

TODAY

Today is Tuesday, May 25, the 145th day of 2021. There are 220 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On **May 25, 2020**, George Floyd, a Black man, died when a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee on Floyd's neck for about 9½ minutes while Floyd was handcuffed and pleading that he couldn't breathe; Floyd's death, captured on video by a bystander, would lead to worldwide protests, some of which turned violent, and a reexamination of racism and policing in the U.S.

In **1787**, the Constitutional Convention began at the Pennsylvania State House (Independence Hall) in Philadelphia after enough delegates had shown up for a quorum.

In **1935**, Babe Ruth hit his last three career home runs — Nos. 712, 713 and 714 — for the Boston Braves in a game against the Pittsburgh Pirates. (The Pirates won, 11-7.)

In **1946**, Transjordan (now Jordan) became a kingdom as it proclaimed its new monarch, Abdullah I.

In **1959**, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *State Athletic Commission v. Dorsey*, struck down a Louisiana law prohibiting interracial boxing matches. (The case had been brought by Joseph Dorsey Jr., a Black professional boxer.)

In **1961**, President John F. Kennedy told Congress: "I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth."

In **1964**, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Griffin v. County School Board of Prince Edward County*, ordered the Virginia county to reopen its public schools, which officials had closed in an attempt to circumvent the Supreme Court's 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* desegregation ruling.

In **1965**, Muhammad Ali knocked out Sonny Liston in the first round of their world heavyweight title rematch in Lewiston, Maine.

In **1977**, the first "Star Wars" film (later retitled "Star Wars: Episode IV — A New Hope") was released by 20th Century Fox.

In **1979**, 273 people died when an American Airlines DC-10 crashed just after takeoff from Chicago's O'Hare Airport. Six

In **1992**, Jay Leno made his debut as host of NBC's "Tonight Show," succeeding Johnny Carson.

In **2008**, NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander arrived on the Red Planet to begin searching for evidence of water; the spacecraft confirmed the presence of water ice at its landing site.

In **2018**, Harvey Weinstein was charged in New York with rape and another sex felony in the first prosecution to result from the wave of allegations against him; the once-powerful movie producer turned himself in to face the charges and was released on \$1 million bail after a court appearance. (Weinstein was convicted of rape and sexual assault; he is serving a 23-year prison sentence.)

Ten years ago: A judge in Salt Lake City sentenced street preacher Brian David Mitchell to life in prison for kidnapping and raping Elizabeth Smart, who was 14 at the time of her abduction in 2002.

Five years ago: Actor Johnny Depp's wife, Amber Heard, filed for divorce in Los Angeles, citing irreconcilable differences after 15 months of marriage.

One year ago: Americans observed Memorial Day with small processions and online tributes that also remembered those lost to the coronavirus.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Ann Robinson is 92. Country singer-songwriter Tom T. Hall is 85. Actor Sir Ian McKellen is 82. Movie director and puppeteer Frank Oz is 77. Actor Karen Valentine is 74. Actor Jacki Weaver is 74. Rock singer Klaus Meine (The Scorpions) is 73. Actor Patti D'Arbanville is 70. Playwright Eve Ensler is 68. Musician Cindy Cashdollar is 66. Rock singer-musician Paul Weller is 63. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., is 61. Actor-comedian Mike Myers is 58. Actor Anne Heche is 52. Actors Lindsay and Sidney Greenbush (TV: "Little House on the Prairie") are 51. Actor-comedian Jamie Kennedy is 51. Actor Octavia Spencer is 51. Actor Justin Henry is 50. Rapper Daz Dillinger is 48. Actor Molly Sims is 48. Actor Erinn Hayes is 45. Actor Cillian Murphy is 45. Actor Corbin Allred is 42. Actor-singer Lauren Frost is 36. Olympic gold medal gymnast Aly Raisman is 27.

— Associated Press

Impeachment witness sues for \$1.8M in legal fees



BY ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Gordon Sondland, the Trump administration's ambassador to the European Union and a pivotal witness in 2019 impeachment proceedings, sued former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Monday in an effort to recoup \$1.8 million he racked up in legal expenses.

Sondland, a Portland hotel magnate who previously donated \$1 million to Donald Trump's inaugural committee, alleges in the lawsuit filed in federal court in Washington that Pompeo had committed to reimburse his legal expenses after he was subpoenaed by House Democrats to testify in an impeachment case that accused the then-president of withholding military

aid from Ukraine while demanding an investigation into political rival Joe Biden and his son Hunter.

Instead, Sondland says, Pompeo "renege[d] on his promise" after learning the details of Sondland's testimony.

"With the contractual commitment of Pompeo having been abandoned apparently for political convenience, Ambassador Sondland turns to this Court to reimburse his attorneys' fees and costs and make him whole," Sondland's lawyer, Mark Barondess, wrote in his lawsuit.

A spokesperson for Pompeo called the lawsuit "ludicrous" and said Pompeo was "confident the court will see it the same way."

