

TODAY

In 1812, an earthquake devastated Caracas, Venezuela, causing an estimated 26,000 deaths, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In 1827, composer Ludwig van Beethoven died in Vienna.

In 1945, during World War II, Iwo Jima was fully secured by U.S. forces following a final, desperate attack by Japanese soldiers.

In 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Baker v. Carr*, gave federal courts the power to order reapportionment of states' legislative districts.

In 1973, the soap opera "The Young and the Restless" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1979, a peace treaty was signed by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and witnessed by President Jimmy Carter at the White House.

In 1982, groundbreaking ceremonies took place in Washington, D.C., for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

In 1988, Jesse Jackson stunned fellow Democrats by soundly defeating Michael S. Dukakis in Michigan's Democratic presidential caucus.

In 1992, a judge in Indianapolis sentenced former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson to six years in prison for raping a Miss Black America contestant. (Tyson ended up serving three years.)

In 1997, the bodies of 39 members of the Heaven's Gate techno-religious cult who committed suicide were found inside a rented mansion in Rancho Santa Fe, California.

In 2014, Osama bin Laden's son-in-law, Sulaiman Abu Ghaith, was convicted in New York for his role as al-Qaida's fiery chief spokesman after 9/11. (He was later sentenced to life in prison.)

In 2020, the U.S. surpassed official Chinese government numbers to become the country with the most reported coronavirus infections.

Ten years ago: As demonstrations swirled outside, Supreme Court justices began hearing arguments on challenges to President Barack Obama's historic health care overhaul. (In June 2012, the court would uphold almost all of the law, including the most disputed part: the mandate that virtually all Americans have health insurance or pay a penalty.)

Five years ago: President Donald Trump took to Twitter to attack conservative lawmakers for the failure of the Republican bill to replace former President Barack Obama's health care law.

One year ago: Dominion Voting Systems filed a \$1.6 billion defamation lawsuit against Fox News, saying the cable news giant falsely claimed that the voting company rigged the 2020 election. Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee signed a law banning transgender athletes from participating in girls' sports, making Tennessee the third state to approve such a measure in 2021.

LOTTERY

Wednesday, March 23, 2022
Megabucks
 3-15-16-28-33-42
 Jackpot: \$3.3 million
Lucky Lines
 3-7-11-15-17-23-26-29
 Estimated jackpot: \$40,000
Powerball
 31-32-37-38-48
 Powerball: 24
 Power Play: 2
 Jackpot: \$181 million
Win for Life
 9-17-37-52
Pick 4
 1 p.m.: 3-1-0-2
 4 p.m.: 6-3-0-0
 7 p.m.: 9-0-8-4
 10 p.m.: 4-3-3-7
Thursday, March 24, 2022
Lucky Lines
 3-7-10-13-20-22-27-31
 Jackpot: \$41,000
Pick 4
 1 p.m.: 7-8-0-7
 4 p.m.: 3-8-1-3
 7 p.m.: 1-4-1-4
 10 p.m.: 7-1-0-4



Brenda Johnson/Contributed Photo

Wallowa County's Brenda Johnson, right, smiles after being cleared medically and allowed to rejoin the Gaucho Derby, which began on March 3, 2022. Her participation in the 500-kilometer horseback endurance race was temporarily halted when she was thrown from her horse and broke her nose.

Johnson thunders across Patagonia

By ELIZABETH CASTILLO
 Oregon Public Broadcasting

ENTERPRISE — Brenda Johnson is an avid adventurer. Earlier this month, she spent time thundering through South America's Patagonia region on horseback. Johnson rode in this year's Gaucho Derby. The race is billed as the "greatest test of horsemanship and wilderness skills on Earth."



Brenda Johnson/Contributed Photo

Brenda Johnson, of Wallowa County, poses with a horse while taking part in the Gaucho Derby, a 500-kilometer endurance race in Patagonia in March 2022.

