

**TODAY**

Today is Friday, April 23, the 113th day of 2021. There are 252 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On **April 23**, 1969, Sirhan Sirhan was sentenced to death for assassinating New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. (The sentence was later reduced to life imprisonment.)

In **1616 (Old Style calendar)**, English poet and dramatist William Shakespeare died in Stratford-upon-Avon on what has traditionally been regarded as the 52nd anniversary of his birth in 1564.

In **1789**, President-elect George Washington and his wife, Martha, moved into the first executive mansion, the Franklin House, in New York.

In **1898**, Spain declared war on the United States, which responded in kind two days later.

In **1940**, about 200 people died in the Rhythm Night Club Fire in Natchez, Mississippi.

In **1943**, U.S. Navy Lt. (jg) John F. Kennedy assumed command of PT-109, a motor torpedo boat, in the Solomon Islands during World War II.

In **1954**, Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee Braves hit the first of his 755 major-league home runs in a game against the St. Louis Cardinals. (The Braves won, 7-5.)

In **1987**, 28 construction workers were killed when an apartment complex being built in Bridgeport, Connecticut, suddenly collapsed.

In **1988**, a federal ban on smoking during domestic airline flights of two hours or less went into effect.

In **1993**, labor leader Cesar Chavez died in San Luis, Arizona, at age 66.

In **1996**, a civil court jury in The Bronx, New York, ordered Bernhard Goetz to pay \$43 million to Darrell Cabey, one of four young men he'd shot on a subway car in 1984.

In **1998**, James Earl Ray, who confessed to assassinating the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and then insisted he'd been framed, died at a Nashville, Tennessee, hospital at age 70.

In **2005**, the recently created video-sharing website YouTube uploaded its first clip, "Me at the Zoo," which showed YouTube co-founder Jawed Karim standing in front of an elephant enclosure at the San Diego Zoo.

**Ten years ago:** Yemen's embattled president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, agreed to a proposal by Gulf Arab mediators to step down within 30 days and hand power to his deputy in exchange for immunity from prosecution.

**Five years ago:** A confident Donald Trump told supporters in Bridgeport, Connecticut, that he was not changing his pitch to voters, a day after his chief adviser assured Republican officials their party's front-runner would show more restraint.

**One year ago:** New data showed unemployment in the U.S. swelling to levels last seen during the Great Depression of the 1930s, with 1 in 6 American workers thrown out of a job by the coronavirus; more than 4.4 million laid-off workers had applied for unemployment benefits in the preceding week. At a White House briefing, President Donald Trump noted that researchers were looking at the effects of disinfectants on the coronavirus, and wondered aloud whether they could be injected into people.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Alan Oppenheimer is 91. Actor David Birney is 82. Actor Lee Majors is 82. Hockey Hall of Famer Tony Esposito is 78. Irish nationalist Bernadette Devlin McAliskey is 74. Actor Blair Brown is 74. Writer-director Paul Brickman is 72. Actor Joyce DeWitt is 72. Actor James Russo is 68. Filmmaker-author Michael Moore is 67. Actor Judy Davis is 66. Actor Valerie Bertinelli is 61. Actor Craig Sheffer is 61. Actor-comedian-talk show host George Lopez is 60. U.S. Olympic gold medal skier Donna Weinbrecht is 56. Actor Melina Kanakaredes is 54. Rock musician Stan Frazier (Sugar Ray) is 53. Actor Scott Bairstow is 51. Actor-writer John Lutz is 48. Actor Barry Watson is 47. Professional wrestler/actor John Cena is 44. Actor-writer-comedian John Oliver is 44. Actor Kal Penn is 44. Retired MLB All-Star Andruw Jones is 44. Actor Jaime King is 42. Pop singer Taio Cruz is 38. Actor Aaron Hill is 38. Actor Jesse Lee Soffer is 37. Actor Rachel Skarsten is 36. Actor Dev Patel is 31. Actor Matthew Underwood is 31. Model Gigi Hadid is 26. Tennis player Ashleigh Barty is 25. U.S. Olympic gold medal snowboarder Chloe Kim is 21.

—Associated Press

**Jobs**

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Businesses of all sizes are struggling with hiring even with millions of Americans unemployed and as increasing numbers of people get vaccinated and look forward to a more normal life. A Census survey taken in late March shows that 6.3 million didn't seek work because they had to care for a child, and 4.1 million said they feared contracting or spreading the virus.

But smaller companies that often can't offer pay and benefits as generous as larger companies have a tougher time.

"A shortage of talent is nothing new for small businesses, but the circumstances surrounding this shortage are entirely different," said Jill Chapman, a consultant with Insperty, a human resources provider.

