

TODAY

Today is Friday, April 16, the 106th day of 2021. There are 259 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On **April 16, 2007**, in one of America's worst school attacks, a college senior killed 32 people on the campus of Virginia Tech before taking his own life.

In **1789**, President-elect George Washington left Mount Vernon, Virginia, for his inauguration in New York.

In **1862**, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill ending slavery in the District of Columbia.

In **1867**, aviation pioneer Wilbur Wright was born in Millville, Indiana

In **1912**, American aviator Harriet Quimby became the first woman to fly across the English Channel, leaving Dover, England, and arriving near Calais, France, in 59 minutes.

In **1945**, a Soviet submarine in the Baltic Sea torpedoed and sank the MV Goya, which Germany was using to transport civilian refugees and wounded soldiers.

In **1947**, the cargo ship Grandcamp, carrying ammonium nitrate, blew up in the harbor in Texas City, Texas; a nearby ship, the High Flyer, which was carrying ammonium nitrate and sulfur, caught fire and exploded the following day; the blasts and fires killed nearly 600 people.

In **1962**, New Orleans Archbishop Joseph Rummel excommunicated three local Roman Catholics for fighting racial integration of parochial schools.

In **1963**, Martin Luther King Jr. wrote his "Letter from Birmingham Jail" in which the civil rights activist responded to a group of local clergymen who had criticized him for leading street protests; King defended his tactics, writing, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

In **1972**, Apollo 16 blasted off on a voyage to the moon.

In **1977**, Alex Haley, author of the best-seller "Roots," visited the Gambian village of Juffure, where, he believed, his ancestor Kunte Kinte was captured as a slave in 1767.

In **1996**, Britain's Prince Andrew and his wife, Sarah, the Duchess of York, announced they were in the process of divorcing.

In **2010**, the U.S government accused Wall Street's most powerful firm of fraud, saying Goldman Sachs & Co. had sold mortgage investments without telling buyers the securities were crafted with input from a client who was betting on them to fail.

Ten years ago: A Taliban sleeper agent walked into a meeting of NATO trainers and Afghan troops at Forward Operating Base Gamberi in the eastern Afghan province of Laghman and detonated a vest of explosives hidden underneath his uniform.

Five years ago: In an extraordinary gesture, Pope Francis brought 12 Syrian Muslims to Italy aboard his plane after an emotional visit to the Greek island of Lesbos, which was facing the brunt of Europe's migration crisis.

One year ago: The Trump administration gutted an Obama-era rule that compelled the country's coal plants to cut back emissions of mercury and other human health hazards.

Today's Birthdays: Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI is 94. Singer Bobby Vinton is 86. Denmark's Queen Margrethe II is 81. Basketball Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is 74. Former Massachusetts first lady Ann Romney is 72. NFL coach Bill Belichick is 69. Rock singer and former politician Peter Garrett is 68. Actor Ellen Barkin is 67. Actor Michel Gill is 61. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is 59. Rock musician Jason Scheff (Chicago) is 59. Singer Jimmy Osmond is 58. Rock singer David Pirner (Soul Asylum) is 57. Actor-comedian Martin Lawrence is 56. Actor Jon Cryer is 56. Actor Peter Billingsley is 50. Actor Lukas Haas is 45. Actor-singer Kelli O'Hara is 45. Actor Claire Foy (TV: "The Crown") is 37. Figure skater Mirai Nagasu is 28. Actor Sadie Sink is 19.

— Associated Press

Air travel

Continued from A7

But many people didn't wait for the government to acknowledge that travel is generally safe for vaccinated flyers.

Air travel is picking up all over the country. More than 38 million people flew in March, up from fewer than 25 million in February.

Redmond Airport reported 18,872 boardings in February, a 7.5% increase from January, according to the latest figures on the airport website.

But that was still more than 50% below the number of passengers boarding flights in Redmond in February 2020.

Airlines are responding by

adding flights. Sun Country Airlines restored service to Minneapolis on Thursday and Condor Airlines will resume flying to Frankfurt, Germany, on May 21. Icelandair will resume flying in and out of Portland on July 2.

