

TODAY

It's Sunday, Feb. 7, the 38th day of 2021. There are 327 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

In **1962**, President John F. Kennedy imposed a full trade embargo on Cuba.

In **1812**, author Charles Dickens was born in Landport, Portsmouth, England.

In **1931**, aviator Amelia Earhart married publisher George P. Putnam in Noank, Connecticut.

In **1943**, the government abruptly announced that wartime rationing of shoes made of leather would go into effect in two days, limiting consumers to buying three pairs per person per year. Rationing was lifted in October 1945.

In **1948**, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower resigned as U.S. Army chief of staff; he was succeeded by Gen. Omar Bradley.

In **1964**, the Beatles arrived at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport to begin their first American tour.

In **1984**, space shuttle Challenger astronauts Bruce McCandless II and Robert L. Stewart went on the first untethered spacewalk, which lasted nearly six hours.

In **1985**, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena was kidnapped in Guadalajara, Mexico, by drug traffickers who tortured and murdered him.

In **1991**, Jean-Bertrand Aristide was inaugurated as the first democratically elected president of Haiti. He was overthrown by the military the following September.

In **1998**, the Winter Olympic Games were opened in Nagano, Japan, by Emperor Akihito.

In **1999**, Jordan's King Hussein died of cancer at 63; he was succeeded by his eldest son, Abdullah.

In **2009**, a miles-wide section of ice in Lake Erie broke away from the Ohio shoreline, trapping about 135 fishermen, some for as long as four hours before they could be rescued; one man fell into the water and later died of an apparent heart attack.

In **2019**, former U.S. Rep. John Dingell, the longest-serving member of Congress in American history, died at his home in Dearborn, Michigan at 92; the Democrat had served in the House for 59 years before retiring in 2014. Frank Robinson, the first Black manager in Major League Baseball, died in Los Angeles at 83.

Ten years ago: Speaking to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, President Barack Obama echoed John F. Kennedy as he prodded business leaders to "ask yourselves what you can do for America," not just for company bottom lines. AOL Inc. announced the \$315 million purchase of The Huffington Post website.

Five years ago: Von Miller forced two fumbles to set up Denver's two touchdowns and the Broncos' defense frustrated Cam Newton the entire game to carry Peyton Manning to his second NFL championship with a 24-10 victory over the Carolina Panthers in Super Bowl 50. North Korea defied international warnings and launched a long-range rocket that the United Nations and others called a cover for a banned test of technology for a missile that could strike the U.S. mainland.

One year ago: Hundreds more Americans who were evacuated from the virus-stricken zone in China began arriving in the U.S., where they would be quarantined on military bases for two weeks. Two days after his acquittal in his Senate impeachment trial, President Donald Trump took retribution against two officials who had delivered damaging testimony; he ousted Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, a national security aide, and Gordon Sondland, his ambassador to the European Union. Former NBA star Kobe Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter Gianna, who'd been killed with him in a helicopter crash, were buried in a cemetery near the family's Southern California home.

Today's Birthdays: Author Gay Talese is 89. Reggae musician Brian Travers (UB40) is 62. Comedy writer Robert Smigel is 61. Actor James Spader is 61. Country singer Garth Brooks is 59. Rock musician David Bryan (Bon Jovi) is 59. Actor-comedian Eddie Izzard is 59. Actor-comedian Chris Rock is 56. Rock singer-musician Wes Borland is 46. Rock musician Tom Blankenship (My Morning Jacket) is 43. Actor Ashton Kutcher is 43. Actor Tina Majorino is 36. Actor Deborah Ann Woll is 36. NBA player Isaiah Thomas is 32.

—Associated Press

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

WILDFIRES

Smoke's economic damage lingers

BY BRIAN P. D. HANNON

The Associated Press

The damage caused by wildfires can be devastating, gutting structures and driving out people who live and work nearby. And researchers say the smoke from the annually recurring blazes also delivers economic damage to areas that were never touched by the flames.

Beyond the toll wildfire smoke can have on the health of those in affected areas, there are infrastructure and business costs, experts said.

Expenses paid by homeowners to improve or increase measures to protect their properties and the impact of smoke on livelihoods and budgets can be significant.

