

TODAY

Today is Thursday, March 4, the 63rd day of 2021. There are 302 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

- In **1933**, Franklin D. Roosevelt took office as America's 32nd president.
- In **1789**, the Constitution of the United States went into effect as the first Federal Congress met in New York.
- In **1797**, John Adams was inaugurated the second president of the United States.
- In **1863**, the Idaho Territory was created.
- In **1865**, President Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated for a second term of office; with the end of the Civil War in sight, Lincoln declared: "With malice toward none, with charity for all."
- In **1974**, the first issue of People magazine, then called People Weekly, was published by Time-Life Inc.; on the cover was actor Mia Farrow.
- In **1987**, President Ronald Reagan addressed the nation on the Iran-Contra affair, acknowledging that his overtures to Iran had "deteriorated" into an arms-for-hostages deal.
- In **1998**, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that sexual harassment at work can be illegal even when the offender and victim are of the same gender.
- In **2015**, the Justice Department cleared Darren Wilson, a white former Ferguson, Missouri, police officer, in the fatal shooting of Michael Brown, a Black 18-year-old, but also issued a scathing report calling for sweeping changes in city law enforcement practices.
- In **2018**, former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter were found unconscious on a bench in the southwestern English city of Salisbury; both survived what British authorities said was a murder attempt using a nerve agent.

Ten years ago: Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's regime struck back at its opponents with a powerful attack on Zawiya, the closest opposition-held city to Tripoli, and a barrage of tear gas and live ammunition to smother new protests in the capital. NASA launched its Glory satellite from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California on what was supposed to have been a three-year mission; however, the rocket carrying Glory plummeted into the southern Pacific several minutes after liftoff.

Five years ago: Bud Collins, the tennis historian and American voice of the sport in print and on TV for decades, died in Brookline, Massachusetts, at age 86.

One year ago: The House easily passed an \$8.3 billion measure aimed at speeding the development of coronavirus vaccines, paying for containment operations and beefing up preparedness. Italy closed all schools and universities and barred fans from sporting events. Former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg dropped out of the Democratic race for president.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Paula Prentiss is 83. Movie director Adrian Lyne is 80. Singer Shakin' Stevens is 73. Author James Ellroy is 73. Singer Chris Rea is 70. Movie director Scott Hicks is 68. Actor Catherine O'Hara is 67. Actor Patricia Heaton is 63. Sen. Tina Smith, D-Minn., is 63. Actor Steven Weber is 60. Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., is 53. Gay rights activist Chaz Bono is 52. Jazz musician Jason Marsalis is 44. Actor Jessica Hahn is 38. Actor Scott Michael Foster is 36. TV personality Whitney Port is 36. Actor Margo Harshman is 35. Actor Josh Bowman is 33. Actor Andrea Bowen is 31.

—The Associated Press

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

Oregon moves to ban display of nooses

BY ANDREW SELSKY

The Associated Press

SALEM — Greg Evans, a Black man who joined a parade of witnesses urging Oregon lawmakers to ban the display of nooses, said the issue was personal for him: A member of his family had been lynched over a century ago in South Carolina.

"He was killed basically for offending a white man," Evans, a member of the Eugene City Council, testified Tuesday. "He was hung by a noose. His body was riddled with bullets, and then he was set on fire."

Louisiana, Virginia, California, New York, Maryland and Connecticut previously criminalized the display of nooses. The bill under consideration in Oregon would make intimidation by display of a noose a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in prison and a \$6,250 fine.

In Virginia, displaying a noose in public places is now a felony, with a maximum prison term of five years. The state Supreme Court, ruling in the case of a man who hung a life-sized, black mannequin in his front yard, said in 2018 that the law also applies to private property. Two Black families lived in the neighborhood, including one next door.

Last month, a noose was placed on the recycling container of a mixed-race couple in Eugene, and their car was spray-painted with a racial epithet, Evans said in an interview. He believes most people who place nooses are fully aware of the pain it causes Black people.

"Some are just kids that are ignorant, that are playing a joke," Evans said. "But it's not a joke. It's not a prank. This is serious business."

In a 2017 report, the nonprofit Equal Justice Initiative described lynchings as "violent and public acts of torture that traumatized Black people throughout the coun-



In 2018, visitors look at markers bearing the names of lynching victims at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama. Some states have already criminalized the display of nooses. Oregon's bill, if passed, will make intimidation by display of a noose a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in prison and a \$6,250 fine.

Beth J. Harpaz/AP file

try and were largely tolerated by state and federal officials. These lynchings were terrorism."

A year later, the organization that's committed to challenging racial and economic injustice opened the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama. It bears the names of lynching victims, but Evans' ancestor is not among them. He was one of the uncounted lynching victims whose deaths weren't recorded by officials or newspapers.

Walter Graham was only a teenager when white men dragged him from his home in Blacksburg, South Carolina, in 1915, Evans said, recounting the story passed down by three generations of his family.

After killing Graham, the mob burned down the home of the extended family. A short while later, they joined an exodus of Black

people terrified by the epidemic of lynching.

The Equal Justice Initiative says "terror lynchings" fueled the mass migration of millions of Black people from the South throughout the first half of the 20th century. It documented 4,084 racial terror lynchings in 12 Southern states. The NAACP says it knows of 700 more.

Evans said the noose is a symbol of white supremacy that conveys the message: "The white man is still in charge and remember your place in this society."

One of the witnesses at the hearing Tuesday for the Oregon bill described the effect of the placement of a noose in May at a Portland State University construction site.

"It was shocking and terrorizing for our community. Staff and faculty were not only afraid to go to our new building but were afraid to attend PSU in general," faculty member Kelly Cutler told the Oregon Senate Committee on Judiciary.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and city commissioners urged the committee to support the bill, saying it "opens the door for legal remedies" against intimidating people with nooses in Oregon, where records show hate crimes and bias incidents increased 366% in 2020.

"The harm to communities impacted by the display of a noose should not be understated," the city leaders wrote.

A Republican on the judiciary committee, Dallas Heard, who is white, asked what would happen if antifa protesters came to the Oregon State Capitol and hanged an effigy of him.

"What would the state's action through this law be in enforcement of this law on that group... who did something like that against myself under the First Amendment right to protest?" Heard asked.

The committee chairman suggested Heard speak to legislative counsel to get clarity.



Evans

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