

TODAY

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 17, the 48th day of 2021. There are 317 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

In **1815**, the United States and Britain exchanged the instruments of ratification for the Treaty of Ghent, ending the War of 1812.

In **1801**, the U.S. House of Representatives broke an electoral tie between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr, electing Jefferson president; Burr became vice president.

In **1863**, the International Red Cross was founded in Geneva.

In **1864**, during the Civil War, the Union ship USS Housatonic was rammed and sunk in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina, by the Confederate hand-cranked submarine HL Hunley in the first naval attack of its kind; the Hunley also sank.

In **1897**, the forerunner of the National PTA, the National Congress of Mothers, convened its first meeting in Washington.

In **1944**, during World War II, U.S. forces invaded Eniwetok Atoll, encountering little initial resistance from Imperial Japanese troops. (The Americans secured the atoll less than a week later.)

In **1964**, the Supreme Court, in *Wesberry v. Sanders*, ruled that congressional districts within each state had to be roughly equal in population.

In **1972**, President Richard M. Nixon departed the White House with his wife, Pat, on a historic trip to China.

In **1988**, Lt. Col. William Higgins, a Marine Corps officer serving with a United Nations truce monitoring group, was kidnapped in southern Lebanon by Iranian-backed terrorists. (He was later slain by his captors.)

In **1996**, world chess champion Garry Kasparov beat IBM supercomputer "Deep Blue," winning a six-game match in Philadelphia. (However, Kasparov lost to Deep Blue in a rematch in 1997.)

In **2015**, Vice President Joe Biden opened a White House summit on countering extremism and radicalization, saying the United States needed to ensure that immigrants were fully included in the fabric of American society to prevent violent ideologies from taking root at home.

In **2018**, President Donald Trump's national security adviser, H.R. McMaster, told a conference in Germany that there was now "incontrovertible" evidence of a Russian plot to disrupt the 2016 U.S. election; the statement stood in stark contrast to Trump's claim that Russian interference in his election victory was a hoax.

Ten years ago: A group of Democratic Wisconsin lawmakers blocked passage of a sweeping anti-union bill, refusing to show up for a vote and then abruptly leaving the state in an effort to force Republicans to the negotiating table. Iowa high school wrestler Joel Northrup defaulted on his first-round state tournament match rather than face Cassy Herkelman, one of the first girls ever to qualify for the event, saying that wrestling a girl would conflict with his religious beliefs.

Five years ago: A three-way feud among the GOP's leading White House contenders escalated, with Ted Cruz daring Donald Trump to sue him for defamation and dismissing Marco Rubio's charges of dishonesty during a CNN forum just days before South Carolina's high-stakes primary. Travis Hittson, a former Navy crewman, was executed in Georgia for killing a fellow sailor, Conway Utterbeck.

One year ago: More than 300 American cruise ship passengers, including 14 who tested positive for coronavirus, were quarantined at military bases in California and Texas after arriving from Japan on charter flights. A push by Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam to ban the sale of assault weapons failed after some of his fellow Democrats in the state Senate balked at the proposal. Amazon founder Jeff Bezos said he planned to spend \$10 billion of his own fortune to help fight climate change. Novelist Charles Portis, whose best-seller "True Grit" was twice adapted into Oscar-nominated films, died at 86. Hall of Fame golfer Mickey Wright, winner of 82 LPGA tournaments including 13 majors, died in Florida; she was 85.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian Barry Humphries (aka "Dame Edna") is 87. Actor Christina Pickles is 86. Football Hall of Famer Jim Brown is 85. Actor Becky Ann Baker is 68. Actor Richard Kam is 65. Actor Lou Diamond Phillips is 59. Basketball Hall of Famer Michael Jordan is 58. Actor-comedian Larry, the Cable Guy is 58. TV personality Rene Syler is 58. Movie director Michael Bay is 57. Singer Chante Moore is 54. Rock musician Timothy J. Mahoney (311) is 51. Actor Dominic Purcell is 51. Olympic gold and silver medal skier Tommy Moe is 51. Actor Denise Richards is 50. Rock singer-musician Billie Joe Armstrong (Green Day) is 49. Rock musician Taylor Hawkins (Foo Fighters) is 49. Actor Jerry O'Connell is 47. Actor Kelly Carlson is 45. Actor Ashton Holmes is 43. Actor Conrad Ricamora is 42. Actor Jason Ritter is 41. TV personality Paris Hilton is 40. Actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt is 40. TV host Daphne Oz is 35. Actor Chord Overstreet is 32. Singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran is 30. Actor Meaghan Martin is 29. Actor Sasha Pieterse is 25.

—Associated Press

LOCAL, STATE & REGION



Brooke Herbert/The Oregonian

Ice clings to power lines Monday in northeast Portland, causing power outages that closed schools.

Willamette Valley continues recovery from snow and ice brought by storm

The Oregonian

At least 140,000 customers still had no power Tuesday morning as the havoc wrought by a powerful winter storm lingered around Portland. In Marion County, another 60,000 homes and businesses were without power.

The lack of power and damage from the storms may have contributed to six people suffering from possible carbon monoxide poisoning in Clackamas County, closed many school districts in the Portland metro area and led to a number of roads being closed.

Portland General Electric reported three substations were still out of commission, 21 transmission lines had been knocked out and more than 6,000 individual lines were still down as of 6 a.m. Despite the efforts of more than 2,500 utility workers trying to restore service, some of whom were brought in from out of state, there

was still no estimate when power would return for many customers.

For some, Tuesday would be their fourth day without electricity.

In Gladstone, emergency crews were treating the six people suspected in the carbon monoxide poisoning Tuesday morning. Few details were immediately available, but the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office said the poisoning may have occurred after a generator was left running in an enclosed area attached to a home on E. Fairfield Street. The condition of all of the people affected was not immediately available.

The weight of ice and snow proved too much for the roof of a Safeway store in Troutdale, and it collapsed Monday morning. Customers were inside when the collapse occurred, and one person sustained minor injuries, officials said.

A Les Schwab tire store in southeast Portland

suffered a similar fate Monday evening, with the roof partially caving in while a cleaning crew was inside. Everyone was evacuated, and no injuries were reported.

While the Portland metro area returned to normal winter weather Tuesday, the effects of the storm lingered as many school districts were forced to cancel even their virtual classes due to power outages.

Eight public school districts in Oregon and southern Washington were closed Tuesday, including Portland Public Schools, Portland, Clackamas and Mt. Hood community colleges were also closed.

Travel also remained difficult Tuesday morning. The Portland Bureau of Transportation reported about 50 road closures early Tuesday. Washington and Clackamas counties also reported several road closures.

STATE BRIEFING

2 dead, 1 detained in Monmouth after 'suspicious activity' reported, police say

Two people were dead and a third was in police custody after police responded to reports of "suspicious activity" in Monmouth on Tuesday morning. Officers responded about 3:30 a.m. to the 300 block of S. Warren Street, officials said in a statement.

Investigators found two people suffering from critical injuries who later died, police said. A third person was also suffering from minor injuries and was later detained, though officials did not say if the person was facing charges.

There was no further threat to the public, officials said.

Police did not say who the victims were, how they died or what the suspicious activity was that prompted the call. Questions sent to the police department were not immediately returned Tuesday.

—The Oregonian

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