

TODAY

It's Sunday, Feb. 21, the 52nd day of 2021. There are 313 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

In **1965**, minister and civil rights activist Malcolm X, 39, was shot to death inside Harlem's Audubon Ballroom in New York by assassins identified as members of the Nation of Islam. Three men were convicted of murder and imprisoned; all were eventually paroled.

In **1862**, Nathaniel Gordon became the first and only American slave-trader to be executed under the U.S. Piracy Law of 1820 as he was hanged in New York.

In **1885**, the Washington Monument was dedicated.

In **1916**, the World War I Battle of Verdun began in France as German forces attacked; the French were able to prevail after 10 months of fighting.

In **1945**, during the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima, the escort carrier USS Bismarck Sea was sunk by kamikazes with the loss of 318 men.

In **1964**, the first shipment of U.S. wheat purchased by the Soviet Union arrived in the port of Odessa.

In **1972**, President Richard M. Nixon began his historic visit to China as he and his wife, Pat, arrived in Beijing.

In **1973**, Israeli fighter planes shot down Libyan Arab Airlines Flight 114 over the Sinai Desert, killing all but five of the 113 people on board.

In **1975**, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former White House aides H.R. Halde- man and John D. Ehrlichman were sentenced to 2.5 to 8 years in prison for their roles in the Watergate cover-up (each ended up serving a year and a-half).

In **1995**, Chicago adventurer Steve Fossett became the first person to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean by balloon, landing in Leader, Saskatchewan, Canada.

In **2005**, President George W. Bush, in Belgium for a NATO summit, scolded Russia for backsliding on democracy and urged Mideast allies to take difficult steps for peace.

In **2010**, a mistaken U.S. missile attack killed 23 civilians in Afghanistan. Four American officers were later reprimanded.

In **2018**, the Rev. Billy Graham, a confidant of presidents and the most widely heard Christian evangelist in history, died at his North Carolina home; he was 99.

Ten years ago: Deep cracks opened in Moammar Gadhafi's regime, with Libyan government officials at home and abroad resigning, air force pilots defecting and a major government building ablaze after clashes in the capital of Tripoli.

Five years ago: Bombings claimed by the Islamic State group in the Syrian cities of Damascus and Homs killed nearly 130 people. Pope Francis, speaking at the Vatican, urged Catholic leaders to show "exemplary" courage by not allowing executions "in this Holy Year of Mercy." Denny Hamlin won the Daytona 500, edging Martin Truex Jr. by inches at the finish line.

One year ago: Health officials said at least 18 Americans who'd returned home from a quarantined cruise ship in Japan were infected with the new coronavirus, bringing the total number of cases in the U.S. to at least 35. Italy reported its first coronavirus death as the number of confirmed cases in Italy more than quadrupled. Greyhound, the nation's largest bus company, said it would stop allowing Border Patrol agents without a warrant to board its buses to conduct routine immigration checks.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Bob Rafelson is 88. Actor Gary Lockwood is 84. Actor-director Richard Beymer is 82. Actor Peter McEnery is 81. Film/music company executive David Geffen is 78. Actor Tyne Daly is 75. Actor Anthony Daniels is 75. Tricia Nixon Cox is 75. Former Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, R-Maine, is 74. Actor Christine Ebersole is 68. Actor Kelsey Grammer is 66. Singer/guitarist Larry Campbell is 66. Country singer Mary Chapin Carpenter is 63. Actor Kim Coates is 63. Actor Jack Coleman is 63. Actor Christopher Atkins is 60. Actor William Baldwin is 58. Rock musician Michael Ward is 54. Singer Rhiannon Giddens (Carolina Chocolate Drops) is 44. Actor Tituss Burgess is 42. Actor Jennifer Love Hewitt is 42. Comedian-actor Jordan Peele is 42. Actor Brendan Sexton III is 41. Singer Charlotte Church is 35. Actor Ashley Greene is 34. Actor Elliot Page is 34. Actor Corbin Bleu is 32. Actor Sophie Turner is 25.

— Associated Press

LOCAL, STATE & NATION

NATION | CLEANUP FROM THE COLD

Warmer temperatures bring relief

BY JAKE BLEIBERG AND MARK SCOLFORO
Associated Press

DALLAS — Warmer temperatures spread across the Southern United States on Saturday, bringing some relief to a winter-weary region that faces a challenging cleanup and expensive repairs from days of extreme cold and widespread power outages.

In hard-hit Texas, where millions were warned to boil tap water before drinking it, the warm-up was expected to last for several days. The thaw produced burst pipes throughout the region, adding to the list of woes from severe conditions that were blamed for at least 70 deaths.

By Saturday afternoon, the sun had come out in Dallas and temperatures were nearing the 50s. People emerged to walk and jog in residential neighborhoods after days indoors. Many roads had dried out and patches of snow were melting. Snowmen slumped.

Linda Nguyen woke up in a Dallas hotel room Saturday morning with an assurance she hadn't had in nearly a week: She and her cat had somewhere to sleep with power and water.

