

TODAY

Today is Friday, Jan. 29, the 29th day of 2021. There are 336 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On **Jan. 29, 1979**, President Jimmy Carter formally welcomed Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping to the White House, following the establishment of diplomatic relations.

In **1820**, King George III died at Windsor Castle at age 81; he was succeeded by his son, who became King George IV.

In **1845**, Edgar Allan Poe's famous narrative poem "The Raven" ("Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary...") was first published in the New York Evening Mirror.

In **1919**, the ratification of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which launched Prohibition, was certified by Acting Secretary of State Frank L. Polk.

In **1936**, the first inductees of baseball's Hall of Fame, including Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth, were named in Cooperstown, New York.

In **1963**, the first charter members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame were named in Canton, Ohio (they were enshrined when the Hall opened in September 1963). Poet Robert Frost died in Boston at age 88.

In **1966**, the musical comedy "Sweet Charity" starring Gwen Verdon opened on Broadway.

In **1975**, a bomb exploded inside the U.S. State Department in Washington, causing considerable damage, but injuring no one; the radical group Weather Underground claimed responsibility.

In **1984**, President Ronald Reagan announced in a nationally broadcast message that he and Vice President George H.W. Bush would seek re-election in the fall.

In **1998**, a bomb rocked an abortion clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, killing security guard Robert Sanderson and critically injuring nurse Emily Lyons.

In **2002**, in his first State of the Union address, President George W. Bush said terrorists were still threatening America — and he warned of "an axis of evil" consisting of North Korea, Iran and Iraq.

In **2006**, ABC "World News Tonight" co-anchor Bob Woodruff and a cameraman were seriously injured in a roadside bombing in Iraq.

In **2015**, Rod McKuen, whose music, verse and spoken-word recordings made him one of the best-selling poets in history, died at 81.

Ten years ago: With protests raging, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak named his intelligence chief, Omar Suleiman, as his first-ever vice president.

Five years ago: The Obama administration confirmed for the first time that Hillary Clinton's home server contained closely guarded government secrets.

One year ago: A charter flight evacuating 195 Americans, including diplomats and their families, left the Chinese city of Wuhan, the epicenter of the new viral outbreak. World health officials expressed concern that the virus was starting to spread between people outside China.

President Donald Trump's lawyers asserted at his Senate trial that a trade of U.S. military aid for political favors — even if proven — could not be grounds for his impeachment.

Today's Birthdays: Writer-composer-lyricist Leslie Bricusse is 90. Feminist author Germaine Greer is 82. Actor Katharine Ross is 81. Feminist author Robin Morgan is 80. Actor Tom Selleck is 76. R&B singer Bettye LaVette is 75. Actor Marc Singer is 73. Actor Ann Jillian is 71. Rock musician Louie Perez (Los Lobos) is 68. R&B singer Charlie Wilson is 68. Talk show host Oprah Winfrey is 67. Actor Terry Kinney is 67. Country singer Irlene Mandrell is 65. Actor Diane Delano is 64. Actor Judy Norton (TV: "The Waltons") is 63. Rock musician Johnny Spampinato is 62. Olympic gold-medal diver Greg Louganis is 61. Rock musician David Baynton-Power (James) is 60. Rock musician Eddie Jackson (Queensryche) is 60. Actor Nicholas Turturro is 59. Rock singer-musician Roddy Frame (Aztec Camera) is 57. Actor-director Edward Burns is 53. Actor Sam Trammell is 52. Actor Heather Graham is 51. Former House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., is 51. Actor Sharif Atkins is 46. Actor Sara Gilbert is 46. Actor Kelly Packard is 46. Actor Justin Hartley is 44. Actor Sam Jaeger is 44. Writer and TV personality Jedediah Bila is 42. Actor Andrew Keegan is 42. Actor Jason James Richter is 41. Blues musician Jonny Lang is 40. Pop-rock singer Adam Lambert (TV: "American Idol") is 39. Country singer Eric Paslay is 38.

— Associated Press

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

OREGON COAST



Jamie Hale/The Oregonian

Klootch Creek County Park, between Seaside and Cannon Beach on the north Oregon Coast, is home to a dead Sitka spruce that was once the largest tree in the state.

State's largest tree now a magnificent stump

BY JAMIE HALE

The Oregonian

Dead trees don't usually make compelling roadside attractions, but the giant stump at Klootch Creek is an exception.

Once measuring 200 feet tall with a 17-foot diameter and a circumference of 56 feet, the Sitka spruce between Seaside and Cannon Beach was officially the largest tree in Oregon, and one of the largest trees of its species in the country, before a windstorm finally destroyed it in 2007.

The tree sprouted from the earth some 750 years ago, when only the Clatsop tribe of the Chinookan peoples lived along that stretch of coastline, long before European fur trappers and settler colonizers arrived.