In testimony that Sondland's lawsuit describes as "highly fraught, highly

charged and highly risky with tremendous consequences," he described for investigators how Trump and his lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, explicitly sought a "quid pro quo" with Ukraine, leveraging an Oval Office visit for political investigations of Democrats.

Trump was impeached by the House but acquitted in February 2020 by the Senate.

Sondland was fired days after Trump's acquittal "simply for telling the truth," according to the lawsuit. He says the unwillingness to cover his legal fees not only represented a breach of commitment and "normal convention" but was also "especially problematic in this instance because the amount of preparation needed to comply with the subpoenas was staggering."

Testing's value shrinks as vaccines beat back virus

BY MATTHEW PERRONE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal health officials' new, more relaxed recommendations on masks have all but eclipsed another major change in guidance from the government: Fully vaccinated Americans can largely skip getting tested for the coronavirus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said last week most people who have received the full course of shots and have no COVID-19 symptoms don't need to be screened for the virus, even if exposed to someone infected.

The change represents a new phase in the epidemic after nearly a year in which testing was the primary weapon against the virus. Vaccines are now central to the response and have driven down hospitalizations and deaths dramatically.

Experts say the CDC guidance reflects a new reality in which nearly half of Americans have received at least one shot and close to 40% are fully vaccinated.

"At this point we really should be asking ourselves whether the benefits of testing outweigh the costs — which are lots of disruptions, lots of confusion and very little clinical or public health benefit," said Dr. A. David Paltiel of Yale's School of Public Health, who championed widespread testing at colleges last year.

While vaccinated people can still catch the virus, they face little risk of serious illness from it. And positive test results can lead to what many experts now say are unnecessary worry and interruptions at work, home and school,



A sign advertises coronavirus testing in Philadelphia in January.

Matt Rourke/AP file

such as quarantines and shutdowns.

Other health specialists say the CDC's abrupt changes on the need for masks and testing have sent the message that COVID-19 is no longer a major threat, even as the U.S. reports daily case counts of nearly 30,000.

"The average Joe Public is interpreting what the CDC is saying as 'This is done. It's over,'" said Dr. Michael Mina of Harvard University, a leading advocate of widespread, rapid testing.

With more than 60% of Americans not fully vaccinated, he thinks screening of those without symptoms still has a role, particularly among front-line workers who have to deal with the public.

CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said the updated guidelines are based on studies showing the robust effective-

ness of the vaccine in preventing disease in various age groups and settings. Even when vaccinated people do contract COVID-19, their infections tend to be milder, shorter and less likely to spread to others.

As a result, the CDC says vaccinated people can generally be excluded from routine workplace screening for COVID-19.

But widespread attempts to waive testing for vaccinated people could face the same dilemma seen with the CDC's new guidelines on masks: There's no easy way to determine who has been vaccinated and who hasn't.

Employers can legally require vaccinations for most workers, though few have tested that power, since the vaccines don't yet have full regulatory ap-

1 million tests

On a national level, the supply of COVID-19 tests now vastly surpasses demand. U.S. officials receive reports of about 1 million tests per day, down from a peak of over 2 million in mid-January, though many rapid tests done at home and workplaces go uncounted.

Consumers can buy 15-minute, over-the-counter tests at pharmacies and other stores. That's on top of increased capacity from U.S. laboratories and hospitals, which ramped up testing after last year's crushing demand.

The U.S. will be capable of conducting 500 million monthly tests in June, according to researchers at Arizona State University.

proval. Even asking employees to disclose their vaccination status is viewed as intrusive by many employment-law specialists.

For now, testing appears to be continuing unchanged in places that adopted the practice, from offices to meat-packing plants to sports teams.

As recently as this winter, many health experts were calling for a huge testing effort to safely reopen schools, offices and other businesses. But that was before it was known how effective the vaccine would be in the real world, how quickly it could be distributed and whether it would protect against variants.

"The vaccines overperformed, which is the best news possible," said Dr. Jeffrey Engel of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists.

Vaccinated

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The county's status allows venues to offer the new vaccination sections. Users of the vaccinated sections must have received both of the two-shot Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, or the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Two weeks must have passed since the last shot, the minimum time health officials believe is needed for full protection from the vaccine.

Unlike other parts of the country, Oregon requires proof of vaccination.

People in vaccinated sections will be required to show a CDC-issued vaccination card, or a digital or printed copy. Nonvaccinated children up to age 15 can sit in vaccinated sections with their parent or guardian.

Oregon officials hope televised shots of fans in what recalls the old pre-pandemic playoff pandemonium will boost flagging inoculation rates.

Though the new policy will make a high-profile public debut in the NBA playoffs, the same rules can be followed to experience movies, theater, restaurants and other indoor activities in any county that meets the vaccination mark.

While those sitting in vaccination sections must be fully vaccinated, the plan is available in any county that has reached the state's target of having 65% of residents receiving at least one vaccine shot.

