

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Yesterday's Boys Games:

Varsity: Groton Area 51, Sisseton 43  
Junior Varsity: Groton Area 30, Sisseton 21  
C Game: Groton Area 44, Sisseton 31



## Upcoming Schedule

### Friday, Jan. 8

5 p.m.: Girls Basketball at Sisseton with C game at 5 p.m. followed by JV and then varsity.

### Saturday, Jan. 9

10 a.m.: Wrestling Quad at Wolsey-Wessington

### Monday, Jan. 11

4 p.m.: Basketball Doubleheader at Webster with Girls JV at 4 p.m. followed by Boys JV, Girls Varsity and Boys Varsity

7 p.m.: School Board Meeting

### Tuesday, Jan. 12

6 p.m.: Girls Basketball vs. Aberdeen Christian at Aberdeen Civic Arena with JV followed by varsity.

### Thursday, Jan. 14

5 p.m.: Boys Basketball hosts Aberdeen Roncalli with C game at 5 p.m. followed by JV and then varsity



## **OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

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**Groton Area at Sisseton**  
**Friday, Jan. 8, 2021**  
**C Game starts at 5 p.m.**

## Groton Prairie Mixed

**Jan. 7 Team Standings:** Shih Tzus 11, Jackelopes 9, Chipmunks 7, Cheetahs 5

**Men's High Games:** Brody Sombke 204, Roger Spanier 204, Doug Jorgensen 197

**Women's High Games:** Nicole Kassube 167, Sue Stanley 164, 155, Dar Larson 154

**Men's High Series:** Roger Spanier 539, Doug Jorgensen 512, Brad Waage 497

**Women's High Series:** Sue Stanley 458, Darci Spanier 451, Nicole Kassube 430

## Death Notice: Sandra Mayou

Sandra "Sandi" Mayou passed away January 7, 2021 at Avera St. Lukes Hospital, Aberdeen. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

## The Life of Zachary Kern



Zachary Kern passed away on December 26th, 2020 at Sanford Medical Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota at the age of 59. A memorial service will be scheduled at a later time, when it will be safer for everyone to gather and honor his memory. More information will be provided when available. Please go to [www.georgeboom.com](http://www.georgeboom.com) for more information.

Zach was born on February 14, 1961 in Faulk County. He spent much of his life in service to others. He was a served in the U.S. Army and then as a volunteer firefighter and EMT. He found joy in working to help veterans find jobs and was interested in pursuing a masters degree in order to be able to help more people. He was always there for everybody.

Zach leaves behind his children - Amanda, Aaron and Melissa, Emily and Nate, and Alex and Rachel - and his siblings - Grant, Crystal and Doug, Tracy, Paige and Kelly, and Troy and Rose. He also leaves behind many cherished friends. He is preceded in death by his parents Donald and Marlene and his sister Denise.

In lieu of flowers or cards, the family would love for donations to be made in Zach's name to organizations helping wounded or disabled veterans.

## New Training Options Available for Pesticide Applicators in 2021

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Like many events over the past nine months, pesticide applicator training will look a bit different in 2021.

According to Amanda Bachmann, SDSU Extension Pesticide Education and Urban Entomology Field Specialist, current commercial pesticide applicator license holders have two ways to update their certification:

Take the online recertification course by registering with the South Dakota Department of Agriculture (<https://apps.sd.gov/doa/ecat3/>). Applicators will need an email address that is unique to them in order to participate in the Training House course.

Re-take the exams for the categories they need to update. Most Extension offices that previously provided pesticide testing are open, but please call ahead to make a testing appointment as space may be limited. A list of offices providing exams and their contact information can be found here (<https://sdda.sd.gov/ag-services/pesticide-program/certification-licensing-registration/licensing-and-education/applicator-testing-sites/Testing%20Sites.aspx>).

Commercial applicators that are not sure of their license number, categories or expiration date can search for their information using the SDDA commercial applicator database (<https://apps.sd.gov/doa/cat/commercialsearch.aspx>).

Private applicators (new and existing) also have more than one way to obtain or update their certification in 2021. They can:

Take the online certification course by registering with SDSU Extension (<https://pat2021.questionpro.com/>). Applicators will need an email address that is unique to them in order to participate in the Training House course.

Take the online private applicator exam via SDDA (<https://apps.sd.gov/doa/pwt/>).

Attend the PAT Zoom March 26, as part of the Crop Hour Regulatory Information and Pesticide Education Week (<https://extension.sdstate.edu/event/crop-hour-regulatory-information-and-pesticide-education-webinars>).

Private applicators that are not sure of their certification number or expiration date can search for their information using the SDDA private applicator database (<https://apps.sd.gov/doa/cat/privatesearch.aspx>).

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**#319 in a series**

## **Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller**

Oh, friends, this is truly awful. Worst day of the pandemic on all counts. By a lot. Everyone said this was going to happen. It did.

Record number of new cases, by a lot: 322,200. We've never been over 300,000 in a day; haven't even been all that close. We're now at 21,656,600 cases, a good 1.5% more than yesterday and way too close way too soon to 22 million. I missed yesterday that Illinois is the latest state to join the million-case club, an exclusive club with just five members. It would be nice if Illinois was also the last one; I wouldn't bet on it though.

Hospitalizations are also at record levels for a third consecutive day; we're at 132,464, which is a good 1000 more than yesterday's number. And we had a record number of deaths, our first day over 4000, with 4078. We are now at 365,024, 1.1% more than yesterday's total. We're closing in on 400,000 a whole lot faster than we closed in on 300,000. This is not good. None of it is.

Once again, Arizona is in deep trouble, worst in the nation by a fair margin. They're setting records for new cases—more than double the peaks seen last summer, also for hospitalizations and deaths. There appears to be much of the push-back here against precautions that characterized the out-of-control transmission seen in the Midwest and Plains a few weeks ago. Other states also with extremely high rates of transmission include California, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Oklahoma. The way these are scattered around the country puts most of the nation in proximity to a state that poses a risk to its neighbors.

Under the heading, "Not that many people die, so what's the big deal?", we have new information from the Glenn Biggs Institute for Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. We're seeing brain damage from non-fatal infections, perhaps due to inflammatory damage in brain tissue, due to blood clots that may cause a stroke, or due to oxygen deprivation from insufficiently functioning lungs. The symptoms are those of a brain injury: forgetfulness, difficulty organizing tasks, and perhaps an increased risk of Alzheimer's disease or those of localized damage as would be seen in strokes. Some people slowly recover, but others do not recover at all.

A new report from a team at the Glenn Biggs Institute and published in the New England Journal of Medicine has found possible mechanisms for the kinds of damage seen. They found leaks in several small blood vessels in the brain like what you would see from a series of tiny strokes in many areas of the brain. This widespread pattern of damage might help to explain why there is such a wide range of symptoms from this damage. Various parts of the brain regulate heart rate, breathing, blood pressure. Mess with even one of these areas, and you'll see related symptoms.

Further, there is concern that some of the changes seen may be associated with the later development of Alzheimer's disease. There is a study getting underway by a consortium of researchers in an attempt to nail down some of these effects. The goal is to assess behavior, memory, and overall functioning at six-month intervals over many years.

You knew this was coming: It appears in Florida wealthy donors to a company with a nursing home and several assisted-living facilities have received scarce vaccine doses ahead of the rest of the world and, more importantly, ahead of the elderly and vulnerable residents to whom those doses were allocated. Now it's been claimed the recipients fit the Florida guidelines (so what's the big deal, right?), but members of the general public who fit the guidelines were not able to receive vaccine from this supply, so it looks pretty fishy to see donors receiving it. You will want to remember that Florida is a place where seniors have lined up for hours and hours to wait their turn for vaccination. The state says it is investigating. It would be well to nip this sort of thing in the bud; the last thing we need is to have scanty supplies of vaccine doled out based on how big a check you can write.

The CDC has completed its first post-authorization analysis of adverse events for the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. The most serious were, as we've already discussed, anaphylactic reactions, a life-threatening allergic response. There were 21 of those in the 10-day period under analysis, which makes it more common than seen with influenza vaccine, but still a "rare event." Although 17 of the 21 cases had known allergies,

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14 of the 21 had never had an anaphylactic reaction before. Ninety percent of them were women—and I have no idea of the significance of that or of any likely explanation for it. Of the 21, 20 had recovered and the remaining one apparently didn't get tracked because they didn't have information on that one at all. There are another seven reports still under investigation, and there were 83 cases of less serious allergic reactions, things like rashes and mild respiratory symptoms. The recommendations put out last week (see my Update #312 posted December 31 at <https://www.facebook.com/marie.schwabmiller/posts/4306644759351897>) are still current. This analysis did not cause changes to those.

A clinical trial for convalescent plasma conducted in Argentina was reported yesterday in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. It was a small randomized, double-blind, controlled trial for which enrollment was cut short due to a decrease in cases available to enroll; there were 160 participants, all of them 65 years or older, and half had comorbidities that placed them at high risk. The plasma was screened to be sure it had high levels of antibodies and was given within three days of first symptoms. Although the study was too small to have statistical power, it appears those given plasma were about half as likely to progress to severe disease as those not given plasma. Larger trials are needed to establish these results are reliable, but they're promising. One of the difficulties with this therapy would be identifying cases in that narrow window of time in which it seems to have benefit; three days isn't much in the current state of testing. While convalescent plasma has emergency use authorization (EUA) at present, the NIH has concluded there is not yet sufficient data to warrant a recommendation about its use.

We are aware that gathering indoors, especially in close quarters, with people who do not live in your household is risky. That risk is increased as crowd size increases and with longer duration of exposure. Lack of mask-wearing increases the risk further, as does talking, especially loud talking and shouting. That makes yesterday's riot at the US Capitol building a potential superspreader event with hundreds of mostly unmasked people packed into the building for an extended period and with no attention to distancing. Since many of these people came from different locations and have presumably returned home afterward, we can assume a crowd with just a few infected persons—quite likely considering where we are at the moment in the pandemic—has the potential to have widespread consequences. There is also going to be heightened risk of exposure for members of Congress, many of whom are in an age group that places them at risk. We have many examples in the history of this virus of just such exposure causing untold amounts of trouble.

Similar concerns were raised last summer during the Black Lives Matter protests across the country, but because these were largely held outdoors and attended by folks who wore masks and observed distancing, later research did not turn up evidence of any significant spread from those events. Yesterday's events, however, created a set of conditions very different and carrying much higher risk of transmission. I will also note that a member of Congress who had been in the chamber with fellow members for many hours yesterday did test positive this morning; so we'll see how that works out too.

The CDC has released a study of transmission related to college and university campuses in the fall, 2020, semester. The study compares the 21-day intervals before and after classes began in counties with a large (20,000 students or more) institution of higher education. There was a comparison run between institutions which did primarily in-person instruction and those which minimized in-person class meetings. While the incidence of new cases in these counties had been in decline in early August, rates among adults from 18 to 22 were increasing at that time. Counties where the universities had primarily remote instruction experienced a 17.9% decrease in incidence of new infections while counties where the universities had primarily in-person instruction showed a 56% increase in incidence. There was a further comparison done with counties within 500 miles of a county under study that did not have a large institution of higher education; these showed a 6% decrease in incidence during the same time frame. The study did not take account of whether students were physically present on campus even when there were not in-person classes, so we cannot say whether the large decreases in the remote-learning institution counties was because fewer students were on campus or the universities did better mitigation. The authors suggest the implications for public health practice are that "additional implementation of effective mitigation activities at colleges and universities with in-person instruction could minimize on-campus COVID-19 transmission

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and reduce county-level incidence." As students return to campus after the Christmas break, this may have value to planners.

Apparently, the CDC's been working overtime lately. We have another piece of research that grows out of transmission modeling, and it's not great news, particularly in face of these two new variants which appear to show increased transmissibility. The work shows that 59 percent of all transmissions come from people who do not have symptoms. Twenty-four percent are from people who never develop symptoms, and 35 percent are from people who are pre-symptomatic. This is a huge problem if we continue to rely on symptoms to decide how careful we need to be. "I'm feeling fine" cannot be a good reason to run about town maskless and hanging around indoors with crowds of others; we simply have no way to know which of those "feeling fine" folks are shedding virus. And not to beat a dead horse, but yes, we already know what to do. We just have to do it. Religiously. Every day. Even when it's inconvenient and we're tired of being careful. You do not know whether you are a danger to others, so you must operate at all times as though you are. For the next few weeks, this will spell the difference between life and death for thousands of our fellow Americans.

In some good news, a new study has appeared in the journal *Science* from teams at the University of California, San Diego, the La Jolla Institute for Immunology, and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. The researchers are looking at duration of immunity after natural infection. Now that we're well into this pandemic, we have some long-recovered patients to study, and some of these patients were more than six months post-infection, including some as long as eight months post-infection. There were 188 cases, 43 of which were over six months. The researchers looked at multiple compartments of circulating immune memory, and the news is pretty darned good.

They found immunity tends to be robust and stable for at least eight months and possibly much longer. Around 90 percent of the patients showed stable immunity of long duration. What we're seeing is a coordinated response from antibodies and killer T cells which is quick enough to prevent disease upon reexposure. If you're foggy on the details of these categories of responses, check out my Update #150 posted July 22 at <https://www.facebook.com/marie.schwabmiller/posts/3796230603726651> and.

The thing to keep in mind about these responses is that you don't mount an immune response just to this or that individual protein on the coronavirus; you respond to hundreds of proteins or pieces of protein, elements we call antigens. This response produces cells and chemicals targeted at all of these hundreds of antigens. This is important because we've all been obsessing about the new genetic variants of this virus. Understand that most of these antigens are unaffected by the mutations we've see so far; the virus is probably going to need an enormous number of transmission-enhancing mutations to escape immunity, whether from natural infection or from vaccination. There are so many different elements of the immune system responding to this virus, it is not highly likely a mutation will evade all of these, even if it evades one or the other of these. It is possible this virus will eventually mutate sufficiently to produce an immune escape, but it is not very likely that day has arrived—or will soon. We have talked about the fact that mutation generally occurs by virtue of the steady, gradual accumulation of sufficient mutations to make immune escape possible. It's pretty unlikely that, at the current mutation rate, we're going to see that in the near future: It's not impossible, but it's not very likely. We do need to do genomic surveillance so we can see that day coming; if we do, we can produce modified vaccines in time to stay ahead of it. The mRNA vaccines in particular are relatively easy to modify and fast to produce, so we have tools.

What we see in this study is a gradual build-up of the response, a peak early on and then a decline; but in the vast majority of patients it plateaus and stays there for at least months, maybe years. It is, of course, too soon to know about years, but the patterns seen in this research give us real reason to think we're looking at a nice, long duration. On the other hand, no one really thinks this response is a sterilizing response, that is, it may still be possible to become infected without symptoms. And this means immune people probably can transmit the virus to others. That's an important point to remember; it means we need to get a sufficient proportion of our population immunized to significantly interrupt transmission, what we call herd immunity, or those non-immunized people are going to remain at risk. This is important, both because there will be people who are unable to receive vaccine and because, if you look back

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above, you'll note around 10 percent of people who are infected do not develop a durable response from natural infection. We don't know why this is so, but it's a reality we need to deal with. Nonetheless, even with these cautions, this is really, really good news.

On December 3, 1979, the British rock band, The Who, were scheduled for a concert at Cincinnati's Riverfront Coliseum. Disastrously, logistical planning did not account for the numbers of people lined up outside, and the doors were opened too late and too few in number to handle the sellout crowd. The result was a stampede for the doors and people up front jammed so tightly against the doors that they couldn't breathe. Over 20 people were injured, several of them hospitalized, and 11 of people suffocated or were trampled to death that night, young people with their lives just beginning. Among the dead were three classmates from Finneytown High School. The concert went on, and the band—and most attendees—were unaware of the tragedy until the end of the show.

For years now, those lost students' classmates have staged benefit events in the school's performing arts center to raise scholarship money in their memory, but organizers were at a loss this year. One organizer said they view the scholarships as "a living memorial." They've been giving out three \$5000 scholarships each year. The 2018 event was a landmark: Roger Daltrey, the band's frontman, attended and signed items for auction; they raised enough for four scholarships that year. This year in the middle of a pandemic, clearly organizers couldn't plan the typical gathering, but they didn't want to give up the annual event or the scholarships either.

The Who is still together and still playing, and they had a show scheduled this spring which would have been their first in the city since that terrible night. That, of course, had to be cancelled, also due to the pandemic. Band members have spoken since that night about how this night has haunted them. I can't imagine how they feel, but I am not surprised this has stayed with them. They've promised to come back when they can, but for now, they helped out with this year's fundraising event, a virtual one livestreamed on Facebook that featured prerecorded video interviews with Daltrey and Pete Townshend, guitarist-songwriter in which they talked about that night, alumni rock bands covering various bands' music recorded in outdoor settings around the city, and recorded and live discussions with relatives of those who died. There were also auctions of various donated items. Online, they had far greater reach than past local events; it was viewed in 29 countries. They raised \$25,000 with money still coming in. That should be enough for lots of scholarships.

The beauty of this kind of commitment to an ongoing living memorial was summed up by Townshend in his interview aired at the event: "It's something that never ever goes away. You never stop thinking about it . . . young people, really young kids. The idea just of making this awful thing into something really, really great, which is to provide scholarships, is brilliant."

It is brilliant. The past year has been a difficult one, but maybe we can start to reframe it into an opportunity to establish something that does good in the world for a long time into the future. Maybe if we're lucky some of those things will outlive most folks' memories of the events of the past year just as this scholarship fund has outlived the events of 1979, continuing to pass benefits along to the generation that comes next and the one after that. It's worth thinking about. If we can think of something, we can change our corner of the world to make it better. I'm going to encourage efforts in that regard.

Take care. I'll see you tomorrow.



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Groton Area School District

Active COVID-19 Cases

Updated January 4, 2021; 4:10 PM

JK	KG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Staff	Total
0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

Updated January 5, 2021; 3:07 PM

JK	KG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Staff	Total
0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4

Updated January 6, 2021; 4:45 PM

JK	KG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Staff	Total
0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4

Updated January 7, 2021; 3:28 PM

JK	KG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Staff	Total
0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4

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## Jan. 7 COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

South Dakota: Community Spread for week of Jan. 4:

**Moderate:** Aurora, Gregory, Haakon, Marshall downgraded from Substantial to Moderate; Sully upgraded from Minimal to Moderate.

**Minimal:** Faulk, Hand, Jackson downgraded from Moderate to Minimal.

Positive: +448 (102,132 total) Positivity Rate: 11.3%

Total Tests: 3981 (787,589 total)

Total Persons Tested: 1193 (380,234 total)

Hospitalized: +24 (5829 total) 264 currently hospitalized (0)

Avera St. Luke's: 12 (-1) COVID-19 Occupied beds, 0 (-2) COVID-19 ICU Beds, 0 (-1) COVID-19 ventilators.

Sanford Aberdeen: 4 (-2) COVID-19 Occupied beds, 1 (+1) COVID-19 ICU Beds, 0 (-0) COVID-19 ventilators.

Deaths: +25 (1544 total)

Females: 7, Males: 18

Age Group: 30s=1, 40s=1, 50s=2, 60s=3, 70s=5, 80+=13

Counties: Aurora-2, Beadle-1, Brookings-1, Brown-2, Douglas-1, Edmunds-1, Fall River-1, Hand-1, Hughes-1, Hutchinson-1, Jackson-2, Lincoln-2, Minnehaha-4, Pennington-4, Tripp-1.

