

TODAY

Today is Wednesday, March 10, the 69th day of 2021. There are 296 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On **March 10**, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln assigned Ulysses S. Grant, who had just received his commission as lieutenant-general, to the command of the Armies of the United States.

In **1785**, Thomas Jefferson was appointed America's minister to France, succeeding Benjamin Franklin.

In **1848**, the U.S. Senate ratified the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the Mexican-American War.

In **1876**, Alexander Graham Bell's assistant, Thomas Watson, heard Bell say over his experimental telephone: "Mr. Watson — come here — I want to see you" from the next room of Bell's Boston laboratory.

In **1906**, about 1,100 miners in northern France were killed by a coal-dust explosion.

In **1913**, former slave, abolitionist and Underground Railroad "conductor" Harriet Tubman died in Auburn, New York; she was in her 90s.

In **1914**, the Rokeby Venus, a 17th century painting by Diego Velazquez on display at the National Gallery in London, was slashed multiple times by Mary Richardson, who was protesting the arrest of fellow suffragist Emmeline Pankhurst. (The painting was repaired.)

In **1927**, the Sinclair Lewis novel "Elmer Gantry" was published by Harcourt, Brace & Co.

In **1969**, James Earl Ray pleaded guilty in Memphis, Tennessee, (on his 41st birthday) to assassinating civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. (Ray later repudiated that plea, maintaining his innocence until his death.)

In **1985**, Konstantin U. Chernenko, who was the Soviet Union's leader for 13 months, died at age 73; he was succeeded by Mikhail Gorbachev.

In **1988**, pop singer Andy Gibb died in Oxford, England, at age 30 of heart inflammation.

In **2000**, Pope John Paul II approved sainthood for Katharine Drexel, a Philadelphia socialite who had taken a vow of poverty and devoted her fortune to helping poor Blacks and American Indians. (Drexel, who died in 1955, was canonized in October 2000.)

In **2015**, breaking her silence in the face of a growing controversy over her use of a private email address and server, Hillary Clinton conceded that she should have used government email as secretary of state but insisted she had not violated any federal laws or Obama administration rules.

Ten years ago: The House Homeland Security Committee examined Muslim extremism in America during a hearing punctuated by tearful testimony and angry recriminations. (Chairman Peter King, R-N.Y., accused U.S. Muslims of doing too little to help fight terror in America; Democrats warned of inflaming anti-Muslim sentiment.)

Five years ago: Donald Trump and his Republican rivals turned their presidential debate in Miami into a mostly respectful but still pointed discussion of Social Security, Islam, trade and more. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made an official visit to the White House.

One year ago: Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden canceled primary-night rallies in Cleveland amid concerns over the spread of the coronavirus. Biden won primaries in the battleground state of Michigan and three other states, dealing a serious blow to Sanders. Clusters of the coronavirus swelled on both U.S. coasts, with more than 70 cases linked to a biotech conference in Boston and infections turning up at 10 nursing homes in the Seattle area. Infections in Italy topped the 10,000 mark.

Today's Birthdays: Talk show host Ralph Emery is 88. Actor Chuck Norris is 81. Playwright David Rabe is 81. Actor Katharine Houghton ("Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?") is 79. Actor Richard Gant is 77. Rock musician Tom Scholz (Boston) is 74. TV personality/businesswoman Barbara Corcoran ("Shark Tank") is 72. Actor Shannon Tweed is 64. Actor Sharon Stone is 63. Magician Lance Burton is 61. Rock musician Jeff Ament (Pearl Jam) is 58. Britain's Prince Edward is 57. Actor Stephen Mailer is 55. Actor Paget Brewster is 52. Actor Jon Hamm is 50. Rapper-producer Timbaland is 49. Singer Robin Thicke is 44. Olympic gold medal gymnast Shannon Miller is 44. Actor Thomas Middleditch is 39. Country singer Carrie Underwood is 38. Actor Olivia Wilde is 37.

— Associated Press

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

States look to step up wolf kills

Predator species' return to the West has become politicized for lawmakers, similar to gun rights

BY MATTHEW BROWN AND IRIS SAMUELS

Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — Payments for dead wolves. Unlimited hunting of the animals. Shooting wolves from the air.

Wolf hunting policies in some states are taking an aggressive turn, as Republican lawmakers and conservative hunting groups push to curb their numbers and propose tactics shunned by many wildlife managers.

In Montana, lawmakers are advancing measures to allow shooting wolves at night and payments to hunters reminiscent of bounties that widely exterminated the species last century. Idaho legislation would allow hunters to shoot them from motorized parachutes, ATVs or snowmobiles year-round with no limits in most areas.

And in Wisconsin, just weeks after President Donald Trump's administration lifted protections for wolves in the Great Lakes region, hunters using hounds and trappers blew past the state's harvest goal and killed almost twice as many as planned.

The timing of the Wisconsin hunt was bumped up following a lawsuit that raised concerns President Joe Biden's administration would intervene to restore gray wolf protections. The group behind the suit has close links to Republican political circles including influential donors the Koch brothers and notable Trump loyalists — Kris Kobach, a former U.S. Senate candidate from Kansas, and rock star and gun rights advocate Ted Nugent.

