

TODAY

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 10, the 41st day of 2021. There are 324 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

In 1967, the 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, dealing with presidential disability and succession, was ratified as Minnesota and Nevada adopted it.

In 1763, Britain, Spain and France signed the Treaty of Paris, ending the Seven Years' War (also known as the French and Indian War in North America).

In 1933, the first singing telegram was introduced by the Postal Telegram Co. in New York.

In 1936, Nazi Germany's Reichstag passed a law investing the Gestapo secret police with absolute authority, exempt from any legal review.

In 1959, a major tornado tore through the St. Louis area, killing 21 people and causing heavy damage.

In 1962, the Soviet Union exchanged captured American U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for Rudolf Abel, a Soviet spy held by the United States.

In 1992, boxer Mike Tyson was convicted in Indianapolis of raping Desiree Washington, a Miss Black America contestant.

In 1997, a civil jury heaped \$25 million in punitive damages on O.J. Simpson for the slayings of his ex-wife and her friend, on top of \$8.5 million in compensatory damages awarded earlier.

In 2005, Britain's Prince Charles announced he would marry his divorced lover, Camilla Parker Bowles, in April. North Korea boasted publicly for the first time that it possessed nuclear weapons.

In 2006, Dr. Norman Shumway, who performed the first successful U.S. heart transplant, died in Palo Alto, California, at age 83.

In 2014, former film star and diplomat Shirley Temple Black, 85, died at her home near San Francisco.

In 2015, the parents of Kayla Jean Mueller and U.S. officials confirmed the death of the 26-year-old aid worker who had been held captive by the Islamic State group (IS said Mueller had been killed in a Jordanian airstrike). NBC announced it was suspending Brian Williams as "Nightly News" anchor and managing editor for six months without pay for misleading the public about his experiences covering the Iraq War. Jon Stewart announced he would step down as host of "The Daily Show" on Comedy Central later in the year.

Ten years ago: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak refused to step down or leave the country and instead handed his powers to his vice president, stunning protesters in central Cairo who waved their shoes in contempt and shouted, "Leave, leave, leave." (Mubarak resigned the next day.)

Five years ago: Senate Democrats and Republicans united behind tougher sanctions on North Korea for violating international law by pursuing nuclear weapons. For the 15th time, officials denied parole for Sirhan Sirhan, the assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

One year ago: U.S. health officials confirmed the first case of the novel coronavirus among the hundreds of people who'd been evacuated from China to military bases in the United States; it was among the 13 confirmed cases in the U.S. Britain declared the new coronavirus a "serious and imminent threat to public health" and said people with the virus could now be forcibly quarantined. U.S. prosecutors charged four members of the Chinese military with breaking into the computer networks of the Equifax credit reporting agency and stealing the personal information of tens of millions of Americans.

Today's Birthdays: Opera singer Leontyne Price is 94. Actor Robert Wagner is 91. Rock musician Don Wilson (The Ventures) is 88. Singer Roberta Flack is 84. Rock musician Bob Spalding (The Ventures) is 74. Olympic gold-medal swimmer Mark Spitz is 71. Walt Disney Co. executive Robert Iger is 70. Rock musician and composer Cory Lerios (Pablo Cruise) is 70. World Golf Hall of Famer Greg Norman is 66. Movie director Alexander Payne is 60. ABC News correspondent George Stephanopoulos is 60. Political commentator Glenn Beck is 57. Writer-producer-director Vince Gilligan (TV: "Breaking Bad") is 54. Actor Elizabeth Banks is 47. Actor Julia Pace Mitchell is 43. Actor Barry Sloane is 40. Rock singer Eric Dill is 39. Actor Trevante Rhodes is 31. Actor Emma Roberts is 30.

—Associated Press

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

Williams resigns as top federal prosecutor

BY PETER WONG

Oregon Capital Bureau

Billy Williams has resigned after six years as the top federal prosecutor for Oregon.

He was one of 56 U.S. attorneys appointed by President Donald Trump and confirmed by the U.S. Senate who will resign at the request of President Joe Biden. The resignations usually are routine upon a change in administrations, but they can have political overtones.

The Department of Justice has 94 U.S. attorneys. Some states are divided into districts. Oregon is a single district.

Williams has been the U.S. attorney for Oregon since May 2015. He originally was ap-

pointed by President Barack Obama, and was re-appointed by President Donald Trump.

Williams made a controversial decision in August when he authorized sending a federal tactical squad to Bend to end a 12-hour peaceful demonstration blocking the ability of two Immigration and Customs Enforcement buses to leave the city.

ICE had detained two men, identified by immigration rights activists as Josué Arturo Cruz Sanchez and Marco Zifferino, who activists said had lived in the Bend area for more



Williams

than a dozen years.

Mike Krantz, then Bend's newly appointed police chief, cited city policy and Oregon law against assisting federal immigration enforcement actions that did not include evidence

of an active criminal investigation against the targets. Bend police monitored the situation to ensure activities remained peaceful.

