Today is Friday, March 12, the 71st day of 2021. There are 294 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History: On **March 12**, 2020, the stock market had its biggest drop since the Black Monday crash of 1987 as fears of economic fallout from the coronavirus crisis deepened; the Dow industrials plunged more than 2,300 points, or 10%. In 1664, England's King Charles II granted an area of land on the East Coast of present-day North America known as New Netherland to his brother James, the

Duke of York. In 1864, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant assumed command as General-in-Chief of the Union armies in

In 1912, the Girl Scouts of the USA had its beginnings as Juliette Gordon Low of Savannah, Georgia, founded the first American troop of the Girl Guides.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered the first of his 30 radio addresses that came to be known as "fireside chats," telling Americans what was being done to deal with the nation's economic crisis

In 1943, Aaron Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man" had its world premiere with Eugene Goossens conducting the Cincinnati Symphomy.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman announced what became known as the "Truman Doctrine" to help Greece and Turkey resist

In **1955**, legendary jazz musician Charlie "Bird" Parker died in New York at age 34.

In 1980, a Chicago jury found John Wayne Gacy Jr. guilty of the murders of 33 men and boys.

In 1994, the Church of England ordained its first female priests. In 2003, Elizabeth Smart, the 15-year-old girl who vanished from her bedroom nine months earlier, was found alive in a Salt Lake City suburb with two drifters.

In 2008, New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer resigned two days after reports had surfaced that he was a client of a prostitution ring.

In 2009, disgraced financier Bernard Madoff pleaded guilty in New York to pulling off perhaps the biggest swindle in Wall Street history; he would be sentenced to 150 years behind bars.

Ten years ago: Fifteen passengers were killed when a tour bus returning from a Connecticut casino scraped along a guard rail on the outskirts of New York City, tipped on its side and slammed into a pole that sheared it nearly end to end.

One year ago: The White House said President Donald Trump had no plans to be tested for the coronavirus or go into quarantine, even though a Brazilian official who attended weekend events with Trump in Florida had tested positive. Trump said he was temporarily halting his campaign rallies. The NCAA canceled its basketball tournaments after earlier planning to play in empty arenas. The NHL joined the NBA in suspending play. Major League Baseball delayed the start of its season by at least two weeks. (An abbreviated 60-game season would begin in July.) New York's governor ordered Broadway theaters to shut down for a month; all gatherings of more than 500 people were temporarily banned. (The theaters remain closed.) Disneyland in California said it would close for the rest of March. (The park has yet to reopen.)

Today's Birthdays: Politician, diplomat and civil rights activist Andrew Young is 89. Actor Barbara Feldon is 88. Former broadcast journalist Lloyd Dobyns is 85. Actor-singer Liza Minnelli is 75. Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, is 74. Singer-songwriter James Taylor is 73. Former Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., is 73. Rock singer-musician Bill Payne (Little Feat) is 72. Actor Jon Provost (TV: "Lassie") is 71. Author Carl Hiaasen is 68. Rock musician Steve Harris (Iron Maiden) is 65. Actor Lesley Manville is 65. Actor Jerry Levine is 64. Singer Marlon Jackson (The Jackson Five) is 64. Actor Jason Beghe is 61. Actor Courtney B. Vance is 61. Actor Titus Welliver is 59. Former MLB All-Star Darryl Strawberry is 59. Actor Julia Campbell is 58. Actor Jake Weber is 58. Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-III., is 53. Actor Aaron Eckhart is 53. CNN reporter Jake Tapper is 52. Rock musician Graham Coxon is 52. Country musician Tommy Bales (Flynnville Train) is 48. Actor Rhys Coiro is 42. Country singer Holly Williams is 40. Actor Samm Levine is 39. Actor Jaimie Alexander is 37. Actor Tyler Patrick Jones is 27. Actor Kendall Applegate

— Associated Press

STATE & NATION

Pandemic | one year later

May 1 target to have all adults vaccine-eligible

President Joe Biden outlines his plan

BY ZEKE MILLER AND JONATHAN LEMIRE

The Associated Press WASHINGTON — One year after the nation was brought to a near-standstill by the coronavirus, President Joe Biden used his first prime-time address Thursday night to announce his plan to make all adults vaccine-eligible by May 1 and "be-

gin to mark our independence from this virus" by the Fourth of July. He offered Americans fresh hope and appealed anew for their help. Speaking in the White House

East Room, Biden announced moves to speed vaccinations, including lifting eligibility qualifications, deploying an additional 4,000 active-duty troops to support vaccination efforts and allowing more people — such as medical students, veterinarians and dentists — to deliver shots.

He is also directing more doses toward some 950 community health centers and up to 20,000 retail pharmacies, to make it easier for people to get vaccinated closer to their

His aim: let Americans



President Joe Biden speaks about the pandemic during a prime-time address from the East Room of the White House on Thursday.

gather at least in small groups for July Fourth and "make this Independence Day truly spe-

Biden was marking one year since the onset of the pandemic that has killed more than 530,000 Americans and disrupted the lives of countless more.

"While it was different for everyone, we all lost something," Biden said, calling the past year "a collective suffering, a collective sacrifice."

Earlier Thursday, Biden signed into law a \$1.9 trillion relief package that he said will help defeat the virus, nurse the economy back to health and deliver direct aid to Americans in need. Some direct checks could begin arriving this weekend.

This historic legislation is about rebuilding the backbone of this country," Biden said as he signed the bill in the Oval Office.

