced new protections for air travelers when airlines lose their bags, bump them off flights or hold them on the runway for hours.

Five years ago: Five former New Orleans police officers pleaded guilty to lesser charges in the deadly shootings on a bridge in the days following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew announced that Harriet Tubman, an African-American abolitionist born into slavery, would be the new face on the \$20 bill, replacing President Andrew Jackson. (The redesign of the bill was delayed during the administration of President Donald Trump, who had called the move "pure political correctness"; the effort was resumed by the Biden administration.) Pro wrestler Chyna (Joan Marie Laurer) was found dead in her Redondo Beach, California, apartment; she was 46.

EOU students get firsthand look at restoration project

Program allows groups of students to restore and enhance sites in Eastern Oregon

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Thick dust and bird droppings cover what used to be bustling high school hallways. A small group of students from Eastern Oregon University are some of the first to leave footprints since Baker Central High School was abandoned in 2009, but their visit marks a turning point for the historic building.

These students, all majoring in sustainable rural systems at EOU, will play a key role in transforming the contaminated building into a community asset, according to a press release from the university.

The sustainable rural systems degree program opened in fall 2020. After two terms of virtual and then on-campus meetings, students took their first field trip Wednesday, April 14. Professor Shannon Donovan arranged for the small class to visit the former Baker Central High



Eastern Oregon University/Contributed Photo

Eastern Oregon University students in the sustainable rural systems degree program tour an abandoned school in Baker City on Wednesday, April 14, 2021. The students will help draft a request for proposal for contractors to clean up the building, which is a brownfield, a site contaminated with lead, asbestos and other toxins.

School building, which was recently designated as a brownfield — a site contaminated with toxins. An EPA assessment found lead and asbestos contamination in tiles and paint, but students could safely walk through the building so long as they didn't disturb the collected dust particles.

"It's a bigger building than I expected, and I was surprised how worn down things are and how much

work it'll take to clean it up," EOU junior Joanna Campbell said. "It's cool to think about how it could be transformed, and I'm excited to work through the whole process."

The program is designed with a cohort model so groups of students work on real-world, multi-year projects to restore and enhance sites in Eastern Oregon. The one-of-a-kind curriculum combines environmental

science, public administration, community organizing, project management and leadership. EOU faculty collaborated with Baker Technical Institute's existing brownfields program that engages high school students in similar work.

BTI instructor Robbie Langrell, who led the building tour, has worked with a group of local stakeholders to earn an EPA grant that will fund decon-

LEARN MORE

Find information about EOU's sustainable rural systems degree at eou.edu/sustainable-rural-systems.

tamination of the Baker City site. Following their visit, EOU students will draft a request for proposal and open the bidding process for contractors who want to take on the project.

Langrell will use the students' work to begin interviewing contractors and ultimately select a company that will safely remove hazardous materials from the building. Once it's cleaned up, she expects to put it on the market for sale or further development.

This is the first of many hands-on projects sustainable rural systems cohorts will tackle. The same students who visited the dark, messy building will return regularly throughout the restoration process and have a role in its revitalization.

"You get to see for yourself and have the first-person experience of being here," EOU junior Monte Zufelt said of the visit. "I hope to be able to see the progress as we move forward with hiring contractors."

New principal set to take reins at Cove High School

By DICK MASON

The Observer

COVE — Cove High School soon will have a new leader.

Dustin Clark, a Bandon educator, has been named Cove High School's next principal. Clark will start work April 29 at Cove High School.

Clark has served as the principal of Harbor Lights Middle School in the Bandon School District the past two years. He also is the Bandon School District's athletic director, a position he has held the past nine months.

Clark will succeed Mat Miles as Cove High School's principal. Miles retired at the end 2020 after serving as principal for 10 years. Miles came to Cove from the La Grande School District, where he worked for 11 years.

Clark was one of seven candidates who applied for the position. Cove School District Superintendent Earl Pettit said Clark was selected because of his strong leadership traits. Pettit said he is glad Clark will be able to come on board for the final month of the school year because this will put him in a position to get off to a strong start in the 2021-22 school year.

Clark is no stranger to Northeast Oregon.

His wife, Julia, is a Cove High School graduate, and he worked in the Burns School District from 2017-2019. He served as assistant principal of Burns High School his first year and as assistant principal of Slater Elementary School his second year in Burns.

Clark also has six years of experience as an elementary school teacher in Oregon, including four in the Beaverton School District.

One of the educator's earliest teaching experiences was in South Korea.

From 2006-2008 he taught English as a second language to K-12 students in Suncheon Public Schools.

After leaving his position in South Korea, he served as a volunteer mentor at an orphanage in Suncheon City for a month.

Clark, a 1999 graduate of Powers High School in Coos County, has a master's degree in elementary education and teaching from Oregon State University and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Southern Oregon University.

