

TODAY

Today is Thursday, July 29, the 210th day of 2021. There are 155 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

In **1958**, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act, creating NASA.

In **1856**, German composer Robert Schumann died in Endenich at age 46.

In **1890**, artist Vincent van Gogh, 37, died of an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound in Auvers-sur-Oise, France.

In **1914**, transcontinental telephone service in the U.S. became operational with the first test conversation between New York and San Francisco. Massachusetts' Cape Cod Canal, offering a shortcut across the base of the peninsula, was officially opened to shipping traffic.

In **1965**, The Beatles' second feature film, "Help!," had its world premiere in London.

In **1967**, an accidental rocket launch on the deck of the supercarrier USS Forrestal in the Gulf of Tonkin resulted in a fire and explosions that killed 134 servicemen. Among the survivors was future Arizona senator John McCain, a U.S. Navy lieutenant commander who narrowly escaped with his life.

In **1968**, Pope Paul the Sixth reaffirmed the Roman Catholic Church's stance against artificial methods of birth control.

In **1974**, singer Cass Elliot died in a London hotel room at age 32.

In **1975**, President Gerald R. Ford became the first U.S. president to visit the site of the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz in Poland.

In **1981**, Britain's Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer in a glittering ceremony at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. (The couple divorced in 1996.)

In **1986**, a federal jury in New York found that the National Football League had committed an antitrust violation against the rival United States Football League. But in a hollow victory for the USFL, the jury ordered the NFL to pay token damages of only three dollars.

In **1999**, a former day trader, apparently upset over stock losses, opened fire in two Atlanta brokerage offices, killing nine people and wounding 13 before shooting himself to death; authorities said Mark O. Barton had also killed his wife and two children.

Ten years ago: Norway began burying the dead, a week after an anti-Muslim extremist killed 77 people in a bombing and shooting rampage. Delaware carried out its first execution since 2005, putting to death Robert Jackson III, who was convicted of killing a woman, Elizabeth Girardi, with an ax during a burglary.

Five years ago: Pope Francis visited the former Nazi death factory at Auschwitz and Birkenau in southern Poland, meeting with concentration camp survivors as well as aging saviors who helped Jews escape certain doom.

One year ago: The body of the late Democratic congressman and civil rights leader John Lewis arrived in Atlanta; people lined the streets as the hearse carrying Lewis' body moved through downtown before a ceremony at the Capitol rotunda, where Lewis was lauded as a warrior and a hero. Both sides declared victory in a political fight over the deployment of federal agents to guard a U.S. courthouse that was targeted during violent protests in Portland after the governor announced that the officers would start to withdraw. The U.S. Energy Information Administration said energy consumption in the United States plummeted to its lowest level in 30 years in the spring as the economy largely shut down. Connie Culp, the recipient of the first partial face transplant in the United States, died at the age of 57, almost a dozen years after the groundbreaking operation.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Robert Fuller is 88. Actor Roz Kelly is 79. Rock musician Neal Doughty (REO Speedwagon) is 75. Marilyn Tucker Quayle, wife of former Vice President Dan Quayle, is 72. Actor Mike Starr is 71. Documentary maker Ken Burns is 68. Style guru Tim Gunn is 68. Rock singer-musician Geddy Lee (Rush) is 68. Rock singer Patti Scialfa is 68. Actor Kevin Chapman is 59. Actor/comedian Dean Haglund is 56. Rock musician Chris Gorman is 54. Actor Tim Omundson is 52. Actor Wil Wheaton is 49. R&B singer Wanya Morris (Boyz II Men) is 48. Hip-hop DJ/music producer Danger Mouse is 44. Actor Cait Fairbanks is 28.

—Associated Press

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

It's confirmed: Bootleg Fire fueled tornado

BY JOE SIESS

(Klamath Falls) Herald and News

On July 18, the Bootleg Fire generated what appeared to be a flaming tornado, sweeping skyward from the trees and into the towering thunderheads above.

Officials confirmed Monday that it was an actual tornado, fueled by the fire itself.

According to Bruno Rodriguez, an incident meteorologist assigned to the Bootleg Fire, the phenomenon occurred on the southeast side of the blaze on a day of extreme fire behavior. Rodriguez said that day the fire generated pyrocumulus or pyrocumulonimbus clouds that rose higher than 30,000 feet into the stratosphere — roughly the altitude where most commercial airplanes fly.

Those massive clouds, in combination with intense heat generated by the fire on the ground, intensified an updraft, according to Rodriguez. That in turn pulled and rotated air up from the surface to the base of the fire-produced clouds — creating a literal tornado.

The Bootleg tornado was far beyond the more common fire whirl phenomenon, Rodriguez said.

Fire whirls are smaller, surface-based vortices. But Rodriguez said the Bootleg tornado and others like it "are essentially the same as a regular tornado" — but with the added element of fire.