Wildfires that burned thousands of square miles throughout the U.S. West last year knocked out power, destroyed homes and buildings and forced evacuations.

Oregon and Colorado fires damaged or destroyed more than 10,000 buildings. Five of the six largest wildfires in California's history occurred in 2020.

Accompanying the fires was smoke that left Western communities immersed in gray and orange haze that blotted the sky and caused normally hot midday temperatures to remain at cool nighttime levels in some areas.

Wildfire smoke plumes — and their economic impact — can travel far beyond the blazes, said Eric Zou, assistant professor of economics at the University of Oregon.

"When we think about health and labor market effects of wildfire, it is important to think beyond the areas in the



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin file

The sun turns bright orange behind the thick smoke covering Central Oregon in August 2017. For two months, the smoke contributed to lost tourism jobs, according to the Oregon Employment Department.

immediate vicinity of the fires," Zou said.

Effects persist

Zou coauthored a paper with University of Illinois economists Mark Borgschulte and David Molitor on the economic effects of wildfires that was presented to an American Economic Association conference in January 2020. Molitor said there is a quantifiable economic relationship to the amount of smoke reaching communities.

"We estimate that an additional day of smoke exposure reduces earnings by about 0.04% over two years," Molitor said. "The effect is largest in the year of smoke exposure, but the effects may linger for up to two years post-exposure."

Benjamin Jones, assistant professor of economics at the University of New Mexico, said researchers are only beginning to understand the extent to which wildfire smoke impacts local economies.

"It is certainly possible, perhaps even likely, that the economic effects of wildfire smoke exposure may persist for months or even years after a large smoke event," he said.

Jones said smoke exposure damaging the health of workers can "affect job performance, labor market productivity and perhaps even wage earnings and retirement savings," Jones said.

Prolonged and intense fires like those in the Pacific Northwest last year may af-

fect people's health "in such a significant way that there are longer-term impacts to local economies well after the wildfire that caused the smoke has been extinguished," Jones said.

Tourism and recreation

Two of the most visible industries impacted by wildfire smoke are tourism and outdoor recreation. Jones cited U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis calculations that found the outdoor recreation economy accounted for \$459.8 billion in 2019, or 2.1% of the national gross domestic product, which is the sum of all goods and services produced within a country's borders.

"People tend to avoid national and state parks when wildfire smoke is present,

which can depress local accommodation, hospitality and outdoor recreation industries, especially in rural areas in the American West," Jones said.

When smoke from wildfires burning in the Cascades settled over Central Oregon in 2017, hotel, motel and resort stays dropped. In Sisters, the annual folk festival, an event that draws nearly 4,000 who spend \$1.2 million, was canceled for the first time.

A study released in October by the Urban Land Institute, a global organization of real estate and land use experts, found that real estate development is increasing in areas already prone to wildfires, with the results for urban centers including displaced populations and smoke damage.

The research found developers, urban planners and public leaders "increasingly are coordinating site, district, and regional scale resilience efforts," Elizabeth Foster, manager of the institute's Urban Resilience program, said in an email.

"For many major markets, wildfire smoke is projected to be a more frequent concern as climate change increases the number of wildfire burn days," Foster said.

Developers have incorporated building engineering and design as methods to fight wildfire smoke, Foster said.

"Strategies to preserve indoor air quality include high-performance air filters, passive-house design principles to reduce the infiltration of unfiltered air, running certified air cleaners, installing sensors to provide real-time feedback on air quality, and regular maintenance of ventilation and HVAC systems," Foster said.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Avalanche kills Oregon skier in backcountry

The Associated Press

ETNA, Calif. — An avalanche in California's northern backcountry killed an Oregon skier near a remote peak, authorities said.

Brook Golling, 35, of Ashland was with a snowboarding friend when they were caught in an avalanche as they were getting ready to start their run near Etna Summit in Siskiyou County on Wednesday, according to the Mount Shasta Avalanche Center.

Golling, was "quickly pinned

and buried against a tree," while Ben Koerber, 37, of Ashland was swept through trees and partially buried, the center reported.

Koerber managed to dig himself out, climbed back up the slope and dug through about 6 feet of snow to reach Golling but was unable to revive his friend despite more than an hour of lifesaving efforts, authorities said.

The avalanche center report said both men "had many years of backcountry experience."

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