

## TODAY

Today is Monday, April 26, the 116th day of 2021. There are 249 days left in the year.

## Today's Highlight in History:

On **April 26, 1986**, an explosion and fire at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine caused radioactive fallout to begin spewing into the atmosphere. (Dozens of people were killed in the immediate aftermath of the disaster while the long-term death toll from radiation poisoning is believed to number in the thousands.)

In **1607**, English colonists went ashore at present-day Cape Henry, Virginia, on an expedition to establish the first permanent English settlement in the Western Hemisphere.

In **1865**, John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln, was surrounded by federal troops near Port Royal, Virginia, and killed.

In **1913**, Mary Phagan, a 13-year-old worker at a Georgia pencil factory, was strangled; Leo Frank, the factory superintendent, was convicted of her murder and sentenced to death. (Frank's death sentence was commuted, but he was lynched by an anti-Semitic mob in 1915.)

In **1933**, Nazi Germany's infamous secret police, the Gestapo, was created.

In **1945**, Marshal Henri Philippe Petain, the head of France's Vichy government during World War II, was arrested.

In **1968**, the United States exploded beneath the Nevada desert a 1.3 megaton nuclear device called "Boxcar."

In **1977**, the legendary nightclub Studio 54 had its opening night in New York.

In **1989**, actor-comedian Lucille Ball died at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles at age 77.

In **1994**, voting began in South Africa's first all-race elections, resulting in victory for the African National Congress and the inauguration of Nelson Mandela as president.

In **2000**, Vermont Gov. Howard Dean signed the nation's first bill allowing same-sex couples to form civil unions.

In **2009**, the United States declared a public health emergency as more possible cases of swine flu surfaced from Canada to New Zealand; officials in Mexico City closed everything from concerts to sports matches to churches in an effort to stem the spread of the virus.

In **2018**, Bill Cosby was convicted of drugging and molesting Temple University employee Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia mansion in 2004; it was the first big celebrity trial of the #MeToo era and completed the spectacular downfall of a comedian who broke racial barriers on his way to TV superstardom. (Cosby was later sentenced to three to 10 years in prison.)

**Ten years ago:** Phoebe Snow, a singer, guitarist and songwriter whose song "Poetry Man" was a defining hit of the 1970s, died in Edison, New Jersey.

**Five years ago:** Republican Donald Trump roared to victory in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Delaware and Rhode Island while Democrat Hillary Clinton prevailed in four of those states, ceding Rhode Island to Bernie Sanders.

**One year ago:** Children in Spain were allowed to go outside and play for the first time in six weeks as European countries moved to ease their coronavirus lockdowns and reopen their economies. Italy recorded its lowest 24-hour death toll from the virus since mid-March. China's state-run media said hospitals in Wuhan, the original epicenter of the virus, no longer had any COVID-19 patients.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor-comedian Carol Burnett is 88. R&B singer Maurice Williams is 83. Songwriter-musician Duane Eddy is 83. Singer Bobby Rydell is 79. Rock musician Gary Wright is 78. Actor Giancarlo Esposito is 63. Rock musician Roger Taylor (Duran Duran) is 61. Actor Joan Chen is 60. Rock musician Chris Mars is 60. Actor Jet Li is 58. Actor-comedian Kevin James is 56. Author and former U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey is 55. Actor Marianne Jean-Baptiste is 54. Rapper T-Boz (TLC) is 51. Former first lady Melania Trump is 51. Actor Simbi Kali is 50. Country musician Jay DeMarcus (Rascal Flatts) is 50. Rock musician Jose Pasillas (Incubus) is 45. Actor Jason Earles is 44. Actor Pablo Schreiber is 43. Actor Nyambi Nyambi is 42. Actor Channing Tatum is 41. Actor Aaron Weeks is 35. Electro pop musician James Sunderland (Frenship) is 34. New York Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge is 29.

—Associated Press



## 93RD ACADEMY AWARDS

# OSCAR HISTORY MADE, MANY TIMES OVER

« **Chloe Zhao** accepts the award for best director for "Nomadland" at the Oscars on Sunday. She is only the second female director to win the award, and the first woman of color. ABC via AP

**C**hloe Zhao's "Nomadland" — a wistful portrait of itinerant lives on open roads across the American West — won best picture Sunday at the 93rd Academy Awards, where the China-born **Chloe Zhao** also became just the second woman to win best director, and the first woman of color.

The "Nomadland" victory capped the extraordinary rise of Zhao, a lyrical filmmaker whose winning film is just her third, and which — with a budget less than \$5 million and featuring a cast populated by nonprofessional actors — ranks as one of the most modest-sized movies to win Hollywood's top honor. Only Kathryn Bigelow, 11 years ago for "The Hurt Locker," had previously won best director. "I have always found goodness in the people I've met everywhere I went in the world," said Zhao when accepting best director.

### SUPPORTING ROLES

Best supporting actress went to **Yuh-Jung Youn** for the matriarch of Lee Isaac Chung's tender Korean American family drama "Minari." The 72-year-old Youn, a well-known actress in her native South Korea, is the first Asian actress to win an Oscar since 1957 and the second in history. She accepted the award from Brad Pitt, an executive producer on "Minari." "Mr. Brad Pitt, finally," said Youn. "Nice to meet you."

