

## TODAY

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 3, the 34th day of 2021. There are 331 days left in the year.

## Today's Highlight in History:

In **1959**, rock-and-roll stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson died in a small plane crash near Clear Lake, Iowa.

In **1865**, President Abraham Lincoln and Confederate Vice President Alexander H. Stephens held a shipboard peace conference off the Virginia coast; the talks deadlocked over the issue of Southern autonomy.

In **1913**, the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, providing for a federal income tax, was ratified.

In **1916**, Canada's original Parliament Buildings, in Ottawa, burned down.

In **1917**, the United States broke off diplomatic relations with Germany, the same day an American cargo ship, the SS Housatonic, was sunk by a U-boat off Britain after the crew was allowed to board lifeboats.

In **1930**, the chief justice of the United States, William Howard Taft, resigned for health reasons. (He died just over a month later.)

In **1943**, during World War II, the U.S. transport ship SS Dorchester, which was carrying troops to Greenland, sank after being hit by a German torpedo in the Labrador Sea; of the more than 900 men aboard, only some 230 survived. (Four Army chaplains on board gave away their life jackets to save others and went down with the ship.)

In **1966**, the Soviet probe Luna 9 became the first manmade object to make a soft landing on the moon.

In **1988**, the U.S. House of Representatives handed President Ronald Reagan a major defeat, rejecting his request for \$36.2 million in new aid to the Nicaraguan Contras by a vote of 219-211.

In **1994**, the space shuttle Discovery lifted off, carrying Sergei Krikalev, the first Russian cosmonaut to fly aboard a U.S. spacecraft.

In **1998**, Texas executed Karla Faye Tucker, 38, for the pickax killings of two people in 1983; she was the first woman executed in the United States since 1984. A U.S. Marine plane sliced through the cable of a ski gondola in Italy, causing the car to plunge hundreds of feet, killing all 20 people inside.

In **2019**, in the lowest-scoring Super Bowl ever, featuring just one touchdown, the New England Patriots beat the Los Angeles Rams, 13-3.

**Ten years ago:** Tens of thousands of protesters staged unprecedented demonstrations against Yemen's autocratic president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, a key U.S. ally in battling Islamic militants, as unrest inspired by uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia spread further in the Arab world.

**Five years ago:** Rand Paul dropped his Republican campaign for president, opting to run for reelection to the Senate. Earth, Wind & Fire founder Maurice White, 74, died in Los Angeles.

**One year ago:** In closing arguments at President Donald Trump's impeachment trial, Democratic prosecutors urged senators to stop a "runaway presidency" and recognize Trump's actions in Ukraine as part of a pattern of behavior that would allow him to "cheat" in the 2020 election; Trump's defenders accused Democrats of trying to undo the 2016 election and said voters should decide Trump's fate. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said a "handful" of flights would head to China to bring Americans home from the province at the center of the coronavirus outbreak.

**Today's Birthdays:** Football Hall of Famer Fran Tarkenton is 81. Actor Bridget Hanley is 80. Actor Blythe Danner is 78. Football Hall of Famer Bob Griese is 76. Singer-guitarist Dave Davies (The Kinks) is 74. Singer Melanie is 74. Actor Morgan Fairchild is 71. Actor Pamela Franklin is 71. Actor Nathan Lane is 65. Rock musician Lee Ranaldo (Sonic Youth) is 65. Actor Thomas Calabro is 62. Rock musician/author Lol Tolhurst (The Cure) is 62. Actor-director Keith Gordon is 60. Actor Michele Greene is 59. Country singer Matraca Berg is 57. Actor Maura Tierney is 56. Actor Warwick Davis is 51. Actor Elisa Donovan is 50. Reggaeton singer Daddy Yankee is 45. Actor Isla Fisher is 45. Human rights activist Amal Clooney is 43. Singer-songwriter Jessica Harp is 39. Actor Matthew Moy is 37. Rapper Sean Kingston is 31. Actor Brandon Micheal Hall is 28.

— Associated Press

## LOCAL, STATE &amp; REGION

## Exodus at the Bureau of Land Management

*When Trump moved BLM jobs out of D.C., 87% of affected quit*

BY JULIET EILPERIN

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration's decision to relocate most Bureau of Land Management headquarters staff out West — designed to shift power away from the nation's capital — prompted more than 87% of the affected employees to either quit or resign rather than move, according to new data obtained by The Washington Post.

The exit of longtime career staffers from the agency responsible for managing more than 10% of the nation's land shows the extent to which the Trump administration reshaped the federal government. The reorganization plan reestablished the bureau's headquarters in Grand Junction, Colorado, moved 328 positions out of the department's main D.C. office and left 60 jobs in place.

A total of 287 BLM employees either retired or found other jobs, according to Interior Department Communications Director Melissa Schwartz, while 41 people moved to the new office in Colorado. Asked for comment on how the shift affected the bureau's operations, Schwartz declined to comment.