By the time the land it stood on was called Oregon, the tree had long since reached maturity. It eventually topped out at 216 feet — though its crown at some point was cut short to 200. The tree withstood centuries of windstorms, lightning strikes and fires. It even

survived the blades of timber companies that tore through neighboring forests with abandon, leaving it as one of the few true giants remaining in the region.

Nature finally took its course in 2006, when a winter storm blew out a chunk of rotted wood along an old lightning scar on the trunk, creating a cavity 15 feet wide and 2 feet deep. Clatsop County officials said the tree wasn't likely to survive and contemplated cutting it down, according to reports in The Oregonian at the time.

One year later, the ailing tree was dealt a final blow. During back-to-back storms that battered the coastline in December 2007, the giant Sitka spruce split 75 feet from the ground, sending tons of shattered wood and huge, moss-covered limbs to the ground. County officials decided to clean up the mess and leave the tree to rot in peace.

Today, visitors to Klootch Creek County Park along U.S. Highway 26 can see the

severed, sun-bleached trunk standing tall — still a giant beside its smaller neighbors. A piece of fallen trunk has been set beside the old tree, rotting from within, its decaying body providing fresh life for the next generation of trees.

Klootch Creek, once famous as home to the big tree, is now a quick pit stop for travelers on the way to the coast, a place to stretch legs and take a quick walk along the short, forested trail. The park has also become a gateway for the new Klootch Creek mountain bike trail system, which is replacing the tree as the park's primary attraction. Visitors access the 25-acre park off Highway 26, at a signed turnoff about 1.5 miles east of U.S. Highway 101.

The giant Sitka spruce might be dead, but the land where it rots continues to thrive. Stripped of its titles and most of its height, the tree continues to inspire awe for all those who stop by to see it. Stand by the stump and stare up to the sky, and you might be able to imagine the heights it once reached.

STATE BRIEFING

COVID-19 outbreak strikes Malheur County Jail

For nearly a year the Malheur County Jail proved to be an exception to the rule that COVID-19 can infiltrate correctional facilities and create mayhem.

Earlier this month, though, the jail's luck ran out. Between Jan. 4 and Jan. 7, the jail recorded 21 COVID-19 cases among employees and inmates. Overall, from the beginning of January through Monday, 25 people — 17 inmates and eight sheriff's office employees — were infected, said Travis Johnson, Malheur County undersheriff.

No one died or was hospitalized from the outbreak and the worst appears to be over, said Johnson.

"Right now, as far as I am aware, everyone else is on the mend. We don't have any current cases," said Johnson.

State discloses virus outbreak at coast hospital

Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria has reported 27 coronavirus cases, the state disclosed.

The virus cases, detailed by the Oregon Health Authority in a weekly report on workplace outbreaks released on Wednesday, date back to Nov. 27. The most recent onset was Jan. 14.

The health authority discloses outbreaks at businesses with 30 or more workers once five virus cases are reported.

"This number (27) is a cumulative number of caregivers who have become ill due to COVID over almost two months," Nancee Long, a Columbia Memorial spokeswoman, said in an email.

In response to questions from The Astorian, Long said five employees tested positive for the virus during the week of Nov. 27.

"The remaining 22 cases have occurred sporadically since the original cluster. These cases were spread through nine different departments and five separate buildings.

1 arrested, police disperse crowd at ICE facility

One man was arrested and crowd control munitions were deployed after a group gathered outside the Portland Immigration and Customs Enforcement building on Wednesday night.

KOIN reports the large group began gathering outside the building shortly before 10 p.m. Portland police say the crowd blocked traffic and set a dumpster on fire, which they eventually pushed in front of the building.

Federal officers then emerged to push the crowd back to allow Portland Fire and Rescue crews to extinguish the flames.

According to the Portland Police Bureau, the crowd began firing off rock-like projectiles at federal officers around 11:30 p.m. Portland police stepped in once again to help disperse the crowd, using a crowd control munition to do so.

A 22-year-old man was arrested on charges of riot, second-degree disorderly conduct and attempted assault on a public safety officer.

Oregon Coast Aquarium to reopen Saturday

The Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport plans to reopen to visitors at 10 a.m. Saturday for the first time since the Dec. 18 lockdown due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Guest can purchase tickets online, or at the gate, but must use credit/debit cards for payment. Cash will not be accepted at the gate. Guests are no longer required to purchase tickets in advance.

Visitors must wear a face covering and maintain social distancing from those not in their party at all times while on the grounds. A one-way path will guide guests through the open exhibits. Some exhibits and services remain closed including Octopus Cave, the touch pool, animal presentations, and some food services. Contact: www.aquarium.org for more information.

— Bulletin wire reports

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WEEKLY SPECIALS

- Munchie Monday - 10% OFF Edibles
- Topical & Tincture Tuesday - 10% OFF
- Why Not Wednesday - 10% OFF Cartridges
- Thank You Thursday - 15% OFF Flower
- Fri-YAY - 10% OFF Pre-Rolls
- Shatterday - 10% OFF Concentrates

DAILY SPECIALS

- 15% off for Veterans
- 5% off for The Good Life Crowd (60+)

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