

## TODAY

Today is Monday, Feb. 8, the 39th day of 2021. There are 326 days left in the year.

## Today's Highlights in History:

On Feb. 8, 1952, Queen Elizabeth II proclaimed her accession to the British throne following the death of her father, King George VI.

In 1587, Mary, Queen of Scots was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle in England after she was implicated in a plot to murder her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I.

In 1693, a charter was granted for the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg in the Virginia Colony.

In 1831, Rebecca Lee Crumpler, the first Black woman to earn a medical degree in the United States, was born in Delaware.

In 1910, the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated.

In 1922, President Warren G. Harding had a radio installed in the White House.

In 1924, the first execution by gas in the United States took place at the Nevada State Prison in Carson City as Gee Jon, a Chinese immigrant convicted of murder, was put to death.

In 1960, work began on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, located on Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street in Los Angeles.

In 1971, NASDAQ, the world's first electronic stock exchange, held its first trading day.

In 1973, Senate leaders named seven members of a select committee to investigate the Watergate scandal, including its chairman, Sen. Sam J. Ervin, D-N.C.

In 1989, 144 people were killed when an American-chartered Boeing 707 filled with Italian tourists slammed into a fog-covered mountain in the Azores.

In 2007, model, actor and tabloid sensation Anna Nicole Smith died in Hollywood, Florida, at age 39 of an accidental drug overdose.

In 2010, Michael Jackson's personal physician, Dr. Conrad Murray, pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter in the death of the pop superstar in Los Angeles Superior Court. (Murray was convicted in 2011 and served two years in prison.)

**Ten years ago:** Wael Ghonim, a 30-year-old Google executive who'd helped ignite Egypt's uprising, appeared before protesters in Cairo's Tahrir Square for the first time after being released from detention; he told them, "We won't give up."

**Five years ago:** President Barack Obama asked Congress for more than \$1.8 billion in emergency funding to fight the Zika virus and the mosquitoes that were spreading it in the United States and abroad, but said "there shouldn't be a panic on this." Villanova was No. 1 in The Associated Press men's college basketball poll for the first time.

**One year ago:** The U.S. Embassy in Beijing said a 60-year-old U.S. citizen who'd been diagnosed with the coronavirus had died on Feb. 5 in Wuhan; it was apparently the first American fatality from the virus. A soldier who was angry about a land dispute began a 16-hour shooting rampage in northeastern Thailand, killing at least 29 people and wounding dozens more before being shot and killed by police and soldiers at a shopping mall.

**Today's Birthdays:** Composer-conductor John Williams is 89. Broadcast journalist Ted Koppel is 81. Actor Nick Nolte is 80. Comedian Robert Klein is 79. Actor-rock musician Creed Bratton is 78. Singer Ron Tyson is 73. Actor Brooke Adams is 72. Actor Mary Steenburgen is 68. Author John Grisham is 66. Retired NBA All-Star and College Basketball Hall of Famer Marques Johnson is 65. Actor Henry Czerny is 62. The former president of the Philippines, Benigno Aquino III, is 61. Rock singer Vince Neil (Mötley Crüe) is 60. Former Environmental Protection Agency administrator Lisa P. Jackson is 59. Movie producer Toby Emmerich is 58. Actor Missy Yager is 53. Actor Mary McCormack is 52. Basketball Hall of Famer Alonzo Mourning is 51. Actor Susan Misner is 50. Dance musician Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo (Daft Punk) is 47. Actor Seth Green is 47. Actor Joshua Morrow is 47. Rock musician Phoenix (Linkin Park) is 44. Actor William Jackson Harper is 41. Actor Jim Parrack is 40. Folk singer-musician Joey Ryan (Milk Carton Kids) is 39. Actor-comedian Cecily Strong is 37. Rock musician Jeremy Davis is 36. Hip-hop artist Anderson.Paak is 35. Actor Ryan Pinkston is 33. NBA star Klay Thompson is 31. Professional surfer Bethany Hamilton is 31. Actor Karle Warren is 29.

—Associated Press

## DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at [dearabby.com](http://dearabby.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



**Dear Abby:** My husband died 11 months ago, and I thought I was ready to date. I dated a guy I'll call Ken for six months, but things went south because it felt weird. My question is, is it normal for a 57-year-old man to still be living with his mom?

Abby, Ken's mom said bad things in front of me. She told her son that if he's going to have sex with me, he might as well live with me. (We never had sex.) Another time she didn't want me to wear shorts, hold Ken's hand or even sit with him at their house. Why? Do I need help?

—*Young-ish Widow in Illinois*  
**Dear Widow:** A single man living with his mom is unusual, but not necessarily abnormal. Ken's mother's behavior, however, was not normal or acceptable. The extent to which this man's mother controls his dating life is over the top.

Apparently, she perceives you as a threat, and she doesn't want to "lose" her 57-year-old son. You don't need help; SHE does. So does Ken, who appears to be her hostage. The tie that binds him to her may be emotional or financial, or those apron strings would have been severed decades ago.

