

TODAY

Today is Friday, Feb. 12, the 43rd day of 2021. There are 322 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 12, 1973, Operation Homecoming began as the first release of American prisoners of war from the Vietnam conflict took place.

In 1809, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, was born in a log cabin in Hardin (now LaRue) County, Kentucky.

In 1818, Chile officially proclaimed its independence, more than seven years after initially renouncing Spanish rule.

In 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded.

In 1912, Pu Yi (poo yee), the last emperor of China, abdicated, marking the end of the Qing Dynasty.

In 1914, groundbreaking took place for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. (A year later on this date, the cornerstone was laid.)

In 1924, George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" premiered in New York.

In 1959, the redesigned Lincoln penny — with an image of the Lincoln Memorial replacing two ears of wheat on the reverse side — went into circulation.

In 1999, the Senate voted to acquit President Bill Clinton of perjury and obstruction of justice.

In 2000, Hall of Fame football coach Tom Landry, who'd led the Dallas Cowboys to five Super Bowls, died in Irving, Texas, at age 75.

In 2003, the U.N. nuclear agency declared North Korea in violation of international treaties, sending the dispute to the Security Council.

In 2013, At the Grammy Awards, Adele took home all five awards she was nominated for, including album ("25"), as well as record and song of the year ("Hello").

In 2019, Mexico's most notorious drug lord, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, was convicted in New York of running an industrial-scale smuggling operation; a jury whose members' identities were kept secret as a security measure had deliberated for six days. (Guzman is serving a life sentence at the federal supermax prison facility in Florence, Colorado.)

Ten years ago: Thousands of Algerians defied government warnings and dodged barricades in their capital, demanding democratic reforms; demonstrations continued in Yemen as well.

Five years ago: Pope Francis, while en route to Mexico, embraced Patriarch Kirill during a stopover in Cuba in the first-ever meeting between a pontiff and the head of the Russian Orthodox Church. New York Mets reliever Jentry Mejia became the first player to receive a lifetime ban under Major League Baseball's drug agreement after testing positive for a performance-enhancing substance for the third time.

One year ago: Holland America Line said a cruise ship, the MS Westerdam, which had been barred from docking by four governments because of fears of the coronavirus, would arrive the next day in Cambodia. In Japan, officials confirmed 39 new cases on a cruise ship that had been quarantined at Yokohama, bringing the total number of cases on the Diamond Princess to 174. A second case of coronavirus was confirmed in the U.S. among evacuees from China; the person had been aboard a flight from Wuhan that arrived the previous week at a military base in Southern California.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Costa-Gavras is 88. Basketball Hall of Famer Bill Russell is 87. Actor Joe Don Baker is 85. Author Judy Blume is 83. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak is 79. Country singer Moe Bandy is 77. Actor Maud Adams is 76. Actor Cliff DeYoung is 75. Actor Michael Ironside is 71. Rock musician Steve Hackett is 71. Rock singer Michael McDonald is 69. Actor Joanna Kerns is 68. Actor Zach Grenier is 67. Actor-talk show host Arsenio Hall is 65. Actor John Michael Higgins is 58. Actor Raphael Sbarge is 57. Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh is 56. Actor Christine Elise is 56. Actor Josh Brodin is 53. Singer Chynna Phillips is 53. Rock musician Jim Creeggan (Barenaked Ladies) is 51. Actor Jesse Spencer is 42. Rapper Gucci Mane is 41. Actor Sarah Lancaster is 41. Actor Christina Ricci is 41. Actor Jennifer Stone is 28. Actors Baylie and Rylie Cregut (TV: "Raising Hope") are 11.

— Associated Press

Jobless

Continued from A7

- Weekly federal supplemental benefits of \$300. They had been \$600 for four months in 2020, and a diversion from the Federal Emergency Management Agency kept payments going for five more weeks through Sept. 5.
- A balance from federal funds, instead of the state trust fund, under Work Share programs for employees whose hours have been cut 20% or 40%.