Electricity had been restored to her apartment on Wednesday, but when Nguyen arrived home from work the next evening she found a soaked carpet. A pipe had burst in her



Mikala Compton/Herald-Zeitung via AP

New Braunfels Utility employees help package bottled water Friday at the water station at the New Braunfels Civic/Convention Center in the central Texas city. The water stations were set up by the utility and the city of New Braunfels for area residents without water in the wake of outages due to unprecedented winter weather.

bedroom.

"It's essentially unlivable," said Nguyen, 27, who works in real estate. "Everything is completely ruined."

Deaths attributed to the weather include a man at an Abilene health care facility where the lack of water pressure made medical treatment impossible. Officials also reported deaths from hypothermia, including homeless people

and those inside buildings with no power or heat. Others died in car accidents on icy roads or from suspected carbon monoxide poisoning.

A Tennessee farmer died trying to save two calves from a frozen pond.

President Joe Biden's office said Saturday he has declared a major disaster in Texas, directing federal agencies to help in the recovery.

Powerless, in Oregon and elsewhere

The storms left more than 300,000 still without power across the country Saturday, many of them in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

More than 50,000 Oregon electricity customers were among those without power more than a week after an ice storm ravaged the electrical grid. Portland General Electric

had hoped to have service back to all but 15,000 customers by Friday night, but the utility discovered additional damage in previously inaccessible areas.

Gov. Kate Brown ordered the National Guard to go door-to-door in some areas to check on residents' welfare. At its peak, what was the worst ice storm in 40 years knocked out power to more than 350,000.

'Everything's been freezing'

Water woes added misery for people across the South who went without heat or electricity for days after the ice and snow storms forced rolling blackouts from Minnesota to Texas.

Robert Tuskey was retrieving tools from the back of his pickup Saturday afternoon as he prepared to fix a water line at a friend's home in Dallas.

"Everything's been freezing," Tuskey said. "I even had one in my own house ... of course, I'm lucky I'm a plumber."

In Jackson, Mississippi, most of the city of about 161,000 lacked running water.

Texas electrical grid operators said electricity transmission returned to normal after the historic snowfall and single-digit temperatures created a surge in demand that buckled the state's system. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott ordered an investigation into the failure for a state known as the U.S. energy capital.

Beloved cherry trees at Oregon Capitol damaged in ice storm

Statesman Journal

SALEM — The regionally famous cherry trees on Oregon's Capitol Mall were damaged in last weekend's ice storm.

At least two of the 150 Akebono flowering cherry trees that line the park leading up to the statehouse will need to be removed and the rest will be thinned out significantly after sustaining significant damage.

The cherry trees, planted in 1992, attract visitors from around the region when they bloom in March and April and inspired the Capitol's annual Cherry Blossom Day. The two rows of trees lining the mall, with their gorgeous pink-and-white blooms, are regarded as a visual representation of the coming of spring and the city's connection to the cherry industry and Japanese culture.

The ice storm last weekend cut power to at least 350,000 customers; many are still without electricity. A layer of ice an

"We'll be further assessing the trees in the future once the initial cleanup is done."

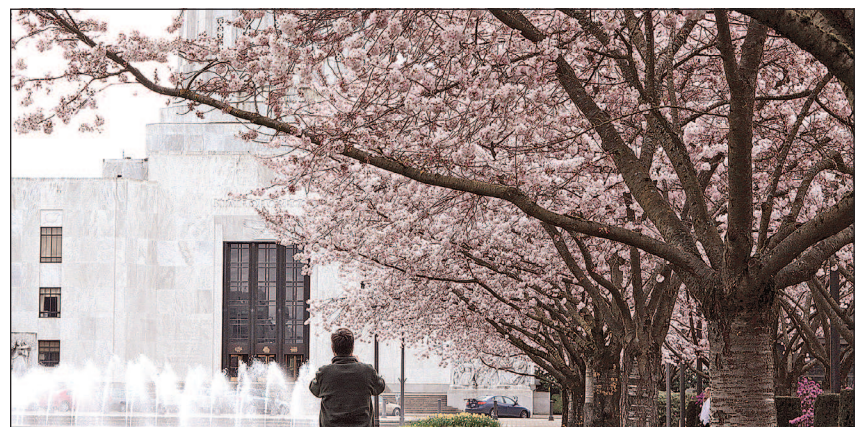
— Kevin Strandberg, park manager, Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation

inch thick coated power lines and trees.

It's unknown how the lost limbs will impact the cherry trees' survival or affect the aesthetics of the mall, said Kevin Strandberg, park manager with the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation.

"We'll be further assessing the trees in the future once the initial cleanup is done," he said.

Strandberg said removal might be good for the health of other cherry trees. The two so far identified as needing removal were already growing quite close to neighboring trees, despite frequent pruning, crowding the canopies.



Cherry trees show their colors at the Capitol Mall in Salem on a cold day in 2010. Recent storms damaged many of the famous trees.

Statesman-Journal file photo

Can you believe this maniac?
NO SUNSCREEN!



Did You Know?

- Up to 80% of the sun's rays can penetrate clouds.
- UV Exposure increases with every 1000 ft. above sea level.
- Snow reflects up to 80% of the UV light from the sun.

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