**Dear Abby:** My friend and I are planning a road trip. We live in different parts of the country, so he'll be flying to my city, where we will start the trip. We plan to split the cost of car rental, gas and hotels. However, I was assuming that he would pay his own airfare, and he was assuming that we would split it like everything else.

What's normal in situations like this? Is it normal to pay one's own airfare and expect costs to even out in the future when the other person flies to you? Or is it normal to

split the cost each time? The road trip isn't at risk because of this, but I want to set the right precedent for future vacations we take together.

—*Road Tripping in Iowa*

**Dear Road Tripping:** This is something you need to discuss further with your friend. Do you consider his getting there a part of your shared vacation, or do you feel your responsibility begins when he arrives? There are no hard-and-fast rules about this, and frankly, I think it depends upon your financial situations.

**Dear Abby:** My husband passed away unexpectedly. It was and is a tremendous loss to my two daughters and to me.

While writing my thank-you cards to individuals who attended his viewing and church service, I noticed someone had written "Mick Jagger" as attending his viewing and "Rod Stewart" as attending his church service. I was floored and deeply hurt when I realized the handwriting belonged to one of our pallbearers — my husband's sister's husband. Our teenage daughters also saw it and told me they thought it was disrespectful.

I don't know if I should tell my sister-in-law or let it go. I want to ask him why he would do such a thing. Or am I overreacting?

—*Hurt in Texas*

**Dear Hurt:** No, you are not overreacting. What your brother-in-law did was, to put it mildly, insensitive. A funeral memorial book is the wrong place to attempt a bad joke. By all means tell your sister-in-law about it. And when you do, be sure to mention how it affected you and your daughters. You all deserve an apology for his inappropriate behavior.

## YOUR HOROSCOPE

By Madalyn Aslan

## Stars show the kind of day you'll have

★★★★★ DYNAMIC | ★★★★★ POSITIVE | ★★★ AVERAGE | ★★ SO-SO | ★ DIFFICULT

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, FEB. 8, 2021:** Powerfully psychic, magnetic and conceptual, you're able to convince others of different realities. This year, you succeed through more than one project. And you're in the right place at the right time. If single, your psychic abilities don't help you in your choice of mates. You need a good give-and-take balance in an equal relationship — found in 2022. If attached, you have a sacred, meaningful relationship. ARIES has a temper.

## ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ It's best to postpone innovations at work today. Tradition is upheld now. Older or more experienced people offer the best advice and examples. Today also reveals how others love and depend on you. Tonight: You experience heightened intuition relaxing at home.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Today you are on the go. An online virtual visit to a school, library or learning center illuminates and uplifts you. Imported foods or ethnic clothing are enjoyable. Tonight: You'd appreciate an exciting and imaginative companion with whom to share adventures.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Today adds a possessive, intense note to love. Your earnings will increase. Material values are balanced with a respect for the intangible riches such as love and a healthy life. Tonight: Share a bit of humor and be understanding with your nearest and dearest.

## CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Allow others freedom and recognize when a relationship must move and grow. Today smooths communications with a pleasant sextile aspect. Gather information and be a good listener. Listen to the motivations of others. Tonight: An awareness of what true wealth really is.

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Keep your schedule and environment wholesome today. Use a fire-place, bright lights and hot drinks to chase away gloom and chills. A few extra hours of sleep is the best gift to give yourself. Tonight: Did you know lions sleep 20 hours a day?

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You can make a difference for the better in the lives of those you care for, especially in the case of younger people. Today brings clarity in understanding your deepest loves and attachments. Tonight: You'll feel vital and creative, and years younger.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Family members take an interest in your professional success. Be open-minded about new trends related to your work. Make repairs and organize the household to generate domestic harmony. Tonight: Acquiring security and generating more income will be in your thoughts.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Today makes you restless. New places and new ideas would refresh you. Purchase a couple of newly published books or vary the routes you travel and see the neighborhood from a different perspective. Variety is a must. Tonight: Catching up with a sibling or neighbor.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You will be protective of people as well as possessions you're attached to. You're aware of what money can and can't do and what you value most. Today concludes with an awareness of how the meaning of money is shifting. Tonight: Do some private journaling.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Today finds you in the midst of major changes in self-awareness. Your will power is increasing, and you are more daring and purposeful than ever before. In many ways you're going through a renaissance. Tonight: Get into shape slowly for yardwork — don't overdo it.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ There are schemes and subtleties involved in communication passed your way. Get both sides of all stories before making decisions involving others. From deep inside your subconscious comes an array of visions and daydreams. Tonight: These can be inspiration for your creative work.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Closer friendships develop with people you meet through vocations or avocations. Plans are discussed for the future with a focus on humanitarian, scientific or metaphysical goals. This is all very exciting for you. Tonight: Continuing deep into the night.

## Mars

## Continued from A1

Called Amal, or Hope in Arabic, the Gulf nation's spacecraft is seeking an especially high orbit — 13,500 by 27,000 miles high — all the better to monitor the Martian weather.

