

TODAY

Today is Monday, April 5, the 95th day of 2021. There are 270 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On **April 5, 2010**, an explosion at the Upper Big Branch mine near Charleston, West Virginia, killed 29 workers. In a televised rescue, 115 Chinese coal miners were freed after spending eight days trapped in a flooded mine, surviving an accident that had killed 38.

In **1621**, the Mayflower sailed from Plymouth Colony in present-day Massachusetts on a monthlong return trip to England.

In **1792**, President George Washington cast his first veto, rejecting a congressional measure for apportioning representatives among the states.

In **1887**, in Tuscumbia, Alabama, teacher Anne Sullivan achieved a breakthrough as her 6-year-old deaf-blind pupil, Helen Keller, learned the meaning of the word "water" as spelled out in the Manual Alphabet.

In **1951**, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were sentenced to death following their conviction in New York on charges of conspiring to commit espionage for the Soviet Union.

In **1955**, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill resigned his office for health reasons.

In **1976**, reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes died in Houston at age 70.

In **1986**, two American servicemen and a Turkish woman were killed in the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque, an incident that prompted a U.S. air raid on Libya more than a week later.

In **1987**, Fox Broadcasting Co. made its prime-time TV debut by airing the situation comedy "Married with Children" followed by "The Tracey Ullman Show," then repeating both premiere episodes two more times in the same evening.

In **2015**, Rolling Stone magazine apologized and officially retracted its discredited article about an alleged gang rape at the University of Virginia.

In **2019**, inspecting a refurbished section of fencing at the Mexican border in California, President Donald Trump declared that "our country is full," and that illegal crossings must be stopped.

Ten years ago: Texas A&M won its first national women's basketball championship with a 76-70 victory over Notre Dame.

Five years ago: UConn won an unprecedented fourth straight women's national championship, capping another perfect season by routing Syracuse 82-51.

One year ago: Surgeon General Jerome Adams told CNN that the coming week would be "the hardest and saddest week of most Americans' lives" because of the increasing toll from the coronavirus.

Today's Birthdays: Movie producer Roger Corman is 95. Former U.S. Secretary of State and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell is 84. Country singer Tommy Cash is 81. Actor Michael Moriarty is 80. Pop singer Allan Clarke (The Hollies) is 79. Singer Agnetha Faltskog (ABBA) is 71. Rock musician Mike McCready (Pearl Jam) is 55. Singer Paula Cole is 53. Actor Krista Allen is 50. Rapper-producer Pharrell Williams is 48. Rapper/producer Juicy J is 46. Actor Sterling K. Brown is 45. Actor Lily James is 32.

— Associated Press

LOCAL, STATE & NATION



Zach Urness/(Salem) Statesman Journal file

Elowah Falls, in the Columbia River Gorge near Dodson, in an archive photo. The waterfall drops 289 feet.

NO ACCESS

Rockslide wipes out footbridge at Elowah Falls

BY JANET EASTMAN
The Oregonian

A large rockslide at the base of Elowah Falls in the Columbia River Gorge has added to the inaccessibility of one of the most beautiful and secluded waterfalls in the area, which continues to recover from the 2017 Eagle Creek Fire.

Steve Kruger, Trailkeepers of Oregon's executive director, said Saturday the area is closed to the public until further notice and there's no access to Gorge Trail 400 to Elowah Falls and the Upper McCord Creek Falls Trail.

Kruger said that Trailkeepers volunteer Drew Stock was scouting for sites for upcoming trail work parties and a weekend training program for new volunteers on Friday when he was stopped by rocks and debris, which wiped out a footbridge that crosses the 213-foot waterfall along McCord Creek.

The rocks and debris completely buried a section of trail and was "enough to fill about three dump trucks," according to Kruger.

"Only a part of the bridge handrail could be seen above debris," he said. The rockslide did not dam McCord Creek, so water won't affect the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail or Interstate 84, he said.

Trailkeepers of Oregon will watch how the debris settles and will work

with Oregon State Parks to conduct restoration work, realign the trail or find another solution, Kruger said.

The debris will have to be moved by hand because of its location, said Clay Courtright of Oregon State Parks. He said the area has not yet been fully assessed and is not safe for visitors.