Recovered: +735 (94,513 total)

Active Cases: -312 (6075)

Percent Recovered: 92.5%

Vaccinations: +2436 (31473)

Vaccinations Completed: +741 (842)

Brown County Vaccinations: +207 (1598)

active cases)

Lawrence (28): +6 positive, +14 recovered (123 active cases)

Lincoln (68): +25 positive, +57 recovered (437 active cases)

Marshall (4): +1 positive, +1 recovered (18 active cases)

McCook (22): +2 positive, +5 recovered (33 active cases)

McPherson (2): +2 positive, +0 recovery (13 active case)

Minnehaha (276): +93 positive, +198 recovered (1461 active cases)

Pennington (140): +59 positive, +119 recovered (828 active cases)

Potter (3): +3 positive, +0 recovered (24 active cases)

Roberts (32): +8 positive, +20 recovered (104 active cases)

Spink (24): +2 positive, +10 recovered (35 active cases)

Walworth (14): +6 positive, +4 recovered (49 active cases)

### NORTH DAKOTA

COVID-19 Daily Report, Jan. 7:

- 4.7% rolling 14-day positivity
- 350 new positives
- 8,820 susceptible test encounters
- 83 currently hospitalized (-2)
- 2,088 active cases (+101)
- 1,341 total deaths (+7)

Beadle (38) +3 positive, +3 recovered (79 active cases)

Brookings (31) +39 positive, +26 recovered (284 active cases)

Brown (65): +23 positive, +22 recovered (305 active cases)

Clark (2): +0 positive, +1 recovered (15 active cases)

Clay (12): +5 positive, +11 recovered (89 active cases)

Codington (71): +23 positive, +31 recovered (264 active cases)

Davison (53): +9 positive, +12 recovered (103 active cases)

Day (20): +3 positive, +7 recovered (31 active cases)

Edmunds (4): +6 positive, +2 recovered (66 active cases)

Faulk (12): +3 positive, +0 recovered (6 active cases)

Grant (35): +1 positive, +8 recovered (29 active cases)

Hanson (3): +0 positive, +1 recovered (19 active cases)

Hughes (28): +12 positive, +11 recovered (116

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased Among Cases	Community Spread	% RT-PCR Test Positivity Rate (Weekly)
Aurora	418	387	786	10	Moderate	17.24%
Beadle	2536	2419	5289	38	Substantial	10.66%
Bennett	361	346	1090	8	Moderate	5.49%
Bon Homme	1488	1430	1890	23	Substantial	14.04%
Brookings	3131	2816	10236	31	Substantial	13.28%
Brown	4593	4223	11240	65	Substantial	22.44%
Brule	648	612	1703	7	Moderate	26.09%
Buffalo	413	401	855	10	Minimal	19.05%
Butte	914	857	2865	18	Substantial	15.96%
Campbell	115	107	210	4	Minimal	25.00%
Charles Mix	1151	1070	3570	12	Substantial	10.84%
Clark	320	303	867	2	Moderate	2.22%
Clay	1665	1564	4570	12	Substantial	17.89%
Codington	3566	3231	8604	71	Substantial	19.61%
Corson	454	431	902	12	Moderate	24.24%
Custer	692	658	2444	9	Substantial	12.79%
Davison	2762	2606	5793	53	Substantial	16.12%
Day	553	502	1571	20	Substantial	19.12%
Deuel	428	388	1014	7	Substantial	11.76%
Dewey	1318	1192	3545	12	Substantial	19.23%
Douglas	388	359	837	9	Substantial	27.78%
Edmunds	402	333	897	5	Substantial	9.09%
Fall River	465	431	2319	13	Substantial	10.59%
Faulk	316	298	610	12	Minimal	14.29%
Grant	842	778	1963	35	Substantial	22.08%
Gregory	491	452	1098	26	Moderate	0.00%
Haakon	234	207	475	8	Moderate	10.00%
Hamlin	624	549	1543	36	Substantial	9.78%
Hand	314	299	709	3	Minimal	0.00%
Hanson	319	297	617	3	Moderate	23.81%
Harding	89	85	159	1	Minimal	0.00%
Hughes	2066	1922	5741	28	Substantial	4.76%
Hutchinson	709	659	2073	18	Substantial	13.21%

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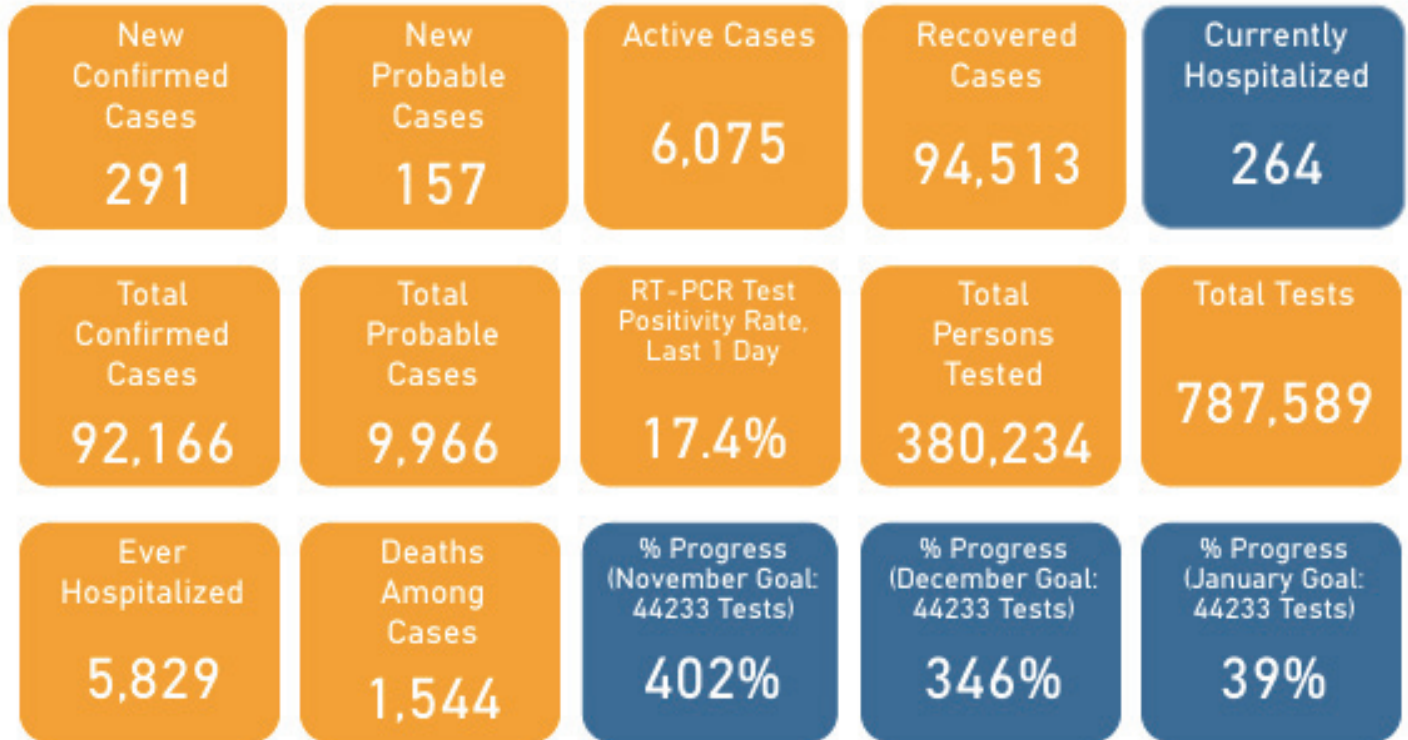
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Hyde	133	130	371	1	Minimal	0.00%
Jackson	267	244	857	10	Minimal	27.27%
Jerauld	264	237	504	15	Minimal	15.79%
Jones	70	65	186	0	Minimal	11.11%
Kingsbury	551	503	1452	13	Substantial	8.11%
Lake	1060	972	2824	16	Substantial	30.19%
Lawrence	2625	2474	7640	28	Substantial	11.54%
Lincoln	6993	6488	17757	68	Substantial	19.26%
Lyman	541	501	1717	9	Moderate	16.67%
Marshall	264	242	1023	4	Moderate	4.00%
McCook	697	642	1423	22	Substantial	29.31%
McPherson	191	176	505	2	Moderate	2.94%
Meade	2315	2153	6795	24	Substantial	20.97%
Mellette	224	214	665	2	Minimal	10.34%
Miner	234	203	506	7	Moderate	9.52%
Minnehaha	25672	23935	68953	276	Substantial	16.11%
Moody	548	501	1598	14	Substantial	24.44%
Oglala Lakota	1962	1827	6250	35	Substantial	16.17%
Pennington	11673	10705	34516	140	Substantial	20.97%
Perkins	294	252	691	11	Substantial	18.92%
Potter	321	294	729	3	Moderate	8.57%
Roberts	1043	907	3777	32	Substantial	19.55%
Sanborn	310	297	621	3	Minimal	40.00%
Spink	716	657	1888	24	Substantial	10.20%
Stanley	283	265	795	2	Substantial	6.52%
Sully	119	103	252	3	Moderate	10.00%
Todd	1179	1123	3881	19	Substantial	8.37%
Tripp	634	604	1343	13	Substantial	12.12%
Turner	987	894	2408	49	Substantial	22.00%
Union	1660	1508	5479	30	Substantial	14.33%
Walworth	652	589	1644	14	Substantial	23.76%
Yankton	2560	2338	8325	26	Substantial	12.66%
Ziebach	305	258	710	8	Moderate	14.29%
Unassigned	0	0	1932	0		

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## South Dakota



### AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range with Years	# of Cases	# of Deaths Among Cases
0-9 years	3853	0
10-19 years	11278	0
20-29 years	18551	4
30-39 years	16885	14
40-49 years	14643	28
50-59 years	14492	80
60-69 years	11608	192
70-79 years	6141	335
80+ years	4681	891

### SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths Among Cases
Female	53404	741
Male	48728	803

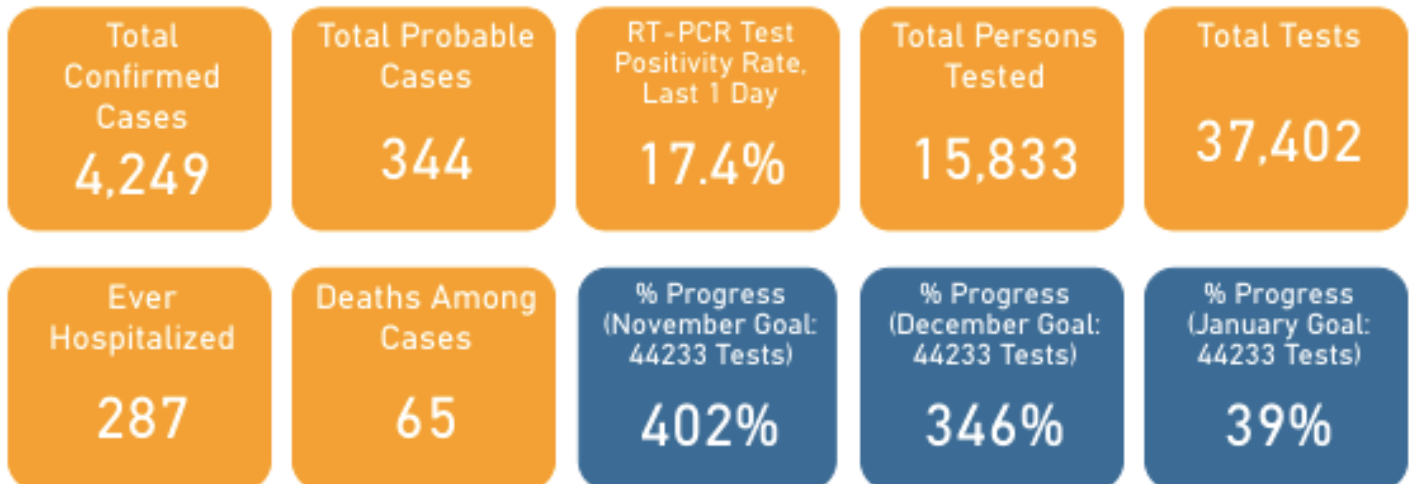
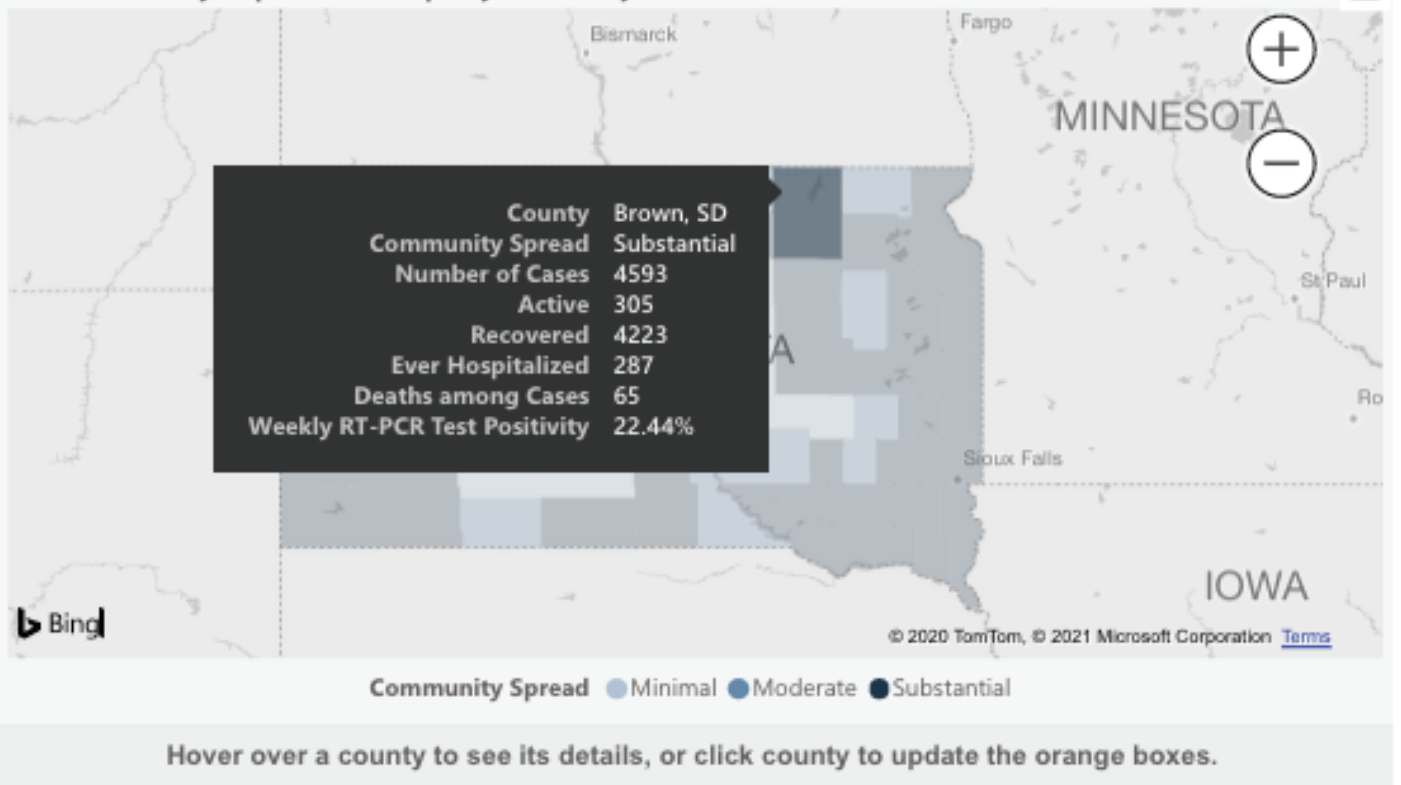
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## Brown County



### Community Spread Map by County of Residence



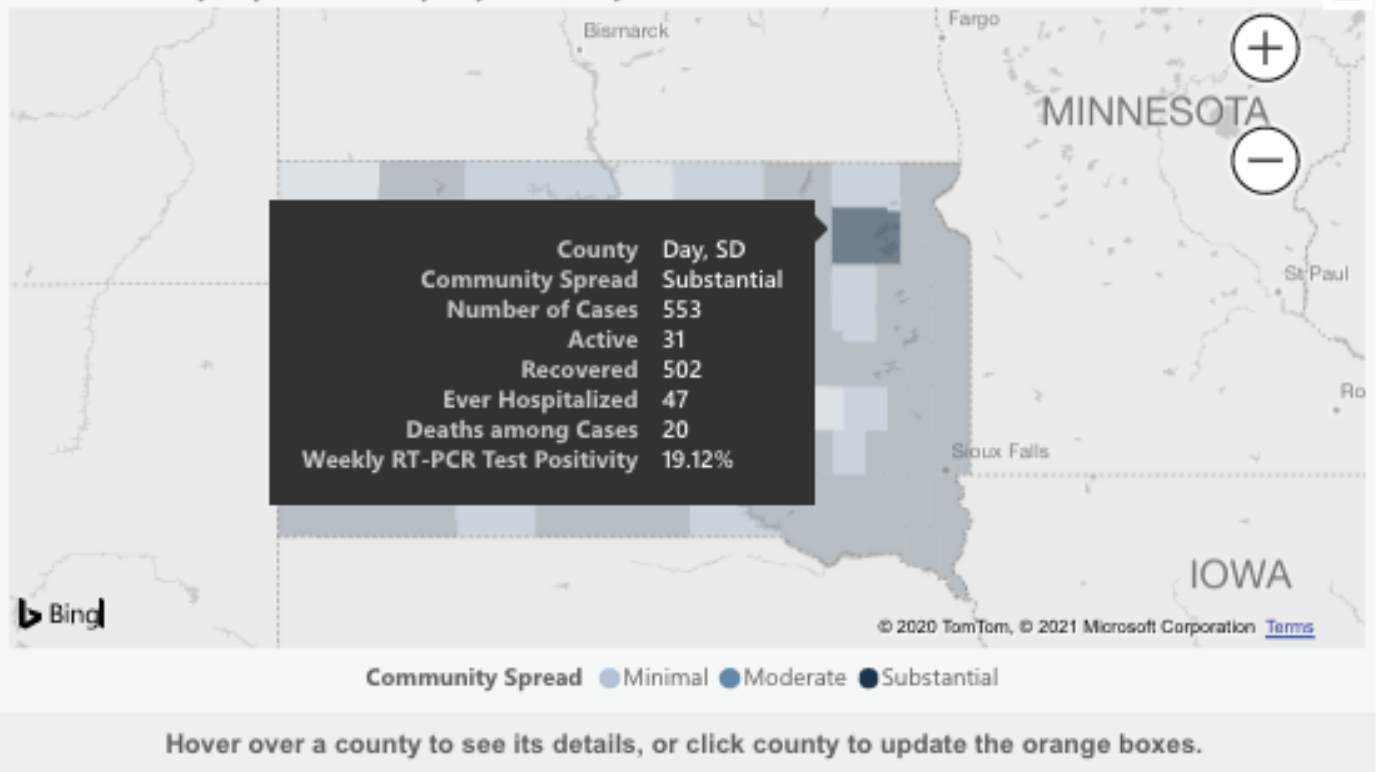
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## Day County



### Community Spread Map by County of Residence



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## Vaccinations

Total Doses Administered

32,315

Total Persons Administered a Vaccine

31,473

Manufacturer	Number of Doses
Moderna	16,976
Pfizer	15,339

Doses	Number of Recipients
Moderna - 1 dose	16,976
Pfizer - 1 dose	13,655
Pfizer - Series Complete	843

County	# Doses	# Persons (1 dose)	# Persons (2 doses)	Total # Persons
Aurora	47	47	0	47
Beadle	644	592	26	618
Bennett*	41	41	0	41
Bon Homme*	270	270	0	270
Brookings	927	911	8	919
Brown	1598	1,594	2	1,596
Brule*	112	108	2	110
Buffalo*	4	4	0	4
Butte	50	50	0	50
Campbell	137	127	5	132
Charles Mix*	246	246	0	246
Clark	78	72	3	75
Clay	556	542	7	549
Codington*	1217	1,059	79	1,138
Corson*	8	8	0	8
Custer*	141	135	3	138
Davison	841	835	3	838
Day*	179	177	1	178
Deuel	106	98	4	102
Dewey*	52	52	0	52
Douglas*	118	118	0	118
Edmunds	110	110	0	110
Fall River*	93	93	0	93
Faulk	24	24	0	24
Grant*	216	212	2	214
Gregory*	194	192	1	193
Haakon*	75	75	0	75



