

TODAY

It's Sunday, Jan. 24, the 24th day of 2021. There are 341 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

In **1848**, James W. Marshall discovered a gold nugget at Sutter's Mill in northern California, a discovery that led to the gold rush of '49.

In **1908**, the Boy Scouts movement began in England under the aegis of Robert Baden-Powell.

In **1924**, the Russian city of Petrograd (formerly St. Petersburg) was renamed Leningrad in honor of the late revolutionary leader. However, it has since been renamed St. Petersburg. In **1943**, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill concluded a wartime conference in Casablanca, Morocco.

In **1945**, Associated Press war correspondent Joseph Morton was among a group of captives executed by the Germans at the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp in Austria.

In **1965**, British statesman Winston Churchill died in London at 90.

In **1978**, a nuclear-powered Soviet satellite, Cosmos 954, plunged through Earth's atmosphere and disintegrated, scattering radioactive debris over parts of northern Canada.

In **1984**, Apple Computer began selling its first Macintosh model, which boasted a built-in 9-inch monochrome display, a clock rate of 8 megahertz and 128k of RAM.

In **1987**, gunmen in Lebanon kidnapped educators Alann Stead, Jesse Turner, Robert Polhill and Mitheleshwar Singh. All were eventually released.

In **1989**, confessed serial killer Theodore Bundy was executed in Florida's electric chair.

In **1993**, retired Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall died in Bethesda, Maryland, at 84.

In **2003**, former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge was sworn as the first secretary of the new Department of Homeland Security.

Ten years ago: A suicide bomber attacked Moscow's busiest airport, killing 37 people; Chechen separatists claimed responsibility.

Five years ago: A magnitude-7.1 quake knocked items off shelves and walls in Alaska, jolting the nerves of residents in the earthquake-prone region.

One year ago: Concluding their opening arguments at President Donald Trump's impeachment trial, House Democrats warned that Trump would persist in abusing his power and endangering democracy unless Congress acted to remove him before the 2020 election. After the Chinese city of Wuhan halted outbound flights, trains, buses and ferries in an effort to stop the spread of a deadly new virus, 12 other cities in the province followed suit, bringing more than 36 million people under lockdown.

Today's Birthdays: Cajun musician Doug Kershaw is 85. Singer-songwriter Ray Stevens is 82. Singer-songwriter Neil Diamond is 80. Singer Aaron Neville is 80. Actor Michael Ontkean is 75. Actor Daniel Auteuil is 71. Comedian Yakov Smirnoff is 70. South Korean President Moon Jae-in is 68. Actor Nastassja Kinski is 60. R&B singer Theo Peoples is 60. Comedian Phil LaMarr is 54. Olympic gold medal gymnast Mary Lou Retton is 53. R&B singer Sleepy Brown (Society of Soul) is 51. Actor Matthew Lillard is 51. Actor Ed Helms is 47. Actor Tatyana Ali is 42. Actor Carrie Coon is 40. Actor Mischa Barton is 35.

— Associated Press

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

MCKENZIE RIVER VALLEY | WILDFIRES

Cleanup moves into new phase

BY ADAM DUVERNAY

The Register-Guard (Eugene)

Wildfires cleanup efforts in some parts of the McKenzie River Valley are approaching a stage during which debris, such as burned down homes, can begin being removed.

State workers have begun installing address markers at some properties burned by the Holiday Farm Fire, indicators those lots are ready for ash and debris removal, said Oregon Wildfire Recovery and Debris Management Task Force spokesman Yosef Yip.

“Some areas are ready for it. Once you see address signs installed, that means the contractor is preparing for ash and debris cleanup,” Yip said.

At the same time, contractors and arborists are removing damaged and dangerous trees not caught in the first phase of hazard tree removal.

Yip said it's expected wildfire cleanup statewide will take six to 18 months.

Joel Zeni, who is overseeing secondary hazard tree removal in the Holiday Farm Fire area, said he expects the work to take about a year. He said his crews began working near Rainbow on Monday and will work their way west toward Blue River over time.

“The fallers are going ahead of us, and they drop the trees to



Chris Pietsch/The Register-Guard/Pool, file

Crews from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality work to clean up hazardous materials from burned buildings in Blue River in October, two months after the Holiday Farm Fire swept through the area, destroying much of the rural community along the McKenzie River. Wildfire cleanup efforts in the valley are entering a new phase.

the ground,” Zeni said. “Then we have log loaders coming in and getting all the logs and sending them to their appropriate stockpiles. Once the logs are out of there, I bring in a huge chipper and we mulch all of the slash and any other debris to create an erosion control barrier.”

Statewide ash and debris

cleanup is expected to begin in February, Yip said, and already has in places like the Ashland area of Jackson County. The area is a high-priority zone where a large number of mobile homes burned in the Alameda Drive Fire, which began as a brush fire in early September.

The state also considers some areas of the McKenzie

River Valley affected by the Holiday Farm Fire high priority because of steep terrain and the number of homes lost.

