TODAY

Today is Wednesday, March 17, the 76th day of 2021. There are 289 days left in the year. This is St. Patrick's Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

In 1762, New York held its first St. Patrick's Day parade. In **1776**, the Revolutionary War Siege of Boston ended as British forces evacuated the city.

In 1936, Pittsburgh's Great St. Patrick's Day Flood began as the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers and their tributaries, swollen by rain and melted snow, started exceeding flood stage; the high water was blamed for more than 60 deaths.

In 1941, the National Gallery of Art opened in Washing-

In 1959, the Dalai Lama fled Tibet for India in the wake of a failed uprising by Tibetans against Chinese rule.

In 1966, a U.S. Navy midget submarine located a missing hydrogen bomb that had fallen from a U.S. Air Force B-52 bomber into the Mediterranean off Spain. (It took several more weeks to actually recover the bomb.)

In 1969, Golda Meir became prime minister of Israel. In 1970, the United States cast its first veto in the U.N. Security Council, killing a resolution that would have condemned Britain for failing to use force to overthrow the white-ruled government of Rhodesia.

In 1988, Avianca Flight 410, a Boeing 727, crashed after takeoff into a mountain in Colombia, killing all 143 people on board

In 2003, edging to the brink of war, President George W. Bush gave Saddam Hussein 48 hours to leave his country. Iraq rejected Bush's ultimatum, saying that a U.S. attack to force Saddam from power would be "a grave

In 2009, U.S. journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee were detained by North Korea while reporting on North Korean refugees living across the border in China. (Both were convicted of entering North Korea illegally and were sentenced to 12 years of hard labor; both were freed in August 2009 after former President Bill Clinton met with North Korean leader Kim Jong II.)

In 2010, Michael Jordan became the first ex-player to become a majority owner in the NBA as the league's Board of Governors unanimously approved Jordan's \$275 million bid to buy the Charlotte Bobcats from Bob Johnson.

Ten years ago: The U.N. Security Council paved the way for international air strikes against Moammar Gadhafi's forces, voting to authorize military action to protect civilians and impose a no-fly zone over Libya. U.S. drone missiles hit a village in Pakistan; U.S. officials said the group targeted was heavily armed and that some of its members were connected to al-Qaida, but Pakistani officials said the missiles hit a community meeting, killing four Taliban fighters and 38 civilians and tribal police.

Five years ago: An Arizona man was convicted of a terror charge tied to an attack on a Prophet Muhammad cartoon contest in Texas, marking the second conviction in the U.S. related to the Islamic State group; Abdul Malik Abdul Kareem, an American-born Muslim convert, was later sentenced to 30 years in prison. Finally bowing to years of public pressure, SeaWorld Entertainment said it would no longer breed killer whales or make them perform crowd-pleasing tricks.

One year ago: A three-week shelter-in-place order took effect in six San Francisco-area counties, requiring most residents to stay inside and venture out only for food, medicine or exercise. State TV in Iran warned that "millions" could die if Iranians kept traveling and ignored health guidance; the coronavirus death toll in Iran neared 1,000. More movie theaters closed nationwide; the nation's largest chain, AMC, said its theaters would close for at least six to 12 weeks. Bus riders in Detroit were stranded after most drivers didn't report to work. The Kentucky Derby and the French Open were each postponed from May to September. A case of the coronavirus was reported in West Virginia, the only U.S. state that hadn't seen one until that point. As Florida, Arizona and Illinois went ahead with presidential primaries, hundreds of poll workers dropped out, forcing state officials to scramble...

Today's Birthdays: The former national chairwoman of the NAACP, Myrlie Evers-Williams, is 88. Former astronaut Ken Mattingly is 85. Singer-songwriter John Sebastian (The Lovin' Spoonful) is 77. Former NSA Director and former CIA Director Michael Hayden is 76. Actor Patrick Duffy is 72. Actor Kurt Russell is 70. Actor Lesley-Anne Down is 67. Actor Gary Sinise is 66. Actor Christian Clemenson is 63. Former basketball and baseball player Danny Ainge is 62. Actor Arye Gross is 61. Actor Casey Siemaszko is 60. Writer-director Rob Sitch is 59. Actor Rob Lowe is 57. Rock singer Billy Corgan is 54. Actor Mathew St. Patrick is 53. Rock musician Melissa Auf der Maur is 49. Olympic gold medal soccer player Mia Hamm is 49. Rock musician Caroline Corr (The Corrs) is 48. Actor Marisa Coughlan is 47. Sports reporter Tracy Wolfson is 46. Actor Brittany Daniel is 45. Singer and TV personality Tamar Braxton is 44. Country musician Geoff Sprung (Old Dominion) is 43. Reggaeton singer Nicky Jam is 40. TV personality Rob Kardashian is 34. Pop/rock singer-songwriter Hozier is 31. Actor Eliza Hope Bennett is 29. Actor John Boyega is 29. Olympic gold medal swimmer Katie Ledecky is 24. Actor Flynn Morrison is 16.

— Associated Press

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

Portland-area libraries shrug off Dr. Seuss book controversy

BY KEVIN HARDEN

Portland Tribune When Dr. Seuss' publisher decided to no longer license or sell six particular titles, some of Ore-

gon's public libraries didn't flinch.