But several experts, including former high-ranking Interior Department officials, said the shake-up has deprived the agency of needed expertise and disrupted its operations. The bureau oversees all oil and gas drilling on federal lands, which has emerged as a flash point in the early days of the Biden administration. The agency manages more than 16 million acres in Oregon and Washington.

Joe Tague, a 42-year BLM veteran who retired as chief of its division of



Bureau of Land Management rangeland near Millican, east of Bend.

Dean Guernsey/Bulletin file

forest, rangeland, riparian, and plant conservation a year ago, said in a phone interview at least half of his division's staff left rather than relocate. He retired "in part" because of the reorganization.

"It wasn't a pleasant thing, seeing everyone forced to move," said Tague, who moved to Oregon.

Tague, a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, said he was particularly worried about the agency's diversity in the wake of the exodus because a disproportionate number of Black employees left. He added that some divisions, such as the one that oversees land use plans, were particularly hit hard.

"I think it's going to take a long time to regain what the Washington office does," he said.

About 95% of the BLM's more than 9,000 staffers were working outside of Washington before the relocation took place. The Trump administration argued that it made more sense to place more of the agency's workforce in the West because most

of the areas it manages are located there.

Congressional Republicans are lobbying to maintain the new headquarters in Grand Junction. The Trump administration shifted 76 positions out of headquarters altogether, so there are now a total of 480 headquarters jobs, 100 of which remain vacant.

Rep. Lauren Boebert, R-Colo., said this week she was leading a campaign to keep the bureau in the city she represents.

"Moving the BLM Headquarters to Grand Junction was a game changer for the West and local communities. People from nearby states that would have never traveled to Washington D.C. for a meeting have already found their way to Grand Junction including sheriffs, ranchers, and county commissioners," Boebert said in a statement. "What's not to like?"

And the senators from the state, Democrats Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper, support the idea of having an expanded BLM head-

quarters in Colorado. The two wrote Biden last week to say they support a "fully functioning" headquarters with hundreds of employees instead of the current setup.

"The BLM assigned only 41 senior staff positions to relocate to Grand Junction, positions that they had to rush to fill at the end of 2020," the senators wrote. "While this is a reasonable start and is appreciated by the Western Slope, the job is far from finished."

But Steve Ellis, president of Taxpayers of Common Sense, said in an interview that the BLM staff working at Interior Department headquarters play a crucial role in coordinating policy decisions.

"They're going to have the national perspective and will be able to tie in the regional offices into the overall policy and know historically what the agency's role is," he said. "And they also would be working with other agencies, both within the Interior Department and throughout the federal government."

## Stolen yurts disrupt school's expansion plan

BY JAKE THOMAS

Salem Reporter

SALEM — Somewhere, there is someone with thousands of square feet of yurt coverings. In Salem, there is a school that badly wants them back.

The yurts were intended to expand the growing Kaleidoscope Community School. Ashley Acers founded the school in 2015 with just two preschoolers in a classroom inside the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem, and has watched it grow.

Two years ago, Kaleidoscope started looking for new space for all the families that wanted to sign up and to accommodate programs for children ages 6-9. A neighbor offered an unused patch of pasture for the school's expansion, said Acers. The school considered using old railroad cars or portable classrooms, which were too expensive at \$250,000. A parent suggested using yurts.

At first, Acers dismissed the idea. But she realized the yurts were insulated, more economical and their layout would work for classrooms where students work collaboratively and aren't organized by grade.

"You know, we're kind of a hippie school anyway," said Acers. Students at the school practice yoga, care for Doty, a spoiled Kunekune-Juliana mix pig, tend to the garden and pursue their own learning interests that include bullet trains and Roman numerals.

After ordering four traditional yurts, students and parents waited months as they were shipped all the way from Mongolia, said Acers. In January, they finally arrived.

But Acers said the contractor hired to assemble the yurts showed up at the school one morning with some bad news: three of the coverings had been stolen.

"They basically stole our school," she said.

Luckily, one of the yurts had already been assembled at the school and the metal poles and scaffolding for the other three weren't stolen, she said. But replacing the coverings for the three stolen yurts will cost \$20,000.

They've reported the theft to police. While they wait for tips, the school has set up a fundraiser to recover the costs.

## Carbon monoxide poisoning likely killed father, daughter

KALE WILLIAMS

The Oregonian

A man and his 17-year-old daughter likely died from carbon monoxide poisoning after using a propane heater inside a trailer in Marion County, officials said Tuesday.

Police responded to reports on Monday of two people found not breathing in the trailer, east of Salem, according to the Marion County Sheriff's Office.

Investigators discovered 50-year-old Richard Yapple of Salem and daughter Hannah Yapple of Keizer both dead, offi-

cial said.

Two animals, a dog and a cat, were also found dead in the trailer.

Investigators determined the likely cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

About 430 people die every year from carbon monoxide poisoning, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Experts recommend installing carbon monoxide detectors and making sure propane heaters are in proper working condition before using them inside.

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