At 10 p.m., Krantz went to the demonstration site and told the crowd that federal agents were coming to break the blockade. A federal tactical squad in riot gear arrived soon

after and dragged demonstrators out of the way, using tear gas on the crowd. The buses departed and the two men were taken to Washington state prior to a federal court hearing.

Williams' successor will be nominated by Biden, presumably after the Senate confirms Biden's nomination of Merrick Garland as attorney general. Oregon's Democratic U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley are setting up a panel to screen potential nominees to recommend to Garland and Biden. The eventual nominee is subject to Senate confirmation.

A statement released jointly Tuesday by Wyden and Merkley reads:

"Senators Wyden and Merkley are working to assemble a selection committee that will consider all applicants interested in filling the job of U.S. attorney for Oregon and then recommend finalists to forward to the Biden administration for its selection.

"Both senators thank Billy Williams for nearly six years of service to Oregon in this post as the state's chief federal law enforcement official."

The process is similar to what the senators use to screen and recommend potential nominees for federal judgeships.

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Motel to house wildfire victims and homeless to open in Ashland

BY JAMIE GOLDBERG

The Oregonian

Oregon's first motel-turned-apartment complex will open for limited occupancy in March, five months after the state allocated \$65 million to buy and convert motels into temporary homes for wildfire victims and others experiencing homelessness.

A nonprofit, Options for Helping Residents of Ashland, will receive \$4.2 million from the state through Project Turnkey to purchase and transform a Super 8 motel in Ashland into a new resource center and apartment complex for wildfire victims and others experiencing homelessness.

Cass Sinclair, senior director of program services for the nonprofit, said she expects between 64 and 74 people will eventually be housed in the converted 50-room motel. The nonprofit plans to open an initial block of 20 rooms in March before the other 30 rooms open following a remodel in April.

The organization supports vulnerable adult populations, so families with children will not be housed at the motel, Sinclair said.

The Oregon Community Foundation, the organization administering the funds, is continuing to review another 19 applicants from nonprofits and government agencies in 15 counties and remains hopeful that it will eventually be able to provide grants to between 18 and 20 organizations statewide to purchase and convert motels into shelters, accord-



Beth Nakamura/The Oregonian

Seventeen families called the San Rogue Trailer Park home before it was destroyed by the Almeda Fire in 2020. Some had lived in the Medford mobile home park more than a decade.

ing to Megan Loeb, associate program officer at the foundation.

The city of Bend is among the applicants hoping to receive funding through Project Turnkey. Last week, the Bend City Council approved a purchase and sale agreement to acquire the Old Mill & Suites to convert it into 64 units for people experiencing homelessness. The proposal still needs to be approved by the Oregon Community Foundation, Loeb said.

The Multnomah County Joint Office of Homeless Services is also among the applicants being considered by the foundation. Denis Theriault, a spokesman for the county, said the office has identified a property to convert into a shelter and is currently in negotiations with the seller, but he declined to provide ad-

ditional information on the property being considered.

In October, Oregon lawmakers allocated \$30 million toward turning motels into apartments for wildfire victims and an additional \$35 million into converting motels into housing for those experiencing homelessness. Backers said at the time that the funding could be used for up to 1,000 new shelter units. The state hoped that some units would be available by winter.

But it's now clear that the vast majority of motel rooms won't be ready before the end of winter, and it could take several months for many to be up-and-running. Loeb also said last month that the foundation now anticipates that between 600 to 700 new units, rather than 1,000, will eventually be available.

It's also unclear whether all the applicants under review will ultimately be able to move forward with their proposals.

The Clackamas County Housing Authority has already hit snags with two properties it proposed purchasing.

Loeb did not say whether other applicants were facing similar hurdles. The foundation has until the end of June to allocate all \$65 million in Project Turnkey grant money. If funds remain unused at that time, they will have to be returned to the Oregon State Treasury.

"It is our continued hope that Clackamas County can identify a suitable property soon," said Loeb, "so that due diligence can begin and their project can be considered for an award."

Man pleads guilty for mailing pesticide to 4 former co-workers

The Associated Press

A Klamath Falls man has pleaded guilty to sending cards to former co-workers containing a white powdered pesticide threatened to be anthrax, prosecutors said.

Kelly Michael Burns, 71, pleaded guilty Monday to eight counts of mailing threatening communications, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Oregon.

In December 2019, Burns mailed four Christmas cards, postmarked in Medford, to former co-workers containing a white powder pesticide later identified as carbaryl, a known pesticide toxic to humans, court documents said. The cards were addressed to the victims' workplace and

contained violent threats.

Three people including a pregnant woman at Burns' former workplace were exposed to the carbaryl, had to go through a decontamination process, and were given a high-dose antibiotic, authorities said.

In February 2020, Burns again mailed cards containing carbaryl to the same four victim recipients. This second wave of cards also contained violent statements with added threats directed at the victims' families.

In March 2020, FBI agents in a search of his residence found handwritten notes including one in which Burns threatened to kill a former co-worker. Agents also recovered several books including "The Poisoner's Handbook."



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