Still, it may be many months — or perhaps years — before air travel returns to pre-pandemic travel volumes. In March 2019, 1.5 million people flew through PDX — nearly twice as many as flew last month.

But business travel, in particular, may never return to normal. Zoom meetings have proven highly effective at gathering colleagues from remote worksites and it's not clear businesses are eager to restore air travel to their budgets.

Unemployment

Continued from A7

States have great latitude to determine how much they pay in jobless support, and for how long, creating vast disparities that leave out-of-work Americans in less generous parts of the country in dire financial straits. In 13 states, for example, the average weekly unemployment benefit is lower than the amount needed to remain above the 2020 poverty line, according to an analysis from the Government Accountability Office, which studied the system in September.

"Too many unemployed folks, people who are laid

off through no fault of their own, are getting a benefit that leaves them unable to pay rent and unable to pay for groceries," Wyden said.

Historically, congressional Republicans have chafed at expanding unemployment payments, believing it deters people from returning to work. But Wyden and Bennet maintain they have an opportunity to advance reforms as part of Democrats' broader rethinking of the country's safety net programs. President Joe Biden is set to unveil a multitrillion-dollar proposal that aims to provide new aid to workers, parents and children facing financial hardship.

Oregon Senate votes to extend grace period for past-due rent

Associated Press/Report for America

The Oregon Senate voted in favor of a bill Wednesday that would give tenants struggling with financial hardships due to the pandemic more time to pay past-due rent.

Currently, tenants have until July to pay back rent, but under the proposed bill, tenants would have until Feb. 28, 2022. The bill passed with a vote of 25-5 and will move to Oregon's House of Representatives for consideration.

"We have all heard the stories of Oregonians without work, who have lost income or who have lost much of their income through no fault of their own — because of a global health crisis," said Sen. Jeff Golden, an Ashland Democrat.

Senate Bill 282 also would protect renters from the long-term impacts of not making payments on time by barring reporting to consumer credit agencies and removing back rents from consideration when submitting future rental applications. The bill would also bar potential landlords from

screening out applicants based on COVID-19-era evictions and allow the sealing of evictions during COVID-19 from a tenant's record.

DEATH NOTICES

Glenn Alan Harris of Terrebonne, OR January 19, 1956 - April 12, 2021

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Services: Service information to be announced at a later date.

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Electric

Continued from A7

On another map, a grid of red squares marked where crews need to complete routine inspections on poles. When they complete the inspection, they can mark it off the list, turning that area green on the map, and note any maintenance that needs done.

Zumwalt said just a few years ago, that type of information was often on physical paper, making it much more difficult to keep track of, update and share between departments and crews. It was also difficult to spot trends. Now, with the click of a button an employee can sort maps of outage histories by cause, location, time or other factors.

"Before, there was no way to visualize this or analyze the data without a ton of work," Zumwalt said.

Down the hall, System Operator Kathryn Kennington is stationed in a control room full of monitors. The amount of information displayed on the screens and the ease of monitoring it has changed significantly over the years of her career in energy, she said.

"We have a lot more information at our fingertips," she said.

After the co-op installed smart meters, for example, staff at the office gained the ability to "ping" a meter and check if it is on, without needing to send someone to physically look to see if a neighborhood has lights on.

Kennington said she has also seen how the GIS mapping has helped crews in the field re-



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Matt Ellis, a lineman with Umatilla Electric Cooperative, positions equipment atop a utility pole in Hermiston.

spond more quickly to outages.

"The electronic mapping is definitely an improvement for newer linemen who don't know the system as well," she said.

Colvin agrees. On Wednesday, April 7, he was out on SE Ninth Street in Hermiston, overseeing work to extend power to a small subdivision being built along the road. In addition to making it easier to navigate, he said the iPads also help with simple things, like punching in work hours elec-

tronically instead of filling out and turning in a handwritten time sheet every day.

He said new power tools and equipment purchased in recent years have saved linemen time. That's time they need, he said. Hermiston, Boardman and other parts of Umatilla Electric Cooperative's service area have been growing rapidly. That brings crews out to projects like the one Colvin was at April 7.

"There are a lot of new subdivisions," he said.

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