China's duo — called Tianwen-1, or "Quest for Heavenly Truth" — will remain paired in orbit until May, when the rover separates to descend to the dusty, ruddy surface. If all goes well, it will be only the second country to land successfully on the red planet.

The U.S. rover Perseverance, by contrast, will dive in straight away for a harrowing sky-crane touchdown similar to the Curiosity rover's grand Martian entrance in 2012. The odds are in NASA's favor: It's nailed eight of its nine attempted Mars landings.

Despite their differences — the 1-ton Perseverance is larger and more elaborate than the Tianwen-1 rover — both will prowl for signs of ancient microscopic life.

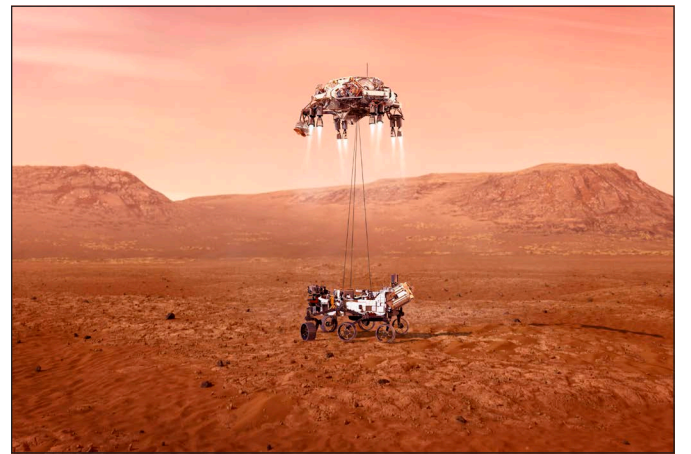
Perseverance's \$3 billion mission is the first leg in a U.S.-European effort to bring Mars samples to Earth in the next decade.

"To say we're pumped about it, well that would be a huge understatement," said Lori Glaze, NASA's planetary science director.

Perseverance is aiming for an ancient river delta that seems a logical spot for once harboring life. This landing zone in Jezero Crater is so treacherous that NASA nixed it for Curiosity, but so tantalizing that scientists are keen to get hold of its rocks.

"When the scientists take a look at a site like Jezero Crater, they see the promise, right?" said Al Chen, who's in charge of the entry, descent and landing team at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. "When I look at Jezero, I see danger. There's danger everywhere."

Steep cliffs, deep pits and fields of rocks could cripple or doom Perseverance, following its seven-minute atmospheric plunge. With an 11 1/2-minute



NASA/JPL-Caltech via AP

This illustration provided by NASA shows the Perseverance rover, bottom, landing on Mars. Hundreds of critical events must execute perfectly and exactly on time for the rover to land safely on Feb. 18.

communication lag each way, the rover will be on its own, unable to rely on flight controllers. Amal and Tianwen-1 will also need to operate autonomously while maneuvering into orbit.

Until Perseverance, NASA sought out flat, boring terrain on which to land — "one giant parking lot," Chen said. That's what China's Tianwen-1 rover will be shooting for in Mars' Utopia Planitia.

NASA is upping its game thanks to new navigation technology designed to guide the rover to a safe spot. The spacecraft also has a slew of cameras and microphones to capture the sights and sounds of descent and landing, a Martian first.

Faster than previous Mars vehicles but still moving at a glacial pace, the six-wheeled Perseverance will drive across Jezero, collecting core samples of the most enticing rocks and gravel. The rover will set the samples aside for retrieval by a fetch rover launching in 2026.

Under an elaborate plan still being worked out by NASA and the European Space Agency, the geologic treasure would arrive on Earth in the early 2030s. Scientists contend it's the only way to ascertain whether life flourished on a wet, watery Mars 3 billion to 4 billion years ago.

NASA's science mission chief, Thomas Zurbuchen, considers it "one of the hardest things ever done by humanity

and certainly in space science."

The U.S. is still the only country to successfully land on Mars, beginning with the 1976 Vikings. Two spacecraft are still active on the surface: Curiosity and InSight.

Smashed Russian and European spacecraft litter the Martian landscape, meanwhile, along with NASA's failed Mars Polar Lander from 1999.

Getting into orbit around Mars is less complicated, but still no easy matter, with about a dozen spacecraft falling short. Mars fly-bys were the rage in the 1960s and most failed; NASA's Mariner 4 was the first to succeed in 1965.

Six spacecraft currently are operating around Mars: three from the U.S., two from Europe and one from India. The UAE hopes to make it seven with its \$200-plus million mission.

The UAE is especially proud that Amal was designed and built by its own citizens, who partnered with the University of Colorado at Boulder and other U.S. institutions, not simply purchased from abroad. Its arrival at Mars coincides with this year's 50th anniversary of the country's founding.

"Starting off the year with this milestone is something very important for the people" of the UAE, said Sharaf.

China, hasn't divulged much in advance. Even the spacecraft's exact arrival time on Wednesday has yet to be announced.

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