The National Federation of Independent Business found in a March survey of its own members that 42% had job openings they couldn't fill. Owners cited higher unemployment benefits as one factor. And a study released last month by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that a 10% increase in unemployment benefits during the pandemic led to a 3.6% drop in job applications.

"Unemployment benefits allow workers to be able to wait longer before they take a job, which can make hiring harder," said Ioana Marinescu, a University of Pennsylvania professor who co-authored the study.

Companies whose work is done inside homes — including plumbers, contractors and



Hannah Albert via AP

**Braised in the South, a Johns Island, South Carolina, restaurant and food truck business, is having trouble finding workers during the pandemic. Many small businesses find hiring more difficult because many would-be staffers fear contracting COVID-19 on the job or would prefer to live off unemployment benefits.**

pest control businesses — find many prospective hires are afraid of contracting the virus on a job.

Meanwhile, demand for their services is up because there's more wear and tear on houses and apartments as people spend more time at home.

Economist Joe Brusuelas said child care is another issue that may extend owners' struggles to find workers.

"Until the schools are reopened and avenues of child care normalized, small firms in general, as well as food, beverage, leisure and hospitality, in particular, are going to face staffing challenges until later this fall at the earliest," said

Brusuelas, chief economist with the consulting firm RSM.

Jillian Melton was laid off from a Seasons 52 restaurant in Memphis, Tennessee, when the pandemic shut the restaurant down. Melton, who had worked at the restaurant for seven years, can't work a regular schedule; she has three children at home from school and she's caring for her 93-year-old grandmother. Babysitters and nurses are in short supply.

Melton said employers need to understand that many workers have compromised immune systems or limited availability because schools and day care centers are closed. Some people, upended by the pan-

demic, are just looking for new lines of work, she said.

"All of it is just a hot mess," she said.

Revenue is down 30% at Filter King, based in Miami. Demand for air filters is jumping as people work from home and run their air conditioners more, but owners Mike Jacob and Rick Hoskins need to double their staff of 20 to keep up with orders.

But even when people are willing to work, Filter King is at a disadvantage compared to companies that can pay more, Jacob said. He's lost staffers and candidates to a competitor funded by a venture capital firm.

**FTC**

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"If the Commission believes that authority too cumbersome or otherwise inadequate, it is, of course, free to ask Congress to grant it further remedial authority. Indeed, the Commission has recently asked Congress for that very authority."

The acting FTC chairwoman, Rebecca Kelly Slaughter, issued a scathing statement in response to the decision. Slaughter said the court "ruled in favor of scam artists and dishonest corporations, leaving average Americans to pay for illegal behavior. With this ruling, the Court has deprived the FTC of the strongest tool we had to help consumers when they need it most."

She called on Congress "to act swiftly to restore and strengthen the powers of the agency so we can make wronged consumers whole."

The FTC accused Scott Tucker of Leawood, Kansas, of using his payday loan companies to deceive consumers across the United States and illegally charge them undisclosed and inflated fees.

Tucker is a former American Le Mans Series champion who, according to prosecutors, used proceeds from the lending business to finance a professional auto racing team.

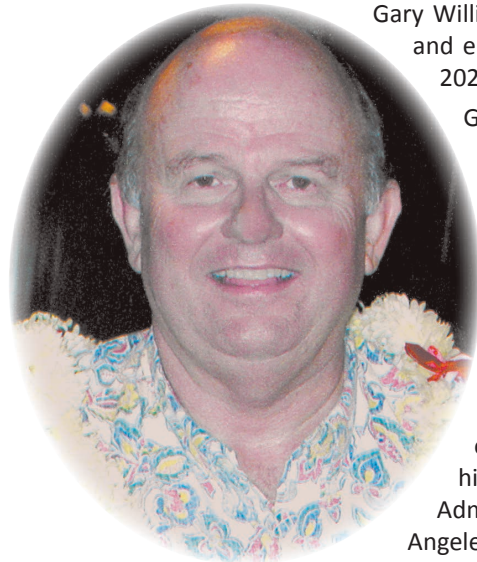
In a separate criminal case, Tucker was sentenced in 2018 to more than 16 years in prison on fraud and other charges.

**OBITUARY**

**Gary W. Hibbard**

November 1942 - April 2021

Gary William Hibbard, devoted husband, loving son, and encouraging friend, passed away on April 3, 2021. He was 78.



Gary, originally from Pasadena, California and his wife Janet K. Mullert, originally from Bangkok, Thailand, have been Bend residents since 2003, when the couple retired.

Gary, the son of Patricia McNamee Hibbard of Altadena, California and William Fleming Hibbard of South Pasadena, California, graduated from Pasadena High School in 1960, then went on to Pasadena City College, before earning his Bachelors of Science degree in Business Administration from Woodbury College, Los Angeles, California in 1965.