The closure adds to a list of roadblocks spring hikers face in the gorge. A landslide has closed part of the Historic Columbia River Highway, for example.

And the John B. Yeon parking area, which offers access to the Elowah Falls trailhead, was closed intermittently in March because of frequent landslides that dumped mud, water, rocks and debris onto the highway. Other exits on I-84 were also intermittently closed.

Kruger said that although the rockslide discovered Friday is separate from ongoing landslides, the area, part of the John B. Yeon State Scenic Corridor, is still fragile after being severely burned in the Eagle Creek fire.

The scenic corridor had reopened to the public in January for the first time since the 2017 fire.

Due to landslides, the scenic corridor is now only accessible by taking the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail west from the Toothrock Trailhead by foot or bike, according to updates on the Oregon State Parks website.

Governors urge Biden to lift \$10K cap on deductions

BY YUEQI YANG
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — Democratic governors from seven states, including Oregon, New York and California, wrote to President Joe Biden urging him to remove the cap on state and local tax deductions enacted by Donald Trump.

The governors said in Friday's letter that the \$10,000 limitation on state and local tax, or SALT, deductions "disproportionately" hit Democratic-run states. "We must go further and undo the cap placed on state and local tax deductions by the Trump administration" through the 2017 tax law, they wrote.

The letter was signed by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, California Gov. Gavin Newsom, Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont, Hawaii Gov. David Ige, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker and Oregon Gov. Kate Brown.

The SALT cap is a prime focus for several Democrats in Congress, who've said they won't support Biden's tax hikes to fund his infrastructure proposal unless the plan includes a repeal of the cap.

Rep. Lee Zeldin, who represents a Long Island, New York, district and is a close ally of former President Donald Trump, is one of the few Republicans who also support repealing the SALT cap.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Thursday signaled support for a move to put a repeal of the cap in the infrastructure and social-spending program. She

called the deduction limit enacted by Trump "devastating" to taxpayers in her home state of California.

The administration has been cool to the idea of including a SALT-limit repeal in the bill, which would add to the deficit.

"If Democrats want to propose a way to eliminate SALT — which is not a revenue raiser,

as you know, it would cost more money — and they want to propose a way to pay for it, and they want to put that forward, we're happy to hear their ideas," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said

at a briefing on Thursday.

Repealing the SALT deduction cap is an expensive proposition. Fully eliminating the cap for one year would cost \$88.7 billion in 2021, according to the nonpartisan congressional tax scorekeeper, the Joint Committee on Taxation. And more than half of those tax savings would go to households earning \$1 million or more, according to the committee.

Alternatives to full repeal, such as raising the amount of the limitation, have also been floated, which would be significantly less costly and also give fewer benefits to the richest Americans.

The debate about how to address SALT is likely to increase in the coming weeks, with Biden set to introduce a second economic agenda proposal focusing on social welfare paid for by tax increases on the wealthy. Even if SALT isn't addressed in Biden's plan, it's likely to be hotly debated when the bill is being negotiated in the House.

\$88.7 billion

The cost of eliminating the SALT deduction over the course of 2021, according to a nonpartisan estimate

'Hundreds' of pounds of marijuana, guns, cash seized in Lane County

The Oregonian

Sheriff's deputies seized a massive amount of drugs, more than a dozen guns and tens of thousands in cash after they raided a large-scale production facility in Lane County, officials said.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office responded to reports of a stolen vehicle on Thursday outside of the town of Elmira, about 15 miles west of Eugene.

While deputies were investigating the vehicle, they came upon a large butane marijuana hash oil extraction lab, officials said. These types of labs, which are illegal in Oregon unless the operator has a license, can be dangerous because of the potential for explosions associated with butane.

Investigators obtained a search warrant for the rest of the property and another address in nearby Veneta. They discovered a home that was being used entirely for the cultivation of suspected psilocybin mushrooms.

Between the two properties, deputies seized 16 firearms, one of which was stolen; a "large amount of cash, packaged in \$10,000 bundles; more than 450 bags of psilocybin mushrooms; more than 20 pounds of finished hash oil extract; "hundreds" of pounds of dried marijuana; and a stolen truck.

"Several people were contacted on the property and identified," the sheriff's office said, but no arrests were made.



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