Dousing a shed fire



Dick Mason/The Observer

Firefighters on Sunday, April 18, 2021, extinguish a shed fire about 75 yards north of Deal Canyon Road in La Grande. Nobody was injured in the blaze and there was no major property damage. The blaze was reported at 1:32 p.m. Seven firefighters from the La Grande and the La Grande Rural fire departments responded to the fire with two engines and a command vehicle. The cause of the fire was connected to a nearby burn pile, according to the La Grande Fire Department.

Joseph city administrator resigns

Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — Joseph City Administrator Larry Braden submitted his resignation Friday night, April 16, during an emergency city council meeting.

Braden, who was not at the meeting, cited "harassment" from the city council in his resignation letter, which was read at the meeting. The type of harassment, and who it was by, was not cited in the letter.

The resignation comes barely two weeks after a heated exchange at the April 1 city council meeting during which

Braden cited confusion over the role of the mayor and the city administrator, and his role in the day-to-day function of the city.

"It's very frustrating for me to do my job," Braden said at that meeting. "We currently are not compliant with the city charter. We are not compliant with the council rules, and almost every single aspect of my employment contract has been violated. Doing my job in a functional, efficient manner is almost impossible right now."

NEWS BRIEFS

Tamkaliks Celebration remains on hiatus due to COVID-19

WALLOWA — COVID-19 has again postponed the annual Tamkaliks Celebration.

The Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland and Tamkaliks Committee announced the decision April 13. The committee met April 7 to deliberate whether or not to host the event.

"This was not an easy decision, but Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland and the Tamkaliks Committee agree that this is the best decision for the safety of our elders and our communities," a release announcing the decision stated.

The annual summer event traditionally includes three days of dancing, music, naming ceremonies, memorials and a Friendship Feast in celebration of the continuing Nez Perce presence in the Wallowa Valley.

The committee still will award two \$500 scholarships — the Taz Conner

and Terry Crenshaw Memorial scholarships.

The postponement of the annual event, which also was postponed in 2020, will not impact the organization's other plans in the county. The visitor center will be open during the summer and the powwow grounds are open for dispersed camping, according to the release.

Baker City removes trash from property — again

BAKER CITY — For the fourth time in four years, Baker City has removed trash and other debris from a property on the east side of town.

The city also cited the resident, Lucas Gwin, for violating the city's property maintenance ordinance, said Lt. Ty Duby of the Baker City Police Department.

The latest incident happened April 14.

Duby, who will take over as the city's police chief July 1, said the city had received complaints

from multiple residents who live near Gwin's house at 1975 Birch St.

Duby said the city's public works department used a front-end loader to remove debris from the backyard of the property.

He and Dallas Brockett, the police department's code enforcement officer, also participated in the cleanup, along with two people doing community service through the Baker County Parole and Probation Department.

Duby said the city also removed trash from the property in October 2020.

According to city and court records, a city code enforcement officer cited Gwin for violating the property maintenance ordinance in May 2015, August 2015 and October 2016. In 2017, the city paid a contractor \$2,000 to clean up the property.

The city cited Gwin for violating the property maintenance order Dec. 27, 2017, and four more times in 2018, according to court records.

— EO Media Group

NASA balloon takes flight over Madras

By KYLE SPURR

The Bulletin

MADRAS — The 150-foot-tall balloon, made of plastic thinner than a sandwich bag, rose above the high desert at sunrise with the goal of helping future missions in space.

The helium-filled balloon shined in the early morning sunlight as it disappeared into the atmosphere, on its way to an altitude of 110,000 feet.

A NASA-sponsored research team launched the balloon at about 6 a.m. Thursday, April 15, from the Madras Municipal Airport. The balloon carried a 100-pound cone-shaped device that later in the day was dropped with a parachute over the high desert east of Prineville.

"That went well," said Kevin Tucker, president at Near Space Corp., who oversaw the test flight. "It's always interesting. The wind was actually changing, and that's a big deal. We were very careful about that."

Tucker's company, which



Contributed Photo

Near Space Corp. personnel prepare to launch a large helium-filled balloon, in the background, from the Madras Municipal Airport on Thursday, April 15, 2021. The balloon would rise to 111,000 feet and perform a high altitude drop test. Scientists will use data from the test to determine how to return items from the International Space Station back to Earth.

produces balloons for scientific tests, partnered with researchers from the University of Kentucky to launch the balloon and test a delivery system that could be used to return individual items from the International Space Station back to Earth. The team tracked the balloon's flight Thursday

and recovered the dropped device.

The university engineering students call the delivery system the Kentucky Re-Entry Universal Payload System and their research was sponsored by NASA's Flight Opportunities program, said NASA spokesperson Megan Person.