

## TODAY

Today is Tuesday, March 30, the 89th day of 2021. There are 276 days left in the year.

## Today's Highlight in History:

On **March 30**, 1981, President Ronald Reagan was shot and seriously injured outside a Washington, D.C. hotel by John W. Hinckley, Jr.; also wounded were White House press secretary James Brady, Secret Service agent Timothy McCarthy and a District of Columbia police officer, Thomas Delahanty.

In **1822**, Florida became a United States territory.

In **1867**, U.S. Secretary of State William Seward reached agreement with Russia to purchase the territory of Alaska for \$7.2 million, a deal ridiculed by critics as "Seward's Folly."

In **1870**, the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which prohibited denying citizens the right to vote and hold office on the basis of race, was declared in effect by Secretary of State Hamilton Fish.

In **1975**, as the Vietnam War neared its end, Communist forces occupied the city of Da Nang.

In **1987**, at the 59th Academy Awards, "Platoon" was named best picture; Marlee Matlin received best actress for "Children of a Lesser God" and Paul Newman was honored as best actor for "The Color of Money."

In **1999**, Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic insisted that NATO attacks stop before he moved toward peace, declaring his forces ready to fight "to the very end." NATO answered with new resolve to wreck his military with a relentless air assault.

In **2004**, in a reversal, President George W. Bush agreed to let national security adviser Condoleezza Rice testify publicly and under oath before an independent panel investigating the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

In **2006**, American reporter Jill Carroll, a freelancer for The Christian Science Monitor, was released after 82 days as a hostage in Iraq.

In **2009**, President Barack Obama asserted unprecedented government control over the auto industry, rejecting turn-around plans from General Motors and Chrysler and raising the prospect of controlled bankruptcy for either ailing auto giant.

In **2010**, President Obama signed a single measure sealing his health care overhaul and making the government the primary lender to students by cutting banks out of the process.

In **2015**, German officials confirmed that Germanwings co-pilot Andreas Lubitz was once diagnosed with suicidal tendencies and received lengthy psychotherapy before receiving his pilot's license; they believed Lubitz deliberately smashed his Airbus A320 into the French Alps, killing 150 people. Comedy Central announced that Trevor Noah, a 31-year-old comedian from South Africa, would succeed Jon Stewart as host of "The Daily Show."

**Ten years ago:** A top Libyan official, Foreign Minister Moussa Koussa, defected to Britain, dealing a blow to leader Moammar Gadhafi. Tilikum, the killer whale that had drowned trainer Dawn Brancheau in 2010 at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida, resumed performing for the first time since the woman's death.

**Five years ago:** A Hennepin County, Minnesota, prosecutor announced that two Minneapolis police officers involved in the 2015 fatal shooting of Jamar Clark, a Black man, would not face criminal charges, a decision that drew outrage from community members.

**One year ago:** Florida authorities arrested a megachurch pastor after they said he held two Sunday services with hundreds in attendance in violation of coronavirus restrictions. (The charges were later dropped.) Bill Withers, who wrote and sang a string of soulful songs in the 1970s that included "Lean on Me" and "Ain't No Sunshine," died at 81 in Los Angeles.

**Today's Birthdays:** Game show host Peter Marshall is 95. Actor John Astin is 91. Actor-director Warren Beatty is 84. Rock musician Graeme Edge (The Moody Blues) is 80. Rock musician Eric Clapton is 76. Actor Justin Deas is 73. Actor Paul Reiser is 65. Rap artist MC Hammer is 59. Singer Tracy Chapman is 57. Actor Ian Ziering is 57. TV personality Piers Morgan is 56. Rock musician Joey Castillo is 55. Actor Donna D'Errico is 53. Singer Celine Dion is 53. TV personality/producer Richard Rawlings is 52. Actor Mark Consuelos is 50. Actor Bahar Soomekh is 46. Actor Jessica Cauffiel is 45. Singer Norah Jones is 42.

— Associated Press

## LOCAL, STATE &amp; REGION



## MOUNT ST. HELENS

## A ROAD THROUGH THE BLAST ZONE?

## Debate erupts over proposal to build Forest Service access

BY MONICA SAMAYOA

Oregon Public Broadcasting

**S**T. HELENS, Wash. — Conservation groups and scientists are challenging a federal decision to build a road through the Mount St. Helens blast zone, saying it would damage more than two dozen decades worth of irreplaceable research plots.

Since the 1980 eruption, Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument's blast zone, known as Pumice Plain, has provided scientists and researchers a unique opportunity to conduct studies on plots of land unlike anywhere else in the world. Some of the research started right after the blast, providing four decades worth of scientific knowledge and insight into the ways watersheds take shape, the evolution of aquatic species and mammals, and the development of new plant communities.

But the preservation of some of these research plots is in conflict with another value: protecting against the risk that water, logs and debris held back by a natural dam on the volcano's Spirit Lake

could break loose.

The May 18, 1980, eruption destroyed the lake's only water outlet. Five years later, a 1.6-mile-long tunnel was dug into a ridge to release the water, which continues to enter the lake as rain falls and snow melts.