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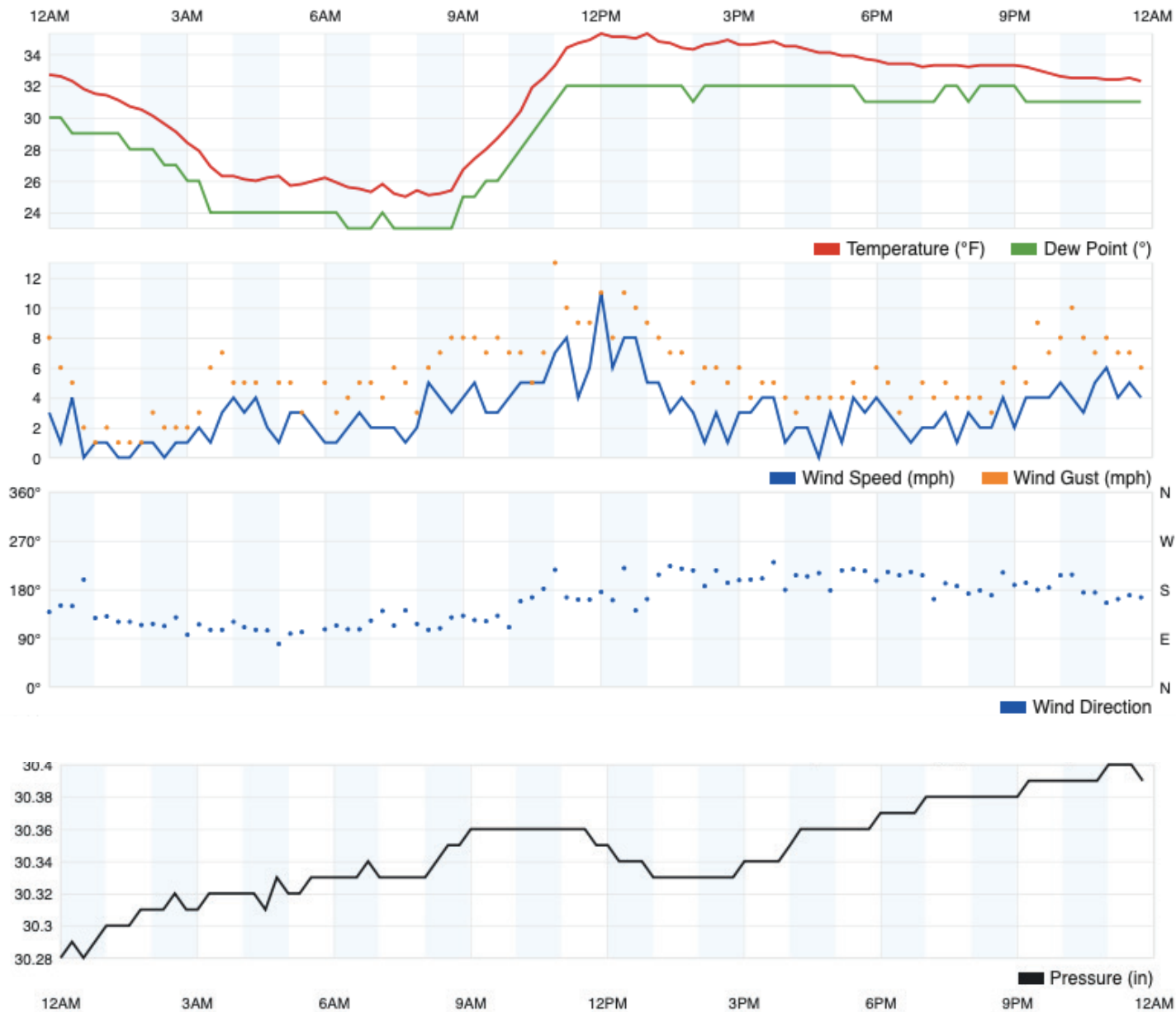
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Hamlin	164	150	7	157
Hand	114	114	0	114
Hanson	52	52	0	52
Harding	0	0	0	0
Hughes*	644	640	2	642
Hutchinson*	469	467	1	468
Hyde*	92	92	0	92
Jackson*	35	35	0	35
Jerauld	68	64	2	66
Jones*	34	34	0	34
Kingsbury	225	217	4	221
Lake	361	297	32	329
Lawrence	236	230	3	233
Lincoln	3918	3,720	99	3,819
Lyman*	47	47	0	47
Marshall*	118	118	0	118
McCook	209	203	3	206
McPherson	19	19	0	19
Meade*	373	331	21	352
Mellette*	4	4	0	4
Miner	76	70	3	73
Minnehaha	10316	9,888	214	10,102
Moody*	148	146	1	147
Oglala Lakota*	8	8	0	8
Pennington*	2730	2,246	242	2,488
Perkins*	22	22	0	22
Potter	74	72	1	73
Roberts*	166	162	2	164
Sanborn	79	79	0	79
Spink	290	288	1	289
Stanley*	88	86	1	87
Sully	24	20	2	22
Todd*	12	12	0	12
Tripp*	210	210	0	210
Turner	426	416	5	421
Union	160	156	2	158
Walworth*	218	172	23	195
Yankton	1051	1,045	3	1,048
Ziebach*	7	7	0	7
Other	944	900	22	922

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs




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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
				
Slight Chance Wintry Mix and Areas Dense Fog  <b>High: 33 °F</b>	Slight Chance Freezing Drizzle and Patchy Fog  <b>Low: 24 °F</b>	Cloudy  <b>High: 32 °F</b>	Mostly Cloudy  <b>Low: 17 °F</b>	Partly Sunny  <b>High: 33 °F</b>

## Dreary Weather Continues

- ✓ Fog, dense at times
  - ✓ Patchy drizzle/freezing drizzle
  - ✓ Occasional light snow showers
-  **Slick surfaces & roads possible**

Improvement in fog and damp conditions by Sat afternoon, with some sunshine returning by Sun & Mon.

Above average temperatures continue into the new work-week.

 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



Fog, drizzle and even light snow are all possible through the day today and into tonight (a Dense Fog Advisory continues until noon today for some of the area). Surfaces may be slick as a result, particularly with temperatures around and below freezing.

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## Today in Weather History

January 8, 2010: Arctic high pressure combined with strong northwest winds resulted in extreme wind chills from -35 to nearly 50 degrees below zero across central and northeast South Dakota. Some of the lowest wind chills included, -40 in Aberdeen; -41 in Watertown; -42 in Highmore; -43 in Leola and Faulkton; -44 in Eagle Butte, Herreid, and Gettysburg; and -47 in Bowdle. Several record lows were also tied or broken during the morning hours of the 8th, including, -22 degrees NW of Gann Valley and Victor; -23 degrees at Pierre and Sisseton; -24 degrees at Roscoe; and -34 degrees at Pollock.

1973: Georgia's worst ice storm since 1935 occurred on from the 7th through the 8th. Freezing rain and sleet began during the early morning hours on Sunday the 7th and ended in most areas during the day on Monday. Total damage was estimated at well over \$25 million. The electric power companies suffered losses estimated at \$5 million, and telephone companies had another \$2 million in damages. Some schools were closed for more than a week.

1953 - A severe icestorm in the northeastern U.S. produced up to four inches of ice in Pennsylvania, and two to three inches in southeastern New York State. In southern New England the ice coated a layer of snow up to 20 inches deep. The storm resulted in 31 deaths and 2.5 million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1973 - A severe icestorm struck Atlanta GA. The storm paralyzed the city closing schools and businesses, and damage from the storm was estimated at 25 million dollars. One to four inches of ice coated northern Georgia leaving 300,000 persons without electricity for up to a week. Between 7 PM and 9 PM on the 7th, 2.27 inches (liquid content) of freezing rain, sleet and snow coated Atlanta, as the temperature hovered at 32 degrees. (7th-8th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A winter storm moving out of the Southern Rockies into the Central Plains Region produced 14 inches of snow at Red River NM, and 17 inches in the Wolf Creek ski area of Colorado. Wichita KS was blanketed with seven inches of snow. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A winter storm spread heavy snow across the northeastern U.S., with up to ten inches reported in southern New Jersey. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Strong northwesterly winds and bitterly cold temperatures prevailed in the north central U.S. Winds in the Great Lakes Region gusted to 58 mph at Chicago IL, and reached 63 mph at Niagara Falls NY. Squalls in western New York State produced 20 inches of snow at Barnes Corners and Lowville. Snow squalls in Upper Michigan produced 26 inches around Keweenaw. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - High winds plagued the northwestern U.S., with the state of Oregon hardest hit. Two persons were killed in Oregon, and nine others were injured, and the high winds downed fifty-five million board feet of timber, valued at more than twenty million dollars. Winds gusted to 90 mph near Pinehurst ID, and wind gusts reached 96 mph at Stevenson WA. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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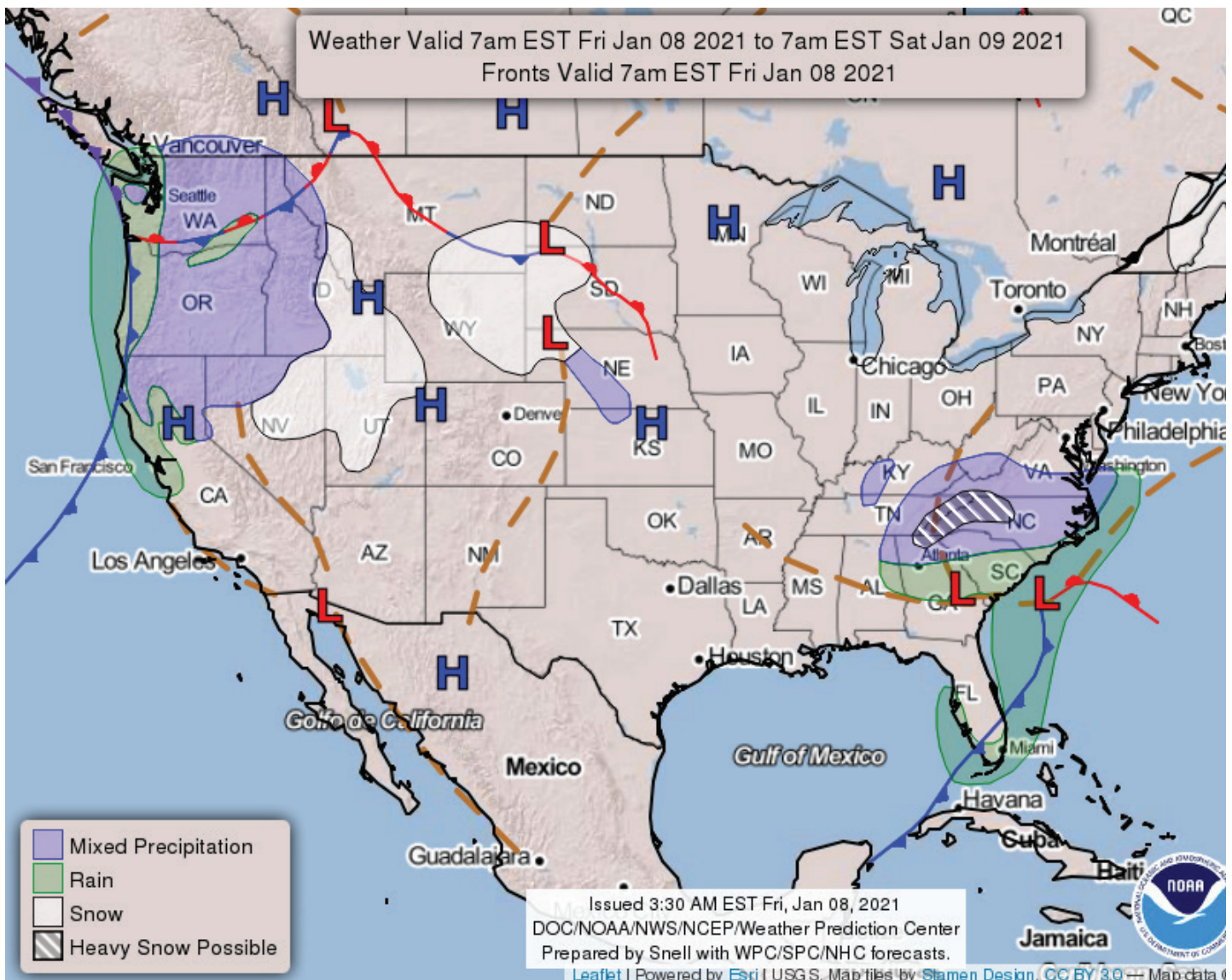
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 35 °F at 12:05 PM**  
**Low Temp: 25 °F at 7:38 AM**  
**Wind: 13 mph at 10:59 AM**  
**Precip:**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 55° in 1963**  
**Record Low: -33 in 1912**  
**Average High: 22°F**  
**Average Low: 1°F**  
**Average Precip in Jan.: 0.13**  
**Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 0.13**  
**Precip Year to Date: 0.00**  
**Sunset Tonight: 5:09 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:12 a.m.**



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## **GOD'S CURE FOR SLEEPLESSNESS**

Charles Dickens is considered to be one of the world's greatest novelists and storytellers. One of His most interesting, compelling, and heart-touching stories is: "A Christmas Carol." It is considered to be a "classic."

However, there is an interesting story about him that that few people know. Whenever he left his home to travel and spend the night with his friends, he would take his faithful and dependable compass with him. After looking at his compass and before he retired for the night, he would always turn the head of his bed to the north. He believed that he would sleep deeply and more comfortably with his bed in that position.

David had his own "routine" for falling asleep. He said, "I will lie down in peace and sleep, for you, O Lord, will keep me safe!" The important word in this verse of Scripture is peace. David did not say that he would lie down and sleep in peace. Rather, he believed that the peace that he experienced in his heart is what enabled him to lie down and sleep.

But where does this peace come from? For David, it came from the Lord. David said that God gave him a greater joy than those who had experienced "abundant harvests." The joy and gladness that David experienced and brought peace to his heart came from his relationship with God.

We never find joy, gladness, or peace if we seek them for selfish reasons. But they fill the life of a Christian when we meet Him in prayer, seek Him in His Word, and worship Him faithfully.

Prayer: Father, give us confidence in the promises of Your Word so that we may rest in your love and enjoy Your enduring peace through Christ our Lord. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: I will lie down in peace and sleep, for you, O Lord, will keep me safe. Psalm 4:8

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## News from the Associated Press

### Landslide closes scenic road in Badlands National Park

WALL, S.D. (AP) — A scenic road in Badlands National Park has been closed because of a 300-foot long landslide, officials said.

The park's acting maintenance chief Ken Thompson says Sage Creek Rim Road is closed from Highway 240 south of Wall and west about 6.5 miles (10.46 kilometers).

The landslide was discovered on Jan. 5 by a maintenance crew conducting an assessment of the road, Thompson said.

Crews are planning to re-open the dirt road by moving its width further to the north, away from the landslide and onto more stable ground. The emergency solution is expected to be completed within two weeks, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Federal highway engineers will survey the area for road realignment as a more long-term solution.

Gates have been put up to prevent people from driving on the road, but cyclist and hikers are free to enter, Thompson said.

### Thursday's Scores

By The Associated Press

BOYS BASKETBALL=

Burke 62, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 57

Custer 66, Hill City 24

Dell Rapids 75, Canton 33

Edgemont 57, Crawford, Neb. 35

Ethan 60, Avon 15

Faith 56, Timber Lake 47

Groton Area 51, Sisseton 43

Hamlin 54, Castlewood 52

Heart River, N.D. 54, Lemmon 49

Howard 58, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 24

Lower Brule 74, Lakota Tech 55

Menno 47, Mitchell Christian 40

Milbank 54, Clark/Willow Lake 45

Mobridge-Pollock 87, Miller 44

Oakes, N.D. 76, Leola/Frederick 56

Platte-Geddes 61, Corsica/Stickney 53

Rock Valley, Iowa 60, Lennox 45

Sioux Falls Roosevelt 68, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 46

St. Thomas More 56, Douglas 46

Sully Buttes 75, Highmore-Harrold 63

Tiospa Zina Tribal 79, Aberdeen Roncalli 46

Tri-Valley 74, Mt. Vernon 71, OT

Tripp-Delmont/Armour 52, Scotland 21

Viborg-Hurley 57, Hanson 52

Waubay/Summit 57, Langford 45

Winner 63, Colome 37

Wolsey-Wessington 57, James Valley Christian 19

Big East Conference Tournament=

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Chester 50, Baltic 47  
McCook Central/Montrose 46, Flandreau 44  
Parker 57, Garretson 53  
Sioux Valley 70, Beresford 31  
GIRLS BASKETBALL=  
Aberdeen Christian 48, Leola/Frederick 31  
Andes Central/Dakota Christian 69, Burke 60  
Arlington 43, DeSmet 37  
Bridgewater-Emery 58, Freeman 51  
Canton 52, Dell Rapids 48  
Chamberlain 51, Kadoka Area 42  
Colman-Egan 72, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 22  
Dell Rapids St. Mary 58, Estelline/Hendricks 42  
Edgemont 47, Crawford, Neb. 34  
Ethan 56, Avon 34  
Florence/Henry 70, Wilmot 20  
Gregory 71, Lyman 32  
Hanson 62, Viborg-Hurley 60  
Heart River, N.D. 44, Lemmon 33  
Herreid/Selby Area 40, Faulkton 31  
Hill City 68, Custer 35  
Howard 42, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 39  
Huron 65, Sioux Falls Lincoln 32  
Iroquois 55, Freeman Academy/Marion 41  
Kimball/White Lake 52, Colome 34  
Menno 59, Mitchell Christian 47  
Milbank 45, Clark/Willow Lake 43  
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 50, Tri-Valley 37  
Rapid City Christian 57, Canistota 37  
Rapid City Christian 60, Wall 53  
Rock Valley, Iowa 47, Lennox 42  
Scotland 36, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 32  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 57, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 44  
Sioux Falls Washington 57, Watertown 32  
Sisseton 41, Lisbon, N.D. 34  
Waverly-South Shore 60, Tri-State, N.D. 53  
West Central 71, Tea Area 56  
Winner 67, Flandreau 37  
Wolsey-Wessington 53, James Valley Christian 33

Some high school basketball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

## Flood risk appears lower on Missouri River at start of 2021

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The risk for flooding along the Missouri River appears lower than normal headed into the year because the ground remains dry across most of the region and snowpack levels are generally below average.

Officials with the Corps of Engineers and National Weather Service cautioned Thursday that it is still early in the year and conditions can change. But currently it appears that 2021 will be somewhat drier and only about 90% of the normal amount of water is expected to flow down the Missouri River.



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That is welcome news for areas along the river where levees damaged during 2019's flooding are still waiting to be repaired. The widespread flooding that year along the Missouri River damaged dozens of levees and inundated thousands of acres of farmland in parts of Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa and Missouri.

For instance, in northwest Missouri's Holt County emergency manager Tom Bullock hopes construction crews will be able to repair the main levees protecting the area before this spring's flood season begins.

"You never know what Mother Nature is going to do. But she has been pretty good to us since the flood (of 2019). I hope it stays that way until they can get the levees fixed," Bullock said.

## South Dakota reports 25 new deaths due to the coronavirus

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota health officials on Thursday reported 25 new deaths due complications from the coronavirus, increasing the total number of COVID-19 fatalities to 1,544.

Minnehaha and Pennington counties each reported four deaths and there were two deaths apiece in Aurora, Brown, Jackson and Lincoln counties. The other fatalities were in Beadle, Brookings, Douglas, Edmunds, Fall River, Hand, Hughes, Hutchinson and Tripp counties.

The South Dakota death count according to statistics compiled Wednesday by The COVID Tracking Project is the sixth highest per capita at 175 deaths per 100,000 people.

There have been 56 deaths confirmed in January.

Thursday's daily update showed 448 new cases from 1,193 tests. There have been 102,132 positive tests since the start of the pandemic.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

## Man arrested for making threats with machete

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man has been arrested for threatening people with a machete, according to police.

The 31-year-old man was arrested just after midnight Wednesday after officers were called to a gas station for a weapons violation.

The man was talking with two people at the gas station and became upset, walked to his car and came back and threatened the two men with a machete, according to police spokesman Sam Clemens.

Clemens says the man tried to block the men from leaving, but they eventually drove away, the Argus Leader reported.

The suspect was arrested after he was stopped by an officer near the gas station. Police say a similar machete threat was made hours earlier in a different location, but the person who was being threatened didn't want to press charges.

The suspect was arrested on tentative charges of aggravated assault, driving under the influence and driving without a valid license.

## Thune: Condemns 'thuggery' and the violent Capitol rioters

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Republican South Dakota Sen. John Thune calls the actions of rioters who stormed the U.S. Capitol "thuggery" and condemned the mob of Trump supporters who caused chaos, mayhem and destruction.

Thune, speaking with reporters Wednesday night, said he hoped the rioters got a clear message that "they will not stop our democracy from moving forward."

Congress concluded the electoral vote count early Thursday certifying President-elect Joe Biden's victory after the violent insurrection interrupted its work Wednesday.

Thune, Sen. Mike Rounds, Rep. Dusty Johnson and hundreds of other congressional members were moved to safety as rioters began ransacking offices and causing other property damage.

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Thune said the misinformation about wide-spread fraud in the election results fueled Wednesday's violent riots and that President Donald Trump's rhetoric likely played a factor in what happened.