Antipathy toward wolves for killing livestock and big game dates to early European settlement of the American West in the 1800s, and flared up again after wolf populations rebounded under federal protection. What's emerging now is different: an increasingly politicized campaign to drive down wolf numbers sometimes using methods anathema to North American hunting traditions, according to former wildlife officials and advocates.

"It's not a scientific approach to wildlife management. It's management based on vengeance," said Dan Vermillion, former chairman of Montana's fish and wildlife commission. Vermillion and others said wolves were being used to stoke political outrage in the same way Second Amendment gun rights were used in recent elections to raise fears Democrats would restrict firearms.

Hanging in the balance is a decades-long initiative that brought back thousands of wolves in the Rocky Mountains, Pacific Northwest and Great Lakes regions.



Adam Messer/Via AP

A gray wolf, a member of the Nez Perce pack, travels through a snowy area north of Old Faithful in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, in 2002. Antipathy toward wolves in the American West, dating to the 1800s, has flared up since the reintroduction of the species.

Considered among scientists and environmentalists a major conservation success, the predator's return remains a sore point for ranchers whose livestock are sometimes attacked by wolves and hunters who consider wolf packs competition in the pursuit of elk, deer and other big game.

In Montana and Idaho, wolf numbers exploded after their reintroduction from Canada in the 1990s. Federal protections were lifted a decade ago. The states have been holding annual hunts since, and wildlife officials cite stable population levels as evidence of responsible wolf management.

That's not satisfied hunting and livestock groups and their Republican allies in those legislatures, who contend 1,500 wolves in Idaho and 1,200 in Montana are damaging the livelihoods of big game outfitters and cattle and sheep producers.

"Too many wolves," Republican state Sen. Bob Brown said of his mountainous district in northwest Montana. He's sponsoring a bounty-like program that's similar to one in Idaho and would reimburse hunting and trapping expenses through a private fund.

A separate measure from Brown would allow the use of bait and night-vision scopes. Another proposal would allow snares, which critics say are indiscriminate and

can accidentally catch pets or other animals.

In response to concerns that the treatment of wolves will drive away tourists hoping to glimpse one in places like Montana's Glacier National Park, Brown said their negative impact can't be ignored.

"I certainly believe there are people who come to look at wolves," he said. "But we are also hurting the outfitting industry."

Critics including Democratic Sen. Pat Flowers, a former state wildlife department supervisor, warned of a significant toll on Montana's wolf population. State Senate Minority Leader Jill Cohe-nour, also a Democrat, said the proposals would "take us right back to having them listed" as an endangered species.

Wolves lost federal species protections in the western Great Lakes in 2011, but they were re-imposed three years later under court order.

The Trump administration lifted protections again five days before the November election, when Interior Secretary David Bernhardt traveled to Minnesota to announce the move.

On President Joe Biden's first day in office, the White House said it would review the wolf decision.

Wisconsin officials already were planning a hunt in November when Hunter Nation, founded in 2018, sued to force a hunt immediately.

The group cited a possible return of protections by the Biden administration.

Hunter Nation boasts it's led by "America's greatest Hunters and Patriots" on its website, which also includes praise for Trump. Its leader, Luke Hilgemann, formerly served as CEO at Americans for Prosperity, a conservative advocacy group backed by industrialists Charles Koch and his deceased brother, David, that has spent tens of millions of dollars on Republican candidates.

Hunters and trappers killed at least 216 wolves of Wisconsin's 1,100 wolves over three days, nearly doubling the state's target of 119 animals and forcing an early shutdown of the season.

Hilgemann participated, and said in an interview that he chased a wolf with dogs for 60 miles but never caught it. It's up to states to decide what kind of tactics they use, he said, while Hunter Nation will fight any attempt to halt the hunts. He said group has quickly grown to 20,000 members, but declined to divulge its financial supporters.

"Conservative, traditional American values of God, family and country — that's what we intend to focus on," Hilgemann said. "We need to get ahead of our predator populations, including wolves. They will quickly expand their range. They reproduce quickly, spelling trouble for other wild game, livestock and pets."

Adam Winkler, a UCLA Law professor specializing in gun policy, said the group's messaging appears aimed at mobilizing hunters to get behind conservative causes.

"I'm not surprised we're seeing hunting groups wrap themselves in the mantle of patriotism," Winkler said. "Patriotism has become the watchword of the right."

Oregon summer school, child care to get \$325M

BY BETSY HAMMOND

The Oregonian

Many Oregon children and teens who've suffered learning losses and mental health impacts from prolonged school closures will get summer learning and enrichment opportunities thanks to substantial grants to be doled out this spring, Gov. Kate Brown and the leaders of the Oregon House and Senate said Monday.

They plan to have the Legislature allocate \$250 million in state funds and \$75 million from the federal government to fund the summer programming, they said.

"The past year has been hard on Oregon kids and their caregivers — especially working mothers — in so many ways," Brown said in a statement. "As COVID-19 recedes from our

communities, it's time to bring back the summer enrichment programs that spark joy, foster creativity, and encourage healing for our children, who have persevered through adversities few generations have faced at their age."

State leaders said they will put a particular emphasis on getting the money to school districts and community programs that will cater to Black and Indigenous children and teens and other students and preschoolers of color.

Given that Oregon has more than 600,000 students in high school and younger, not all students will be included in summer programming, as the funding would amount to about \$400 per child or teen — not enough to provide substantial learning or enrichment options.

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