"I love being out in the woods with the animals and pushing myself and exploring and finding new places," she said. Also, one of her clients works as a personal trainer and she traded

horseshoeing for fitness lessons. The Gaucho Derby, which is 500 kilometers, tests competitors on navigation skills, horsemanship and endurance. Before the race, Johnson hardly slept, her nerves keeping her awake. "You're not scared, but you're terrified," she said. "It's this whole swirl of emotions that you just

don't really totally know how to comprehend." Riders switch horses throughout the race and pick their four-legged counterparts by drawing numbers out of a hat. The race has built-in points where veterinarians can check on the horses and medics can check the riders. During the race, Johnson ran into issues with one of

her horses. She learned quickly that this particular horse did not like to be mounted or dismounted. "I got my leg out of the stirrup and about halfway up his side he bucked so hard, the rider behind me could see his entire belly," she said. "(The horse) face-planted me into a rock and broke my nose." After being cleared medically, Johnson was able to rejoin the race. She could no longer win, and had to miss a portion of the race that's described by the derby as a "bleakly beautiful windswept plateau." Still, Johnson was grateful she could join the other participants and still ride along for the rest of the race. "The entire time after that I was nothing but grins and smiles and some happy tears," she said. "I was ecstatic and thrilled to just get on a horse again."

Eastern Oregon aims to bring potential employees and employers together

Career Expo for students set for April 6 on EOU campus

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The gap between graduation and employment doesn't have to be long nor stressful. Similarly, finding qualified young employees doesn't have to feel like a scavenger hunt. Eastern Oregon University's upcoming Career Expo is an equal opportunity event for job seekers and employers alike. EOU hosts the on-campus event Wednesday, April 6, inviting various businesses to speak with, interview and recruit students. "We invite various types of employers and business professionals to come showcase their job and internship experiences and opportunities," said Brandy Smith, an MBA student and assistant coordinator for the expo. "This event will allow students to drop off their resumes and speak directly to these employers. The setup will be similar to a meet and

greet, but students will be able to learn more about these employers and do mock interviews in a shorter period." Planning for the event began in October 2021 and was initiated by Edward Henninger, dean of the College of Business. The event is a collaboration between the Career Services Center, College of Business and other academic units at the university. The College of Education held its own specialized career fair during winter term, since teachers have distinct networks and pathways. "This will be the first year of an all-inclusive campus-wide Career Expo featuring opportunities for all of EOU's students as well as students in our OHSU Nursing and OSU Agriculture and Natural Resources parent programs operating here on the La Grande campus," Henninger said. More than 40 businesses have registered for the expo, including Boise Cascade, BeefNorthwest, ThreeMileCanyon Farms LLC, Romans Precision Irrigation, Woodgrain Lumber, Fresenius Medical Care North American, the Port of Morrow, Providence and

MORE INFORMATION
 Additional event information, employer bios and registration links are available at eou.edu/career/expo.

Grande Ronde Hospital. The expo will be split between two venues. Businesses primarily pursuing nursing and agriculture and natural resources job seekers will be hosted in Badgley Hall, and businesses targeting the job seekers in the many career-ready programs offered by EOU will be hosted in the David E. Gilbert Center. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 6. Tables and amenities will be provided for all business representatives. The registration deadline for businesses is 5 p.m. March 30. This EOU event is free for students and alumni to attend. "Overall, we are looking forward to hearing about the great opportunities our students will come across, or even land as a job or internship," Smith said. "We hope to use this first year to help make the coming years run even better."

Police chief urges public's vigilance to deter thefts

By BILL BRADSHAW
 Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — As prices rise, so do the tendencies for people to get light-fingered and take things that are not theirs, Enterprised Police Chief Kevin McQuead told the city council at its meeting Monday, March 14. "When we have increasing prices across the board, people become desperate," he said March 23. "It was good that the city council got (the announcement) and we want the public to, as well." McQuead wants the public to be aware of the potential for theft at their homes and businesses. "I just want to make sure people

are aware of their things and not leaving things out," he said. "Let's keep the honest people honest." McQuead said he doesn't have numbers or a percentage to illustrate the increase in crime, but it has been noticeable. "We are seeing a slight uptick in thefts," he said. McQuead said the county, as a whole, is vulnerable. In addition to homes and businesses, he said, storage units can be targets for thieves. "Everything's vulnerable with that kind of behavior," he said. "People need to take the necessary precautions."