Thune says he understands some people aren't happy with the outcome of the election, but too often many have become emotional and resorted to violence.

"That's just unacceptable," he told the Argus Leader.

Johnson, in a recorded message called the Capitol chaos a "terrible situation."

"Too many people have been sowing the seeds of anger and division and this is what we get because of this. This is the tragic harvest and it needs to stop," Johnson said.

## UK regulators approve use of 3rd vaccine against coronavirus

LONDON (AP) — Britain has authorized a coronavirus vaccine developed by Moderna, the third to be licensed for use in the country.

The Department of Health said Friday that the vaccine meets the regulator's "strict standards of safety, efficacy and quality."

Britain has ordered 10 million doses of the Moderna vaccine, although it is not expected to be delivered to the U.K. until spring.

So far, Britain has inoculated 5 million people with two other vaccines.

"Vaccines are the key to releasing us all from the grip of this pandemic, and today's news is yet another important step towards ending lockdown and returning to normal life," Business Secretary Alok Sharma said.

England is in the midst of its third national lockdown as a new, more contagious variant of the virus sweeps the U.K., causing confirmed cases to rise rapidly and hospitals to become overwhelmed.

Britain's National Health Service said Thursday that next week it will start using a field hospital specially built at a huge exhibition center in east London in the early days of the coronavirus pandemic.

The hospital, which will also be a vaccination hub, was one of several built in the spring in anticipation of hospitals reaching capacity. They were named after Florence Nightingale, widely considered to be the founder of modern nursing, but barely used and were mothballed for use potentially during further waves of the pandemic.

NHS England Chief Executive Simon Stevens said that the pressures facing hospitals in London and the southeast of England are so acute that the Nightingale hospital at the ExCel London will be opened next week to inpatients. A few hundred beds for non-COVID patients are expected to be available at first.

"The entirety of the health service in London is mobilizing to do everything it possibly can but the infections, the rate of growth in admissions, that is what collectively the country has got to get under control," he said.

## Trump finally faces reality — amid talk of early ouster

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With 12 days left in his term, President Donald Trump has finally bent to reality amid growing talk of trying to force him out early, acknowledging he'll peacefully leave after Congress affirmed his defeat.

Trump led off a video from the White House Thursday by condemning the violence carried out in his name a day earlier at the Capitol. Then, for the first time on camera, he admitted his presidency would soon end — though he declined to mention President-elect Joe Biden by name or explicitly state he had lost.

"A new administration will be inaugurated on Jan. 20," Trump said in the video. "My focus now turns to ensuring a smooth, orderly and seamless transition of power. This moment calls for healing and reconciliation."

The address, which appeared designed to stave off talk of a forced early eviction, came at the end of a day when the cornered president stayed out of sight in the White House. Silenced on some of his favorite internet lines of communication, he watched the resignations of several top aides, including two Cabinet secretaries.

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And as officials sifted through the aftermath of the pro-Trump mob's siege of the U.S. Capitol, there was growing discussion of impeaching him a second time or invoking the 25th Amendment to oust him from the Oval Office.

The invasion of the Capitol building, a powerful symbol of the nation's democracy, rattled Republicans and Democrats alike. They struggled with how best to contain the impulses of a president deemed too dangerous to control his own social media accounts but who remains commander in chief of the world's greatest military.

"I'm not worried about the next election, I'm worried about getting through the next 14 days," said Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, one of Trump's staunchest allies. He condemned the president's role in Wednesday's riots and said, "If something else happens, all options would be on the table."

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi declared that "the president of the United States incited an armed insurrection against America." She called him "a very dangerous person who should not continue in office. This is urgent, an emergency of the highest magnitude."

Neither option to remove Trump seemed likely, with little time left in his term to draft the Cabinet members needed to invoke the amendment or to organize the hearings and trial mandated for an impeachment. But the fact that the dramatic options were even the subject of discussion in Washington's corridors of power served as a warning to Trump.

Fears of what a desperate president could do in his final days spread in the nation's capital and beyond, including speculation Trump could incite more violence, make rash appointments, issue ill-conceived pardons — including for himself and his family — or even trigger a destabilizing international incident.

The president's video Thursday — which was released upon his return to Twitter after his account was restored — was a complete reversal from the one he put out just 24 hours earlier in which he said to the violent mob: "We love you. You're very special." His refusal to condemn the violence sparked a firestorm of criticism and, in the new video, he at last denounced the demonstrators' "lawlessness and mayhem."

Aides said the video was also meant to slow the mass exodus of staffers and ward off potential legal trouble for Trump once he leaves office; White House counsel Pat Cipollone has repeatedly warned the president that he could be deemed responsible for inciting Wednesday's violence.

As for his feelings on leaving office, Trump told the nation that "serving as your president has been the honor of my lifetime" while hinting at a return to the public arena. He told supporters "our incredible journey is only just beginning."

Just a day earlier, Trump unleashed the destructive forces at the Capitol with his baseless claims of election fraud at a rally that prompted supporters to disrupt the congressional certification of Biden's victory. After the storming of the Capitol and the eventual wee-hours certification of Biden's win by members of Congress, Trump released a statement that acknowledged he would abide by a peaceful transfer of power on Jan. 20.

The statement was posted by an aide and did not originate from the president's own Twitter account, which has 88 million followers and for four years has been wielded as a political weapon that dictates policy and sows division and conspiracy.

Trump couldn't tweet it himself because, for the first time, the social media platform suspended his account, stating that the president had violated its rules of service by inciting violence. Facebook adopted a broader ban, saying Trump's account would be offline until after Biden's inauguration.

Deprived of that social media lifeblood, Trump remained silent and ensconced in the executive mansion until Thursday evening. But around him, loyalists headed for the exits, their departures — which were coming in two weeks anyway — moved up to protest the president's handling of the riot.

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao became the first Cabinet member to resign. Chao, married to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, one of the lawmakers trapped at the Capitol on Wednesday, said in a message to staff that the attack "has deeply troubled me in a way that I simply cannot set aside."

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos followed. In her resignation letter Thursday, DeVos blamed Trump for

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inflaming tensions in the violent assault on the seat of the nation's democracy. "There is no mistaking the impact your rhetoric had on the situation, and it is the inflection point for me," she wrote.

Others who resigned in the wake of the riot: Deputy National Security Advisor Matthew Pottinger; Ryan Tully, senior director for European and Russian affairs at the National Security Council; and first lady Melania Trump's chief of staff Stephanie Grisham, a former White House press secretary.

Mick Mulvaney, Trump's former chief of staff-turned-special envoy to Northern Ireland, told CNBC that he had called Secretary of State Mike Pompeo "to let him know I was resigning. ... I can't do it. I can't stay."

Mulvaney said others who work for Trump had decided to remain in their posts in an effort to provide some sort of guardrails for the president during his final days in office.

"Those who choose to stay, and I have talked with some of them, are choosing to stay because they're worried the president might put someone worse in," Mulvaney said.

Mulvaney's predecessor in the chief of staff job, retired U.S. Marine Corps general John Kelly, told CNN that "I think the Cabinet should meet and have a discussion" about Section 4 of the 25th Amendment — allowing the forceful removal of Trump by his own Cabinet.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer joined Pelosi in declaring that Trump "should not hold office one day longer" and urged Vice President Mike Pence and the Cabinet to act. But Chao's departure may stall nascent efforts to invoke the amendment.

Staff-level discussions on the matter took place across multiple departments and even in parts of the White House, according to two people briefed on the talks. But no member of the Cabinet has publicly expressed support for the move — which would make Pence the acting president — though several were believed to be sympathetic to the notion, believing Trump is too volatile in his waning days in office.

In the West Wing, shell-shocked aides were packing up, acting on a delayed directive to begin offboarding their posts ahead of the Biden team's arrival. The slowdown before now was due to Trump's single-minded focus on his defeat since Election Day at the expense of the other responsibilities of his office.

Most glaringly, that included the fight against the raging coronavirus that is killing record numbers of Americans each day.

Few aides had any sense of the president's plans, with some wondering if Trump would largely remain out of sight until he left the White House. But the president has asked aides to explore a possible valedictory trip next week to the southern border as a means to highlight his immigration policies.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany on Thursday read a brief statement in which she declared that the Capitol siege was "appalling, reprehensible and antithetical to the American way."

But her words carried little weight. Trump has long made clear that only he speaks for his presidency.

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Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed reporting from Washington.

## EU regulators OK increasing doses from virus vaccine vials

By SAMUEL PÉTREQUIN and MIKE CORDER Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union's drug agency on Friday approved doctors drawing up to six doses from each vial of the coronavirus vaccine made by BioNTech-Pfizer, a move that could speed up the pace of vaccinations in the 27-nation bloc.

The European Medicines Agency said its human medicines committee recommended updating the product information for the vaccine to clarify that each vial contains six doses instead of the five that were advised when it originally greenlighted the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine on Dec. 21.

German Health Ministry spokesman Hanno Kautz told reporters in Berlin that the change would come into effect immediately, boosting available doses of the vaccine by 20%.

Many doctors across the EU have already been drawing six doses of the vaccine from each vial, a practice that is already permitted in the United States, Britain and elsewhere.

Pharmaceutical companies regularly put more vaccine than necessary into vials so minimum dosage can be ensured even if there is some spillage.

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The news came shortly after the EU's executive arm said it had secured 300 million extra doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the new agreement to buy more doses will double the amount ordered by the 27-nation bloc.

The EU commission later detailed in a statement that it offered to member states to purchase an additional 200 million doses of the vaccine, with the option to acquire another 100 million doses.

"This would enable the EU to purchase up to 600 million doses of this vaccine, which is already being used across the EU. The additional doses will be delivered starting in the second quarter of 2021," the EU said. Von der Leyen said 75 million of the extra doses would be available during the second quarter, with the rest being delivered throughout 2021.

Combined with a contract with Moderna for its vaccine, the EU now has the capacity to vaccinate 380 million people, Von der Leyen said, more than 80% of the EU's population.

The EU has sealed six vaccine contracts for up to 2 billion doses, with Moderna, AstraZeneca, Sanofi-GSK, Janssen Pharmaceutica NV, Pfizer-BioNTech and CureVac. But only the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines have been approved for use so far in the 27-nation bloc.

Von der Leyen's announcement came amid growing criticism, notably in Germany, about the decision to let the commission handle vaccine purchases for all EU member nations. Vaccination programs in the EU have gotten off to a slow start, and some EU members have been quick to blame the European Commission for a perceived failure to deliver the right number of doses.

The EU has defended its strategy, insisting that vaccination programs have just started and that large deliveries are foreseen for around April.

"We were faced with a situation where we had huge demand, but the production capacity had not kept pace with that as yet. Now, we have a positive step forward," von der Leyen said.

Amid reports that some EU countries tried to secure separate deals with vaccine manufacturers, von der Leyen also made clear that such negotiations would violate the agreement accepted by all the bloc's members.

"We have all agreed, legally binding, that there would be no parallel negotiations, no parallel contract," she said. "So the framework we are all working in is a framework of 27. Together we are negotiating, together we are procuring and together we are bringing forward this vaccination process."

Corder reported from The Hague, Netherlands. Frank Jordans contributed from Berlin.

Follow AP coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-pandemic>, <https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-vaccine> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## Capitol siege raises security concerns for Biden inaugural

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol is intensifying scrutiny over security at an inauguration ceremony for President-elect Joe Biden already reshaped by a pandemic and the prospect that his predecessor may not attend.

Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris will take the oath of office from the Capitol's West Front, one of the very locations where a violent mob overpowered police and stormed the building. They also scaled and occupied the scaffolding and bleachers in place for the ceremonies.

Inauguration plans were already scaled back because of the coronavirus. But the brazen attack raises new questions about preparedness for the event that welcome the new administration after a bitter election.

The congressional leaders responsible for coordinating the inauguration insisted Thursday night that events will move forward.

"Yesterday was a sad and solemn day for our country," said Republican Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri and Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota. "The outrageous attack on the Capitol, however, will not stop us from affirming to Americans — and the world — that our democracy endures."

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"The great American tradition of an inaugural ceremony has occurred in times of peace, in times of turmoil, in times of prosperity, and in times of adversity," they continued. "We will be swearing in President-elect Biden."

Security forces have already begun taking extra precautions in the wake of Wednesday's mayhem.

Roughly 6,200 members of the National Guard from six states — Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland — will help support the Capitol Police and other law enforcement in Washington for the next 30 days. Inauguration Day road closures may be altered.

Crews also erected on the Capitol grounds tall, black metal fences designed to be impossible to climb. Similar structures have previously been used around the White House and in other cities that faced prolonged demonstrations.

Such barriers would have gone up in anyway in coming days, however, because the inauguration is a National Special Security Event overseen by the Secret Service and scores of other federal agencies, including the Defense Department, which helps lead counterterrorism efforts associated with the event. That's the same level of security provided during political party conventions or when a dignitary lies in state at the Capitol — but not during a normal congressional session like when rioters breached the building.

"The safety and security of all those participating in the 59th Presidential Inauguration is of the utmost importance," the Secret Service said in a statement Thursday. "For well over a year, the U.S. Secret Service, along with our NSSE partners, has been working tirelessly to anticipate and prepare for all possible contingencies at every level to ensure a safe and secure Inauguration Day."

Authorities will have the same military and civilian footprint to handle a crowd of more than a million people for an event expected to draw a fraction of that because of restrictions to combat the coronavirus, according to a person familiar with the security planning.

Those who have worked on previous inaugurations said that while this year's events will look different, the tradition of passing power from one administration to another will continue.

"Is it as impactful? You don't have a photo of a million people lined up, so you don't have that sort of powerful image. But I think you will still have the feel there," said Bill Daley a former Secretary of Commerce and White House chief of staff who helped organize President Barack Obama's first inauguration in 2009. "The aura of change will be there."

Outgoing President Donald Trump hasn't made that easy. He has falsely argued that the election was stolen, a claim that has been rejected by fellow Republicans in critical swing states and his recently departed attorney general. His many legal challenges were roundly dismissed as meritless, including by conservative judges he appointed.

A Trump rally in front of the White House on Wednesday helped rile up the mob that later stormed the Capitol.

It's unclear whether Trump will be at his successor's inauguration. The outgoing president has skipped the incoming president's swearing-in only three times in U.S. history, and the last one to do so was Andrew Johnson 152 years ago. Trump only acknowledged the upcoming transfer of power after the capital was stormed. Vice President Mike Pence plans to attend the ceremony.

Former President Jimmy Carter has announced he wouldn't be there, the first inauguration the 96-year-old will miss since he himself was sworn into office in 1977. He has mostly stayed home amid the pandemic. Former Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton will be on hand.

Inauguration organizers had already urged supporters not to come to Washington in person because of the pandemic. Viewing stands built to hold crowds of onlookers in front of the White House were recently dismantled.

There also won't be the traditional inauguration luncheon and the parade will be virtual, similar to what the Democratic Party did during its all-online convention in August.

The inaugural committee has announced that Biden would receive an official escort, with representatives from every military branch, for a block before arriving to the White House from the Capitol.

The presidential motorcade usually rolls the mile-plus journey with the new president and first lady walking part of the way and thousands of cheering supporters lining the streets. While final details are

still being worked out, it's unclear any of that will occur this time.

Whatever happens, it'll be a far cry from Obama's 2009 inauguration, when organizers opened the full length of the National Mall — which extends all the way to the Lincoln Memorial — to accommodate massive crowds. Security was a concern then, too, though.

The night before, Michael Chertoff, President George W. Bush's secretary of homeland security, informed Obama's team of credible intelligence indicating that four still-at-large Somali men who were thought to be coming over the U.S.-Canada border might be planning a terrorist attack on the inauguration ceremony.

In his book, "A Promised Land," Obama writes that "to be safe, we ran through various contingencies with Chertoff and his team." Obama had an adviser "draft evacuation instructions that I'd give the crowd if an attack took place while I was onstage." He later noted that he kept those instructions in his breast pocket while giving his speech and that he was "relieved" that nothing happened and he didn't have to use them.

Jim Bendat, an inaugural historian and author of the book, "Democracy's Big Day," noted that, in addition to attending the inauguration, the outgoing and the incoming presidents usually meet at the White House and chat before joining a procession to the Capitol and swearing-in ceremonies. He called that not occurring "an assault on our Democracy" akin to Wednesday's unrest.

"Those are very symbolic moments that really open our eyes," Bendat said of the two presidents meeting cordially. "The world watches those moments because it's something that doesn't occur in most countries."

Still, Daley said Biden, who first ran for president in 1988, may be uniquely qualified for an inauguration that's mostly void of traditional pomp and circumstance.

"I think it's less needed for someone who's been around as long as he's been. And his whole thrust has been, 'I can hit the ground running because I've been there, I know this stuff,'" Daley said. "I don't think he needs to stand there on the podium celebrating himself very long."

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Associated Press writer Zeke Miller in Washington contributed.

## Police officer's death intensifies Capitol siege questions

By LISA MASCARO and MATTHEW DALY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A police officer has died from injuries sustained as President Donald Trump's supporters stormed the Capitol, a violent siege that is forcing hard questions about the defeated president's remaining days in office and the ability of the Capitol Police to secure the area.

The U.S. Capitol Police said in a statement that Officer Brian D. Sicknick was injured "while physically engaging with protesters" during the Wednesday riot. He is the fifth person to die because of the melee.

The rampage that has shocked the world and left the country on edge forced the resignations of three top Capitol security officials over the failure to stop the breach. It led lawmakers to demand a review of operations and an FBI briefing over what they called a "terrorist attack." And it is prompting a broader reckoning over Trump's tenure in office and what comes next for a torn nation.

Protesters were urged by Trump during a rally near the White House earlier Wednesday to head to Capitol Hill, where lawmakers were scheduled to confirm Biden's presidential victory. The mob swiftly broke through police barriers, smashed windows and paraded through the halls, sending lawmakers into hiding.

One protester, a white woman, was shot to death by Capitol Police, and there were dozens of arrests. Three other people died after "medical emergencies" related to the breach.

Despite Trump's repeated claims of voter fraud, election officials and his own former attorney general have said there were no problems on a scale that would change the outcome. All the states have certified their results as fair and accurate, by Republican and Democratic officials alike.

Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., said news of the police officer's death was "gut-wrenching."

"None of this should have happened," Sasse said in a statement. "Lord, have mercy."

Sicknick had returned to his division office after the incident and collapsed, the statement said. He was

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taken to a local hospital where he died on Thursday.

Two House Democrats on committees overseeing the Capitol police budgets said those responsible need to be held to answer for the "senseless" death.

"We must ensure that the mob who attacked the People's House and those who instigated them are held fully accountable," said Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Ct., and Rep. Tim Ryan, D-Ohio, in a statement.

Earlier Thursday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said any remaining day with the president in power could be "a horror show for America." Likewise, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said the attack on the Capitol was "an insurrection against the United States, incited by the president," and Trump must not stay in office "one day" longer.

Pelosi and Schumer called for invoking the 25th Amendment to the Constitution to force Trump from office before President-elect Joe Biden is inaugurated on Jan. 20. Schumer said he and Pelosi tried to call Vice President Mike Pence early Thursday to discuss that option but were unable to connect with him.

At least one Republican lawmaker joined the effort. The procedure allows for the vice president and a majority of the Cabinet to declare the president unfit for office. The vice president then becomes acting president.

Pelosi said if the president's Cabinet does not swiftly act, the House may proceed to impeach Trump.

Trump, who had repeatedly refused to concede the election, did so in a late Thursday video from the White House vowing a "seamless transition of power."

Two Republicans who led efforts to challenge the election results, Ted Cruz of Texas and Josh Hawley of Missouri, faced angry peers in the Senate. Cruz defended his objection to the election results as "the right thing to do" as he tried unsuccessfully to have Congress launch an investigation. In the House, Republican leaders Rep. Kevin McCarthy of California and Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana joined in the failed effort to overturn Biden's win by objecting to the Electoral College results.

With tensions high, the Capitol shuttered and lawmakers not scheduled to return until the inauguration, an uneasy feeling of stalemate settled over a main seat of national power as Trump remained holed up at the White House.

The social media giant Facebook banned the president from its platform and Instagram for the duration of Trump's final days in office, if not indefinitely, citing his intent to stoke unrest. Twitter had silenced him the day before.

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg said "the shocking events" make it clear Trump "intends to use his remaining time in office to undermine the peaceful and lawful transition of power."