**Daniel Kaluuya** won best supporting actor for "Judas and the Black Messiah." The win for the 32-year-old British actor who was previously nominated for "Get Out," was widely expected. Kaluuya won for his fiery performance as the Black Panther leader Fred Hampton, whom Kaluuya thanked for showing him "how to love myself." "You've got to celebrate life, man. We're breathing. We're walking. It's incredible. My mum met my dad, they had sex. It's amazing. I'm here. I'm so happy to be alive," said Kaluuya while cameras caught his mother's confused reaction.

### FAMILIAR FACES

**Anthony Hopkins**, 80, won his first Oscar since he was victorious for playing Hannibal Lecter. Despite his pedigree, Hopkins was a surprise as the winner of the Academy Award for best actor for his work on "The Father." The late Chadwick Boseman was expected to win the award, which, in a very rare move from the academy, was the last to be handed out this year instead of best picture.

**Frances McDormand** won the Oscar for best actress for



« **Daniel Kaluuya** won an Oscar trophy for best supporting actor.

« **Yuh-Jung Youn** won one for best supporting actress. AP photos

"Nomadland." It's the second Oscar for McDormand, who also won best actress in 2018 for "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri." In "Nomadland," McDormand, 63, plays a woman who leaves her small town to wander the West. She beat out Viola Davis, Carey Mulligan, Vanessa Kirby and Andra Day.

### MORE WINNERS

Travon Free, co-director of the live-action short winner "Two Perfect Strangers," wore a suit jacket lined with the names of those killed by police; his film dramatizes police brutality as an inescapable time loop for Black Americans. Hairstylists Mia Neal and Jamika Wilson of "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" became the first Black women to win in makeup and hairstyling; Ann Roth, at 89 one of the oldest winners ever, won for the film's costume design. Pixar notched its 11th best animated feature Oscar with "Soul," the studio's first feature with a Black protagonist. The night's first award went to Emerald Fennell, the writer-director of the provocative revenge thriller "Promising Young Woman," for best screenplay; Fennell, winning for her feature debut, is the first woman win solo in the category since Diablo Cody ("Juno") in 2007.

It was perhaps the diverse Academy Awards ever, with more women and more actors of color nominated than ever before.

—Bulletin wire reports

### A pandemic presentation

Sunday night's broadcast of the awards ceremony instantly looked different. In a more intimate show without an audience beyond nominees, winners were given wider latitude in their speeches. "It has been quite a year and we are still smack dab in the middle of it," actress Regina King said in the opening.

King explained how Sunday's Oscars were even possible — testing, vaccinations, social distancing and more testing. The safety protocols, she said, echoed those of film shoots during the pandemic. "When we're rolling, masks on," said King. "When we're not, masks off."

Sunday's pandemic-delayed Oscars bring to a close the longest awards season ever — one that turned the season's industrial complex of cocktail parties and screenings virtual. And pandemic closures have made it a punishing year for Hollywood.

After the pandemic, the movie industry — and the Oscars — may not ever be quite the same. Or as WarnerMedia's new chief executive Jason Kilar said when announcing plans to shift the studio's movies to streaming: "We're not in Kansas anymore."

—Associated Press

## OREGON NEWS

# Biden taps professor at OSU to lead NOAA

BY SHANE DIXON KAVANAUGH  
The Oregonian

An Oregon State University professor is poised to become the head of the U.S. government's leading agency for weather, climate and ocean science.

President Joe Biden picked Rick Spinrad to run the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a role that could prove pivotal as the White House seeks to make climate action a top priority.

An internationally recognized oceanographer with decades of policy experience, Spinrad previously served as the agency's chief scientist under President Barack Obama as well as the U.S. representative to the United Nations' Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission.

If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Spinrad would become the third person affiliated with Oregon State University to lead the 11,000-employee agency, which

oversees the National Weather Service, conducts climate research and protects the nation's coastlines and fisheries.

He would also be the first person confirmed to head the NOAA since 2017 — two nominees selected by President Donald Trump never received a Senate vote.

Biden appears determined to bolster the size of the agency, which is part of the Commerce Department, as well as the

scope of its work, particularly in the area of climate change. His administration has proposed the largest budget in the agency's history — \$6.4 billion, a more than 25% increase from its 2021 budget.

Spinrad, who also earned his Ph.D. from OSU, has most recently been involved with the university's wave energy testing facility off the Oregon Coast, which aims to harness the motion of the ocean to generate electricity.



Spinrad

## STATE BRIEFING

### 'Shameful': Nazi's dagger listed by Portland auction house

A dagger supposedly once owned by Heinrich Himmler, the leader of Adolf Hitler's SS security force that helped run Nazi concentration camps, is being sold through the 49-year-old Portland family business O'Gallerie, prompting local outrage in the days since an Oregon artist discovered the listing.

"We don't believe that a business or an individual should be able to profit from something like this — it's shameful," says Bob Horenstein, the director of community relations at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. He says he's tried without success to reach O'Gallerie's owners.

O'Gallerie on Sunday did not respond to emails or phone messages from The Oregonian.

Items used or touched by high-ranking Nazis have become collectibles. Himmler, one of the architects of the Holocaust, killed himself in May 1945 after being captured by Allied forces. The dagger might be one that he presented to SS officers during ceremonies.

—The Oregonian

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