

TODAY

Today is Tuesday, May 4, the 124th day of 2021. There are 241 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On **May 4, 1961**, the first group of "Freedom Riders" left Washington, D.C., to challenge racial segregation on interstate buses and in bus terminals.

In **1626**, Dutch explorer Peter Minuit landed on present-day Manhattan Island.

In **1776**, Rhode Island declared its freedom from England, two months before the Declaration of Independence was adopted.

In **1932**, mobster Al Capone, convicted of income-tax evasion, entered the federal penitentiary in Atlanta. (Capone was later transferred to Alcatraz Island.)

In **1942**, the Battle of the Coral Sea, the first naval clash fought entirely with carrier aircrafts, began in the Pacific during World War II. (The outcome was considered a tactical victory for Japan, but ultimately a strategic one for the Allies.)

In **1945**, during World War II, German forces in the Netherlands, Denmark and northwest Germany agreed to surrender.

In **1959**, the first Grammy Awards ceremony was held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Domenico Modugno won Record of the Year and Song of the Year for "Nel Blu Dipinto Di Blu (Volare)"; Henry Mancini won Album of the Year for "The Music from Peter Gunn."

In **1968**, the Oroville Dam in Northern California was dedicated by Gov. Ronald Reagan; the 770-foot-tall earth-filled structure, a pet project of Reagan's predecessor, Pat Brown, remains the tallest dam in the United States, but was also the scene of a near disaster in February 2017 when two spillways collapsed, threatening for a time to flood parts of three counties in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

In **1970**, Ohio National Guardsmen opened fire during an anti-war protest at Kent State University, killing four students and wounding nine others.

In **1998**, Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski was given four life sentences plus 30 years by a federal judge in Sacramento, California, under a plea agreement that spared him the death penalty.

In **2006**, a federal judge sentenced Zacarias Moussaoui to life in prison for his role in the 9/11 attacks, telling the convicted terrorist, "You will die with a whimper."

In **2010**, a Pakistani-born U.S. citizen was charged with terrorism and attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction in the botched Times Square bombing.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama said he had decided not to release death photos of Osama bin Laden because their graphic nature could incite violence and create national security risks. Officials told The Associated Press that the Navy SEALs who'd stormed bin Laden's compound in Pakistan shot and killed him after they saw him appear to lunge for a weapon. Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin was named the Rookie of the Year, becoming the NBA's first unanimous choice for the award in 21 years.

Five years ago: Sipping filtered city water to show it was again drinkable, President Barack Obama promised to ride herd on leaders at all levels of government until every drop of water flowing into homes in Flint, Michigan, was safe to use.

One year ago: New York state reported more than 1,700 previously undisclosed coronavirus deaths at nursing homes and adult care facilities. The Supreme Court heard arguments by phone and allowed the world to listen in live for the first time. The U.S. Senate convened for the first time since March.

Today's Birthdays: Katherine Jackson, matriarch of the Jackson musical family, is 91. Jazz musician Ron Carter is 84. Pulitzer Prize-winning political commentator George Will is 80. Actor Richard Jenkins is 74. Actor-turned-clergyman Hilly Hicks is 71. Irish musician Darryl Hunt (The Pogues) is 71. Singer Jackie Jackson (The Jacksons) is 70. Violinist Soozie Tyrell is 64. Actor Mary McDonough is 60. Comedian Ana Gasteyer is 54. Actor Will Arnett is 51. Rock musician Mike Dint (Green Day) is 49. Contemporary Christian singer Chris Tomlin is 49. TV personality and fashion designer Kimora Lee Simmons is 46. Sports reporter Erin Andrews is 43. Singer Lance Bass (N Sync) is 42. Rapper/singer Jidenna is 36. Actor Amara Miller is 21. Actor Brooklyn Prince is 11.

— Associated Press

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

Methodists turn over
Wallowa church to tribe

Wallowa County Chieftain

What once belonged to the Nez Perce people was returned Thursday with celebration and fellowship at Wallowa United Methodist Church in Wallowa.

The deed and keys to the now-closed Wallowa United Methodist Church were turned over to the Nez Perce Tribe by The Oregon-Idaho Conference of The UMC as a gesture of gratitude, respect and repentance, according to a press release.

Leaders from the tribe, along with Methodist leaders, joined in a ceremony of celebration and fellowship as the property, which has been owned by the church for 144 years, is returned to the tribe.

This is the second piece of property the church has returned to the tribe. In 2018, the conference returned 1.5 acres



Photos by Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

LEFT: Nez Perce tribal member Lee Bourgeau, right, describes the historical significance of the garments she is wearing while Mary Jane Miles, of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee, listens. **ABOVE:** Nez Perce drummers participate in ceremonies held Thursday surrounding granting ownership of the now-closed Wallowa Methodist Church to the tribe. About 60 people, both from the tribe and the church, were on hand for the ceremony.

of riverbed property from its Wallowa Lake Camp to the

tribe to be used for fish spawning habitat.

