

TODAY

It's Friday, May 7, the 127th day of 2021. There are 238 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

In **1945**, Germany signed an unconditional surrender at Allied headquarters in Rheims, France, ending its role in World War II.

In **1833**, composer Johannes Brahms was born in Hamburg, Germany.

In **1840**, composer Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky was born in Votkinsk, Russia.

In **1915**, a German U-boat torpedoed and sank the British liner RMS Lusitania off the southern coast of Ireland, killing 1,198 people, including 128 Americans, out of the nearly 2,000 on board.

In **1928**, the minimum voting age for British women was lowered from 30 to 21 — the same age as men.

In **1939**, Germany and Italy announced a military and political alliance known as the Rome-Berlin Axis.

In **1946**, Sony Corp. had its beginnings as the Tokyo Telecommunications Engineering Corp. was founded in the Japanese capital by Akio Morita and Masaru Ibuka.

In **1954**, the 55-day Battle of Dien Bien Phu in Vietnam ended with Vietnamese insurgents overrunning French forces.

In **1963**, the United States launched the Telstar 2 communications satellite.

In **1975**, President Gerald R. Ford formally declared an end to the "Vietnam era." In Ho Chi Minh City — formerly Saigon — the Viet Cong celebrated its takeover.

In **1998**, the parent company of Mercedes-Benz agreed to buy Chrysler Corp. for more than \$37 billion. Londoners voted overwhelmingly to elect their own mayor for the first time in history. In May 2000, Ken Livingstone was elected.

In **2010**, a BP-chartered vessel lowered a 100-ton concrete-and-steel vault onto the ruptured Deepwater Horizon well in an unprecedented, and ultimately unsuccessful, attempt to stop most of the gushing crude fouling the sea.

In **2019**, two gunmen opened fire inside a charter school in a Denver suburb not far from Columbine High School, killing a student, 18-year-old Kendrick Castillo, who authorities said had charged at the shooters to protect classmates; two students at the school were charged in the attack. A 16-year-old, Alec McKinney, pleaded guilty to 17 felonies and was sentenced to life in prison plus 38 years; 19-year-old Devon Erickson pleaded not guilty to the same charges; his trial has been delayed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Ten years ago: The U.S. released videos seized from Osama bin Laden's hideout showing the terrorist leader watching newscasts of himself amid shabby surroundings. Justin Verlander threw his second career no-hitter, leading the Detroit Tigers to a 9-0 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays.

Five years ago: A Tesla Model S sedan that was in self-driving mode crashed into the side of a tractor-trailer in Williston, Florida, killing its occupant, Joshua D. Brown. President Barack Obama told the graduating class at Howard University in Washington, D.C. that the country was "a better place" than when he left college more than 30 years earlier, but acknowledged that gaps persisted, citing racism and inequality.

One year ago: Georgia authorities arrested a white father and son and charged them with murder in the February shooting death of Ahmaud Arbery, a Black man they had pursued in a truck after spotting him running in their neighborhood near the port city of Brunswick. The Justice Department dropped a criminal case against Michael Flynn, President Donald Trump's first national security adviser, who was accused of lying to the FBI about conversations with the Russian ambassador.

Today's Birthdays: R&B singer Thelma Houston is 78. Actor Robin Strasser is 76. Singer-songwriter Bill Danoff is 75. Rock musician Bill Kreutzmann (Grateful Dead) is 75. Former Utah Gov. Gary Herbert is 74. Rock musician Prairie Prince is 71. Movie writer-director Amy Heckerling is 69. Actor Michael E. Knight is 62. Rock musician Phil Campbell (Motorhead) is 60. Actor Traci Lords is 53. Actor Breckin Meyer is 47. Rock musician Matt Helders (Arctic Monkeys) is 35. Actor-comedian Aidy Bryant is 34.

— Associated Press

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

PORTLAND

Missing, murdered Indigenous people are recognized at event

BY JAIMIE DING

The Oregonian

More than 150 people gathered at the downtown Portland waterfront Wednesday evening to honor missing and murdered Indigenous people as part of a national day of awareness.

The event was put together by young Indigenous people from tribes throughout Oregon and Washington, said Teewahnee Sahme, a Warm Springs member who helped organize the vigil.

Speakers brought attention to the disproportionate amount of violence Indigenous people face, as well as tribes' continued struggles over land rights and treaty agreements.

"I'm a Native woman, and I've just been surrounded my whole life by women who have been battered and abused by men," Toma Deavers, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, told The Oregonian.

Deavers called the violence against Indigenous women an "ongoing form of genocide, a genocide that has never ended."

American Indians and Alaska Natives are 2.5 times more likely to experience violent crimes compared to people of other races, and more than 80% of American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime, according to the Association on American Indian Affairs.

Sahme said that on his Central Oregon reservation, he knows of at least five missing person or homicide cases that have not been solved.

Karry Kelley, 56, said unsolved crimes against Indigenous people have been a part of her life as long as she can remember.

"Ever since I was a young kid, there have been people in our family who have ended up missing and never found," said Kelley, who's part of the Klamath tribes of Paiute and Modoc.

She said there are several open homicide and missing



Jaimie Ding/The Oregonian

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person cases involving members of her tribe. Lilajane, a speaker from the

Warm Springs and Yakama tribes, echoed Kelley's sentiment.

Katie Hunsberger, 28, and Davineekhat White Elk, 24, who are Indigenous women, attend the gathering.

"The knowledge that our families are under constant attack generationally is something we're born with. We have generational trauma that goes back hundreds of years."

Attendees of Wednesday's event dressed in red and encircled the Salmon Street Springs fountain with bouquets of red flowers as drummers and singers performed Indigenous social and honor songs.

They cut out and wrote messages on red paper dresses, dotting the waterfront fence with prayers for relatives and Indigenous people who remain

missing.

The event commemorated Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day and came a little over two months after the U.S. Attorney's Office in Oregon released its first missing and murdered Indigenous persons report as part of a nationwide initiative to improve law enforcement responses in such cases.

"The first step in seeking justice for missing and murdered Tribal victims is acknowledging the historical indifference to and neglect of these tragic cases," Acting U.S. Attorney Scott Erik Asphaug said in a statement Wednesday. "A lack of data and jurisdictional gaps have caused many solvable cases to go unsolved."

Strike ends at Oregon Tech as contract deal reached

The Associated Press

KLAMATH FALLS — The faculty at the Oregon Institute of Technology has come to an agreement on a five-year contract with the university, ending a strike that had stretched into a second week.

Tentative agreements were reached on salary, merit increases and health insurance that includes Oregon Tech paying 95 to 97% of health care costs, the Herald and News reported this week.

Both parties agreed to new workload expectations that will allow faculty to spend more time with students and in the classroom, according to the administration.

The administration upped its salary offer from 9.5% guaranteed salary increases to 11.5% over the next five years, with the opportunity for another 3.5% in merit increases. Although the union was opposed to merit increases, Ken Fincher, vice president of institutional advancement, said that was one area in which the union compromised.

On Tuesday the university worked to bring back faculty members.

"We're just really glad that our faculty who, throughout this process we've always held in high regard and in high esteem, that they're going to be back in the classroom," Fincher said.



File photo

Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls.

Both sides called it a good contract and said each side compromised.

Union spokesperson Kari Lundgren said the deal confirmed the strike had been a success.

She credited the solidarity from students and other community members with pushing both sides toward a deal.

Both Lundgren and Fincher expressed optimism for the future of the university and union relationship. Both said the next contract need not be so contentious.

The nine-day strike was the first facultywide labor walkout at a public Oregon university.

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