

TODAY

Today is Friday, April 2, the 92nd day of 2021. There are 273 days left in the year.

On **April 2, 1792**, Congress passed the Coinage Act, which authorized establishment of the U.S. Mint.

In **1865**, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and most of his Cabinet fled the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, because of advancing Union forces. In **1917**, President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war against Germany, saying, "The world must be made safe for democracy."

In **1932**, aviator Charles A. Lindbergh and John F. Condon went to a cemetery in The Bronx, New York, where Condon turned over \$50,000 to a man in exchange for Lindbergh's kidnapped son.

In **1968**, "2001: A Space Odyssey," the groundbreaking science-fiction film epic produced and directed by Stanley Kubrick had its world premiere in Washington.

In **1980**, President Jimmy Carter signed into law a windfall profits tax on the oil industry. (The tax was repealed in 1988.)

In **1982**, several thousand troops from Argentina seized the disputed Falkland Islands, located in the south Atlantic, from Britain.

In **1986**, four American passengers, including an 8-month-old girl, her mother and grandmother, were killed when a terrorist bomb exploded aboard a TWA jetliner en route from Rome to Athens, Greece.

In **2002**, Israel seized control of Bethlehem; Palestinian gunmen forced their way into the Church of the Nativity, the traditional birthplace of Jesus, where they began a 39-day standoff.

In **2003**, during the Iraq War, American forces fought their way to within sight of the Baghdad skyline.

In **2005**, Pope John Paul II died in his Vatican apartment at age 84.

In **2007**, in its first case on climate change, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Massachusetts v. Environmental Protection Agency, ruled 5-4 that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases were air pollutants under the Clean Air Act.

In **2019**, former federal prosecutor Lori Lightfoot won the runoff election for Chicago mayor, becoming the first Black woman and the first openly gay person to lead the nation's third-largest city. Police near Los Angeles arrested a man they said had fatally shot rapper Nipsey Hussle and evaded authorities for two days.

Ten years ago: Highly radioactive water leaked into the sea from a crack at Japan's stricken nuclear power plant; meanwhile, earthquake-tsunami survivors complained that the government was not paying enough attention to victims.

Five years ago: Mormon leaders meeting in Salt Lake City called on church members to practice tolerance despite political differences, providing guidance at a conference amid a presidential campaign between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton that was marked by harsh rhetoric and bickering.

One year ago: The number of confirmed coronavirus cases worldwide passed the 1 million mark, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. The captain of a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier facing a coronavirus outbreak was fired after widely distributing a memo pleading for help; Navy Secretary Thomas Modly said Capt. Brett Crozier had demonstrated "poor judgment" in a crisis.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Sharon Acker is 86. Actor Dame Penelope Keith is 81. Actor Linda Hunt is 76. Singer Emmylou Harris is 74. Actor Sam Anderson is 74. Social critic and author Camille Paglia is 74. Actor Pamela Reed is 72. Rock musician Dave Robinson (The Cars) is 72. Country singer Buddy Jewell is 60. Actor Christopher Meloni is 60. Singer Keren Woodward (Bananarama) is 60. Country singer Billy Dean is 59. Actor Clark Gregg is 59. Actor Jana Marie Hupp is 57. Rock musician Greg Camp is 54. Actor Roselyn Sanchez is 48. Country singer Jill King is 46. Actor Pedro Pascal is 46. Actor Adam Rodriguez is 46. Actor Michael Fassbender is 44. Actor Jaime Ray Newman is 43. Rock musician Jesse Carmichael (Maroon 5) is 42. Actor Bethany Joy Lenz is 40. Singer Lee Dewyze (TV: "American Idol") is 35. Country singer Chris Janson is 35. Actor Drew Van Acker is 35. Actor Briga Heelan (TV: "Great News") is 34. Actor Jesse Plemons is 33. Singer Aaron Kelly (TV: "American Idol") is 28.

—Associated Press

Rancher

Continued from A7

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission on Wednesday charged Easterday and Easterday Ranches of Pasco, Washington, with defrauding a beef producer of \$233 million by selling 200,000 head of cattle that only existed on invoices.