The tornado is not actually made of fire, Rodriguez clarified, but flames from the trees and other vegetation swirls around in wind generated by the tornado.

Ryan Sandler, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Medford, explained that while the fire tornado generated by the Bootleg Fire is in fact, a tornado, the National Weather Service is currently unsure how to categorize it.

"A decade ago, we could not have even imagined this. But here we are."

— Neil Lareau, professor of atmospheric science at the University of Nevada



Bootleg Fire Incident Command via AP, file

Bootleg Fire statistics

The Bootleg Fire had burned 413,400 acres in Klamath and Lake counties as of Wednesday afternoon, according to InciWeb. Containment was estimated at 53%. The fire had destroyed 161 residences, 247 outbuildings and 342 vehicles.

While a traditional tornado often travels for many miles and can also be miles wide, a fire tornado relies on the updraft created by the fire and the cumulus clouds above to form and draw energy, Sandler said. Given those constraints, a typical fire tornado can only travel

a few miles at most, and is therefore not a threat to human life if it occurs in a relatively remote area like the Fremont-Winema National Forest.

Once the fire tornado gets too far away from the heat of the fire it starts to lose force and its shape, Sandler said.

Neil Lareau, a professor of atmospheric science at the University of Nevada, said he speculates the Bootleg tornado's strength to be akin to an EF2-type tornado. EF2 tornadoes are characterized by wind speeds between 111 and 135 miles per hour. Evidence on the ground, such as extensive tree damage and scouring of road surface and soil, are indicative of winds of that magnitude.

"Prior to last year, there had only been two well-documented tornado strength vortices generated by fires," Lareau said. "A decade ago, we could not have even imagined this. But here we are."

Lareau, who is currently working on a National Science Foundation funded project focused on fire-generated tornadoes, said studying these kinds of events is increasing in importance.

The project, Lareau said, was motivated by confirmed fire tornadoes amid the massive wildfires of 2020.

"But every time a new tornado happens, we will work to understand the physics of what is going on, and build up a case library to identify when a fire is getting close to producing these sorts of things," he said.

The study of fire tornadoes is "really a frontier of science," Lareau said, and the objective of his research is to understand which fires will produce tornadoes and when, and to identify the signals of when one of these events will happen.

That information is important to helping stop the spread of these major wildfires, and giving fire crews as much information as possible in order to stay safe and protect nearby communities.

NIKE EXTORTION

Michael Avenatti asks to serve his sentence in Oregon

BY JEFF MANNING

The Oregonian

You would think that Michael Avenatti had enough of Oregon.

Avenatti's fabulous life as Donald Trump antagonist, cable news provocateur and social media phenomenon collapsed after he took on the state's largest home-grown company, Nike.

But the humiliated celebrity lawyer — sentenced to 30 months after being found guilty of trying to extort \$20 million out of Nike — wants to come to Oregon to do his time. Transcripts of Avenatti's July 8 sentencing hearing confirm that Avenatti asked to be housed in the Federal Correctional Institute in Sheridan. U.S. District Court Judge Paul Gardephe agreed to recommend it.

Local attorneys were at a loss to explain. Back in the day, when CNN still reported on Avenatti's latest tweet, he lived and practiced law out of a sleek glass tower on the border of Beverly Hills in Southern California.

"It seems unusual because the only connection I've heard of between Avenatti and Oregon is that this is where his victim (Nike) resides," said David Angeli, a Portland lawyer.

Sheridan, a small town in Yamhill County, is just 47 miles away from Nike's world headquarters. Most of the Sheridan prison is a standard medium security prison. But there's also a minimum security camp.

Sheridan is often the prison of choice for local white-collar criminals. That's for obvious reasons, said Portland lawyer Kevin Sali: Their families, their businesses (or what's left of them) and their lawyers are typically here.

Ultimately, the U.S. Bureau of Prisons will make the call on where Avenatti will do his time. A bureau spokeswoman said via email that it doesn't disclose where convicted felons will be housed until they report to prison.

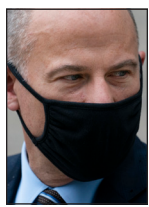
In Avenatti's case, that date is Sept. 15. His lawyer did not respond to emails or a phone call.

Avenatti threatened to expose what he said was corruption by Nike in connection with high school basketball players if the sports-apparel company didn't pay his client and hire him to conduct an internal investigation. In a meeting at the Manhattan offices of one of Nike's law firms, Avenatti informed them the price of a proper internal investigation would be in the \$20 million range.

Nike officials immediately went to federal prosecutors in the Southern District of New York to report the blackmail attempt. At the prosecutors' request, Nike lawyers wore wires into subsequent meetings.

A jury found Avenatti guilty on all counts on Feb. 13.

The sentencing hearing was not all bad for Avenatti. Under federal sentencing guidelines, he faced more than 9 years in prison. Prosecutors sought a 105-month sentence.



Avenatti

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