But the need for ongoing repairs to the tunnel's intake gate, along with concerns that the tunnel could be damaged in an earthquake, has led the U.S. Forest Service to authorize a new or improved intake gate and to conduct geotechnical drilling to determine possible future outflow system from the lake. And it wants to build an access road across Pumice Plain so crews and equipment can reach the work sites.

The Forest Service decision says there is a need to "ensure the protection of public safety, health, property and the environment from a catastrophic breach of the Spirit Lake natural debris blockage caused by the 1980 eruption."

The access road would be 3.4 miles in total length and 16 feet wide — and it would impact at least 25 research plots

in the area.

That work is being challenged by the Western Environmental Law Center, which is representing four conservation groups and three individuals in its lawsuit against the Forest Service decision. Staff Attorney Susan Jane Brown said the Forest Service failed to consider alternatives and to gather input from scientists who have conducted research there.

"That inability or the lack of taking that comprehensive look threatens the scientific and environmental values that the Pumice Plain represents to not only people in the Pacific Northwest but really research globally and internationally," she said.

The plan would impact about 4% of the 3,840-acre Pumice Plain research area.

Brown said she understands the importance of repairing the natural dam for public safety concerns, but the overflow is not a new or urgent issue.

"It's something that we need to deal with, but it's not going to fail tomorrow, and it's not going to fail next week, (and) it's not going to fail next month,"

**Hikers head up the trail for a Mount St. Helens Institute-guided climb to the lip of the crater in 2013. The devastated landscape that was left by the 1980 eruption has shown steady recovery.**  
Bill Wagner/The Daily News via AP, file

she said. "It will fail eventually, but we will have quite a bit of warning at that point should that situation arise."

Jim Gawel is an associate professor at the University of Washington Tacoma. He's been doing research in Mount St. Helens for more than 10 years, most recently in the Spirit Lake watershed. If the Forest Service plan moves forward, his work, along with that of more than a dozen professors and graduate students, would be impacted.

Gawel argued the Forest Service could avoid impacting his and others' research by using helicopters for aerial transport of crews, building materials and equipment.

The Forest Service says it considered helicopter transport, but it rejected the idea because of weather-related safety risks.

The agency determined this plan strikes the right balance between public safety and scientific pursuits. It plans to begin work this spring.

## CLACKAMAS COUNTY

## Mule leads hikers to its injured owner — before disappearing into woods

BY JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN

The Oregonian

On Sunday, a mule led a pair of hikers through a Clackamas County state park to the spot where its injured owner had fallen earlier in the afternoon.

Then it disappeared into the forest.

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office said a 60-year-old man, whom they have not publicly identified, was riding his mule on trails at Milo McIver State Park, when they believe he fell off and hurt himself.

The mule began walking alone on the trail until it found two people hiking, said Sgt. Marcus Mendoza, then led them back to the injured man.

One of the hikers who found the mule, Doug Calvert, said he and his wife were on foot on a popular equestrian trail around noon when they saw what they thought was a horse walking toward them.

As they got closer, they realized the animal was a mule, and it was alone and watching them.

"It kept stopping and looking back to make sure we were following it," Calvert said in an interview Sunday night. "So we started going faster, and it picked up speed. Eventually we got within view of the gentleman who had fallen."

Calvert said as soon as the mule led them to its fallen owner, it walked back into some bushes and kept its distance.

Calvert said he focused on tending to the injured man and stayed away from the mule to avoid spooking it. He called the park ranger's office and, failing to reach anyone, called 911.

In the meantime, the mule went back on the trail. It hasn't been found since.

Calvert said he's not sure why the man fell off the mule. He said the trails are in rea-

*"It kept stopping and looking back to make sure we were following it. So we started going faster, and it picked up speed. Eventually we got within view of the gentleman who had fallen."*

— Doug Calvert, a hiker at Milo McIver State Park in Clackamas County

sonable condition but were only recently reopened after closures from the February ice storm. Sunday afternoon was also fairly windy, he said, and there is still debris on the trails.

He said medics arrived shortly after he called and began loading the man onto a gurney. Calvert said the man initially seemed to be in mild shock, but he seemed to be more cognizant as medics carried him away.

Mendoza said he did not have an update on the man's condition.

As for the mule, Calvert said he heard some local equestrian groups had been out looking for it later Sunday afternoon.

"He seemed very determined to get us to follow him," he said.

**GO!**  
MAGAZINE

Central Oregon's source for events, arts & entertainment

In Thursday's Bulletin



## Have you noticed a change in your ability to remember?

*"The more hearing loss you have, the greater likelihood of developing dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Hearing aids could delay or prevent dementia by improving the patient's hearing."*

—2011 Study by John Hopkins University School of Medicine and the National Institute on Aging

## IS IT TIME FOR A HEARING TEST?

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TAKE THIS QUIZ AND FIND OUT ...

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- Do you turn the TV up louder than others need to?
- Do family or friends get frustrated when you ask them to repeat themselves?
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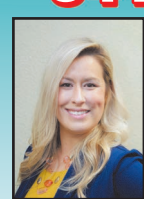
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