

## TODAY

It's Saturday, Feb. 20, the 51st day of 2021. There are 314 days left in the year.

## Today's Highlight in History:

In **1905**, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, upheld, 7-2, compulsory vaccination laws intended to protect the public's health.

In **1792**, President George Washington signed an act creating the United States Post Office Department.

In **1839**, Congress prohibited dueling in the District of Columbia.

In **1933**, Congress proposed the 21st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to repeal Prohibition.

In **1942**, Lt. Edward "Butch" O'Hare became the U.S. Navy's first flying ace of World War II by shooting down five Japanese bombers while defending the aircraft carrier USS Lexington in the South Pacific.

In **1962**, astronaut John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth as he flew aboard Project Mercury's Friendship 7 spacecraft, which circled the globe three times in a flight lasting 4 hours, 55 minutes and 23 seconds before splashing down safely in the Atlantic Ocean 800 miles southeast of Bermuda.

In **1965**, America's Ranger 8 spacecraft crashed on the moon, as planned, after sending back thousands of pictures of the lunar surface.

In **1987**, a bomb left by Unabomber Ted Kaczynski exploded behind a computer store in Salt Lake City, seriously injuring store owner Gary Wright. Soviet authorities released Jewish activist Josef Begun.

In **1998**, Tara Lipinski of the U.S. won the ladies' figure skating gold medal at the Nagano Olympics; Michelle Kwan won the silver.

In **1999**, movie reviewer Gene Siskel died at a hospital outside Chicago at 53.

In **2003**, a fire sparked by pyrotechnics broke out during a concert by the group Great White at The Station nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island, killing 100 people and injuring about 200 others.

In **2007**, in a victory for President George W. Bush, a divided federal appeals court ruled that Guantanamo Bay detainees could not use the U.S. court system to challenge their indefinite imprisonment.

In **2010**, Alexander Haig, a soldier and statesman who'd held high posts in three Republican administrations and some of the U.S. military's top jobs, died in Baltimore at 85.

**Ten years ago:** Security forces loyal to Libya's Moammar Gadhafi unleashed heavy gunfire as thousands marched in the rebellious eastern city of Benghazi, cutting down mourners trying to bury victims.

**Five years ago:** Donald Trump barreled to victory in South Carolina's Republican primary; Hillary Clinton pulled out a crucial win over Bernie Sanders in Nevada's Democratic caucuses.

**One year ago:** Japan's Health Ministry said two passengers who'd been taken off a quarantined cruise ship after being infected with the new coronavirus had died; both were in their 80s and had pre-existing diseases. Sixteen Americans who'd been brought to the U.S. from the cruise ship were in hospitals, either because delayed test results showed that they had the virus or because they had shown symptoms.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Sidney Poitier is 94. Racing Hall of Famer Bobby Unser is 87. Racing Hall of Famer Roger Penske is 84. Singer-songwriter Buffy Sainte-Marie is 80. Hockey Hall of Famer Phil Esposito is 79. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is 79. Movie director Mike Leigh is 78. Actor Brenda Blethyn is 75. Actor Sandy Duncan is 75. Actor Peter Strauss is 74. Former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown is 70. Newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst is 67. Actor Anthony Head is 67. Comedian Joel Hodgson is 61. Basketball Hall of Famer Charles Barkley is 58. Actor French Stewart is 57. Actor Ron Eldard is 56. Model Cindy Crawford is 55. Actor Andrew Shue is 54. Actor Lili Taylor is 54. Actor Andrea Savage is 48. Singer Brian Littrell is 46. Actor Lauren Ambrose is 43. Actor Jay Hernandez is 43. Actor Chelsea Peretti is 43. Actor Michael Zegen is 42. Actor Majandra Delfino is 40. Actor Jocko Sims is 40. MLB All-Star pitcher Justin Verlander is 38. Comedian Trevor Noah is 37. Actor Miles Teller is 34. Singer Rihanna is 33.

—Associated Press

## LOCAL, STATE &amp; REGION

## Wyden: Look before you leap on repealing internet legal shield

BY PETER WONG

Oregon Capital Bureau

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden cautioned critics against being too hasty to repeal the legal shield for information service providers for content posted on their platforms.

Conservative and liberal critics have taken aim at Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, the 1996 law authored by the Oregon Democrat and Rep. Christopher Cox, then a Republican from California. They argue that it has given too much power to tech giants such as Facebook and Twitter.

But Wyden says the law is not one-sided. He spoke Thursday at a Multnomah County virtual meeting that the Town Hall Project live-streamed on Facebook.

"The people who post content are responsible for what they post. Period. That in effect creates something of a shield for the platform, because the poster is personally responsible," Wyden said in response to a written question read aloud by the moderator, Nathan Williams.

"The sword was that the platforms could do more to moderate what was on their sites, so they could get rid of the slime and the hate and all the horrible stuff.

