

TODAY

Today is Wednesday, April 7, the 97th day of 2021. There are 268 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

In **1915**, jazz singer-songwriter Billie Holiday, also known as "Lady Day," was born in Philadelphia.

In **1862**, Union forces led by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant defeated the Confederates at the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee.

In **1922**, the Teapot Dome scandal had its beginnings as Interior Secretary Albert B. Fall signed a secret deal to lease U.S. Navy petroleum reserves in Wyoming and California to his friends, oilmen Harry F. Sinclair and Edward L. Doheny, in exchange for cash gifts.

In **1927**, the image and voice of Commerce Secretary Herbert Hoover were transmitted live from Washington to New York in the first successful long-distance demonstration of television.

In **1954**, President Dwight D. Eisenhower held a news conference in which he spoke of the importance of containing the spread of communism in Indochina, saying, "You have a row of dominoes set up, you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is the certainty that it will go over very quickly." (This became known as the "domino theory," although Eisenhower did not use that term.)

In **1957**, shortly after midnight, the last of New York's electric trolleys completed its final run from Queens to Manhattan.

In **1962**, nearly 1,200 Cuban exiles tried by Cuba for their roles in the failed Bay of Pigs invasion were convicted of treason.

In **1984**, the Census Bureau reported Los Angeles had overtaken Chicago as the nation's "second city" in terms of population.

In **1994**, civil war erupted in Rwanda, a day after a mysterious plane crash claimed the lives of the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi; in the months that followed, hundreds of thousands of minority Tutsi and Hutu moderates were slaughtered by Hutu extremists.

In **2015**, Michael Thomas Slager, a white South Carolina police officer, was charged with murder in the shooting death of Black motorist Walter Lamer Scott after law enforcement officials saw a cellphone video taken by a bystander.

Ten years ago: A man shot and killed 12 children at the Tasso da Silveira public school in Rio de Janeiro.

Five years ago: Russian President Vladimir Putin denied any links to offshore accounts and described the Panama Papers document leaks scandal as part of a U.S.-led plot to weaken Russia. "American Idol" crowned 24-year-old Trent Harmon its 15th and final winner as the influential TV show came to an end.

One year ago: Wisconsin went ahead with in-person voting after the state Supreme Court blocked the governor's order to postpone the primary. President Donald Trump removed Glenn Fine, the acting Defense Department inspector general, who was supposed to oversee the \$2.2 trillion rescue package for businesses and individuals affected by the coronavirus.

Today's Birthdays: Former California Gov. Jerry Brown is 83. Movie director Francis Ford Coppola is 82. Actor Roberta Shore is 78. Singer Patricia Bennett (The Chiffons) is 74. Actor Jackie Chan is 67. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Tony Dorsett is 67. Actor Russell Crowe is 57. Actor Bill Bellamy is 56. Former football player-turned-analyst Tiki Barber is 46. Retired baseball infielder Adrian Beltre is 42. Rock musician Ben McKee (Imagine Dragons) is 36.

—The Associated Press

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

Octopus rises from fire's ashes



BY DONOVAN BRINK • The (Roseburg) News-Review

In early November, a crew of timber workers dislodged a badly burned stump from the Archie Creek Fire along Rock Creek Road.

Once the stump was out of the ground, one of the workers had his gaze fixed on the remnant of dead wood, which still had seven healthy, strong roots and one which had been badly burned as a result of the fire.

Mike Pryor, owner and operator of Evergreen Arborists, looked at his friend and faller known as "Chango" and said, "You see something, don't you?"

Chango told Pryor: "I want to do this."

"This" was turning that eight-legged, 4-foot-tall stump into an octopus, a marine animal that the 54-year-old Chango said helps symbolize healing and rebirth.

"When an octopus is attacked and loses a tentacle, over time that tentacle will grow back," Chango said. "That's what happened up

here, man. This community lost a tentacle, but in time it will grow back."

Pryor and his Evergreen Arborists team have long since left their work on helping clean up the aftermath of the Archie Creek Fire, but Chango chose to stay. Since late November he has been working on his sculpture six or even seven days a week. "At first, he was working on it during his weekends and days off, but we've been out for a little more than two months and he stayed to continue to work on it," Pryor said.

"We found that piece, and it just went from there."



Photos by Michael Sullivan/The News-Review

Chango uses a chain saw to create a sculpture of an octopus from a tree burned in the 2020 Archie Creek Fire east of Idleyld Park on Friday.

The stump was carefully moved onto a piece of land owned by Wally Plikat of Plikat Logging.

What once was a plush stand of timber has been reduced to bark chips from other stumps that have been ground down to help restabilize the soil.

But now, roughly 100 yards off the main road, Chango is hard at work, looking, feeling, grinding, notching, all while greeting curious onlookers. The stump is propped up by three cut rounds of Douglas fir, which serve as the easel to Chango's canvas.

An artist at heart, Chango

said he has fallen in love with the concept of three-dimensional art, especially when wood is the canvas.

"There's something about three-dimensional art. I just love being able to go around them," Chango said. "But it's also challenging because you have to be careful. Once that wood is gone, you can't get it back."

The intricacy of Chango's work is evident the moment someone lays eyes on this piece of wood that survived fire just six months earlier. With the use of multiple chain saws and grinders, the physiological detail is quite striking, down to

the suckers on the tentacle of an octopus.

Nobody is paying Chango for his work, other than what he has continued to be paid by Evergreen Arborists while staying behind to finish what is intended to be a gift to the Idleyld Park community.

"We're not trying to get anything out of it, at all," Pryor said.

Instead, the finished product will be donated to Plikat, who will be free to put it on display for the community wherever he sees fit.

Chango said that he hopes to have the sculpture finished in the next two or three weeks.

DOJ: Portland police's force policies fall short

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Lawyers for the U.S. Department of Justice have issued the city of Portland a formal notice of noncompliance with its settlement agreement over police excessive use of force.

It's the first time the DOJ has taken that step since U.S. District Judge Michael H. Simon approved the agreement seven years ago. The notice issued Friday is the first step toward probable mediation with the city over an impasse on stalled police reforms.

Federal lawyers last month said they had asked Portland Police to create a plan on how they'll properly report, analyze and investigate officers' use of force, but the city contends a correction plan isn't re-

quired under the settlement.

In February, the Justice Department found the police bureau failed to meet four key reforms under the settlement, citing inappropriate police use and management of force during protests, inadequate training, subpar police oversight and a failure to adequately share an annual police bureau report with the public.

The settlement followed a federal investigation that found Portland officers used excessive force against people experiencing mental health issues. It called for widespread changes to use of force and Taser policies, training, supervision and oversight, a restructuring of police crisis intervention services and quicker police misconduct investigations.

The city has 30 days to respond in writing.

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