Wyoming backs coal with threat to sue other states

BY MEAD GRUVER

The Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — While most states pursue ways to boost renewable energy, Wyoming is doing the opposite with a new program aimed at propping up the dwindling coal industry by suing other

states that block exports of Wyoming coal and cause Wyoming coal-fired power plants to shut down.

The law signed April 6 by Republican Gov. Mark Gordon creates a \$1.2 million fund for an initiative that marks the latest attempt by state leaders to help coal in the state that accounts for the bulk of U.S. coal production, which is down by half since 2008.

"Wyoming is sending a message that it is prepared to bring litigation to protect her interests," Gordon spokesman Michael Pearlman said of the fund signed into law April 6.

The law puts Oregon, other West Coast states and Colorado on notice — all seek to get a large share of their electricity from renewables but still get juice from aging Wyoming coal-fired power plants. The approach may run into legal troubles, though, according to one constitutional expert.

Lawsuits between states aren't unusual and often involve natural resources, such as water rights. Such cases can go directly to the U.S. Supreme Court, if the justices agree to hear them.

Wyoming coal production, which accounts for about 40%

"I will not waver in my efforts to protect our industries, particularly our coal industry. The use of coal is under assault from all directions."

— Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon

of the nation's total, has been in decline as utilities switch to gas, which is cheaper to burn to generate electricity. Solar and wind power also are on the rise as coal's share of the U.S. power market shrinks from about half in the early 2000s to less than 20% now.

Who might be targets of future Wyoming coal litigation isn't yet known. Pearlman declined to speculate, saying Gordon and Attorney General Bridget Hill would need to study their chances of success, but they could include West Coast states including, again, Washington.

Portland-based utility PacifiCorp plans to reduce its coal-fired generation by two-thirds by 2030, partly by retiring generators at two southwestern Wyoming power plants starting in 2023, as much as five years sooner than

envisioned just a few years ago. The utility serves four states with renewable energy standards or goals — California, Oregon, Utah and Washington — and two that don't: Idaho and Wyoming.

PacifiCorp has been meeting renewable standards by getting electricity from the lowest cost and least risky sources like it has always done, so the standards haven't factored into its decisions to retire coal-fired power, company spokesman David Eskelsen said.

PacifiCorp has no position

on the legal fund, but the Wyoming Rural Electric Association supports the message it sends to states such as Colorado, which has renewable energy standards and gets coal-fired electricity from southeastern Wyoming, Executive Director Shawn Taylor said.

"It's just kind of part and parcel of folks feeling that states and state agencies and entities outside Wyoming are having more of an impact on our energy resources than we do," Taylor said.

The coal litigation fund

followed a 2020 bill that established a \$1 million fund to promote Wyoming coal. Wyoming is paying a nonprofit, the Energy Policy Network, \$250,000 a year from the fund to contest plans in other states to shut down coal-fired power.

"I will not waver in my efforts to protect our industries, particularly our coal industry. The use of coal is under assault from all directions. And we have stood firm in our support of it throughout," Gordon said in his state of the state address in March.

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Swastikas scrawled on
Holocaust memorial in
southwest Portland park

BY SHANE DIXON KAVANAUGH
The Oregonian

At least one person struck the Oregon Holocaust Memorial in southwest Portland's Washington Park, scrawling swastikas across the memorial's stone wall, city officials said.

The vandalism, written in white, also included the numbers "1488," a symbol popular among neo-Nazis and other white supremacists, a photo reviewed by The Oregonian shows.

Portland and other communities around the U.S. recognize May as Jewish American Heritage Month.

Police notified parks bureau staff of the antisemitic graffiti about 11 a.m. Sunday, said Mark Ross, a Portland Parks & Recreation spokesman.

Maintenance crews later managed to remove the graffiti, Ross said, adding that the vandalism remains under investigation by police.

"The damage to the Oregon

Holocaust Memorial is heart-breaking, and it's particularly painful that it happened during Jewish American Heritage Month," Mayor Ted Wheeler said in a statement.

"I denounce hate crimes, anti-Semitism, and white supremacy."

The Portland Police Bureau said Monday that investigators were looking into the vandalism, which also included antisemitic tagging on signs and concrete barriers near the park, but no arrests had been made.

The Oregon Holocaust Memorial was dedicated in 2004. At the end of the memorial wall is a soil vault panel, where soil and ash are interred from six extermination camps of the Holocaust.

Engraved in the granite panels on the backside of the wall are the names of people who died in the camps, as well as their surviving relatives who live in Oregon and southwest Washington.