U.S. Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund, under pressure from Schumer, Pelosi and other congressional leaders, was forced to resign. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell asked for and received the resignation of the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, Michael Stenger, effective immediately. Paul Irving, the longtime Sergeant at Arms of the House, also resigned.

Sund had defended his department's response to the storming of the Capitol, saying officers had "acted valiantly when faced with thousands of individuals involved in violent riotous actions."

Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser called the police response "a failure."

Lawmakers from both parties pledged to investigate and questioned whether a lack of preparedness allowed a mob to occupy and vandalize the building. The Pentagon and Justice Department had been rebuffed when they offered assistance.

Black lawmakers, in particular, noted the way the mostly white Trump supporters were treated.

Newly elected Rep. Cori Bush, D-Mo., said if "we, as Black people did the same things that happened ... the reaction would have been different, we would have been laid out on the ground."

The protesters ransacked the place, taking over the House area and Senate chamber and waving Trump, American and Confederate flags. Outside, they scaled the walls and balconies.

Rep. Val Demings, D-Fla., a former police chief, said it was "painfully obvious" that Capitol police "were not prepared."

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Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick, Zeke Miller, Alan Fram, Padmananda Rama and Michael



Balsamo in Washington contributed to this report.

## Indonesian cleric who inspired Bali bombings freed from jail

By NINIEK KARMINI Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A firebrand cleric who inspired bombings in Bali and other attacks walked free from an Indonesian prison Friday after completing his sentence for funding the training of Islamic militants.

Police said they will monitor the activities of Abu Bakar Bashir, who is 82 and ailing. His son said Bashir will avoid activities outside his home due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The slender, white-bearded Bashir, an Indonesian of Yemeni descent, was the spiritual leader of the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah network behind the 2002 bombings on the tourist island of Bali that killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists, including 88 Australians, leaving a deep scar in that country.

Bashir was imprisoned in 2011 for his links to a militant training camp in religiously conservative Aceh province. He was convicted of funding the military-style camp to train Islamic militants and sentenced to 15 years in jail.

He received a total of 55 months of sentence reductions, which are often granted to prisoners on major holidays, said Rika Aprianti, spokesperson for the corrections department at the Justice Ministry.

"He is released as his sentence ends," Aprianti said.

Bashir, wearing a white robe and mask, was escorted by the National Police's counterterrorism squad, known as Densus 88, when he left at dawn from Gunung Sindur prison in West Java's Bogor town, Bashir's son, Abdul Rohim, told The Associated Press.

He said the family, lawyers and a medical team accompanied Bashir to his home at the Islamic boarding school he cofounded in Solo city, about 540 kilometers (335 miles) east of the capital, Jakarta.

Rohim said the family had agreed with authorities not to hold any celebrations to welcome Bashir.

"I just want to keep my father from crowds during the coronavirus pandemic," Rohim said. "He will only rest and gather with his family until the outbreak ends. There will be no other activities for him for sure."

School spokesperson Endro Sudarsono said it held no welcoming events because "we have agreed with authorities to keep away a large crowd to curb the spread of the coronavirus."

Police removed five large welcoming banners and dozens of smaller placards, saying they would attract people, and replaced them with a single banner announcing there would be no celebrations.

National Police spokesperson Ahmad Ramadhan said police would monitor Bashir's activities.

In Australia, Prime Minister Scott Morrison described Bashir's release as "gut wrenching" and said the government had long called for tougher sentences against those behind the bombings.

"Decisions on sentencing ... as we know, are matters for the Indonesian justice system and we have to respect the decisions that they take," Morrison said Friday.

He said that while Bashir's release was consistent with the Indonesian justice system, "That doesn't make it any easier for any Australian to accept that ... ultimately, those who are responsible for the murder of Australians would now be free. It's sometimes not a fair world. And that's one of the hardest things to deal with."

Indonesian authorities had struggled to prove Bashir's involvement in the Bali bombings and fought multiple battles to uphold convictions on other charges. Prosecutors were unable to prove a string of terrorism-related allegations, a treason conviction was overturned, and a sentence for a document forgery conviction was considered light.

Upon release from prison in 2004, he was arrested and again charged with heading Jemaah Islamiyah as well as giving his blessing to the Bali bombings. A court cleared him of heading the group but sentenced him to 30 months for conspiracy in the bombings.

After his release in 2006, he resumed teaching at the Al-Mukmin boarding school he cofounded in 1972 and traveled the country giving fiery sermons.

The school became a militant production line under Bashir's influence, radicalizing a generation of students. Many later terrorized Indonesia with bombings and attacks that aimed to bring about an Islamic

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caliphate and battered the country's reputation for tolerance.

In speeches, Bashir said al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden and three militants sentenced to death for the Bali bombings were not terrorists but "soldiers in Allah's army."

A court banned Jemaah Islamiyah in 2008, and the group was weakened by a sustained crackdown on militants by Indonesia's counterterrorism police with U.S. and Australian support.

A 2010 raid on the camp that Bashir helped fund was a crushing blow to radical networks in Indonesia and forced changes in the mission of Islamic extremists. Instead of targeting Western people and symbols, the militants targeted Indonesians who were deemed "infidels" such as police, antiterrorism squads, lawmakers and others who were seen as obstacles to transforming the secular country into an Islamic state governed by Shariah law. More recently, militants have been inspired by Islamic State group attacks abroad.

Sidney Jones, director of the Jakarta-based Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict, which closely monitors Southeast Asian Muslim militant groups, said Bashir's release is unlikely to increase the risk of terrorism in Indonesia because many would-be terrorists today are too young to remember the Jemaah Islamiyah bombing campaign that took place while Bashir was its leader.

"Extremist cells are far more fractured than they were when Bashir went into prison," she said, adding that Bashir has not written anything that could be used as a teaching material for radical groups.

"Moreover, with the government crackdown on 'radicals,' I doubt Bashir is going to have much room for radical preaching, even if he wanted to," Jones said.

Bashir was transferred from isolation on a prison island to Gunung Sindur prison in 2016 for age and health reasons and was in a hospital several times due to his deteriorating health.

President Joko Widodo almost granted a request for his early release in 2019 on humanitarian grounds but reversed himself after protests from the Australian government and from relatives of the Bali bombings victims.

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Associated Press writer Rod McGuirk in Canberra, Australia, contributed to this report.

## Stay or go? After Trump-fueled riot, aides debate early exit

By AAMER MADHANI, ZEKE MILLER and KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A steady stream of Trump administration officials are beating an early path to the exits as a protest against the deadly siege of the U.S. Capitol this week even as others wrestling with the stay-or-go question conclude that they owe it to the public to see things through to the end.

Some of Trump's critics don't give those in the early-exit caucus much credit for walking away from their jobs with less than two weeks left in the administration, seeing it as little more than a face-saving effort.

"Nobody is fooled by these last-second, come-to-Jesus conversions," said Rick Wilson, co-founder of the Lincoln Project, a group of Republicans fiercely critical of Trump.

Trump's education and transportation secretaries, his acting chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers and deputy national security adviser are among at least nine senior administration officials who have announced their resignations since Wednesday's attack by Trump supporters on the Capitol.

Serving under Trump has been a test for many aides who have abided some of the president's most provocative actions, including his embrace of authoritarians, a habit of coarsely belittling political adversaries and the ease and frequency with which he's deployed falsehoods for personal benefit.

But Trump's behavior in a few harrowing hours on Wednesday -- first by egging on his supporters to demand Congress subvert the election and later declining to condemn the day's violence -- was a line too far for several high-profile officials serving the president.

It wasn't until Thursday evening, more than 24 hours after the Capitol siege, that Trump in a video message condemned the actions of the rioters as "heinous" and acknowledged his election loss.

Several White House and agency officials still on the job Thursday said they were deeply conflicted about whether to resign, fearing what would transpire if Trump was left surrounded in his final days on the job

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only by those who encouraged his worse instincts. In at least one case, a person on the Biden transition requested that individuals remain on the job to help smooth the handoff.

The decisions on whether to stay or go are playing out at a moment when aides already have moving boxes at the ready and an eye on the door despite Trump's insistence over the last two months that the election results would be overturned and he'd serve a second term. Trump only acknowledged in a statement on Thursday that his presidency will end Jan. 20.

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao on Thursday became the highest-ranking administration officials to resign over the pro-Trump insurrection. In a statement, Chao, who is married to Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell, said the violent attack on the Capitol "has deeply troubled me in a way that I simply cannot set aside."

DeVos, in her resignation letter, cast blame on the president for inciting the mob. "There is no mistaking the impact your rhetoric had on the situation, and it is the inflection point for me," she wrote.

Mick Mulvaney, the U.S. special envoy to Northern Ireland and a former White House chief of staff, said there was a lot of "soul searching" going on at the White House as he announced his own resignation from the administration.

"A lot of folks are wondering if I do resign today, who's going to take my place and will it make it better or will it make it worse," Mulvaney said in a CNBC interview.

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle said they hoped Trump would be surrounded by capable advisers in the final days of his time in office.

Sen. Joe Manchin, a West Virginia Democrat, on Thursday urged "the good men and women honorably serving at all levels of the federal government to please stay at their post for the protection of our democracy."

"The actions of a rogue president will not and should not reflect on you," Manchin said. "Instead, your patriotism and commitment to the greater good of our country will be reaffirmed."

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, pleaded for those in the national security apparatus to stay in their positions. "We need you now more than ever," Graham said. He added, "To those who believe you should leave your post now to make a statement, I would urge you not."

The two top Democrats in Congress, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, had a different strategy in mind. They said would move forward with an impeachment effort if Vice President Mike Pence and the Cabinet failed to invoke the 25th Amendment to try to oust Trump from office early.

Neither impeachment nor ouster under the 25th Amendment was considered probable with less than two weeks left in Trump's presidency.

One Cabinet official, acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf, made clear he was digging in until the end "to ensure the administration's focus remains on the serious threats facing our country and an orderly transition to President-elect Biden's DHS team."

Yet many White House aides, both senior officials and lower-level staff, were struggling with whether or when to exit, according to two people familiar with internal deliberations at the White House. They spoke on condition anonymity to discuss private conversations.

One of the individuals said many who have already left or are still considering leaving are aware that their actions will be seen as a cynical attempt to separate themselves from Trump as they eye their own futures. The other, a senior administration official who has decided to stay on, said people have had thoughts about leaving, but felt a responsibility to keep working to ensure a smooth transition.

The Lincoln Project's Wilson said a last-minute denunciation of Trump won't help departing officials lose the taint of their connection to this presidency.

"They're all going to have their historic revisionism, they're all going to have their own imaginary heroism," Wilson said. "But America is going to know who these people are."

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Madhani reported from Chicago. Associated Press writers Deb Riechmann in Washington and Meg Kin-

nard in Columbia, South Carolina contributed to this report.

## Biggest Czech crematorium overwhelmed by pandemic deaths

By KAREL JANICEK Associated Press

OSTRAVA, Czech Republic (AP) — All three cremation chambers are working round the clock, while storage capacity for caskets has been repeatedly boosted.

Despite all the efforts, the Czech Republic's biggest crematorium, in the northeastern city of Ostrava, has been overwhelmed by mounting numbers of pandemic victims.

On Thursday, cars from funeral companies delivered caskets every few minutes, some with "COVID" written on them. These days, the crematorium receives more than 100 coffins daily, about double its maximum cremation capacity.

With new confirmed COVID-19 infections around record highs, the situation looks set to worsen.

Authorities in Ostrava have been speeding up plans to build a fourth furnace but, in the meantime, have sought help from the government's central crisis committee for pandemic coordination.

"It's an extraordinary situation," said Katerina Sebestova, a deputy mayor in Ostrava. "Nobody here remembers anything like that." The facility belongs to Ostrava City Hall.

"It's simply because we have 60% more deceased than we had a year ago. So, we have to deal with storage capacity and the capacity to cremate," she said.

Up to 1,000 bodies a month were cremated in Ostrava before the pandemic struck. The number rose to 1,550 in November and 1,570 in December after a surge at the end of October, crematorium director Ivo Furmancik said.

The Czech Republic was spared the worst of the pandemic in the spring only to see its health care system approach collapse in the fall, about the time the spike began. It has been hard-hit again with new infections reaching a record high of 17,668 on Wednesday, a record set for the second straight day.

The surge in infections is likely again to be followed by a surge in deaths.

"To tell the truth, I expect that the situation won't get any better but unfortunately will likely get worse," Furmancik said.

The crematorium has built an overflow cold storage container to double its storage capacity by 60 coffins, and further boosted it by adding a couple of movable freezers for another 100. But the cremation chambers can't take any more.

"For two-and-a-half months we have been working nonstop with no pause for maintenance," Furmancik said. "So, this really is not an optimal situation. How long can this last? I am worried that because of this intensive use the crematories could get seriously damaged at any moment."

The country of 10.7 million has registered 794,740 confirmed cases and 12,621 deaths. November was the deadliest month with 4,937 deceased.

Ostrava is the capital of the Moravian-Silesian Region, which, together with another region, tops the country's virus death toll with some 1,500 deaths.

Interior Minister Jan Hamacek, who heads the central crisis committee, has promised to create a system to distribute bodies to other crematoriums across the country but some have already indicated they are reaching their own limits.

"Another, tougher option, is that we'll take only the number of the deceased we are capable of cremating," Furmancik said.

Follow AP's pandemic coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-pandemic>, <https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-vaccine> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## Boston mayor, RI governor among Biden adds to economic team

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — President-elect Joe Biden is set to introduce the governor of Rhode Island,

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the mayor of Boston and a small-business advocate from California as the newest members of his economic team.

Biden on Thursday announced Gov. Gina Raimondo as his choice to become commerce secretary, Mayor Marty Walsh as his candidate for labor secretary and Isabel Guzman as his pick to lead the Small Business Administration.

One of Biden's top challenges after he takes office Jan. 20 will be to nurse an economy reeling from the coronavirus pandemic back to health. He said the newest members of his economic team will help achieve that "by building an economy where every American is in on the deal."

"They share my belief that the middle class built this country and that unions built the middle class," said Biden, who planned to introduce Raimondo, Walsh, Guzman and a fourth candidate at an event Friday in Wilmington, Delaware.

With the picks, which require Senate confirmation, Biden moved a step closer to rounding out a Cabinet that he has pledged will be the most diverse in history. He has yet to name a candidate for CIA director.

Raimondo, 49, is a former venture capitalist serving her second term as governor after previously serving as state treasurer. A Democrat, she had been mentioned as a possible candidate for Biden's health secretary, but said last month that she would stay in Rhode Island and continue to focus on the coronavirus pandemic.

As commerce secretary, Raimondo would help set the Biden administration's trade policy and promote U.S. opportunities for growth domestically and overseas.

"Rhode Island may be small, but our economy is mighty on the strength of our small businesses and innovative technologies," Raimondo tweeted Thursday night. She pledged that as commerce secretary "I will harness that same American ingenuity to create good-paying union jobs and build our economy back better than ever before."

The Biden administration's stance on international trade will likely mark a significant shift away from President Donald Trump's heavy-on-tariffs approach. Trump slapped tariffs on Chinese steel and other goods to punish Beijing for what the administration said were unfair currency practices and potential national security threats. Those moves were largely opposed by U.S. allies, including Canada.

Biden opposes Chinese tariffs and has promised to improve U.S. relationships with countries around the hemisphere and globe. But he hasn't indicated that undoing the tariffs will be a top priority. Instead Biden has promised to oversee an aggressive "Buy American" campaign that would use federal funds to purchase \$400 billion of U.S.-made goods and spend another \$300 billion on new research and development from domestic technology firms.

Walsh, 53, has been Boston's mayor since 2014. When the Democrat took the oath of office in 2018 for his second term, Biden presided over the inauguration. Walsh was a state representative for more than a decade before becoming mayor.

He also has a long history with organized labor, formerly serving as president of Laborers Local 223 and heading the Boston Building Trades — a union umbrella organization.

The son of Irish immigrants, Walsh grew up in Boston's working-class Dorchester neighborhood. He survived a childhood bout with cancer and has been open about his early struggles with alcohol, using his history with addiction to encourage people to get help.

He opened his speech at the 2016 Democratic National Convention by saying: "Good evening. My name is Marty Walsh, and I'm an alcoholic."

Walsh on Thursday pledged as labor secretary to work as hard for working people and those trying to move into the middle class "as you do for your families and livelihoods. You have my word."

Leaders of the AFL-CIO and the Service Employees International Union, two major organized labor groups, backed Walsh's selection.

To lead the Small Business Administration, Biden said he had settled on Isabel Guzman, director of California's Office of the Small Business Advocate in the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development.

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Guzman has played a role in the state's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. She is a former senior adviser and deputy chief of staff at the SBA, the federal agency she's been tapped to lead, and was an adviser at the first California-chartered, Latino-formed business bank to form in Los Angeles in over 35 years.

Biden also has tapped Don Graves, one of his longtime advisers, to be the deputy commerce secretary.

## Capitol Police rejected offers of federal help to quell mob

By COLLEEN LONG, LOLITA BALDOR, MICHAEL BALSAMO, and NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press WASHINGTON (AP) — Three days before supporters of President Donald Trump rioted at the Capitol, the Pentagon asked the U.S. Capitol Police if it needed National Guard manpower. And as the mob descended on the building Wednesday, Justice Department leaders reached out to offer up FBI agents. The police turned them down both times, according to senior defense officials and two people familiar with the matter.

Despite plenty of warnings of a possible insurrection and ample resources and time to prepare, the Capitol Police planned only for a free speech demonstration.

Still stinging from the uproar over the violent response by law enforcement to protests last June near the White House, officials also were intent on avoiding any appearance that the federal government was deploying active duty or National Guard troops against Americans.

The result is the U.S. Capitol was overrun Wednesday and officers in a law enforcement agency with a large operating budget and experience in high-security events protecting lawmakers were overwhelmed for the world to see. Four protesters died, including one shot inside the building. A Capitol Police officer died Thursday after being injured in the Wednesday melee.

The rioting and loss of control has raised serious questions over security at the Capitol for future events. The actions of the day also raise troubling concerns about the treatment of mainly white Trump supporters, who were allowed to roam through the building for hours, while Black and brown protesters who demonstrated last year over police brutality faced more robust and aggressive policing.

"This was a failure of imagination, a failure of leadership," said Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo, whose department responded to several large protests last year following the death of George Floyd. "The Capitol Police must do better and I don't see how we can get around that."

Acevedo said he has attended events on the Capitol grounds to honor slain police officers that had higher fences and a stronger security presence than what he saw on video Wednesday.

Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said that as the rioting was underway, it became clear that the Capitol Police were overrun. But he said there was no contingency planning done in advance for what forces could do in case of a problem at the Capitol because Defense Department help was turned down. "They've got to ask us, the request has to come to us," said McCarthy.

U.S. Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund, under pressure from Schumer, Pelosi and other congressional leaders, was forced to resign. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell asked for and received the resignation of the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, Michael Stenger, effective immediately. Paul Irving, the longtime Sergeant at Arms of the House, also resigned.

"There was a failure of leadership at the top," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said.

The U.S. Capitol had been closed to the public since March because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has now killed more than 360,000 people in the U.S. But normally, the building is open to the public and lawmakers pride themselves on their availability to their constituents.

It is not clear how many officers were on-duty Wednesday, but the complex is policed by a total of 2,300 officers for 16 acres of ground who protect the 435 House representatives, 100 U.S. senators and their staff. By comparison, the city of Minneapolis has about 840 uniformed officers policing a population of 425,000 in a 6,000-acre area.

There were signs for weeks that violence could strike on Jan. 6, when Congress convened for a joint session to finish counting the Electoral College votes that would confirm Democrat Joe Biden had won the presidential election.

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On far-right message boards and in pro-Trump circles, plans were being made.

The leader of the far-right extremist group Proud Boys was arrested coming into the nation's capital this week on a weapons charge for carrying empty high-capacity magazines emblazoned with their logo. He admitted to police that he had made statements about rioting in Washington, local officials said.

Both Acevedo and Ed Davis, a former Boston police commissioner who led the department during the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, said they did not fault the responses of clearly overmatched front-line officers, but the planning and leadership before the riot.

"Was there a structural feeling that well, these are a bunch of conservatives, they're not going to do anything like this? Quite possibly," Davis said. "That's where the racial component to this comes into play in my mind. Was there a lack of urgency or a sense that this could never happen with this crowd? Is that possible? Absolutely."

Trump and his allies were perhaps the biggest megaphones, encouraging protesters to turn out in force and support his false claim that the election had been stolen from him. He egged them on during a rally shortly before they marched to the Capitol and rioted. His personal attorney Rudy Giuliani, a former New York mayor known for his tough-on-crime stance, called for "trial by combat."