Deschutes, Washington, Lincoln, Hood River and Benton counties have reached the threshold, which allowed them to move into the lower risk level for COVID-19 infection despite having case rates that were higher than the maximum requirements for the least restrictive measures. Multnomah joins the group

after it submits the mandatory vaccine equity plan to reach underserved residents required of each county. Brown said the plan was imminent and the NBA said the Thursday game would offer the vaccination sections.

Boyle said OHA guidance on the new vaccinated sections spells out the definitions and requirements for individuals, groups and organizations. It covers those engaged in "commercial, industrial, or professional activities." Sectors include eating and drinking establishments, recreation and fitness centers, indoor entertainment, retail stores, shopping centers and malls and personal services providers.

Those in vaccinated sections do not have to be counted in overall capacity limits.

"A theater would need to create a section for vaccinated individuals," Boyle said. "Individuals seated in the vaccinated area would not count toward the overall capacity limit. Individuals seated in an unvaccinated section would need to follow mask and physical distancing requirements and would count toward the overall capacity limit." Other larger counties could soon join the lower risk group. Clackamas, Tillamook, Polk and Lane counties have passed the 60% mark on vaccination.

Curry, Gilliam, Harney, Lake, Morrow, Sherman, Union, Wallowa and Wasco counties are all rated as lower risk based on their actual infection rates.

State officials said Monday that Jackson, Marion, Douglas and Umatilla counties all needed to vaccinate more than 20,000 residents each to meet the 65% vaccination mark.

Besides the county-by-county method, Brown has said that the entire state — all 36 counties — will move into

the lower risk category if 70% of residents age 16 and older have received one shot. As of Monday, 64% of those eligible under the guidelines had received at least one shot.

Large crowds sitting together without masks have attended sports events in other states that don't follow the COVID-19 restrictions required in Oregon. Political leaders have debated health agency warnings that such situations could turn into COVID-19 "superspreader" events.

Oregon is not alone in creating special seating for vaccinated people at sporting, cultural and other events. Gov. Jay Inslee of Washington has announced that similar opportunities for those vaccinated against COVID-19 will be offered in the state.

But Inslee and other political leaders across the nation have relied on an "honor system" in which those who say they are vaccinated do not have to produce proof. Oregon requires businesses to ask for proof of vaccination in order for customers to go maskless.

Some political leaders, mostly Republicans, have gone the other direction and sought to bar government or businesses from inquiring about vaccination status or requiring proof, which conservative groups have branded as "vaccination passports." It's the latest political fight over COVID-19 policy pitting public health against privacy and personal choice that has included opposition to wearing masks and social distancing. Decisions to open public schools to in-person instruction and to require civic buildings be open to the public without any vaccination requirements have also split communities around the nation.

Oregon Republicans who have criticized Brown's emer-

gency orders that have given her wide latitude over public life in the name of preserving public health. The new policy has some in the GOP advocating for the honor system put in place by Inslee, a Democrat.

"Does Governor Brown believe that Washingtonians are more trustworthy than Oregonians?" Rep. Daniel Bonham, R-The Dalles, said in a statement Monday. "If not, why such a dramatically different standard and approach?"

Brown has pointed to Ore-

gon's place near the bottom of the list of state infection rates and deaths as proof that the states' risk-and-rules based system has served residents well. Oregon has reported 198,972 positive COVID-19 cases and 2,624 deaths since the first reported cases of the pandemic reached Oregon in February 2020. Nationwide, there have been more than 33.14 million cases and 590,262 deaths, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center.

■ gwamer@eomediagroup.com

DEATH NOTICES

Billy Bruce Ownbey of Bend, OR
Nov 01, 1940 - May 19, 2021

Arrangements:
Baird Funeral Home of Bend is honored to serve the Ownbey family. Please visit our website, www.bairdfh.com, to share condolences and sign our online guest book.
Contributions may be made to: In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Billy's name can be made to a charity of your choice.

Agnes Mary Olsen of La Pine, OR
August 28, 1932 - May 14, 2021

Arrangements:
Baird Memorial Chapel of La Pine is honored to serve the Olsen family. Please visit our website, www.bairdfh.com, to share condolences and sign the online guestbook.

Winifred Varley of La Pine, OR
December 2, 1928 - May 17, 2021

Arrangements:
Baird Memorial Chapel of La Pine is honored to serve the Varley family. Please visit our website, www.bairdfh.com, to share condolences and sign the online guestbook.

David Charles Ferguson of La Pine, OR
Jan 23, 1954 - May 18, 2021

Arrangements:
Baird Memorial Chapel of La Pine is honored to serve the Ferguson family. Please visit our website, www.bairdfh.com, to share condolences and sign the online guestbook.

Sandra Jean Doering of Redmond, OR
Oct 13, 1931 - May 18, 2021

Arrangements:
Autumn Funerals-REDMOND www.autumnfunerals.net 541-504-9485
Services:
Per Sandra's wishes, no services will be held.

OBITUARY DEADLINE

Call to ask about our deadlines
541-385-5809
Monday - Friday,
10am - 3pm.

No death notices or obituaries are published Mondays.

Email:
obits@bendbulletin.com