"Now we all know the platforms have not exactly covered themselves in glory about using the moderation provision; some of them are better than others. But the real issue is ... that if we did not have Section 230, things would still be the same without reform. It's not 230 that is the challenge — it is the First Amendment." He referred



EOMG file photo/Oregon Capital Insider

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., speaks at a town hall meeting in Bend in 2018.

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—U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden

to the federal constitutional guarantee of free speech.

Cox left Congress after 17 years in 2005 to lead the Securities and Exchange Commission during the second term of President George W. Bush.

Just before he left office, President Donald Trump vetoed the \$740 billion military authorization bill, partly because it failed to attach a repeal of Section 230. But two-thirds majorities in the Democratic-led House and Republican-led Senate overrode his veto, mostly on other grounds.

"My guess is that the only thing Donald Trump knows

about 230 is that it's between 2 and 3 o'clock," Wyden said.

Wyden said Trump's real issue was with Twitter, which first flagged some of his tweets, then suspended his account and finally barred him permanently from the platform — mostly stemming from Trump's false claims about the outcome of the presidential election.

Wyden said that while there are legitimate questions about the misuse of the platforms, they also have aided social movements such as #MeToo against sexual harassment and abuse of women, and #BlackLivesMatter against police misconduct and other violence against Black people.

"How we go about dealing with it is the key," Wyden said.

"I want to make sure how we protect constitutionally protected speech. That has always been hugely important to Oregonians. I also want to protect the ability to moderate, because whatever you think about it, this is a tool that can actually be used for good."

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## OREGON

## National Guard deploys as power outages persist



Dave Killen/The Oregonian

Downed power lines are lashed to a tree Wednesday along S. Bakers Ferry Road in Oregon City just south of the Clackamas River.

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS

The Associated Press

PORTLAND — Gov. Kate Brown on Friday called on the Oregon National Guard to go door-to-door in areas hardest hit by last weekend's ice storm as utility company crews worked around the clock to restore power to 60,000 residents who have been without electricity for a week.

The damage and dangerous conditions left behind by the storm are the worst in the history of Portland General Electric, CEO Maria Pope said.

Crews were not able to safely enter the worst-hit areas for 48 hours because trees laden down with hundreds of pounds of ice were falling constantly, the utility said.

Even now, progress is slow because of "widow-maker" branches and trees dangling high above downed power lines.

About 36,000 people remained without power in Clackamas County, and another 21,000 were in the dark in and around Salem.

Some residents in the worst-hit areas might not see power restored until early next week or possibly later, Pope said.

At least four people have died and a dozen more were sickened after inhaling carbon monoxide fumes as they tried to keep warm by bringing propane heaters and charcoal grills inside or running gas-fed generators indoors.

## LEBANON

## Ex-officer gets life for murder of woman, man

The Associated Press

SALEM — A former Lebanon police officer has been sentenced for shooting and killing an ex-girlfriend and a man who was with her in her house.

Brenton Wade Richmond, 50, was sentenced Thursday on two counts of second-degree murder following a three-day hearing in Albany in the deaths of Tammy Hopper and Erik Jacobs, *The Statesman Journal* reported.

He will serve back-to-back life prison sentences and must serve 25 years before he is eligible for parole.

Richmond pleaded guilty to the lesser charges in January. He was initially charged with aggravated murder and other charges that were dropped as part of a plea agreement.

Linn County prosecutors said Richmond broke into

Hopper's house on Feb. 7, 2019, and fatally shot the couple.

Lebanon police found Hopper, 42, and Jacobs, 48, dead two days later. A day after that, Richmond was caught in Southern California as he tried to enter Mexico.

Prosecutors said Richmond and Hopper were in a relationship on and off for nine years. Weeks before the murders he threatened to put her in a body bag if he found her with another man, prosecutors said.

Investigators testified they were able to trace Richmond's steps from the night of the murders with help, in part, from neighbors' video surveillance, his iPhone, and Hopper's internet router.

Richmond worked as a Lebanon officer from 1995 until 2002.

## 2 teen girls arrested in fatal stabbing, police say

JIM RYAN

The Oregonian

Two teen girls were arrested Thursday on suspicion of killing a 22-year-old man at a Tigard apartment complex, police say.

Tigard police said the girls, 16- and 17-year-old relatives, are being held in a Portland juvenile detention center on suspicion of murder and robbery in the Jan. 29 incident. Their names have not been disclosed.

Police said one of the

girls stabbed Leroy Xavier Wass-Morill during an apparent "targeted drug-related robbery." A physical altercation broke out at some point during the incident, which occurred at a SW Hall Boulevard apartment complex, according to police.

The stabbing victim was taken to a hospital and pronounced dead there.

No additional information about the circumstances of the killing has been released.

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