McCarthy said law enforcement's intelligence estimates of the potential crowd size in the run-up to the protests "were all over the board," from a low of 2,000 to as many as 80,000.

So the Capitol Police had set up no hard perimeter around the Capitol. Officers were focused on one side where lawmakers were entering to vote to certify Biden's win.

Barricades were set up on the plaza in front of the building, but police retreated from the line and a mob of people broke through. Lawmakers, at first unaware of the security breach, continued their debate. Soon they were cowering under chairs. Eventually they were escorted from the House and Senate. Journalists were left alone in rooms for hours as the mob attempted to break into barricaded rooms.

Sund, the Capitol Police chief, said he had expected a display of "First Amendment activities" that instead turned into a "violent attack." But Gus Papathanasiou, head of the Capitol Police union, said planning failures left officers exposed without backup or equipment against surging crowds of rioters.

"We were lucky that more of those who breached the Capitol did not have firearms or explosives and did not have a more malign intent," Papathanasiou said in a statement. "Tragic as the deaths are that resulted from the attack, we are fortunate the casualty toll was not higher."

The Justice Department, FBI and other agencies began to monitor hotels, flights and social media for weeks and were expecting large crowds. Mayor Muriel Bowser had warned of impending violence for weeks, and businesses had closed in anticipation. She requested National Guard help from the Pentagon on Dec. 31, but the Capitol Police turned down the Jan. 3 offer from the Defense Department, according to Kenneth Rapuano, assistant defense secretary for homeland security.

"We asked more than once and the final return that we got on Sunday the 3rd was that they would not be asking DOD for assistance," he said.

The Justice Department's offer for FBI support as the protesters grew violent was rejected by the Capitol Police, according to the two people familiar with the matter. They were not authorized to publicly discuss the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity.

By then, it was too late.

Officers from the Metropolitan Police Department descended. Agents from nearly every Justice Department agency, including the FBI, were called in. So was the Secret Service and the Federal Protective Service. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives sent two tactical teams. Police from as far away as New Jersey arrived to help.

It took four hours to evict the protesters from the Capitol complex. By then, they had roamed the halls of Congress, posed for photos inside hallowed chambers, broken through doors, destroyed property and taken photos of themselves doing it. Only 13 were arrested at the time; scores were arrested later.

In the aftermath, a 7-foot fence will go up around the Capitol grounds for at least 30 days. The Capitol Police will conduct a review of the carnage, as well as their planning and policies. Lawmakers plan to investigate how authorities handled the rioting.

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The acting U.S. attorney in the District of Columbia, Michael Sherwin, said the failure to arrest more people is making their jobs harder.

"Look, we have to now go through cell site orders, collect video footage to try to identify people and then charge them, and then try to execute their arrest. So that has made things challenging, but I can't answer why those people weren't zip-tied as they were leaving the building by the Capitol Police."

Associated Press writers Ben Fox, Mary Clare Jalonick, Andrew Taylor and Ashraf Khalil contributed to this report.

## Hurt feelings, anger linger after Pence, Trump clash

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — They were never a natural fit, the straight-laced evangelical and the brash reality TV star. But for more than four years, President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence made their marriage of political convenience work.

Now, in the last days of their administration, each is feeling betrayed by the other. It's part of the fallout from an extraordinary 24-hour stretch in which Pence openly defied Trump, Trump unleashed his fury on the vice president, and a mob of violent supporters incensed by Trump's rhetoric stormed the Capitol building and tried to halt the peaceful transfer of power.

The Trump-Pence relationship is "pretty raw right now," said one top GOP congressional aide, who described multiple phone calls in which Trump berated Pence and tried to pressure the vice president to use powers he does not possess to try to overturn the results of the 2020 election. Pence, for his part, was left feeling "hurt" and "upset" by the episode, according to people close to him. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal matters.

Pence's decision to publicly defy Trump was a first for the notoriously deferential vice president, who has been unflinchingly loyal to Trump since joining the GOP ticket in 2016. Pence has spent his tenure defending the president's actions, trying to soothe anxious world leaders put off by Trump's caustic rhetoric, and carefully avoiding the president's ire.

He has taken on some of the administration's most high-pressure projects, including leading its response to the coronavirus. And he has stood by Trump even as the president leveled baseless allegations of voter fraud and refused to concede the election after his loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

Under normal circumstances, the vote-tallying procedure that began on Wednesday would have been a mere formality. But after losing court case after court case, and with no further options at hand, Trump and his allies zeroed in on the congressional tally as their last chance to try to challenge the race's outcome.

In a bizarre interpretation of the law, they argued that the vice president had the unilateral power to reject Electoral College votes supporting Biden. The Constitution makes clear that only Congress has that power.

The effort effectively turned Pence into a scapegoat who could be blamed for Trump's loss if the vice president refused to go along with the plan. Trump and his lawyers spent days engaged in an aggressive pressure campaign to force Pence to bend to their will in a series of phone calls and in-person meetings, including one that stretched for hours on Tuesday.

When Pence, who consulted with his own legal team, constitutional scholars and the Senate parliamentarian, informed Trump on Wednesday morning that he would not be going along with the effort, the president "blew a gasket," in the words of one person briefed on the conversation.

Not long after, Trump took the stage in front of thousands of his supporters at a "Stop the Steal" rally, where he urged them to march to the Capitol and continued to fan false hopes that Pence could change the outcome.

"If Mike Pence does the right thing we win the election," Trump wrongly insisted. He repeatedly returned to Pence throughout his speech as he tried to pressure the vice president to fall in line.

But Trump already knew what Pence intended. And as Trump spoke, Pence released a letter to Congress laying out his conclusion that a vice president cannot claim "unilateral authority" to reject states' electoral



votes. He soon gaveled into order the joint session of Congress where his and Trump's defeat would be cemented.

Not long after that, members of Trump's rally crowd arrived at the Capitol, where they overwhelmed police, smashed windows, occupied the building and halted the electoral proceedings. Pence was whisked from the Senate chamber to a secure location, where he was held for hours with staff as well as his wife and daughter, who had been there to support him.

Trump did not call to check in on his vice president's safety during the ordeal and instead spent much of Wednesday consumed with anger over Pence's action, tweeting, "Mike Pence didn't have the courage to do what should have been done to protect our Country and our Constitution."

Later, members of the mob outside the Capitol were captured on video chanting, "Hang Mike Pence!"

For allies of Pence, it was a deeply upsetting episode that put the vice president in danger after four years of unstinting loyalty to the president and left Pence himself feeling hurt.

"I just think he's had enough," said John Thompson, who served as Pence's campaign spokesman and also worked for the Republican Governors' Association.

"Yesterday just really pulled on his heartstrings," Thompson said. "He's been this loyal individual and the president was asking him to break the law and act outside his constitutional duties. I think it just reached a boiling point and the vice president said, 'I've had enough.'"

Republican Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma told Tulsa World, "I've never seen Pence as angry as he was today."

"He said, 'After all the things I've done for (Trump),'" Inhofe added.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, an informal Trump adviser, also came to Pence's defense, tweeting that his action was "a profile in courage."

It remains unclear how the dynamic between Trump and Pence will play out over the next two weeks and how long the president will hold his grudge. The White House declined to discuss Trump's thinking, but allies said Pence intends to spend the next two weeks focused on the transition.

He is also expected to attend Biden's inauguration.

And while Pence had been banking on his close relationship with the president to propel him to top-tier status if he decides to run for president in 2024, allies said they didn't think the vice president's actions this week would have long-term consequences, even if some voters blame him for Trump's defeat.

"I thought that was a very courageous moment for him," Thompson said. "And I think that's going to help his future."

\_\_\_ Associated Press writers Alan Fram and Zeke Miller contributed to this report.

## Police chief's past sows doubts in wake of Taylor's death

By DYLAN LOVAN Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Louisville city leaders praised the former Atlanta police chief who has been hired to oversee their struggling department in the wake of Breonna Taylor's death, but some critics questioned if she was the right choice after a rocky departure from her previous job.

Erika Shields was introduced this week after winning plaudits from Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer and a panel that unanimously selected her after a months-long search process. The panel included two Black city council members who have been instrumental in police reforms since Taylor was fatally shot by city officers in March.

One panelist, city council member Jessica Green, urged Kentucky's largest city to give Shields "an opportunity to earn your trust."

Asked Ricky L. Jones, chair of the Pan-African studies department at the University of Louisville: "Why would you make a hire in which you have to beg people to give her a chance?"

Shields stepped down from the top Atlanta post in June after the death of Rayshard Brooks, a Black man who was shot in the back by police in a restaurant parking lot after reports that he fell asleep at the wheel in a drive-thru lane. Shields remained with the Atlanta department in a lesser role.

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"There's so much riding on this hire. I just wish we were going a different route," said Sadiqa Reynolds, CEO of Louisville's Urban League, who has joined protesters in the streets after Taylor's killing.

"I wish we didn't have to have someone that Atlanta didn't want," Reynolds said. She hopes Shields moves away from the military-style response police often used on protesters. She also said she wants Shields to succeed and is willing to work with her.

Jones, an Atlanta native, called the city's decision "a really odd hire."

"I'm not saying there was any ideal candidate. I'm saying this candidate, because of her track record, was not ideal," he said.

The city surveyed residents on what they wanted in a new police chief and used those comments to craft the job description.

David James, city council president and a former police officer, said Shields hit all the marks.

"She was very transparent. She was very authentic, admitted her flaws and mistakes in life," James said. "Even when it came to the horrible shooting of Mr. Brooks, she was very forthright about that."

The mayor said he initially had concerns that potential applicants would not want the challenging job, but the search committee ended up with 28 candidates, including 11 current or former police chiefs. About half were Black.

Green and other city leaders said Shields is a proponent of modern police techniques that focus on increasing contacts and cooperation between officers and residents to reduce crime.

James said Shields is also an advocate of body cameras and pursuing illegal guns, which he said has a trickle-down effect of curbing other crimes.

While leading the Atlanta police force, Shields won praise in the days following George Floyd's death in May, when protests erupted across the country. She said the Minneapolis officers involved should go to prison. She walked into crowds of protesters in downtown Atlanta, telling them she understood their frustrations and fears.

When she decided to step down after Brooks' killing, she said her presence would be too much of a "distraction" for a city trying to heal.

"That to me spoke volumes as a person that is willing to take responsibility and ownership," James said, adding that the move was something longtime Louisville Police Chief Steve Conrad "would never do."

Conrad was fired after officers at the scene of the deadly shooting of a Black restaurant owner failed to turn on their body cameras. David McAtee was killed during early protests of Taylor's death.

Shields, who is white, will be the fourth person to lead the police force since Taylor's death. She starts the job Jan. 19.

Conrad had already planned to retire after the Taylor shooting, but he was forced out after McAtee's death. His temporary replacement, Robert Schroeder, retired in September. Schroeder was followed in October by interim Police Chief Yvette Gentry, the first Black woman to lead the department.

Taylor, a 26-year-old Black emergency medical technician, was killed in her home as officers attempted to serve a no-knock search warrant. None of the three white officers who fired into the residence were charged by a grand jury in her death, but two have been fired.

## For nurses, California's virus outbreak has a personal toll

By DON THOMPSON Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — For Caroline Brandenburger, the coronavirus outbreak that has overwhelmed California hospitals comes with a very personal toll.

"Just today we had two deaths on this unit. And that's pretty much the norm," said Brandenburger, who works on the COVID-19 unit at St. Joseph Hospital in Orange, south of Los Angeles. "I usually see one to two every shift. Super sad."

"They fight every day, and they struggle to breathe every day even with tons of oxygen. And then you just see them die," Brandenburger said. "They just die."

California avoided surging cases for months, but now the virus is raging out of control there, as it has

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done in many other states. Only Arizona tops California in cases per resident and, with 40 million residents, the huge state is seeing staggering caseloads: more than 2.5 million confirmed infections.

A surge following Halloween and Thanksgiving produced record hospitalizations, and now the most seriously ill of those patients are dying in unprecedented numbers. California health authorities reported Thursday 583 new deaths and a record two-day total of 1,042.

There have been more than 28,000 COVID-19 deaths in the state since the start of the pandemic.

Hospitalizations are nearing 22,000, and state models project the number could reach 30,000 by Feb 1. Already, many hospitals in Los Angeles and other hard-hit areas are struggling to keep up and warned they may need to ration care as intensive care beds dwindle.

Lawmakers and public health officials have repeatedly praised medical workers as heroes as they struggle to treat the infected. Many nurses already stretched thin are now caring for more patients than typically allowed under state law after the state began issuing waivers that allow hospitals to temporarily bypass a strict nurse-to-patient ratios law.

The nurses at St. Joseph Hospital illustrate the toll that comes with the work.

"This past week has been probably the hardest week for me physically and emotionally," said Donna Rottschafer, a nurse in the COVID-19 unit. "I've been here 21 years, and I've seen more people pass away in the last week — in the past couple weeks really — then almost like combined in all of my career as a nurse."

"We're seeing patients who are maxed out on oxygen, who are basically just suffering," she said.

To the north in Los Angeles County, figures released Thursday showed a new daily caseload of nearly 20,000, a 66.5% increase over the previous day, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said.

The more than 8,000 people hospitalized was the largest number since the pandemic began early last year, Garcetti said.

The county has a fourth of the state's population but accounts for about 40% of COVID-19 deaths.

Garcetti said federal authorities should step in to send the region vaccines, money, doctors and personal protective equipment, noting that medical workers and PPE flooded into New York when it hit its peak early in the pandemic.

"This is our peak, and we need you," Garcetti said. "We need national leadership, we need vaccines and we need resources to pay for them. Give us those and we know how to get the job done."

Los Angeles is one of 14 counties in the two hardest-hit regions — Southern California and the agricultural San Joaquin Valley — that for about two weeks have essentially run out of intensive care unit beds for COVID-19 patients.

Intensive care availability at Bay Area hospitals fell to the lowest levels yet, dropping from 7.4% to just 3.5% as of Wednesday, according to state data. The Northern California region, which includes 11 mainly smaller and rural counties, had the best capacity at around 25%.

Earlier this week, state health officials caught hospitals off guard and left them scrambling with new orders limiting nonessential surgeries and requiring hospitals that have scarce ICU space to accept patients from those that have run out, an order that may require transferring patients hundreds of miles.

During an earlier surge, patients in Imperial County along the border with Mexico were sent to hospitals as far away as the San Francisco Bay Area. But the current outbreak is so widespread that only 11 mostly rural counties north of Sacramento and San Francisco are above the state's threshold of having at least 15% capacity for coronavirus patients in ICU beds. Those below that level are under stricter restrictions for business operations.

The biggest fear is that hospitals will be tipped into rationing care in a few weeks when people who ignored social distancing rules to gather with friends and relatives for Christmas and New Year's Eve start showing up for medical care.

Officials urged people to avoid mixing households or travelling in hopes of slowing the infection spread and preventing what has been called a surge on top of a surge.

In an effort to keep people closer to home, the Newsom administration issued a more strident travel advisory that says people from out of state are "strongly discouraged" from entering California, and Cali-

fornians should avoid non-essential travel more than 120 miles from home.

"This next two or three weeks will define everything for us," said Garcetti, the Los Angeles mayor. "Our own behavior will dictate everything that we do."

Associated Press writer Kathleen Ronayne in Sacramento, John Antczak and Christopher Weber in Los Angeles and Janie Har in San Francisco contributed to this story.

## Capitol siege by pro-Trump mob forces questions, ousters

By LISA MASCARO and MATTHEW DALY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The violent siege of the Capitol by President Donald Trump's supporters forced painful new questions across government — about his fitness to remain in office for two more weeks, the ability of the police to secure the complex and the future of the Republican Party in a post-Trump era.

The tragedy deepened late Thursday as a Capitol police officer injured in the melee died, the fifth death related to the riot.

The U.S. Capitol Police said in a statement that Officer Brian D. Sicknick died from injuries sustained responding to the riot on Wednesday at the Capitol.

Sicknick was injured "while physically engaging with protesters," the statement said. He returned to his division office and collapsed. He was taken to a local hospital where he died on Thursday.

The rampage that shocked the world and left the country on edge forced the resignations of three top Capitol security officials over the failure to stop the breach. It led lawmakers to demand a review of operations and an FBI briefing over what they called a "terrorist attack." And it is prompting a broader reckoning over Trump's tenure in office and what comes next for a torn nation.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said any remaining day with the president in power could be "a horror show for America." Likewise, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said the attack on the Capitol was "an insurrection against the United States, incited by the president," and Trump must not stay in office "one day" longer.

Pelosi and Schumer called for invoking the 25th Amendment to the Constitution to force Trump from office before President-elect Joe Biden is inaugurated on Jan. 20. Schumer said he and Pelosi tried to call Vice President Mike Pence early Thursday to discuss that option but were unable to connect with him.

At least one Republican lawmaker joined the effort. The procedure allows for the vice president and a majority of the Cabinet to declare the president unfit for office. The vice president then becomes acting president.

Pelosi said if the president's Cabinet does not swiftly act, the House may proceed to impeach Trump.

Meanwhile, other Republicans who echoed Trump's false claims of a fraudulent election, including rising stars and some party leaders, faced angry, unsettled peers — but also those cheering them on.

With tensions high, the Capitol shuttered and lawmakers not scheduled to return until the inauguration, an uneasy feeling of stalemate settled over a main seat of national power as Trump remained holed up at the White House.

The social media giant Facebook banned the president from its platform and Instagram for the duration of Trump's final days in office, if not indefinitely, citing his intent to stoke unrest. Twitter had silenced him the day before.

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg said "the shocking events of the last 24 hours" make it clear Trump "intends to use his remaining time in office to undermine the peaceful and lawful transition of power."

U.S. Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund, under pressure from Schumer, Pelosi and other congressional leaders, was forced to resign. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell asked for and received the resignation of the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, Michael Stenger, effective immediately. Paul Irving, the longtime Sergeant at Arms of the House, also resigned.

Sund had defended his department's response to the storming of the Capitol, saying officers had "acted valiantly when faced with thousands of individuals involved in violent riotous actions."

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In his first public comment on the mayhem, Sund said in a statement earlier Thursday that rioters attacked Capitol police and other law enforcement officers with metal pipes, discharged chemical irritants and "took up other weapons against our officers."

It was "unlike any I have ever experienced in my 30 years in law enforcement here in Washington, D.C.," said Sund, a former city police officer.

Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser called the police response "a failure."

Lawmakers from both parties pledged to investigate and questioned whether a lack of preparedness allowed a mob to occupy and vandalize the building. The Pentagon and Justice Department had been rebuffed when they offered assistance.

Black lawmakers, in particular, noted the way the mostly white Trump supporters were treated.

Protesters were urged by Trump during a rally near the White House earlier Wednesday to head to Capitol Hill, where lawmakers were scheduled to confirm Biden's presidential victory. The mob swiftly broke through police barriers, smashed windows and paraded through the halls, sending lawmakers into hiding.

The protesters ransacked the place, taking over the House area and Senate chamber and waving Trump, American and Confederate flags. Outside, they scaled the walls and balconies.

Newly elected Rep. Cori Bush, D-Mo., said if "we, as Black people did the same things that happened ... the reaction would have been different, we would have been laid out on the ground."

One protester, a white woman, was shot to death by Capitol Police, and there were dozens of arrests. Three other people died after "medical emergencies" related to the breach.

Rep. Val Demings, D-Fla., a former police chief, said it was "painfully obvious" that Capitol police "were not prepared."

Rep. Tim Ryan, D-Ohio, who is the chairman of a subcommittee that oversees the Capitol police budget, announced the new review and suggested there would be leadership changes on the force.

"This is an embarrassment," he said.

After the chaos, lawmakers resolved to return from shelter to show the country, and the world, of the nation's enduring commitment to uphold the will of the voters by finishing the Electoral College tally. Congress confirmed Biden as the election winner, 306-232, before dawn Thursday.

Trump, who had repeatedly refused to concede the election, did so in a late Thursday video from the White House vowing a "seamless transition of power."

Several lawmakers suggested that Trump be prosecuted for a crime, impeached for a second time or even removed under the Constitution's 25th Amendment, which seemed unlikely before his term expires. The House impeached Trump in 2019 and the Senate acquitted him in 2020.

While Democrats led the charge to invoke the 25th Amendment, similar conversations among Republicans within the administration had made their way to Capitol Hill.