McQuead

In addition to not leaving items in one's yard that might tempt a thief, he suggested installing security cameras. McQuead said both are good deterrents and the video can be used as evidence in case of a theft. "The owner can hand over that video and we can investigate any case," he said. But the real point is to get the public's help preventing it. "Think about your yard and what's available for the prying eyes of the public," McQuead said. "We want to be proactive and have homeowners (be) too. We can't keep an eye on everybody's things."

IN BRIEF

Merkley announces time for Union County town hall

LA GRANDE — U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Oregon, will touch on his work in Washington, D.C., and answer questions later this month at an online town hall geared toward constituents in Union County. The meeting will be at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 30, via Zoom and conference call, according to a press release issued by Merkley's office. To join the call on a computer, smartphone or tablet, go to bit.ly/3uklegh. To call into the town hall, dial 669-254-5252. The meeting ID number is 161 243 5056. Since joining the Senate in 2009, Merkley has held a town hall for each of Oregon's 36 counties every year.

Studded tires required to be removed by end of March

LA GRANDE — With spring in the air, Oregon drivers will need to remove their studded tires. The Oregon Department of Transportation announced that drivers in the state must take off their studded tires by Thursday, March 31. According to a press release from ODOT on March 22, drivers are encouraged to remove the studded tires as soon as they can before the deadline. Drivers who leave their studded tires on past the March 31 deadline are subject to Class C traffic violations by law enforcement. In the case of inclement weather, ODOT maintenance crews will continue to monitor highway conditions and weather forecasts moving forward. According to ODOT, studded tires cause roughly \$8.5 million in damage to highways every year. The department recommends other types of traction tires and newer chains to limit roadway damage.

Construction project set to begin on I-84 between Meacham and Spring Creek

UNION COUNTY — The Oregon Department of Transportation announced on Wednesday, March 23, that construction work on Interstate 84 between Meacham and Spring Creek will begin next week. The work is set to take place between mileposts 241 and 248.5. The work will begin on the eastbound lanes. Workers will be replacing the slow lane with new concrete and the fast lane with new asphalt — the work is set to continue on from where construction took place last fall. Following phase one on the eastbound lanes, similar improvements will be conducted on the westbound lanes. According to ODOT, the total project is expected to be completed by Nov. 1. The eastbound side is estimated to be completed in July, with work on the westbound side to follow. During the upcoming work, eastbound traffic will traverse through the westbound side where both directions will be limited to one lane — orange surface markers will indicate the new traffic pattern. Between mileposts 248 and 246, there will be two westbound lanes and one eastbound lane. The work zones will include several emergency turnoff areas, in the case of a disabled vehicle. Drivers will need to abide by the lowered speed limits of 50 miles per hour through the work zone — ODOT estimates that the reduction will begin on the week of April 4.

Reward offered for information about 1970s murder northwest of Elgin

LA GRANDE — A cash reward of up to \$2,500 is being offered to help identify a murdered pregnant woman found by hunters 10 miles northwest of Elgin in August 1978. The skeletal remains of the woman and a fetus, knotted coaxial cable, zippers, a white bra or halter top, red Catalina-brand pants in the size 15-16 range, scraps of white cloth with red hearts and ankle-high boots were discovered in and near a shallow grave straddling a wooded game trail near Finley Creek. The woman was estimated to be between 5-foot-1 and 5-foot-3 and weighed between 115 and 125 pounds. She had light-colored hair, possibly blond or sandy brown. The fetus was estimated to be close to full term. Investigators believe the woman had been killed in the early to mid-1970s. Redgrave Research Forensic Services has provided a composite sketch of what the woman may have looked like. More information about the unidentified woman can be found at www.facebook.com/finleycreekjanedoe. Volunteers with the Finley Creek Jane Doe Task Force have led the effort to identify the woman and her unborn infant. Crime Stoppers of Oregon is offering the cash reward of up to \$2,500. To submit a secure and anonymous tip regarding any unsolved felony crime in Oregon visit www.crimestoppersoforegon.com or download the P3 Tips app for their smartphone or tablet. Crime Stoppers of Oregon is funded entirely by community donations. — The Observer