

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, May 11, the 131st day of 2021. There are 234 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:

On May 11, 1935, the Rural Electrification Administration was created as one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs.

ON THIS DATE:

In 1858, Minnesota became the 32nd state of the union.

In 1943, during World War II, U.S. forces landed on the Aleutian island of Attu, which was held by the Japanese; the Americans took the island 19 days later.

In 1946, the first CARE packages, sent by a consortium of American charities to provide relief to the hungry of postwar Europe, arrived at Le Havre, France.

In 1947, the B.F. Goodrich Company of Akron, Ohio, announced the development of a tubeless tire.

In 1953, a tornado devastated Waco, Texas, claiming 114 lives.

In 1960, Israeli agents captured Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In 1973, the espionage trial of Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo in the "Pentagon Papers" case came to an end as Judge William M. Byrne dismissed all charges, citing government misconduct.

In 1996, an Atlanta-bound ValuJet DC-9 caught fire shortly after takeoff from Miami and crashed into the Florida Everglades, killing all 110 people on board.

In 1997, IBM's "Deep Blue" computer demolished an overwhelmed Garry Kasparov, winning the six-game chess re-match between man and machine in New York.

In 1998, a French mint produced the first coins of Europe's single currency, the euro.

In 2010, Conservative leader David Cameron, at age 43, became Britain's youngest prime minister in almost 200 years after Gordon Brown stepped down and ended 13 years of Labour government.

Ten years ago: Former hedge fund titan Raj Rajaratnam was convicted by a federal jury in New York in an insider-trading case of five counts of conspiracy and nine of securities fraud.

Five years ago: A white former South Carolina police officer already facing a state murder charge in the shooting death of Black motorist Walter Scott was indicted on federal charges including depriving the victim of his civil rights. (Michael Slager pleaded guilty to violating Scott's civil rights and was sentenced to 20 years in prison.)

Call issued for EOU Field House exterior art

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University is looking for artwork for the exterior of its new Field House.

EOU, through the Oregon Arts Commission's Art in Public Places Program, seeks to commission works for the \$9 million facility that is under construction and has \$71,000 for the exterior artwork. According to a press release from the university, the budget covers artist fees, fabrication, insurance, shipping, travel, installation, documentation and all other project costs.

The call for artists for the exterior art extends to artists and artist teams in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. The solicitation and selection process is to be inclusive, encouraging a diverse selection of artists to apply, including artists from communities of color, women and LGBTQ+ art-



Eastern Oregon University/Contributed Image

A 2018 rendering of the Eastern Oregon University Field House gives an idea of what the facility will look like. Construction of the building is underway, and EOU seeks artists to create exterior art for the facility. The deadline for initial commission applications is Monday, May 17, 2021.

ists, the release stated.

The selection committee seeks artwork that meets these criteria:

- The art is freestanding and not attached to the building in any way.
- Work that integrates environmental beauty and Field House activities.
- Art that expresses movement in an outdoor

environment and draws attention to the Field House from a distance.

The project is on a tight timeline due to bond funding deadlines. Footing must be installed in fall 2021 and the artwork by the end of March 2022, according to EOU. The application deadline is Monday, May 17, at 5 p.m.

Three finalists will receive an artist fee of \$175 per artist/artist team to attend a virtual interview to discuss their past projects and artistic approach. The committee will select one artist/team for the contract to create artwork based on the discussion, their past work and artwork development process.

Capturing the value of Nez Perce stories



Ellen Morris Bishop/For the Willowa County Chieftain

Nez Perce elder Allen Pinkham Sr. (left) talks about the importance of Nez Perce stories and place names in understanding the landscape at Old Chief Joseph's gravesite near Willowa Lake on Sunday, May 2, 2021. The group of interviewers (Preston Amerman, Jane Fritz and filmmaker Haley Thompson, far right) are working with the Joseph Center for Arts and Culture to develop a project that will correlate Nez Perce stories with scientific understanding of regional features.

Hermiston psychiatric hospital reopens as a treatment facility

By JADE MCDOWELL

East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The former Aspen Springs Psychiatric Hospital in Hermiston has reopened as a secure residential treatment facility.

The 16-bed hospital closed in April, about seven months after it opened. The board of Lifeways, the community mental health provider that built the facility, stated they could not find the psychiatrists and psychiatric nurses needed to staff the building around the clock.