Republican Rep. Adam Kinzinger of Illinois publicly called on Trump's Cabinet to invoke the 25th Amendment and remove the president from office.

"The president caused this," Kinzinger said in a video posted to Twitter. "The president is unwell."

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., did not join that effort but said Trump's actions were the "problem" leading to the Capitol violence.

Biden aide Andrew Bates said that the president-elect is focused on the transition "and will leave it to Vice President Pence, the Cabinet and the Congress to act as they see fit."

The Republicans who led the effort to challenge the Electoral College tally for Biden exposed the extent of the party divisions after four years of Trump's presidency.

Those two GOP senators, Ted Cruz of Texas and Josh Hawley of Missouri, faced angry peers in the Senate.

Cruz defended his objection to the election results as "the right thing to do" as he tried unsuccessfully to have Congress launch an investigation.

In the House, Republican leaders Rep. Kevin McCarthy of California and Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana joined in the failed effort to overturn Biden's win by objecting to the Electoral College results.

Despite Trump's repeated claims of voter fraud, election officials and his own former attorney general

have said there were no problems on a scale that would change the outcome. All the states have certified their results as fair and accurate, by Republican and Democratic officials alike.

Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick, Zeke Miller, Alan Fram, Padmananda Rama and Michael Balsamo in Washington contributed to this report.

## **Pfizer study suggests vaccine works against virus variant**

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

New research suggests that Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine can protect against a mutation found in two highly contagious variants of the coronavirus that erupted in Britain and South Africa.

Those variants are causing global concern. They both share a common mutation called N501Y, a slight alteration on one spot of the spike protein that coats the virus. That change is believed to be the reason they can spread so easily.

Most of the vaccines being rolled out around the world train the body to recognize that spike protein and fight it. Pfizer teamed with researchers from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston for laboratory tests to see if the mutation affected its vaccine's ability to do so.

They used blood samples from 20 people who received the vaccine, made by Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech, during a large study of the shots. Antibodies from those vaccine recipients successfully fended off the virus in lab dishes, according to the study posted late Thursday on an online site for researchers.

The study is preliminary and has not yet been reviewed by experts, a key step for medical research.

But "it was a very reassuring finding that at least this mutation, which was one of the ones people are most concerned about, does not seem to be a problem" for the vaccine, said Pfizer chief scientific officer Dr. Philip Dormitzer.

Viruses constantly undergo minor changes as they spread from person to person. Scientists have used these slight modifications to track how the coronavirus has moved around the globe since it was first detected in China about a year ago.

British scientists have said the variant found in the U.K. -- which has become the dominant type in parts of England -- still seemed to be susceptible to vaccines. That mutant has now been found in the U.S. and numerous other countries.

But the variant first discovered in South Africa has an additional mutation that has scientists on edge, one named E484K.

The Pfizer study found that the vaccine appeared to work against 15 additional possible virus mutations, but E484K wasn't among those tested. Dormitzer said it is next on the list.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top U.S. infectious disease expert, recently said vaccines are designed to recognize multiple parts of the spike protein, making it unlikely a single mutation could be enough to block them. But scientists around the world are conducting research with different vaccines to find out.

Dormitzer said if the virus eventually mutates enough that the vaccine needs adjusting -- much like flu shots are adjusted most years -- that tweaking the recipe wouldn't be difficult for his company's shot and similar ones. The vaccine is made with a piece of the virus genetic code, simple to switch, although it's not clear what kind of additional testing regulators would require to make such a change.

Dormitzer said this was only the beginning "of ongoing monitoring of virus changes to see if any of them might impact on vaccine coverage."

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## **The Latest: Capitol Police says officer dies after riots**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on the fallout of the storming of the Capitol by a mob of pro-Trump loyalists (all times local):

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12:40 a.m.

The U.S. Capitol Police says an officer who was injured after responding to riots at the Capitol has died. Officer Brian D. Sicknick died Thursday due to injuries sustained while on-duty, physically engaging with protesters at the U.S. Capitol, the statement said.

Supporters of President Donald Trump stormed the Capitol on Wednesday as Congress was tallying the Electoral College votes to confirm Democrat Joe Biden won the election. Sicknick returned to his division office and collapsed, the report said. He was taken to a hospital and later died.

The death will be investigated by the Metropolitan Police Department's Homicide Branch, the USCP, and federal law enforcement. Sicknick joined the Capitol police in 2008.

Democratic leaders of the House Appropriations Committee said the "tragic loss" of a Capitol police officer "should remind all of us of the bravery of the law enforcement officers who protected us, our colleagues, Congressional staff, the press corps and other essential workers" during the hourslong takeover of the Capitol by pro-Trump protesters.

9:05 p.m.

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos has become the second Cabinet secretary to resign a day after a pro-Trump insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

In a resignation letter Thursday, DeVos blamed President Donald Trump for inflaming tensions in the violent assault on the seat of the nation's democracy. She says, "There is no mistaking the impact your rhetoric had on the situation, and it is the inflection point for me."

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao tendered her resignation earlier Thursday. News of DeVos' resignation was first reported by the Wall Street Journal.

In a farewell letter to Congress earlier this week, DeVos urged lawmakers to reject policies supported by President-elect Joe Biden, and to protect Trump administration policies that Biden has promised to eliminate.

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## HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW A DAY AFTER PRO-TRUMP FORCES BREACHED CAPITOL:

Congress confirmed Democrat Joe Biden as the presidential election winner before dawn Thursday, hours after a violent mob loyal to President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol in a stunning attempt to overturn the election, undercut the nation's democracy and keep Trump in the White House. The top two Democrats in Congress are calling on the Cabinet to use the 25th Amendment to remove Trump from office, and if it doesn't, they are considering impeachment again.

Read more:

- Biden win confirmed after pro-Trump mob storms US Capitol
- Capitol police chief defends response to 'criminal' rioters
- World watches US chaos with shock, dismay and some mockery
- After excusing violence, Trump acknowledges Biden transition
- Race double standard clear in rioters' Capitol insurrection

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## HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON:

8:10 p.m.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell says he has accepted the resignation of Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Michael Stenger a day after a pro-Trump mob stormed the Capitol.

The Kentucky Republican said Thursday in a statement that he had earlier requested the resignation and later received it. He says Stenger's resignation is effective immediately.

McConnell says Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms Jennifer Hemingway will now be acting sergeant-at-arms.

He says, "I thank Jennifer in advance for her service as we begin to examine the serious failures that transpired yesterday and continue and strengthen our preparations for a safe and successful inauguration on January 20th."

Democrat Chuck Schumer had earlier vowed to fire Stenger when Schumer becomes Senate majority leader later this month if Stenger was still in the position.

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7:20 p.m.

President Donald Trump is conceding to President-elect Joe Biden and condemning the violent supporters of his who stormed the nation's Capitol.

In a new video message Thursday, Trump says that now that Congress has certified the results, the "new administration will be inaugurated on Jan. 20" and his "focus now turns to ensuring a smooth orderly and seamless transition of power."

He also spoke out against the violence, calling it a "heinous attack" that left him "outraged by the violence lawlessness and mayhem."

Trump did not address his role in inciting the violence. But in the video, he tells his supporters that, while he knows they are "disappointed," he wants them to know "our incredible journey is only just beginning."

6:40 p.m.

Former U.S. Ambassador Jon Huntsman Jr. is criticizing President Donald Trump for prioritizing his own interests over the nation's following the deadly siege of the Capitol by the president's supporters.

In a statement Thursday, the Trump-era ambassador called on Americans to join together and push through this "anguishing period of history." His comments come a day after violent protesters broke into the U.S. Capitol, forcing Congress members to halt the ongoing vote to certify President-elect Joe Biden's election and then flee from the House and Senate chambers.

Huntsman says, "Our light has been dimmed by repeated reckless behavior encouraged by our President, who has shown time and again he cares more about his own ego and interests than in building trust in our ever-fragile institutions of democracy."

Huntsman resigned from his role as ambassador to Russia in 2019 after two years. He joined other former Trump officials in condemning Wednesday's attack, including former Attorney General William Barr and former White House chief of staff John Kelly.

6:15 p.m.

The head of the U.S. Capitol Police will resign effective Jan. 16 following the breach of the Capitol by a pro-Trump mob.

Chief Steven Sund said Thursday that police had planned for a free speech demonstration and did not expect the violent attack. He said it was unlike anything he'd experienced in his 30 years in law enforcement.

He resigned Thursday after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called on him to step down. His resignation was confirmed to The Associated Press by a person familiar with the matter who was not authorized to speak publicly.

The breach halted the effort by Congress to certify President-elect Joe Biden's victory. Protesters stormed the building and occupied for hours. The lawmakers eventually returned and finished their work.

— By AP writer Michael Balsamo

5:45 p.m.

Democratic leaders of five House committees are seeking an immediate briefing from the FBI on its investigation of Wednesday's violent breach of the Capitol, which left four people dead and disrupted a congressional proceeding to confirm the results of the presidential election.

In a letter Thursday to FBI Director Christopher Wray, the lawmakers called the riot "a deadly terrorist attack" incited by President Donald Trump and his supporters.

The lawmakers wrote, "Given the incendiary environment caused and exacerbated by President Trump's rhetoric, along with the upcoming inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden, it is imperative that the FBI leverage all available assets and resources to ensure that the perpetrators of this domestic terrorist attack and those who incited and conspired with them are brought to justice, and that this domestic terrorist group is disrupted from further actions against our government."

The letter was signed by Oversight Committee Chair Carolyn Maloney, Judiciary Chair Jerry Nadler,



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Homeland Security Chair Bennie Thompson, Intelligence Chair Adam Schiff and Armed Services Chair Adam Smith.

5:35 p.m.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany says President Donald Trump's administration found the siege of the U.S. Capitol to be "appalling, reprehensible and antithetical to the American way."

But while McEnany's statement to the press Thursday broke the White House's silence a day after the violence, Trump himself remained quiet.

McEnany, for the first time, said that the White House was committed to the "orderly transition of power" to President-elect Joe Biden's incoming administration. She also took pains to try to draw a distinction between the "violent rioters" and other Trump supporters who attended the president's rally in Washington just before the siege of the Capitol.

But McEnany took no questions. And the impact of the statement would likely be muted, as Trump has long said that only he speaks for his White House.

The president has yet to condemn the violence that was meant to stop the congressional certification of Biden's victory.

5:40 p.m.

State lawmakers and police are taking extra precautions at state capitol buildings as legislatures in most states return to session.

Pro-Donald Trump demonstrators have rallied outside numerous capitols since the Nov. 3 election, and some groups have said they want a large presence when lawmakers return. Trump has falsely claimed that widespread voter fraud cost him the election and has convinced many of his supporters that President-elect Joe Biden will be illegitimate.

Wednesday's storming of the U.S. Capitol has heightened concerns.

In Washington state, a pro-Trump group has said it will try to get inside the capitol building in Olympia when lawmakers return to work on Monday.

In Oregon, the state police said it is aware of rumors that armed groups are considering taking over the capitol and warned that anyone attempting that would be arrested.

In Michigan, where several men were charged last fall in separate plots to kidnap the governor and storm the statehouse in hopes of inciting a civil war, police briefly closed the capitol on Thursday after a man called to make a bomb threat.

5:25 p.m.

The head of the union representing U.S. Capitol Police is calling on the department's chief to resign, saying the Capitol riot "should never have happened."

Gus Papathanasiou said in a statement Thursday that a lack of planning led to officers exposed to violent protesters storming the Capitol. He says officers lacked the backup and equipment needed to control rioters and argues that Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund must be replaced to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Police have been criticized for not immediately arresting many people who stormed the Capitol. Papathanasiou said, "Once the breach of the Capitol building was inevitable, we prioritized lives over property, leading people to safety."

Papathanasiou is chair of the U.S. Capitol Police Labor Committee.

5:15 p.m.

A longtime U.S. senator who has been a staunch supporter of Republican Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri says he was "bamboozled" and no longer backs him.

Three-term Republican Sen. John Danforth of St. Louis told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday

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that he first met Hawley when Hawley was a third-year student at Yale Law School and was immediately impressed by his intelligence. Now, he calls his support of Hawley "the worst decision I've ever made in my life."

Danforth cited Hawley's decision to challenge the legitimacy of Democrat Joe Biden's election victory in November. Danforth says telling people the election was fraudulent "is very, very destructive to the country," and the attack at the Capitol building on Wednesday "was the culmination of that whole approach to politics."

Danforth says he would no longer support Hawley's political future, whether it be for a reelection bid or a run for president in 2024.

Asked if he believes Hawley bears some responsibility for the attack on the Capitol, Danforth says simply, "Yes, I do."

5:10 p.m.

President-elect Joe Biden is leaving it up to the current Cabinet to decide whether to remove President Donald Trump from office using the 25th Amendment.

Transition aide Andrew Bates says in a statement Thursday that Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris are "focused on their duty" - the transition work in preparation for their inauguration on January 20 - "and will leave it to Vice President Pence, the Cabinet and the Congress to act as they see fit."

The 25th Amendment allows for a majority of the Cabinet to vote to transfer the powers of the presidency to the vice president in cases where the president is unable to perform his duty. Trump officials are facing growing calls to consider the move after pro-Trump protesters, egged on by the president himself, broke into the Capitol on Wednesday in a violent melee that forced lawmakers to evacuate.

Biden avoided weighing in on whether Trump should be impeached again, a move already gaining traction among House Democrats in an attempt to remove the president from power before he leaves office later this month.

4:20 p.m.

One of the people who died of a medical emergency during the storming of the Capitol was the founder of a pro-Trump social media site called Trumparoo and had coordinated transportation for several dozen people from Pennsylvania to Washington.

The Philadelphia Inquirer reports that 50-year-old Benjamin Philips drove there in a van along with Trump-related memorabilia he had produced. The Inquirer and the Bloomsburg Press Enterprise both spoke with Phillips before the rally.

He was a web developer and founder of Trumparoo, a social media site for supporters of President Donald Trump. His profile on the site said he was organizing a bus from the Bloomsburg area to go to the rally and expressed anger at Democratic officials and moderate Republicans.

The Inquirer reports that members of his group say they last saw Philips around 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, and that he did not show up to meet them for a 6 p.m. departure. They learned from police that he had died and had a somber ride back to Pennsylvania.

Philips told the Bloomsburg Press Enterprise on Tuesday that people from other states were staying at his home. He said, "My 'hostel' is already full."

This item has been corrected to show the victim's last name is spelled Philips, not Phillips, as police had initially said.

4 p.m.

The top federal prosecutor for the District of Columbia says "all options are on the table" for charges against the violent mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol, including sedition.

Michael Sherwin, acting U.S. attorney for D.C., says prosecutors plan to file 15 federal cases on Thursday

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for crimes including unauthorized access and theft of property, and investigators are combing through scores of evidence to bring additional charges.

He says 40 other cases had already been charged in a District of Columbia superior court.

The announcement comes a day after angry and armed protesters broke into the U.S. Capitol, forcing Congress members to halt the ongoing vote to certify Joe Biden's election and then flee from the House and Senate chambers.

Police say more than 90 people were arrested on Wednesday and Thursday morning.

3:55 p.m.

Vice President Mike Pence is expected to attend President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration..

That's according to two people — one close to Pence and one familiar with the inauguration planning. The people spoke on condition of anonymity Thursday because the plans had yet to be finalized.

The news comes a day after supporters of President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol to stop the congressional confirmation of Biden's victory, with some angrily shouting that they were looking for Pence.

Trump had told his supporters that Pence had the power to reject electoral votes and make him the president instead of Biden, even though he didn't have that authority. The pressure campaign created a rare public rift between the men after years of Pence's unchecked loyalty.

Pence's press secretary Devin O'Malley tweeted Thursday: "You can't attend something you haven't received an invitation to...."

But it is customary for an outgoing vice president to attend the inauguration. Outgoing President Donald Trump has not said whether he plans to attend.

Biden will be inaugurated in Washington on Jan 20.

— AP writers Jill Colvin and Zeke Miller

3:30 p.m.

A marketing firm based in Maryland has fired an employee who wore his company badge when he stormed the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

Navistar Direct Marketing of Frederick said in a statement Thursday that it was made aware that a man wearing a Navistar badge was seen inside the Capitol during the security breach. The statement said that after the company reviewed the photos, the unidentified employee was fired for cause. No additional details were released.

The statement also said that any Navistar worker who demonstrates dangerous conduct that endangers the health and safety of others will lose their jobs, too.

A violent mob loyal to President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday in an attempt to overturn the presidential election, undercut the nation's democracy and keep the president in the White House.

3 p.m.

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, one of President Donald Trump's top congressional allies, says the president must accept his own role in the violence that occurred at the U.S. Capitol.

The South Carolina senator said Thursday that Trump "needs to understand that his actions were the problem, not the solution."

Graham was a foe of Trump's during the 2016 campaign and questioned his mental fitness for office. Once Trump was in office, however, Graham became one of his closest confidants and often played golf with him.

Graham added that he had no regrets of his support of Trump but that "it breaks my heart that my friend, a president of consequence, would allow yesterday to happen."

Graham complimented Vice President Mike Pence's decorum during the Electoral College vote certification process, saying that any expectation that Pence could have overturned the results was "over the top,

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unconstitutional, illegal and would have been wrong for the country.”

2:55 p.m.

District of Columbia police have identified the three people who had medical emergencies and died during the storming of the Capitol.

They are 55-year-old Kevin Greeson, of Athens, Alabama; 34-year-old Rosanne Boyland, of Kennesaw, Georgia; and 50-year-old Benjamin Philips, of Ringtown, Pennsylvania.

Police Chief Robert Contee would not go into detail about the exact causes of their deaths and would not say if any of the three was actively involved in breaching the Capitol building on Wednesday.

Contee would only say that all three “were on the grounds of the Capitol when they experienced their medical emergencies.”

Greeson’s family says he had a heart attack. They described him as a supporter of President Donald Trump’s but denied that he condoned violence.

The Capitol Police say a fourth person, identified as Ashli Babbitt, was shot by an employee of Capitol Police while the rioters were moving toward the House chamber. She died at a hospital.

The siege at the Capitol by Trump loyalists came as Congress was certifying President-elect Joe Biden’s victory.

This item has been corrected to show that the victim’s name is spelled Benjamin Philips, not Phillips, as police had initially said.

2:35 p.m.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi says she’s seeking the resignation of Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund a day after supporters of President Donald Trump stormed the Capitol.

The California Democrat also said Thursday that House Sergeant-at-Arms Paul Irving, another key security official, had already submitted his resignation. He reports directly to Pelosi, while Sund answers to both House and Senate.

Incoming Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said he’ll fire the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Michael Stenger.

Lawmakers have mixed praise for the Capitol Police with harsh criticism for the outfit, which was overwhelmed by Wednesday’s mob and unprepared for it.

2:30 p.m.

Canadian-based e-commerce company Shopify Inc. has removed online stores affiliated with U.S. President Donald Trump, saying his actions have violated the company’s policies.

The company said in a statement Thursday that it does not tolerate actions that incite violence. The president has been accused of inciting his supporters to storm the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday after repeatedly and falsely telling them that Democrats had stolen the election from him.

The company says, “Based on recent events, we have determined that the actions by President Donald J. Trump violate our acceptable use policy, which prohibits promotion or support of organizations, platforms or people that threaten or condone violence to further a cause.”

Sites for Trump hotels, trumpstore.com and campaign store shop.donaldjtrump.com generated messages saying, “Oops something went wrong” and “This store is unavailable.”

Trump’s social media channels showed the stores sold items including Christmas ornaments depicting his hotels, flip flops and T-shirts emblazoned with his logo and the American flag, scented candles, teddy bears, bath and beauty products, model airplanes and footballs.

2:25 p.m.

The family of an Alabama man who died of a medical emergency during the insurrection at the U.S.

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Capitol say he was a supporter of President Donald Trump's but deny that he condoned violence.

District of Columbia police said Kevin D. Greeson, of Athens, died of a medical emergency during the fracas on Wednesday at the Capitol.

Officials did not release additional details about the circumstances of Greeson's death or where he collapsed, but family members said he had a history of high blood pressure and suffered a heart attack.

In a family statement emailed from his wife, Kristi, the family described Greeson as a Trump supporter but maintained he was not there to participate in the rioting inside the Capitol. The family said they are devastated by the loss.

They said, "Kevin was a wonderful father and husband who loved life. He loved to ride motorcycles, he loved his job and his coworkers, and he loved his dogs."

