TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

It's Aug. 21, the 233rd day of 2022. There are 132 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

In **1831**, Nat Turner launched a violent slave rebellion in Virginia, resulting in the deaths of at least 55 whites; scores of Blacks were killed in retribution in the aftermath of the rebellion. (Turner was later captured and executed.)

In **1858**, the first of seven debates between Illinois senatorial contenders Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas took place.

In **1911**, Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" was stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris. The painting was recovered two years later in Italy.

In **1944**, the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union and China opened talks at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington that helped pave the way for establishment of the United Nations. The talks concluded on Oct. 7.

In **1959**, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed an executive order making Hawaii the 50th state.

In **1991**, the hard-line coup against Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev collapsed in the face of a popular uprising led by Russian Federation President Boris N. Yeltsin.

In **1992**, an 11-day siege began at the cabin of white separatist Randy Weaver in Ruby Ridge, Idaho, as government agents tried to arrest Weaver for failing to appear in court on charges of selling two illegal sawed-off shotguns; on the first day of the siege, Weaver's teenage son, Samuel, and Deputy U.S. Marshal William Degan were killed.

In **1993**, in a serious setback for NASA, engineers lost contact with the Mars Observer spacecraft as it was about to reach the red planet on a $980 million mission.

In **2000**, rescue efforts to reach the sunken Russian nuclear submarine Kursk ended with divers announcing none of the 118 sailors had survived.

In **2010**, Iranian and Russian engineers began loading fuel into Iran's first nuclear power plant, which Moscow promised to safeguard to prevent material at the site from being used in any potential weapons production.

Ten years ago: An insurgent rocket attack damaged the plane of the top U.S. general as it sat parked at a coalition base in Afghanistan; U.S. Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was unhurt.

Five years ago: Americans witnessed their first full-blown coast-to-coast solar eclipse since World War I, with eclipse-watchers gathering along a path of totality extending 2,600 miles across the continent from Oregon to South Carolina. In a national address, President Donald Trump reversed his past calls for a speedy exit from Afghanistan and recommitted the United States to the 16-year-old conflict, saying U.S. troops must "fight to win."

One year ago: Don Everly, one-half of the pioneering rock 'n' roll Everly Brothers, died at his home in Nashville at 84.

Today's Birthdays: Rock-and-roll musician James Burton is 83. Singer Jackie DeShannon is 81. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Willie Lanier is 77. Actor Patty McCormack is 77. Pop singer-musician Carl Giammarese is 75. Actor Loretta Devine is 73. NBC newsman Harry Smith is 71. Singer Glenn Hughes is 70. Actor Kim Cattrall is 66. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL quarterback Jim McMahon is 63. Actor Cleo King is 60. Rock singer Serj Tankian (System of a Down) is 55. Actor Carrie-Anne Moss is 52. Milwaukee Brewers manager Craig Counsell is 52. Rock musician Liam Howlett (Prodigy) is 51. Actor Alicia Witt is 47. Singer Kelis is 43. TV personality Brody Jenner is 39. Singer Melissa Schuman is 38. Retired Olympic gold medal sprinter Usain Bolt is 36. Actor Carlos Pratts is 36. Actor-comedian Brooks Wheelan is 36. Actor Cody Kasch is 35. Country singer Kacey Musgraves is 34. Actor Hayden Panettiere is 33. Actor RJ Mitte is 30. Actor Maxim Knight is 23.

Breweries get creative with plastic

BY JOSH NOEL
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — You know those hard plastic beer can holders?

I have 147 of them. I counted. They're an array of colors — black, brown, silver, red, purple, yellow, pink, blue, three shades of green — and in mostly four-pack sizes, but also as six-packs.

Why do I have a rainbow collection of 147 plastic beer top holders? Churning through a fair amount of beer is one reason, but another is that I haven't wanted to toss them in the garbage, for obvious reasons, or in recycling bins for less obvious reasons: Even when tossed in with milk jugs, newspapers and aluminum cans, they rarely wind up recycled.

So they've stacked up for years on the back porch, no actual plan in place. I've just been waiting for a solution.

The solution has arrived. And I even got a free beer for my troubles.

Alex Parker gets most of the credit. Parker, a former Chicago Tribune editor who works in communications for Molson Coors, helped launch Craft For Climate, his personal effort to help stave off climate change.

Erin Hooley/Chicago Tribune via TNS

Recyclable plastic can holders made by Eugene's PakTech are being reused through a program by Chicago-area breweries.

The effort is rooted in Parker attending a Climate Reality Project seminar in 2019, where a simple question was posed: "What is the highest lever you can pull to educate people about climate change?" Beer came to mind. Even before joining his current employer — not involved in the effort, but supportive, Parker said — he was a beer lover. The intersection of beer and climate seemed a natural place to start.

"I always thought other people with more power were taking care of it and seems that wasn't the case," said Parker, 42. "I felt I needed to do something. I didn't know what."

In October 2021, he launched Craft For Climate, which had a mission, but no real plan. Parker considered staging a craft beer festival with a climate education thrust, but wasn't sure that would result in meaningful change. Then he learned of Ecofriendly Beer Drinker, a New England operation that recycles plastic beer tops in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont. The program estimates 88% of plastic tops put in recycling bins never wind up recycled.

The program "seemed replicable in Chicago," Parker said. "And something people should be doing."

Oregon company's packaging

The plastic tops, manufactured from high-density polyethylene by PakTech of Eugene, have become a popular means for packaging craft beer in recent years. Though the plastic is recyclable and used in an array of other products, the vast majority wind up not recycled. Many are thrown away and even those put in recycling bins wind up in landfills by slipping through the recycling sorting machines or else being contaminated by other recyclables, such as glass. Chicago has a particularly abysmal recycling rate, stuck at less than 10%, the city said last year.