They mostly shrugged.
On March 2, Dr. Seuss Enterprises announced that six of the children's books would no longer be published or licensed because they include images and text that

hurtful and wrong." Libraries aren't likely to pull the books from their shelves. Instead, say leaders in Washington and Multnomah counties, individual libraries will decide what to do with the books if issues arise.

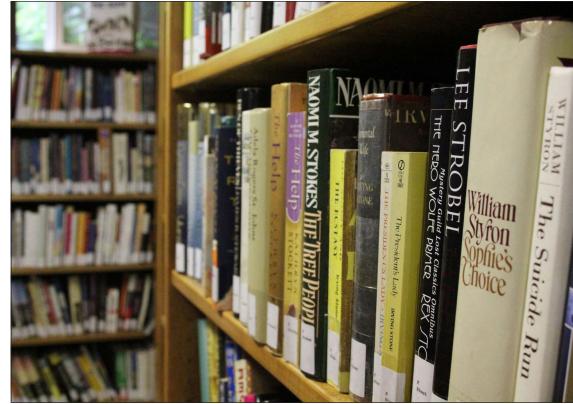
portray people in ways that are

It's a balancing act between community concerns and a commitment to intellectual freedom, said Lisa Tattersall, manager of Washington County Cooperative Library Services, which has 13 libraries with 16 locations across the county.

"This isn't something new to us," Tattersall said. "But just because it's not new doesn't mean it's not uncomfortable. We have policies and procedures in place to handle things like this for people who are offended by material in our libraries.

"It's a good opportunity to discuss with the community our commitment."

The decision came after a review by educators and experts of Seuss' catalog, more than 60 children's books going back to the 1930s. "Ceasing sales of these books is only part of our commitment and our broader plan to ensure Dr. Seuss Enterprises' catalog represents and supports all communities and families," according to the company statement.



Portland-area libraries are taking the Dr. Seuss book controversy in stride. This isn't new to libraries, say librarians.

That touched off a media storm blaming "cancel culture" for the decision.

A week after the announcement, a pile of Dr. Seuss books shot to the top of Amazon's bestseller list. During the week of March 7, 12 of the top 20 bestselling Amazon fiction books were by Dr. Seuss.

Nationally, libraries took the announcement in stride, said Deborah Caldwell-Stone, director of the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom. "For libraries, the fact that they made that decision is not a reason to take the books off the

shelves," she said.

It could be "time to think critically about these books," Caldwell-Stone said. "It's a great opportunity to think carefully about how they're sharing them with the children in their lives and to have good conversations about racism and racial issues in our society."

Dr. Seuss books rarely are challenged by library patrons across the nation, she said. The association's list of top 100 challenged books between 1990 and 2019 did

not include one Dr. Seuss title. In Oregon, no Dr. Seuss book has been removed from library

collections because of patron chal-

Libraries plan to rely on that experience when it comes to the six Dr. Seuss books in their collections. Shawn Cunningham, director of communications and strategic initiatives for Multnomah County Library, said Portland-area library branches would stay true to their "core value" of intellectual freedom.

"Multnomah County Library Director Vailey Oehlke has affirmed our library's commitment to dismantling systemic racism and oppression," Cunningham said.

OREGON LEGISLATURE

Bills would address access to menstrual products

BY LIZZY ACKER The Oregonian

Several bills under consideration in the Oregon Legislature would help people who menstruate feel less of the financial strain of paying for period products.

Senate Bills 717 and 521 and House Bill 3294 all address menstrual products in various forms.

SB 717 would provide \$10 per month to people who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits to "purchase personal hygiene items."

SB 717 has the support of the Oregon Food Bank and Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon.

"SB 717 would make critical investments to improve SNAP by adding \$10/month for the purchasing of personal hygienic items. Many of the 1,400 food pantries Oregon Food Bank serves across the state stock such

"Our students deserve to learn with dignity, and our failure to take action has negatively impacted our students. As legislators, we must change our view of our educational systems from schoolready students, to student-ready institutions.

Rep. Ricki Ruiz, D-Gresham, in a press release

items for this very reason," wrote Matt Newell-Ching, Public Policy Manager for the Oregon Food Bank, in written testimony in favor of the bill.

SB 521 would exempt businesses from paying "commercial activity" on sales of period products as well as diapers, formula and prescription drugs.

The commercial activity tax was passed in 2019 to help Oregon fund education.

The third bill, HB 3294, would require all public schools to provide pads and tampons to students at no charge.

That bill, called the Menstrual Dignity Act, has more than 15 sponsors.
"This bill is for all our students

who have missed school due to lack of menstrual product availability," said Rep. Ricki Ruiz, D-Gresham, in a press release.

"Our students deserve to learn with dignity, and our failure to take action has negatively impacted our students. As legislators, we must change our view

of our educational systems from school-ready students, to student-ready institutions. I'm excited to be partnering with legislators, partners and most importantly, our students who are at the center of our

This isn't the first time the Oregon Legislature has turned its attention toward people who men-

In 2019, officials passed a law requiring free pads and tampons be made available in adult correctional settings.

That law wasn't extended to include youth facilities even after reporting showed that youth in the care of the state at a Klamath Falls facility could only get tampons if a family member brought them in, they were donated or the youth earned points with good behavior and "bought" them.