During the Vietnam War, Gary went to work for Pan American Airways/Department of Defense, and became the Airport Manager for Pan Am handling R&R flights for our GI's in DaNang, Vietnam. His rank was Major and was awarded the Outstanding Service Award from General Westmorland.

After Vietnam, Gary attended Thunderbird Graduate School of International Management in Glendale, Arizona, where he received his Bachelors of International Management degree. A year later he earned his Masters in International Management with a major in International Finance.

It was while earning his master's that Gary met Janet Mullert, and a month later both knew they'd found "the one." Shortly after graduation, Gary and Janet were married, and began what would become a nearly 51-year partnership and friendship.

"He lights up a room, has this giggle sort of laugh, quick witty humor and is always making up jokes," says Janet fondly.

In 1970, Gary accepted a job with G.D. Searle & Co. of Skokie, Illinois, a well respected pharmaceutical company founded in 1888. His first job was assistant to the President of G.D. Searle International, and he soon ascended to the position of Marketing Manager for G.D. Searle Philippines, so the couple moved to Manila. A short while later Gary was promoted to Country Manager for G.D. Searle Thailand, the couple began yet another international adventure — Thailand, Janet's former home.

After Thailand, Gary and Janet moved back to the United States and eventually settled in Honolulu, Hawaii, where Gary spent 27 years with Procter & Gamble as Manager Pharmaceuticals for Hawaii, until 2003 when Gary retired and the couple moved to sunny Bend, Oregon.

Earlier in his life, Gary played many sports beginning with baseball as a pitcher with the Pasadena little league team, before trying his hand at tennis, golf, snow skiing and water skiing. In Hawaii, Gary and Janet sailed Hobie Cats, small sailing catamarans, and also fished and water skied. Gary, always up for an adventure, hunted in New Zealand and fished in Canada.

Gary's lifelong hobby: cars. When in Hawaii he had sports cars and even moved to Bend with a Porsche, yet with the snow, soon switched to SUVs.

"He got a new car every two years, the last one around his birthday, just last November," explained Janet. "It's kind of big for little ole me, but maybe I'll drive it."

Gary will be remembered by family and friends for his smile, his infectious laugh, the way he "cracked jokes," also for his loyalty. He was a friends-for-life kind of guy.

"Gary was wonderful, sentimental and caring. He enjoyed people and stayed in touch with friends and relatives until the end."

"I talked to Gary just a couple weeks ago," was a common refrain at Gary's celebration of life.

One friend thought for a moment and gave "jolly" as the best descriptor for Gary's manner.

Gary is survived by his wife, Janet, many cousins and his beloved dog Jesse. He is resting in peace at Mountain View Mausoleum in Altadena, California.

We miss you Gary, your contagious laugh, how you were always there for us.

**Produce**

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"But I also think people are just really tuned into health right now," she said.

Moving into the second quarter of 2021, as pandemic closures ease up and restaurants reopen, the Organic Produce Network report said it's not yet clear how quickly consumers will return to pre-pandemic purchasing behaviors.

"Sales of organic fresh produce continue to be a major growth opportunity for retailers across the country," Matt

Seeley, CEO of Organic Produce Network, said in a statement. "At the same time, as the country enters a post-COVID environment, with restaurants reopening and other foodservice options available, it appears the double-digit growth rate will be slowing."

Organic certifiers continue to predict more farms will enter the organic space, and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be looking at ways to make the transition from conventional to organic production easier.

**OBITUARY**

**Jonathan Michael Seefeld**

April 28, 1989 - February 13, 2021



John Seefeld, of Bend, Oregon, died on Saturday February 13, surrounded by many loved ones. In the comfort of his own home - he passed peacefully at the young age of 31, after an arduous battle with testicular cancer.

John was born on April 28, 1989 in Riverside, California. He grew up in Bullhead City, Arizona and Bend, Oregon. In 2000, during middle school advisory, he first met his one-day, future high-school sweetheart, Jennifer Seefeld. They married on March 27, 2014 in celebration with close family and friends. Together they welcomed one beautiful daughter into this world - Julia; John excelled at parenting because of his love for her! If it required hands and tools to build, John could do it! He loved wood working and custom home building, especially when working as a framer.

John returned to waiting arms of his grandmother, Beverly who passed November 2013.

John is survived by his spouse Jennifer, his daughter Julia, his little brother Brandon, his mother Brenda, his grandfather LeRoy, and his Aunt and Uncle - Rebecca and Shawn.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday April 24, 2021 at the Pilot Butte cemetery in Bend, Oregon.