Lifeways announced Tuesday, May 4, that Aspen Springs is now accepting patients as a Class II Secured Residential Treatment Facility.

A psychiatric hospital provides the highest level of psychiatric care in the

state, caring for individuals in the midst of an acute mental health crisis. A secure residential treatment facility also treats patients on an inpatient basis, but is a step down on the level of severity. Lifeways describes it as a place for community members ages 18 and older "seeking safe, supervised, short-term psychiatric recovery and stabilization."

Services provided will include medication management, individual and group therapy, skills training and "wraparound" support for patients reintegrating back into the community.

Former Aspen Springs Psychiatric Hospital patients can access their records by contacting Julie Hyslop, medical records supervisor, at jhyslop@lifeways.org or 702 Sunset Drive in Ontario.

Richland man walks out after two nights

By JAYSON JACOBY

Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — Joe Strus had never been so happy to have a package of hot dogs.

The buns were just a bonus.

The meals he made of those provisions were among the few pleasant parts of an otherwise painful experience that Strus, 63, of Richland, had last week in the mountains north of Keating Valley.

After the rocky edge of a remote forest road gave way beneath the weight of his 2006 Dodge three-quarter-ton flatbed pickup around dusk on Sunday, May 2, the truck rolled once, landing on its wheels near a small stream. "My beautiful truck is not so beautiful anymore," Strus said in a phone interview Thursday afternoon, May 6, about 48 hours after, as he puts it, he got "back to civilization."

Strus was in somewhat better condition than his blue, four-door pickup, with lingering soreness in his back and neck.

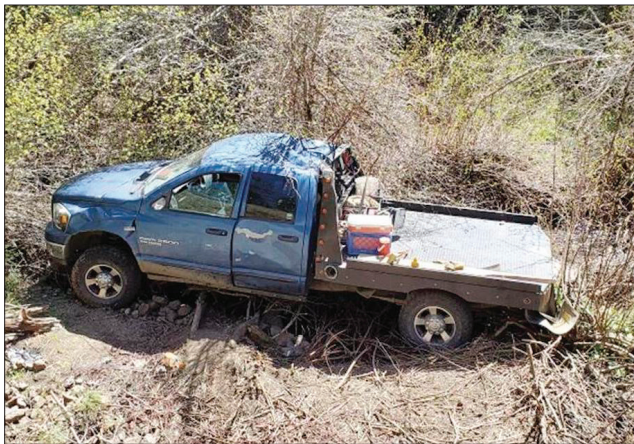
"I hit pretty hard," he said, recounting his tumble down the embankment.

It all started because Strus, who moved to Baker County around 2005, wanted to go fishing at Balm Creek Reservoir.

He had tried to reach the reservoir some days before from the west, via Medical Springs, but was turned back by snowdrifts. On May 2 Strus decided to try a different route, via Forshey Meadow to the east. He got close, but again was foiled by snow.

Although he didn't get a chance to hook some trout, Strus said he had a new remote control predator call and he figured he'd try to summon a coyote.

He took Forest Road 7025, a route along Goose Creek, several miles north of Keating Valley, that he'd never driven.



Travis Ash/Contributed Photo

Joe Strus' pickup landed upright after rolling off a remote road north of Keating Valley on Sunday, May 2, 2021.

Strus acknowledged, with the rueful chuckle of a person who wonders later what he was thinking at the crucial moment, that his judgment wasn't sound.

When the road deteriorated into something closer to a trail, and with dark coming on besides, Strus said he thought about turning back.

"I should have turned around," he said. "But the kid in me said go a little farther."

He did — just far enough to reach the weak spot in the road.

Strus said he felt one rear wheel sink, and when he pushed the accelerator the front end of the truck "reared up just like a horse." Then the truck rolled in what seemed, he said, "like slow motion."

Strus said it looked as though a burrowing animal had dug into the bank, weakening the road.

Whatever the cause, he was stuck, at nightfall, in the chilly mountains.

Strus said he wasn't especially worried. Although his prized truck sustained dents and a couple of broken windows, it was upright and the engine ran fine. He had most of a tank of a gas. And, perhaps most important, he had an eight-pack of hot dogs and a bottle of orange juice. And two beers.

But before he took stock of his situation, he sat inside the cab and gave himself a talking-to.

