

TODAY

Today is Thursday, April 15, the 105th day of 2021. There are 260 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On **April 15**, 1947, Jackie Robinson, baseball's first Black major league player, made his official debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers on opening day at Ebbets Field. (The Dodgers defeated the Boston Braves, 5-3.)

In **1452**, artist and inventor Leonardo da Vinci was born in or near the Tuscan town of Vinci.

In **1850**, the city of San Francisco was incorporated.

In **1865**, President Abraham Lincoln died nine hours after being shot the night before by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater in Washington; Andrew Johnson became the nation's 17th president.

In **1892**, General Electric Co., formed by the merger of the Edison Electric Light Co. and other firms, was incorporated in Schenectady, New York.

In **1912**, the British luxury liner RMS Titanic foundered in the North Atlantic off Newfoundland more than 2½ hours after hitting an iceberg; 1,514 people died, while less than half as many survived.

In **1945**, during World War II, British and Canadian troops liberated the Nazi concentration camp Bergen-Belsen.

In **1990**, legendary film star Greta Garbo died at age 84. The comedy sketch show "In Living Color" premiered on Fox TV.

In **1998**, Pol Pot, the notorious leader of the Khmer Rouge, died at 72, evading prosecution for the deaths of 2 million Cambodians.

In **2009**, tens of thousands of protesters staged "tea parties" around the country to tap into the collective angst stirred up by a bad economy, government spending and bailouts.

In **2013**, two bombs made from pressure cookers exploded at the Boston Marathon finish line, killing two women and an 8-year-old boy and injuring more than 260.

In **2019**, fire swept across the top of the Notre Dame Cathedral as the soaring Paris landmark underwent renovations.

Ten years ago: The first of three days of tornadoes to strike the central and southern U.S. began; according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, there were 177 twisters.

Five years ago: A North Korea missile launch meant to celebrate the birthday of the country's founder, Kim Il Sung, apparently ended in failure.

One year ago: The government reported that the nation's industrial output in March registered its biggest decline since the U.S. demobilized at the end of World War II as factories shut down amid the coronavirus epidemic.

Today's Birthdays: Rock singer-guitarist Dave Edmunds is 78. Actor Michael Tucci is 75. Actor Amy Wright is 71. Actor Sam McMurray is 69. Actor-screenwriter Emma Thompson is 62. Bluegrass musician Jeff Parker is 60. Singer Samantha Fox is 55. Olympic swimmer Dara Torres is 54. Rock musician Ed O'Brien (Radiohead) is 53. Actor Danny Pino is 47. Country singer-songwriter Chris Stapleton is 43. Actor Luke Evans is 42. Rock musician Patrick Carney (The Black Keys) is 41. Rock musician Zach Carothers (Portugal. The Man) is 40. Actor-writer Seth Rogen is 39. Actor Emma Watson is 31. Actor Maisie Williams is 24.

— Associated Press

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

OREGON LEGISLATURE | What lawmakers are debating in Salem | More stories on A14

Measure 11 reform backers open to revisions

Panel that includes crime victims is formed to discuss changes; mandatory terms for sex offenses could stay

BY NOELLE CROMBIE

The Oregonian

A bill that would do away with mandatory minimum sentences for all crimes except murder in Oregon remains alive in the Legislature but is likely to undergo revisions that could include winnowing the list of applicable crimes.

Chief sponsor Sen. Floyd Prozanski, D-Eugene, said Tuesday that Senate Bill 401 has been sent to the Senate Rules Committee while a committee comprised of lawmakers, prosecutors, crime victims and others discusses potential changes.

Prozanski has said he is open to keeping mandatory sentences for sex offenses.

The bill is the most significant legislative challenge since the passage of Measure 11 in 1994.

Proponents of the change say mandatory minimum sentences are outdated and disproportionately impact people of color. Prosecutors and some crime victims argue that mandatory minimums ensure defendants are treated consistently and serve every day of their sentences.

Any reduction to voter-approved sentencing requirements requires a two-thirds supermajority vote of each chamber.

That means proponents of changing the law will need all 37 Democrats and three Republicans in the House and all Democrats and two Republicans in the Senate to enact reform.



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin file

The Deer Ridge Correctional Institution in Madras in January. Minimum prison sentences are mandatory for some crimes under an Oregon law passed by voters in 1994 known as Measure 11.

FBI-led task force created to fight Portland gun violence

Associated Press

PORTLAND — A new FBI-led task force will work with police in Portland to build cases against people responsible for an increase in shootings.

Creating a multiagency Metro Safe Streets Task Force came after much negotiation and a guarantee for set boundaries on Portland officers' participation.

Under a memorandum of understanding reached with the city attorney's office, Portland officers working with the task force will be deputized as federal officers but won't do immigration or crowd control enforcement with or for federal law enforcement. The city can remove Portland officers from the task force at any time.

The task force will include 20 Portland police officers, two officers from police in nearby Gresham and two from the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office to coordinate investigations with federal agents from the FBI and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, as well as state and federal prosecutors. The FBI and the ATF each will dedicate one supervisor and four

federal agents.

The collaboration will bring federal money, up to nearly \$20,000 per officer to reimburse overtime costs, to local police agencies to do the work.

It will also bring additional cars, equipment and federal forensic tools to do faster ballistic analysis of shell casings.

The task force work will be restricted to investigations after a shooting occurs, authorities said.

The sharp rise in gun violence in Portland has mobilized police and politicians to act. More than 284 shootings have happened so far this year in the city, with over 90 people injured and 18 killed. The city has seen 26 homicides this year.

If the pace continues, the city could hit a record 100 homicides by year's end.

"The city can't be allowed to reach any kind of milestone like that," said Kieran Ramsey, Oregon's top FBI special agent-in-charge.

Last year, Portland recorded 55 homicides — with 41 from shootings, according to police. The last time Portland recorded as many was in 1994, when there also were 55 homicides, police said.

STATE BRIEFING

Protests in Portland, Seattle lead to arrests

Portland Police declared a riot for the second night in a row Tuesday after a crowd of about 100 people set out on a "direct action" march from Kenton Park to the Portland Police Association office — where fires were ignited.

One person was arrested and charged with second-degree arson, Portland Police said.

In Seattle, three people face charges after demonstrators gathered outside the Seattle Police Department's West Precinct for a Daunte Wright vigil, police said. Two people were arrested for graffiti and another for obstruction, police said.

In Portland, police declared a riot about 10 minutes after the group arrived at the office building, citing criminal activity and the danger the fires were posing to the surrounding neighborhood.

After the arrests, police said many people in the crowd returned to Kenton Park and appeared to get into cars and leave. In total, the incident lasted less than 30 minutes.

Remains ID'd as man who disappeared in 1979

In 1979, a 22-year-old California man went missing as he was traveling to Washington state to visit family.

Decades passed, with no word of Kenneth Bell's fate. But then a timber crew work-

ing in a wilderness area near Molalla on Jan. 8 found skeletal remains, along with a white canvas athletic shoe and a gray metal ring with a red stone.

On Tuesday, the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office announced it had identified the remains, which included a partial skull, as those of Bell. A DNA confirmation is underway.

Detectives believe someone killed Bell, who was from Contra Costa County near San Francisco.

Bell's mother has died since she reported her son missing in 1979, when he would have been 22 years old. Bell worked in the timber industry in the late 1970s, and frequented the Portland area.

— Bulletin wire reports

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ISSUE