"From the summaries I've seen of what is being discussed right now, I didn't see brand-new programs being created,

which is certainly a more challenging issue than just extending the time frame of some of the programs," Gerstenfeld told reporters Wednesday on a weekly conference call.

"Of the vastly more complicated options that have been discussed in the past, it does not look like those proposals are actively being talked about now. So that is promising"

Some proposals would have capped benefits at a share of an employee's former wage.

Gerstenfeld also said he hopes Congress will act before the March 13 cutoff. Congress let the supplemental benefits in the coronavirus relief act expire July 25, and all benefits expired

one day before then-President Donald Trump signed the current extension Dec. 27.

The Employment Department was able to continue many benefit payments uninterrupted, but some people are having to wait for benefits because federal law imposed some new identity requirements for claims.

"Certainly, the more lead time we have, the easier it will be," Gerstenfeld said.

"One of the problems we face is the timing of knowing what the program is and being able to get guidance from the Department of Labor before the benefits are supposed to be paid. We will have to wait and

see what ultimately is passed to see what we need to do in our systems to implement the new programs."

D.C. disagreement

President Biden has proposed extending these programs for about six more months, to the end of the federal budget year on Sept. 30. He also proposes to increase the weekly supplemental benefit from \$300, which is at the federal minimum wage, to \$400.

Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, the Democrat who now leads the Senate Finance Committee, has said he would like a \$600 supplemental benefit, the

same amount he secured in the coronavirus relief act for four months last year. But he says he supports the rest of what Biden wants.

Wyden reacted Wednesday after Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell spoke in New York about the U.S. economic outlook.

"Even more troubling, Chair Powell emphasized that while the situation has improved for upper-income workers, there has been no progress for workers of more modest means. That bears repeating — there's been no progress for those workers who are the least financially secure," Wyden said.

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Animals

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He laughed.

Imagine a Boeing 747 aircraft parked by a cargo terminal at dawn. A crew loads 1,000 pigs. Inside the plane, the pigs move inside large wooden crates two or three stories tall and balanced for weight.

Because pigs breathe heavily, it's hot and humid inside. Animal handlers on board say they can't get the smell of manure out of their clothes afterward.

Getting pigs to the airport is complex and expensive: blood tests, often \$300 per pig, extensive paperwork, quarantine periods of 30 to 60 days.

Exporters estimate it can cost up to \$18,000 just to charter an airplane, and Newcom estimated another \$600 fee per pig — not counting what the customer pays the breeder for the animal.

The biggest buyers last year were Canada, Central and South America and parts of Asia.

Dairy

Martin Sieber, CEO and president of U.S. Livestock Genetics Export Inc., said demand for American dairy cows is "huge and increasing."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates the U.S. exported 50,261 dairy cows, mainly Holsteins and Jerseys, last year.



Clayton Agri-Marketing Inc./via Capital Press

Swine are loaded for the flight to China in 2017.

Tony Clayton, exporter and president of Clayton Agri-Marketing Inc., said there's swelling interest in U.S. dairy genetics in the Middle East. Days before talking with the Capital Press, Clayton put together a ship load of thousands of cattle to Pakistan.

Vietnam, too, is an emerging market.

Large volumes of dairy cows are typically moved via ship on journeys that can take weeks.

The market for dairy semen has also catapulted. Between 1980 and 2019, according to the National Association of Animal Breeders Inc., dairy semen export sales increased 1,015%.

Although artificial insemination is expanding, experts say live shipments will continue because many buyers aren't willing to wait years for

animals to mature, and many countries still lack the infrastructure and knowledge to handle the practice.

Where's the beef?

During fiscal year 2020, according to trade data, breeding cattle exports were worth \$69 million.

Demand for beef is growing in the Middle East. Buyers often want live animals rather than semen because that shortens rearing time, lessens water needs and meets demand for freshly slaughtered "halal" meat butchered and prepared as prescribed by Islamic law.

International buyers are most likely to purchase from states with few disease issues, like those without Bluetongue, a viral disease in ruminants.

One top breeder, Angus rancher Darrell Stevenson in

Montana, said his family has been exporting cattle for generations. Stevenson recalls having many foreign guests visit his farm when he was little. He even met his wife through the industry; she was an exporter's daughter.

