

TODAY

It's Saturday, March 27, the 86th day of 2021. There are 279 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

In **1964**, Alaska was hit by a magnitude 9.2 earthquake (the strongest on record in North America) and tsunamis that together claimed about 130 lives.

In **1513**, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon sighted present-day Florida.

In **1884**, the first telephone line between Boston and New York was inaugurated.

In **1942**, during World War II, Congress granted American servicemen free first-class mailing privileges.

In **1945**, during World War II, General Dwight D. Eisenhower told reporters in Paris that German defenses on the Western Front had been broken.

In **1968**, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, the first man to orbit the Earth in 1961, died when his MiG-15 jet crashed during a routine training flight near Moscow; he was 34.

In **1973**, "The Godfather" won the Academy Award for best picture of 1972, but its star, Marlon Brando, refused to accept his Oscar for best actor. Liza Minnelli won best actress for "Cabaret."

In **1975**, construction began on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, which was completed two years later.

In **1980**, 123 workers died when a North Sea floating oil field platform, the Alexander Kielland, capsized during a storm.

In **1995**, "Forrest Gump" won six Academy Awards, including best picture and a second consecutive best actor Oscar for Tom Hanks.

In **2015**, Italy's highest court overturned the murder conviction of Amanda Knox and her ex-boyfriend in the 2007 slaying of Knox's roommate, bringing to a definitive end the high-profile case that had captivated trial-watchers on both sides of the Atlantic.

In **2019**, a Wisconsin man, Jake Patterson, pleaded guilty to kidnapping 13-year-old Jayme Closs and killing her parents; the plea spared the girl from the possible trauma of having to testify at his trial. (Patterson was sentenced to life in prison.) Facebook said it was extending its ban on hate speech to prohibit the promotion and support of white nationalism and white separatism.

Ten years ago: International air raids targeted Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's hometown of Sirte for the first time as rebels quickly closed in on the regime stronghold.

Five years ago: A bombing in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore killed 65 people in a park crowded with Christians, including many children; a breakaway faction of the Taliban claimed responsibility.

One year ago: The House approved a \$2.2 trillion coronavirus rescue package; it was immediately signed by President Donald Trump. New outbreaks surged in cities including Chicago, Detroit and New Orleans; where crews rushed to build a makeshift hospital in the city's convention center. The Rev. Joseph E. Lowery, a civil rights leader who helped the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, died at 98.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Julian Glover is 86. Actor-director Austin Pendleton is 81. Actor Michael York is 79. Rock musician Andrew Farriss (INXS) is 62. Movie director Quentin Tarantino is 58. Rock musician Derrick McKenzie is 57. Rock musician Johnny April (Staind) is 56. Actor Talisa Soto is 54. Actor Pauley Perrette is 52. Singer Mariah Carey is 51. Actor Elizabeth Mitchell is 51. Hip-hop singer Fergie is 46. Jazz musician Tia Fuller is 45. Actor Emily Ann Lloyd is 37. MLB catcher Buster Posey is 34. Actor Brenda Song is 33. Pop singer-songwriter Kimbra is 31.

—The Associated Press

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

Bill barring firearms from state buildings passes Senate

BY PETER WONG

Oregon Capital Bureau
SALEM — All firearms would be barred from state buildings, and local governments would have the option of barring them from their own buildings, under a bill that is halfway through the Oregon Legislature.

The Senate voted 16-7 on Thursday for Senate Bill 554. It goes to the House after a debate lasting more than three hours and reflecting the national arguments about gun regulation.

Majority Democrats defeated a Republican-proposed substitute that would have affirmed the constitutional right to bear arms and required a study of gun-free zones. They also rejected seven other Republican motions that would have delayed or killed the bill.

The bill would bar about 300,000 holders of concealed-handgun licenses from bringing their firearms into state buildings, including the Capitol. Some places, such as state courts, already are off-limits.

Cities, counties, schools and other local governments would have the option under the bill to bar firearms from their buildings, although adjacent garages and parking lots are



Bulletin file

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excluded. A ban also can apply to airport terminals; the federal Transportation Security Administration oversees boarding areas and the shipment of firearms in stored luggage.

What supporters said

The bill's chief sponsor and floor manager was Sen. Ginny Burdick, a Democrat from Portland and a long-time supporter of gun regulation.

Burdick said that under a state law dating back to 1969, possession of firearms in a public building is a felony unless that person has a concealed-handgun license. But until 1989, when state law changed to require issuance

of licenses to people who met specified standards, Burdick said sheriffs had broad discretion over who could obtain licenses. Oregon now has about 300,000 people with such licenses.

"The events of 2020 are a flashing red light that we need to do something," Burdick said.

She referred to armed invasions of the Michigan Capitol in Lansing — several men were arrested in an attempt to kidnap Gov. Gretchen Whitmer — and the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 6. (Anti-lockdown protesters also breached the Oregon Capitol during a special session Dec. 21, but they were

confined to a vestibule and police ejected them.)

What opponents said

But Sen. Tim Knopp, R-Bend, argued the opposite. He said the bill would deprive thousands of concealed-handgun license holders from being able to defend themselves. He also said he could think of only one instance — a 2019 shooting at a Eugene middle school that resulted in police killing a male parent involved in a custody dispute — when there was a conflict.

"What we have here is a bill in search of a problem," Knopp said.

Knopp said if supporters were confident that it had public support, they should vote to put it on a statewide ballot.

Sen. Bill Hansell, a Republican from Athena and a former Umatilla County commissioner, said counties do not want the burden of having to decide whether firearms should be allowed in public buildings.

When Oregon voters are removing criminal penalties, including those for possession of small amounts of drugs other than marijuana, "we are criminalizing this," Sen. Lynn Findley, R-Vale, said.

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53 Years

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