Most noticeable to many Americans are provisions providing up to \$1,400 in direct payments and extending \$300 weekly emergency unemployment benefits into early September. Also included are expanded tax credits over the next year for children, child care and family leave — some of them

credits that Democrats have signaled they'd like to make permanent — plus spending for renters, feeding programs and people's utility bills.

In his Thursday night address, Biden said that as vaccine supplies continue to increase, he will direct states and territories to make all adults eligible for vaccination by May 1. The U.S. is expecting delivery of enough doses for those 255 million adults by the end of that month, but the process of actually administering those doses will take time.

Biden said his administration is launching a nationwide website to help people find doses, saying it would address frustrations so that there would be "no more searching day and night for an appointment."

Even as he offered optimism, Biden made clear that the July 4 timetable applied only to smaller gatherings, not larger ones, and requires cooperation from Americans to continue to wear face coverings, maintain social distancing and follow federal guidelines meant to slow the spread of the virus in the near term. He also called on them roll up their sleeves to get vaccinated as soon as they're eligible.

This is "not the time to not

stick with the rules," Biden said, warning of the potential for backsliding just as the nation is on the cusp of defeating the virus. "I need you, the American people," he added. "I need you. I need every American to do their part."

The House gave final congressional approval to the sweeping package by a near party line 220-211 vote on Wednesday, seven weeks after Biden entered the White House and four days after the Senate passed the bill. Republicans in both chambers opposed the legislation unanimously, characterizing it as bloated, crammed with liberal policies and heedless of signs the crises are easing.

Biden originally planned to sign the bill on Friday, but it arrived at the White House more quickly than anticipated.

"We want to move as fast as possible," tweeted chief of staff Ron Klain.

Biden's initial prime-time speech was "a big moment," said presidential historian and Rice University professor Douglas Brinkley. "He's got to win over hearts and minds for people to stay masked and get vaccinated, but also recognize that after the last year, the federal government hasn't forgotten you."

STATE BRIEFING

Card skimmer sentenced to 4 years in prison

A 35-year-old man described as "an experienced credit card skimmer" has been sentenced to four years in fed-

eral prison for bank fraud. The case started in April 2018 in New York City, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Oregon said in a news release. Ciprian Simion was arrested there for using fake ATM cards and pins to withdraw cash. Investigators later found about 100 forged debit cards and three forgery devices, KOIN reported.

A grand jury indicted him fraud.

But after the charges in New York, Simion moved to Oregon. In March 2019, Simion and another man, Gabriel Tigmarau, put a credit card skimmer on a Rivermark Community Credit Union ATM in Newberg, along with skimmers at several other ATMs.

With the stolen account information, they made fake credit and debit cards to withdraw cash, prosecutors said. But on April 27, 2019, the men were caught tampering with an ATM at the IBEW Credit Union in Portland. Investigators later determined Simion stole the numbers from at least 354 accounts.

A federal grand jury indicted Simion and Tigmarau on 11 counts related to the bank fraud. In 2020, they both pleaded guilty to one count each of bank fraud and aggravated identity theft.

In February 2021, Tigmarau was sentenced to 42 months in

federal prison. On Wednesday, Simion was sentenced to four years in federal prison. Both also must serve five years of supervised release.

Klamath County declares drought in basin

With water conditions in the Klamath Basin on track to be worse than they were last year, the Klamath County Commissioners declared a drought for the Klamath Basin on Tuesday.

While local precipitation has been slightly higher this winter than last, the extra snow hasn't been enough to make up for exceedingly dry soils left over from water year 2020. The soil will soak up a significant portion of the snow as it melts.

According to water monitoring data from the U.S. Geological Survey, Upper Klamath Lake's surface is currently more than a foot of water lower than it was at this time last year, which will make it extremely difficult for the Bureau of Reclamation to satisfy lake level requirements outlined in the Endangered Species Act, let alone provide water to the Project.

Commissioners will send the drought declaration letter to the Oregon Water Resources Department and Oregon Office of Emergency Management, requesting that the governor declare a drought at the state level with the federal government.

That will allow water users in the basin to apply for drought relief programs through federal and state agencies.

Klamath Community College expands into Lake County area formerly of COCC

Herald and News (Klamath Falls)

Klamath Community College could soon count northern Lake County residents among its service population, pending the passage of a bill by the Oregon Senate and Gov. Kate Brown.

The bill approves an order from the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission that transfers the northern quarter of Lake County from **Central Oregon Community** College's district to Klamath Community College's district.

The Oregon House passed the bill on Monday.

The Higher Education Co-ordinating Commission re-ceived a petition in 2019 from residents in north Lake County to remove the area from the COCC district, saying COCC wasn't adequately serving them. The petitioners indicated that they preferred not to have their taxes go to a community college and instead contract directly with KCC, which had already been offering distance learning to some residents in northern Lake County.

The commission rejected that petition but said it would pursue transitioning the north Lake district from COCC to KCC. The commission issued an order to that effect later that year, which said that both colleges were on board with the move.

"If we're going to remain in a taxing district, I would like to be affiliated with Klamath Community College because they have ag programs," petitioner Alan Parks said before the commission's initial vote in 2019. "They have a far better outreach to our community and our county."

KCC President Dr. Roberto Gutierrez said the college has been operating some remote classes in Lake County, for several years — from high school

dual credit classes to fire science and medical education classes. He said the college received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to fund the technology equipment required for that, and would have continued to offer those services regardless of the district switch.

"It was the citizens of that community that came up with the idea [to move districts]," Gutierrez said. "We're honored that they want to be part of our district."



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