"For years Cody Easterday perpetuated a fraud scheme on a massive scale, increasing the cost of producing food for American families," Acting Assistant Attorney General Nicholas L. McQuaid of the Justice Department Criminal Division said in a statement. Efforts to reach Easterday or his attorney, Carl Oreskovich, were unsuccessful Thursday.

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission alleges Easterday violated the Commodity Exchange Act by reporting false or misleading information about the ranch's cattle inventory, purchases, and sales to the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, the world's largest financial derivatives exchange.



George Plaven/Capital Press

Cody Easterday has pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud.

The false statements were made in 2017 and 2018 to avoid scrutiny and discipline, according to the commission complaint.

Easterday allegedly ran up more than \$200 million in losses over 10 years from speculative trading in the cattle and corn futures markets. To meet margin calls, Easterday allegedly defrauded one of his ranch's biggest business partners, a South Dakota-based beef producer.

The complaint does not name the producer, and a spokeswoman said the commission could not identify the

producer.

The complaint says the producer operates a beef processing plant in Pasco and is "part of a family of companies that together constitute one of the largest food suppliers in the world," a profile that fits Tyson Fresh Meats, which is based in Dakota Dunes, South Dakota.

Efforts to immediately confirm that Tyson is the producer were unsuccessful. Tyson has previously said that it led an investigation last year and found that the misappropriation of funds had cost it more than \$200 million.

Homes

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Still, lawmakers' continued interest in trimming the popular tax write-off was enough to prompt the Oregon Association of Realtors to send out mailers in the Portland area, urging people to contact their representatives and tell them to "protect the dream of homeownership."

The Realtors did not mention second homes or explain that the only proposal still under consideration at this point would only phase out the tax break for people earning over \$200,000 in federal adjusted gross income and eliminate it completely for people with

more than \$250,000 in income. The top 3% of Oregon tax filers had incomes of at least \$250,000, according to the latest data available from the state Department of Revenue.

The homeownership tax break is expected to reduce state income tax revenues by \$986 million in the current budget that ends in June and \$1.1 billion in the 2021-2023 budget cycle, according to Oregon's latest tax expenditure report.

The only proposal still alive is Senate Bill 852, which would eliminate the state mortgage deduction for second homes and phase it out on first homes for households

with incomes above \$200,000 to help moderate- and low-income people buy a first home or otherwise afford housing. It was scheduled for a public hearing at 1 p.m. Thursday at the Senate Committee on Housing and Development and a possible committee vote April 8.

Shaun Jillions, a lobbyist for the Oregon Association of Realtors, said the fact that Senate Bill 852 is scheduled for a possible committee vote means it is a serious threat, although it would next move to the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue so Realtors would have another shot at killing the bill before any possibility of a floor vote.

Pot laws

Continued from A7

New York became the 16th state to legalize pot for recreational use. The New York Assembly and Senate passed a bill that would allow personal cultivation as well as taxing and regulating commercial sales, and Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed the legislation Wednesday. Several other states also are moving toward legalization.

In Washington, the U.S. House passed a major decriminalization bill in December for the first time, but it was kept off the Senate floor by then-Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. Prospects for re-vamping marijuana laws have vastly improved with Schumer now in charge of the Senate's agenda, but getting the 60 votes needed to overcome a filibuster remains a major challenge. In addition to winning over Biden on legalization, Schumer has yet to line up all 50 senators who caucus with Democrats — some of whom have long been skeptical of legalization — let alone at least 10 Republicans.

The politics of marijuana have been shifting in both parties as voters in both red states and blue have voted to legalize it. Seven Senate Republicans led by Steve Daines, a conservative from Montana, have signed on so far to Oregon Democrat Jeff Merkley's SAFE

Banking Act, more modest legislation allowing marijuana businesses to have easier access to the banking system and capital markets. Others back bills giving cannabis businesses access to insurance products and still more back additional medical research.

Schumer, who has been strategizing with advocates of legalization, wants to go much further with the bill he, Booker and Wyden are working on, and his biggest ally is a marked shift in public opinion.