Stevenson has shipped thousands of animals to Russia, Uzbekistan and elsewhere over the past decade. Once, he said, he had 95 semitrucks lined up with cattle waiting to board a ship.

"Exporting animals isn't a get-rich-quick scheme, but it's a good way to add a little extra profit if it's done right," he said.

Goats

The Western U.S. has strong dairy goat genetic lines.

Clayton, the exporter, said he's seeing "quite a bit of interest" in live Alpines, Nubians, Toggenburgs and Saanens across the Middle East and Africa.

"But we're battling for cargo space. With Amazon online orders and now the COVID vaccine, we're in competition for space on airlines," said Clayton.

Meat goats, including American Kikos originally from New Zealand, are in demand.

Humane concerns

While the live animal transport industry continues growing, so does the number of its critics.

Animal rights groups such as PETA and Compassion in World Farming call for an all-

out ban on live animal transports, saying livestock can be treated poorly and even die.

They have a point. Cargo vessels carrying livestock are twice as likely to be lost by sinking or grounding compared to ships carrying just about anything else, based on a decade's worth of maritime data. During the past decade, 60 people and thousands of animals have drowned.

Maritime experts say this is because the global live animal fleet is the oldest shipping fleet in the world and suffers corrosion from animal waste.

Veterinarians say America has fewer ship integrity issues than most nations because the U.S. Coast Guard is "vigilant" in examining ships.

Even so, about 300 veterinarians around the world have formed an association called Vets Against Live Animal Export, or VALE. Many of them formerly worked aboard ships transporting livestock.

Susan Foster, an Australian veterinarian who worked for years in a mixed animal and dairy practice, is VALE's spokeswoman.

She said animals are much safer traveling by airplane than by ship. Planes have incidents too, including mass deaths from ventilation problems, but that's rare.

"If I had to be an animal, I would want to be transported by plane," said Foster.

Upright

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"We're going to keep doing that, so I'm hoping that as time goes on people won't just associate us with farmhouse but more with traditional beers."

Upright will also continue to produce a handful of IPAs, a style that has become more

common in the taproom in recent years.

Ganum said the new locations will allow Upright to remain focused on low-volume brewing with tap and bottle sales inhouse. The brewery will remain in the basement, which, even with the taproom gone, isn't big enough for a canning line, he said, so can-

ning is not being considered.

And even if he did have room, canning and distribution wouldn't be in the future.

"I don't want to do that," Ganum said. "I just want to get back to making our 1,000 barrels a year like we were pre-pandemic and survive and thrive on that."

"It's less fun to run a brewery

that way, anyway," Ganum said. "Plus, I just don't want to walk into a store and see (Upright beer) at the end of the aisle at room temperature. That stuff kills me."

Whenever the new spaces open, and as Upright moves farther down the road of U.K.-inspired bitters, milds, pale ales and dry stouts and

German-inspired dunkels, schwartzbiers and altbiers, to name a few, Ganum said he's excited to continue the brewery's evolution and growth, both physically and philosophically.

"I'd love for folks to view Upright as an unfussy brewery that's focused," he said, "but still playful and not shy about expressing our character."

Blueberries

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The alliance said that a growing volume of blueberries, particularly from Canada, Mexico and South America, was surging into U.S. grocery stores in the spring and fall. The flood of foreign fruit depresses what should be profitable early and late harvest prices for American growers,

the alliance argued.

Food makers and blueberry farms with international operations argued that prices were being set by competition among U.S. farmers and that it was wrong to blame imports.

"The U.S. blueberry industry is healthy and thriving," the Blueberry Coalition for Progress and Health said in a statement reacting to the commission's decision.

"Restricting blueberry imports into the U.S. would have limited consumers' access to these healthy, delicious, and nutritional berries with no benefit to U.S. producers."

The Trump administration asked for the trade commission to investigate, possibly leading to trade protection measures such as tariffs or quotas.

The trade commission voted 5-0 to not pursue trade actions.

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