The Holiday Farm Fire began during a Labor Day wind storm that quickly spread flames across the McKenzie River Valley. About 173,000 acres burned, destroying about 400 homes across the

area and leveling nearly the entirety of the town of Blue River. One person died in the blaze.

Both the secondary hazard tree removal and the ash and debris removal are part of Step 2 in the state's cleanup plan, which is the final portion of that plan. Step 1, the removal of hazardous materials from affected areas, was largely finished by December.

The state is clearing away residents' debris at no cost if they fill out both a right-of-entry form and a private property debris removal questionnaire. Yip said 293 right-of-entry forms have been filed in Lane County, but 76 have not completed the questionnaire.

Yip encouraged people who hadn't filled out forms to do so as soon as possible.

The Labor Day fires that burned across Oregon “constitute the largest and most expensive disaster in our state's history, burning over 1 million acres and destroying over 5,000 structures,” according to a Debris Management Task Force news release.

Statewide cleanup costs are estimated at more than \$600 million, including \$326 million for ash and debris removal and \$295 million to remove hazard trees, the news release said.

Eugene allows urban camping temporarily, aligning with CDC

The Register-Guard (Eugene)

On Dec. 2, the city of Eugene removed about 100 people living in tents on a strip of land beside the Interstate 105 bridge on the border of Eugene's Whiteaker neighborhood and discarded all belongings that remained.

The process of removing the camp and dispersing campers was not new.

While the city of Eugene's usual enforcement of illegal camping was temporarily suspended late in March per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 guidelines, by June 5, regular enforcement of the city's camping

“The city's policy, and our No. 1 goal, is to do everything that we can to stabilize folks that are unhoused, those that are unsheltered, and have them be able to remain in place.”

— Jason Dedrick, a policy analyst for Eugene

ban returned.

The clearing of the large camp drew attention and outrage as temperatures were dropping, only a handful of shelter beds were available and coronavirus spread locally at unprecedented rates. On Dec. 14, nine local nonprofits including Eugene Catholic Workers, Carry it Forward, Occupy Medical and White Bird Clinic penned an open

letter asking the city to follow CDC guidance, cease removing camps and begin identifying places where people can shelter in place.

Around late December, the city changed its policy to temporarily allow for urban camping.

That (camp removal) was a catalyst of change for us to say ‘We can do better than what we're doing,’ Jason Dedrick,

a policy analyst for the city, said at a Human Rights Commission Homelessness Work Group meeting Jan. 13. “The city's policy, and our No. 1 goal, is to do everything that we can to stabilize folks that are unhoused, those that are unsheltered, and have them be able to remain in place.”

The city shared details around the temporary changes with The Register-Guard.

The COVID-19 camp criteria

Camping remains banned in specific areas, including: All parks designated as neighborhood parks. Riparian areas such as along the Willamette

River and Amazon Creek. Wetlands; sensitive natural areas; and the city's vegetated stormwater facilities that are designed to filter and clean water. Within 300 feet of playgrounds, sports courts, park shelters, picnic shelters. Within 50 feet of private property.

Campers in these areas can be issued a 24-hour notice, requiring them to leave.

Tents must be 12 feet apart from people not in the camper's pod. It must be possible for the public to maintain 6 feet of distance from the person camping and their property at all times.

STATE BRIEFING

Police: Disgruntled worker with gun is arrested

A disgruntled employee brought a gun Friday into the office of an electrical construction company in Hillsboro but was arrested without hurting anyone, police said.

Hillsboro Police were called to a “disturbance with a weapon” at Oregon Electric Group and encountered the employee with a gun, said spokesperson Clint Chrz.

Oregon Electric Group spokesperson Andrea Blessum

confirmed the man was an employee.

She said he was fired after Friday's incident but declined to provide further details. Blessum said company policy prohibits bringing firearms into the workplace.

Police described the man as in his late 30s but Chrz didn't release his name pending booking at the Washington County jail.

Hiker rescued after falling down 50-foot cliff

An injured hiker was rescued by helicopter and taken to a hospital Friday after falling down a 50-foot cliff in the Columbia River Gorge.

Other hikers discovered the 43-year-old man at the base of a 50-foot cliff less than a mile from the start of the Gorton Creek Trail, the Hood River

County Sheriff's Office said. The hikers reported he was conscious and breathing but was confused, hurt and possibly hypothermic.

Responders said he indicated he had fallen down the large cliff and possibly others, as well. The man was reported to have been hiking in the area since at least Tuesday.

The U.S. Coast Guard performed a helicopter rescue

because of the hazardous trail conditions and hiker's reported trauma. The helicopter arrived about 6:45 p.m. and took the hiker to Portland's Legacy Emanuel Medical Center, where he was reported to be stable.

The sheriff's office has not publicly identified the hiker.

The Gorton Creek Trail is near Wyeth, 15 miles west of Hood River off of Interstate 84.

— Bulletin wire reports

Join The Bulletin Editor for a morning Q&A

LIVE STREAM

Gerry O'Brien, Bulletin Editor, and Al Getler, of Advantage Newspaper Consultants, will chat **weekdays at 9 a.m. on Facebook Live starting Monday, Jan. 25** to bring you a daily news update and answer your questions.

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