Gallup found in November a record 68% of adults backing legalization, up 20 points from 2012, when Colorado and Washington became the first two states to fully legalize the drug. And a 2019 Pew poll found 91% say it should be legal at least for medical use. Republican voters are split nearly 50-50 on recreational marijuana, Gallup found, while Democrats, independents and younger voters strongly favor legalization.

Marijuana stocks have been soaring in recent months on the prospect of rapidly expanding markets as more states move to loosen restrictions.

U.S. sales of legal cannabis and its derivatives like CBD are expected to exceed \$26 billion this year, up from \$22 billion last year, according to Euro-monitor International, a market research company.

Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Portland, the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Cannabis Caucus, expressed optimism that change is coming.

"The table is set for full legalization," he said in a statement. "We have a strong base of support in the House, and in the Senate we no longer have the Mitch McConnell roadblock. It's not a forgone conclusion, but it's the strongest position we've ever been in."

Funerals

Continued from A7

"I believe that commerce through funeral home websites will be permanent," Ordeman said. "Some firms have been ahead of this for years, but others now have been compelled to strengthen their online offerings due to COVID-19."

Still, the industry has suffered loss, too, loss of revenue from rentals of chapels and postponed services. How much lost revenue, Ordeman could not say.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has established guidance for funeral homes to follow to keep people safe and to not spread the virus.

The CDC recommended expanding technology use by connecting through a video platform for friends and family. It urged families to modify funeral arrangements, by limiting attendance to a small number of immediate family members and friends and to holding additional memorial services when social-distancing guidelines are less restrictive.

In the meantime, the CDC suggests that physical distance be maintained and that everyone wear a face covering.

"Death is an emotionally charged time, and when you pile on its restrictions, it can lead to some intense conversations," Ordeman said. "Most of us can't hit the pause button and that's what a lot of families had to do. They had to delay services until things reopened and they could memorialize a loved one."

Funerals tend to provide a platform for people to say goodbye, pay their respects in a dignified manner and helps with the healing process. They also allow community mem-

bers to gather finding comfort in shared memories, according to the industry.

When Deschutes County moved to moderate risk, it allowed for gatherings indoors similar to the rules guiding indoor dining that set a 150-person maximum or 50% capacity, whichever is smaller, according to the state's risk categories.

Brad Byrholdt, general manager of Oregon Care Group Inc., which purchased six funeral homes in Redmond and Bend at the start of the year, agreed it's been difficult to maintain the personal connections that the industry is hard-wired to forge. It's difficult not to reach out and touch the arm or shoulder of a grieving widow, hard not to offer a hug in solace.

"It's been devastating for some families," Byrholdt said. "It's gotten better, obviously. There was a lot of fear. Now we're allowed to let people come and say goodbye. That's vital."

To help families, Byrholdt said a lot of services are now graveside or outdoors. As the new owners of Redmond Memorial Chapel, Deschutes Memorial Chapel, Niswonger-Reynolds and Autumn Funerals LLC, Oregon Care Group Inc. will continue making connections and help make the process of grieving easier, he said.

The acquisition brings to 12 the number of funeral homes the Corvallis-based company owns and operates, Byrholdt said.

"No one knows where we'll end up," Byrholdt said. "We'll always do what we can; if we're required to do things differently, we will. We'll morph accordingly."

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DEATH NOTICES

Vivian "Vi" L. (Stewart) Ferguson
of La Pine, OR
Sep 10, 1951 - March 29, 2021
Arrangements: Baird Memorial Chapel of La Pine is honored to serve the Ferguson family. Please visit our website, www.bairdfh.com, to share condolences and sign the online guestbook.

David Kenneth Schotz
of La Pine, OR
Aug 21, 1952 - March 29, 2021
Arrangements: Baird Memorial Chapel of La Pine is honored to serve the Schotz family. Please visit our website, www.bairdfh.com, to share condolences and sign the online guestbook.

OBITUARY POLICY
Death Notices are free and will be run for one day, but specific guidelines must be followed.
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