Parker contacted Rob Vandenabeele, founder of Ecofriendly Beer Drinker, for guidance, and learned Adam Dickens, an Elmhurst candle maker, was also interested in replicating the project here.

Craft for Climate has recruited more than 40 Chicago breweries and beer shops to collect the PakTech holders and take them to four larger collections hubs: Half Acre and Temperance breweries, environmental education nonprofit SCARCE in Addison and Heartland Beverage beer distributor in St. Charles. Finally, the Resource Center, a 47-year-old composting and recycling nonprofit on Chicago's South Side, picks them up and ensures they're recycled.

"By keeping them together and getting them to an end buyer, we know it doesn't end up in the landfill," Parker said.

Yozamp

Continued from C1

Yozamp saw an opportunity to beat the competition with a better product at lower prices.

"I took a hard look at the industry and I thought I could do this better by offering more selection, better pricing and better service. And that is what I did," said Yozamp, a native of St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Portable solar panels

Solar panels were relatively new for Yozamp, but he was no stranger to technology, having studied engineering briefly at Portland State University.

Yozamp had also served in the U.S. Air Force, where he was responsible for the upkeep of F-16 fighter jets. He worked on radar, weapons delivery technology, and pre-GPS navigation systems for the jets while serving in Utah and South Korea.

Yozamp shared his portable solar panel ideas with Steve Nelson, a business acquaintance, and financial specialist. Nelson saw potential in the product and together the pair started Zamp Solar.

They first marketed their products on eBay, but RV dealerships soon became their primary market. In those heady, startup days, Nelson described Yozamp as "high energy" and found it a challenge to keep up with his partner's plans.

"He was always coming up with ideas, you can see his mind was always spinning. He's very smart, creative. He has an engineering brain, a self-taught engineer," said Nelson.

Zamp Solar soon became one of the country's best-known brands for power options in the recreational vehicle space. Yozamp and Nelson produced a number of products, and in 2015 brought the production of the panels to Bend from overseas factories.

The switch to lithium

Solar panels had become a hot commodity, but there was another part of the power business that seemed to offer greater market growth: the lithium battery pack. Yozamp decided that part of the market needed his full attention.

With lithium batteries his new focus, Yozamp sold his share of the company to Nelson in 2016. He soon launched a new company, Expion360, which specializes in building battery packs. Expion360 went public earlier this year on the NASDAQ exchange, opening the door to financing the company's next big projects, including a lithium cell plant. It trades under the ticker symbol XPON and has a market cap of $25.5 million.

Reflecting on his business career, Yozamp said a reason for his success was knowing when to leave certain tasks to experts in their field. "I was smart enough to surround myself with people smarter than me," Yozamp said. "People that can assist me with development, so I reached out to the right people to make a vision a reality."

Employee options

He hopes the expanding business operations will lead to increased benefits for his employees, including stock options and matching 401k plans. Down the line, he wants to open a day care center for his employees with small children. Yozamp plans to employ 300 people at his lithium plant, a number that would make it the fifth largest employer in Redmond.

The product line beyond the RV and marine space will also expand. Yozamp sees a day when Expion360 batteries are in homes and businesses, filling in power gaps when the electricity goes out or solar battery storage is needed. A focus on green technology and a phasing out of dated power systems such as lead acid batteries are other benefits, he said.

As for his sleep apnea machine, it's still plugged in on a nightly basis at home or when camping by Oregon's lakes. But his silent solar power and lithium battery inventions have been game changers since that fateful night by Little Lava Lake — those middle-of-the-night disruptions from neighbors are a thing of the past.

■ *Reporter: 541-617-7818, mkohn@bendbulletin.com*

Work-ready

Continued from C1

1. Attendance

Someone who can show up to work on time consistently has an edge. It starts in school, where students who are on time and attend their classes tend to use this same skill set at the workplace and quickly outperform their peers.

2. Being welcoming, interactive and self-aware

Employers, particularly in service industries or with customer-facing functions rely on employees who comfortably introduce themselves to someone whom they meet in person at a business, professional or social setting. "I hear from some employers that the skill of simply knowing how to acknowledge a prospective customer and taking the initiative to interact in person or on the phone is a skill that often is lacking," says Ertle.

3. Ask questions, clarify and discover

Creative discovery skills are essential in many industry sectors. It drives product and idea advancement, customer experience, service, and better sales. The ability and comfort of consistently asking questions to trouble shoot, understand and create can advance careers and the business alike.

Let's consider how these skills transfer in a workplace. For example, the biotechnology industry is a highly regulated industry which drives the conditions on which research and production is conducted. It requires precision, interaction, and creativity.

Ertle points out that when a biotech employee begins their entry level position their job may involve sanitizing equipment. This includes meticulous attention to detail and the ability to utilize a chain of command to sign off on procedures to ensure there is no contamination. This requires attendance, the ability to interact well, follow directions precisely and to ask questions and clarify. These skills get progressively more important as their work becomes more technical. The better someone is at these skills, the more prepared they are to move ahead in a highly regulated environment.

As we look at more new candidates struggle with some of these skills, you can't blame the younger generation. These are not innate skills -they must be taught, and we've clearly been slacking off. Mentors, training and integrating soft skill development into education are needed early on to develop muscle memory to prepare those who are next in line for the workforce.

■ *Katy Brooks is the executive director of the Bend Chamber of Commerce. She can be reached at Katy@bendchamber.org*

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