"I just was beating myself up for making a bad decision," Strus said.

Besides the food, a warm coat and some camping gear, Strus had his cellphone.

He didn't have service in the creek bottom, so he climbed the nearest hill.

He was able to send a text to his girlfriend, but he never received a reply and couldn't be sure the message had gone through.

When he tried to make a phone call he got a message that he could only make a 9-1-1 call.

Strus said he decided not to do that. He wasn't in any immediate danger, and he figured if his girlfriend didn't get his message, and nobody came looking for him, he could walk out.

"I didn't want to put anybody else in harm's way to come out and look for me," Strus said.

During May 3, he stayed close to the truck. He gathered stones to build a fire ring and kindled a blaze to cook the hot dogs.

After he finished the orange juice he used the container to get water from the creek. Strus said he wished he had a water purifier, but he said the stream was cold and clear.

Strus said he was glad his pickup ran despite rolling over. He started the engine occasionally to let the heater ward off the nighttime chill.

An automated weather station several miles to the east recorded temperatures as low as 30 degrees early May 3.

"It really got cold," Strus said.

On the morning of May 4, he considered his situation.

He had eaten the last of the hot dogs.

Strus said he concluded either nobody was searching for him, or they didn't know where to look.

He found a stout limb to use as a walking stick and, once the temperature had warmed, he started walking, retracing his driving route.

He had covered about two miles when he heard the burble of a motor.

It was an ATV, ridden by Brian Ratliff, a biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife who was investigating the death of a calf in the area.

Strus said he greeted Ratliff with a question: "You guys aren't looking for me, are you?"

Ratliff was not — Strus, unable to get a text message out, hadn't been reported missing.

Ratliff told Strus to wait, then rode to a place where he could text Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash.

Strus said the sheriff, whom he knows, arrived less than an hour later and drove him to Richland.

Strus said he learned the Forest Service has now installed signs warning people not to try to drive down the road where his truck rolled.

He said he's glad something positive came from his predicament.

Strus said the afternoon of May 6 that he and some friends planned to try to extricate his truck that day.

— REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS —

Woman dies in ATV accident near Ukiah

UKIAH — The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office reported a 33-year-old woman from Pendleton died Saturday, May 8, in an all-terrain vehicle crash near Ukiah.

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Dispatch Center at about 3 p.m. received a call reporting two people injured in an ATV accident in the area of Hideaway Springs Road east of Ukiah, according to the press release from the sheriff's office.

Medics on scene confirmed that Jessica Whitney Ice, the driver of the ATV, had died. An ambulance took a woman passenger to Ukiah where an emergency helicopter flew her to Providence St. Mary Medical Center in Walla Walla, Washington.

The sheriff's office did not identify the victim but reported she was in good condition.

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office also reported Oregon State Police are conducting a crash reconstruction and the investigation is ongoing.

Rolling slowdown in effect May 12 near Boardman

BOARDMAN — The Oregon Department of Transportation announced it is slowing traffic heading east on Interstate 84 on Wednesday, May 12, for the removal of an overhead variable message board.

The removal takes place near milepost 191. ODOT does not have a specific time for when the rolling slowdown will go into effect. A second rolling slowdown will take place that evening as workers

erect the new sign.

ODOT also will close one lane at the work site to allow room for a crane, and the state road agency is closing eastbound exits at mileposts 171, 178, 179, 180, 182 and 188 for up to 20 minutes during the rolling slowdowns.

Umatilla dictionary now on the web

MISSION — The Umatilla language is now accessible to anyone in the world with an internet connection.

In a press release, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation announced that the Umatilla Language Dictionary is now online.

The collaboration between the CTUIR Language Program and Amazon Web Services intends to educate tribal members on their language and raise awareness about the tongue.

The prevalence of the Umatilla language has diminished over the years as many of its fluent speakers have died. The CTUIR established a language program in 1996 to preserve the language by recording elders and teaching the language to tribal youths and adults.

"This is a gift to the youth," Noel Rude, the dictionary's author and a former tribal linguist at the Tamastlikt Cultural Institute near Pendleton, said in a statement. "No matter where they find themselves, they will have access to the beautiful words of their elders. May this kindle their curiosity! And may their elders' legacy never fade."

The dictionary can be accessed at dictionary.ctuir.org.

— EO Media Group