The family added that Greeson attended the event to show his support for Trump. They say, "He was excited to be there to experience this event- he was not there to participate in violence or rioting, nor did he condone such actions."

2:20 p.m.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi says President Donald Trump should immediately be removed from office or Congress may proceed to impeach him.

Pelosi on Thursday joined those calling on the Cabinet to invoke the 25th Amendment to force Trump from office. It came a day after a violent mob of Trump supporters stormed the Capitol, forcing the building into lockdown. Trump called them "very special" people and said he loved them.

She said at the Capitol: "The president of the United States incited an armed insurrection against America."

Pelosi says he could do further harm to the country: "Any day can be a horror show for America."

Democrats and some Republicans want Trump removed before his term ends on Jan. 20 with Democrat Joe Biden's inauguration.

The 25th Amendment allows for the vice president and a majority of the Cabinet to declare the president unfit for office. The vice president then becomes acting president.

2 p.m.

President-elect Joe Biden is calling the violent group that descended on the U.S. Capitol "domestic terrorists" and laying the blame for the violence squarely at President Donald Trump's feet.

During remarks in Wilmington, Delaware, on Thursday, Biden says people should not call the hundreds of Trump supporters who broke into the Capitol protesters. Rather, he says, they are "a riotous mob — insurrectionists, domestic terrorists." Biden said Trump is guilty of "trying to use a mob to silence the voices of nearly 160 million Americans" who voted in November.

Biden says the president has "made his contempt for our democracy, our Constitution, the rule of law clear in everything he has done" and unleashed an "all-out attack" on the country's democratic institutions that ultimately led to the violence Wednesday.

1:45 p.m.

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao is resigning effective Monday, becoming the highest ranking member of President Donald Trump's administration to resign in protest after the pro-Trump insurrection at Capitol.

In a statement Thursday, Chao, who is married to Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell, said the violent attack on the Capitol "has deeply troubled me in a way that I simply cannot set aside."

She said her department will continue to cooperate with President-elect Joe Biden's designated nominee to head the department, former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg.

1:30 p.m.

Incoming Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer is vowing to fire Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Michael Stenger following the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

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Stenger is in charge of the chamber's security.

Schumer says, "I will fire him as soon as Democrats have a majority in the Senate." The New York Democrat will become the majority leader after President-elect Joe Biden and Georgia Sens.-elect Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff are sworn in.

Top Republican and outgoing Majority Leader Mitch McConnell agrees that there was a "massive failure" by police and other officials that allowed a violent breach at the Capitol Wednesday.

McConnell says a "painstaking investigation and thorough review must now take place and significant changes must follow."

He says the "ultimate blame" lies with the criminals who broke into the Capitol and the people who incited them. But he said that "does not and will not preclude our addressing the shocking failures in the Capitol's security posture and protocols."

11:40 a.m.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer is calling on President Donald Trump's Cabinet to remove him from office following Wednesday's violent assault on the Capitol by the president's supporters.

In a statement Thursday, Schumer said the attack on the Capitol "was an insurrection against the United States, incited by the president." He added, "This president should not hold office one day longer."

Schumer said Vice President Mike Pence and the Cabinet should invoke the 25th Amendment and immediately remove Trump from office. He added, "If the vice president and the Cabinet refuse to stand up, Congress should reconvene to impeach the president."

## California bypasses tough nurse care rules amid COVID surge

By OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Nerissa Black was already having a hard time tending to four COVID-19 patients who need constant heart monitoring. But because of staffing shortages affecting hospitals throughout California, her workload recently increased to six people infected with the coronavirus.

Black, a registered nurse at the telemetry cardiac unit of the Henry Mayo Hospital in Valencia, just north of Los Angeles, barely has time to take a break or eat a meal. But what really worries her is not having enough time to spend with each of her patients.

Black said she rarely has time to help patients brush their teeth or go to the bathroom because she must prioritize making sure they get the medicine they need and don't develop bedsores.

"We have had more patients falling (in December) compared to last year because we don't have enough staff to take care of everybody," Black said.

Overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients in the nation's most populous state, Black and many other nurses already stretched thin are now caring for more patients than typically allowed under state law after the state began issuing waivers that allow hospitals to temporarily bypass a strict nurse-to-patient ratios law — a move they say is pushing them to the brink of burnout and affecting patient care.

California is the only state in the country to require by law specific number of nurses to patients in every hospital unit. It requires hospitals to provide one nurse for every two patients in intensive care and one nurse for every four patients in emergency rooms, for example. Those ratios, nurses say, have helped reduce errors and protect the safety of patients and nurses.

Nurses overwhelmed with patients because of the pandemic in other states are demanding law-mandated ratios. But so far, they have failed to get them. In Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and New York, the country's first pandemic hotspot, nurses have been demanding state-mandated minimum staffing standards for months. Voters in Massachusetts rejected in 2018 mandated nurse-to-patient ratios.

In the 10 minutes Black gets with each person every hour, she has to look at lab work reports, imaging reports, communicate any abnormalities to the doctor, document her interventions, coordinate with case workers, and in many cases, arrange for the hospital's chaplain, she said.

"It's very busy, the nurses and not just the nurses but the assistants, we are all exhausted. Morale is

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pretty low," she said.

Gov. Gavin Newsom's Department of Public Health began issuing temporary waivers of the law for a second time in December after another surge left hospitals in Southern California and the agricultural San Joaquin Valley with what is considered no intensive care capacity because of a lack of staffing. The department had ordered all non-urgent and elective surgeries and issued a blanket 90-day waiver of the patient ratio last spring.

So far, at least 250 of California's about 400 hospitals have been granted 60-day waivers that allow for ICU nurses to care for three people and emergency room nurses to oversee six patients. The waivers only apply to intensive care, observation units, cardiac monitoring, emergency and surgical care units. But Newsom so far has not canceled elective surgeries during the recent surge.

Kaiser Permanente, which has 36 hospitals in California, applied for waivers at 15 of them to plan for surge needs, spokesman Marc Brown said. He said the health care giant avoided asking for more waivers by canceling elective and non-urgent surgeries, paying nurses overtime and working with the nurses to move their shifts and locations.

"We take the existing ratios seriously," Brown said.

California Hospital Association spokeswoman Jan Emerson-Shea said hospitals are applying for the waivers only after they have no other choice left to care for the patients they have.

"We are literally in the worst crisis of this pandemic so far and are seeing caseloads that we have not seen to date," Emerson-Shea said, adding that hospitals are just trying to get through the crisis. "No one wants to have our staff emotionally and physically exhausted. But we have no choice. People need care."

California hospitals typically turn to staffing agencies and travel nurses during the winter season, when hospitalizations surge and medical staff get sick because of the flu. But California is now among states nationwide vying for medical personnel, particularly trained ICU nurses.

Stephanie Roberson, the California Nurses Association government relations director, criticized hospitals for not preparing better by training registered nurses and failing to hire more staff — including traveling nurses — during a fall lull in COVID-19 cases, despite an expected fall surge in hospitalizations.

"In some of our hospital systems, if they were lucky to have travelers, they shooed the travelers away because they told the travelers they weren't in crisis mode and those travelers went elsewhere because they had better gigs somewhere else," Roberson said.

Black, who has been a nurse for 10 years, said she has been relying on her husband to take care of her family needs so she can rest and sleep as much as possible on her days off. She has also been seeing a therapist to cope with the stress from work.

She said she is doing everything she can to take care of herself because she is committed to helping her patients. But she calls her working conditions increasingly unsafe.

"A lot of people say we signed up for this and no, we didn't. I signed up to help take care of people, not to throw myself into the fire," Black said.

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Associated Press writer Don Thompson in Sacramento contributed to this story.

## **Biden blames Trump for violence at Capitol that's shaken US**

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Joe Biden has denounced the rioters who stormed the U.S. Capitol as "domestic terrorists" and he blamed President Donald Trump for the violence that has shaken the nation's capital and beyond.

The riot by Trump supporters who breached the security of Congress on Wednesday was "not dissent, was not disorder, was not protest. It was chaos."

Those who massed on Capitol Hill intending to disrupt a joint session of Congress that was certifying Biden's election victory over Trump "weren't protesters. Don't dare call them protesters. They were a riotous mob — insurrectionists, domestic terrorists. It's that basic," Biden said Thursday.

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In solemn tones, Biden said the actions Trump has taken to subvert the nation's democratic institutions throughout his presidency led directly to the mayhem in Washington.

"In the past four years, we've had a president who's made his contempt for our democracy, our Constitution, the rule of law clear in everything he has done," Biden said. "He unleashed an all-out assault on our institutions of our democracy from the outset. And yesterday was the culmination of that unrelenting attack."

The mob of hundreds of Trump backers broke into the Capitol and roamed the halls looking for lawmakers, who were forced to halt their deliberations and seek safety. The violent protesters were egged on by Trump himself, who has falsely contended that he lost the election due to voter fraud.

Trump's claims were repeatedly dismissed in the courts, including the Supreme Court, and by state election officials from both parties, and even by some in his own administration. But the president went to greater and greater lengths to try to subvert the election, culminating this week in efforts by some Republican members of Congress to object to the certification of the results and the violence at the Capitol. After the disruption, Congress returned to work late Wednesday and affirmed Biden's victory early Thursday.

Biden ticked off a list of Trump's assaults on American norms, including his attacks on the press and the intelligence community and his pressure on state and federal officials and judges to submit to his efforts to overturn the election. Biden said that on Wednesday, Trump tried to "use a mob to silence the voices of nearly 160 Americans" who voted in November.

And both he and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris spoke about the police treatment of the largely white protesters on Wednesday, compared with the heavy-handed way in which police have handled Black Lives Matter protests.

"We witnessed two systems of justice, when we saw one that let extremists storm the United States Capitol and another that released tear gas on peaceful protesters last summer," Harris said.

Biden declared that "no one can tell me that if it had been a group of Black Lives Matter protesting yesterday, they wouldn't have been treated very, very differently than the mob of thugs that stormed the Capitol."

He expressed hope that images comparing the police presence Wednesday to that marshaled to prepare for Black Lives Matters protests would open Americans' eyes to the needs for reform.

The remarks came during an event in Wilmington, Delaware, to introduce Biden's Justice Department team, to be led by federal appeals court judge Merrick Garland as attorney general. Biden also announced Obama administration homeland security adviser Lisa Monaco would serve as deputy attorney general and former Justice Department civil rights chief Vanita Gupta as associate attorney general, the No. 3 official. He also named an assistant attorney general for civil rights, Kristen Clarke, now the president of Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, an advocacy group.

The Justice Department is expected to dramatically change course during the Biden administration, with a greater focus on civil rights issues and a review of policing policies. Both Biden and Harris spoke Wednesday about the importance of an independent judiciary.

Biden said some of the most important work for the nation remains "committing ourselves to the rule of law in this nation, invigorating our domestic and democratic institutions carrying out equal justice under law in America."

"There is no more important place for us to do this work than the Department of Justice," he said.

## Hiring likely weakened in December amid resurgent virus

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's employers likely cut back again on hiring last month — and might even have shed jobs — with the economy under pressure from a resurgent virus that has led many consumers to reduce spending and states and cities to reimpose business restrictions.

Economists have forecast that employers added just 105,000 jobs in December, according to data provider FactSet. That would mark the sixth straight month that hiring has slowed from the previous month



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and the lowest job gain since May. It would also leave the economy 9.8 million jobs short of the number it had before the pandemic intensified in March.

The unemployment rate is projected to rise from 6.7% to 6.8%, which would be the first increase since April. The rate has been held down by the millions of Americans who have lost jobs but aren't looking for work, either because they're discouraged by their prospects or fearful of contracting the virus. People who are not seeking a job aren't counted as unemployed.

The pandemic will likely continue to weaken the economy through the winter and spring as cold weather discourages activities like outdoor dining. Economists and Federal Reserve policymakers say they remain hopeful, though, that the vaccines, once widely distributed, will propel a broad economic rebound in the second half of this year as consumers and businesses resume normal spending habits.

The \$900 billion financial aid package that Congress enacted last month should also help accelerate the recovery, economists say. It will provide a \$300-a-week federal jobless benefit on top of an average state benefit of about \$320. In addition, millions of Americans stand to receive \$600 payments, some as early as this week.

This week, Goldman Sachs upgraded its forecast for economic growth this year to a robust 6.4% from its previous estimate of 5.9%. Its upgrade was based in part on the expectation that the Biden administration, with help from the now-Democratic Senate, will support another rescue aid package.

For now, the evidence suggests that hiring and economic growth are faltering under the weight of the pandemic. On Wednesday, the payroll processor ADP reported that private employers shed 123,000 jobs in December, the first such monthly decline since April. ADP's figures generally track the government's jobs data over time, although they can diverge significantly from month to month.

Last month, Coca-Cola Co. said it would cut 2,200 jobs from its global workforce, with about half those layoffs occurring in the United States. 3M, a major manufacturer, has said it will lay off 2,900 workers worldwide.

In November, U.S. consumer spending declined for the first time in seven months, having steadily weakened since summer. Retailers have been especially hurt. Purchases at retail stores have dropped for two straight months.

During the holiday shopping season, consumers pulled back on spending, according to debit and credit card data tracked by JPMorgan Chase based on 30 million consumer accounts. Such spending was 6% lower in December compared with a year ago. That was worse than in October, when card spending was down just 2% from the previous year.

Restaurant traffic has also dropped, according to the reservations website OpenTable. Seated dining is down 60% this week compared with a year ago, much worse than two months earlier, when they were down about 35%.

## **Brazil's pandemic deaths top 200,000 amid a return to fun**

By MAURICIO SAVARESE and DIANE JEANTET Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — The night before New Year's Eve in Rio de Janeiro, thousands of revelers clad in their bathing suits crowded onto the iconic Ipanema beach to have some seaside drinks. It was one of many open-air parties occurring along Brazil's vast coastline since the summer heat set in, and as the COVID-19 death toll climbed higher.

"It was so packed, you couldn't set foot on the beach," said a maintenance worker at a luxury apartment building across the street. "And it wasn't just at night; the beach was packed during the day, too. And no one wears a mask!" he added, insisting on not being quoted by name out of worry the building's owner would punish him for speaking to a reporter.

The explosion of celebrations came just ahead of a pandemic milestone: Brazil passed 200,000 deaths Thursday, rising 1,524 in the previous 24 hours to a total of 200,498 for the pandemic, according to data released by Brazil's health ministry. It has the world's second highest death toll, behind the United States, according to Johns Hopkins University's database.

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Many Brazilians have been straining against quarantine for months, going to bars or small gatherings with friends, but massive blowouts had been few and far between since the pandemic began. Festivities kicked off after the Southern Hemisphere's summer started on Dec. 21.

While many countries imposed new restrictions to limit the spread of the virus in mid-December, the administration of Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro gave its blessing for holiday fun in the sun. Tourism Minister Gilson Machado told radio station Jovem Pan that gatherings of up to 300 people were perfectly acceptable. The decision to impose restrictions is the prerogative of local governments; some that did so saw their rules ignored.

A prominent YouTuber organized a party near a river beach for hundreds of people in Alagoas state, in the country's northeast region. Days later, local media reported that 47 people, among unmasked guests and staffers contracted COVID-19. At least two were admitted to intensive-care units.

A five-day New Year's bash drew 150 people near the property owned by soccer star Neymar outside Rio, although he denied any association with the VIP event.

Outside Sao Paulo, Bolsonaro kicked off 2021 by jumping off a boat and swimming towards a throng of unmasked, cheering supporters.

And cops in the city of Bertioga on Sao Paulo's coast used tear gas to disperse a celebration in the early hours New Year's Day.

"Right before the parties, the situation was already getting bad. But this week or next, it will get even worse," Domingos Alves, an adjunct professor of social medicine at the University of Sao Paulo, told The Associated Press this week.

Alves, who leads a team of researchers tracking COVID-19 data, warned that several states' daily confirmed cases have already surpassed the numbers seen during Brazil's peak in July.

Intensive-care units in many cities are once again slammed with COVID-19 patients. The mayor of Amazonas state's capital Manaus — which one local study speculated may have reached herd immunity after its brutal first wave — declared a 180-day state of emergency Tuesday and suspended all permits for events. State authorities prohibited all nonessential activities for 15 days in most of the city.

The city of 2.2 million has recorded 3,550 deaths since the start of the pandemic, and the number of COVID-19 burials has surged. Outside at least one graveyard, cars lined up filled with people waiting to bury their loved ones.

Vanda Ortega, a volunteer nurse in Manaus' Community of Indigenous Nations, told the AP the city had adopted a hands-off approach toward the virus, first during November local elections with large rallies and long lines of voters.

"Then we had the holiday season, with a lot of secret parties," said Ortega, who belongs to the Witoto ethnicity. "We live in an area where rich people have cabins. They have parties every week."

Many mayors on Sao Paulo's shore ignored holiday restrictions their governor imposed. In at least 12 cities, mayors kept stores, hotels and beaches open to tourists.

Images of traffic jams and packed beaches, with crowds largely unmasked, were so jarring that European Union commissioner Paolo Gentiloni expressed his disbelief on Twitter, saying "I saw shameful images from Brazil."

Bolsonaro, who despite becoming ill from the virus himself, has consistently argued that the country faces a greater risk from the economic damage of lockdowns than from the pandemic. He signaled with his New Year's swim that he will continue to ignore protective measures observed in most countries.

"I dived in with a mask on so I wouldn't catch COVID from the little fish," he joked a few days later outside the presidential palace.

After Brazil surpassed the 200,000 deaths mark, Bolsonaro said in a live broadcast in his social media channels Thursday that he is sorry for those two who were lost, "but life goes on."

"There's no use in keeping that old story of staying home and the economy we will see later," the Brazilian president said. "That won't work, it will be chaos in Brazil. It could lead to even more dramatic consequences than those of the virus."

Even some Brazilians who consider themselves cautious are letting down their guards. Soccer fan Ricardo

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Santos, 46, says he covers his face each time he goes out, carries hand sanitizer in his bag and observes social distancing. But on Wednesday, he and a dozen of other Palmeiras fans hit a bar in downtown Sao Paulo to watch their team play.

"I spent New Year's with only two friends who live in the same building. I take precautions. But sometimes you have to accept a little risk to preserve your mental health, too," Santos said.

Back on Rio's Ipanema beach, Joao Batista Baria, 57, said he blamed authorities for not protecting its poorest residents.

"Everyone is talking about these beach parties, but crowding also happens on the bus, on the subway," Baria said while cleaning the foldable chairs tourists and residents rent to soak up the summer sun. "People come to the beach because they choose to. I need to take the bus to get to work."

## Brazil enjoys fun in the sun as COVID-19 deaths top 200,000

By MAURICIO SAVARESE and DIANE JEANTET Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — The night before New Year's Eve in Rio de Janeiro, thousands of revelers clad in their bathing suits crowded onto the iconic Ipanema beach to have some seaside drinks. It was one of many open-air parties occurring along Brazil's vast coastline since the summer heat set in, and as the COVID-19 death toll climbed higher.

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Images of traffic jams and packed beaches, with crowds largely unmasked, were so jarring that European Union commissioner Paolo Gentiloni expressed his disbelief on Twitter, saying "I saw shameful images from Brazil."

And Bolsonaro — who has consistently downplayed risks of the virus despite catching a case himself — signaled with his New Year's swim that he will continue to ignore protective measures observed in most countries.

"I dived in with a mask on so I wouldn't catch COVID from the little fish," he joked a few days later outside the presidential palace.

Even some Brazilians who consider themselves cautious are letting down their guards. Soccer fan Ricardo Santos, 46, says he covers his face each time he goes out, carries hand sanitizer in his bag and observes social distancing. But on Wednesday, he and a dozen of other Palmeiras fans hit a bar in downtown Sao Paulo to watch their team play.

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## US registering highest deaths yet from the coronavirus

By CARLA K. JOHNSON and LISA MARIE PANE Associated Press

The U.S. registered more COVID-19 deaths in a single day than ever before — nearly 3,900 — on the very day the mob attack on the Capitol laid bare some of the same, deep political divisions that have hampered the battle against the pandemic.

The virus is surging in several states, with California hit particularly hard, reporting on Thursday a record two-day total of 1,042 coronavirus deaths. Skyrocketing caseloads there are threatening to force hospitals to ration care and essentially decide who lives and who dies.

"Folks are gasping for breath. Folks look like they're drowning when they are in bed right in front of us," said Dr. Jeffrey Chien, an emergency room physician at Santa Clara Valley Regional Medical Center, urging people to do their part to help slow the spread. "I'm begging everyone to help us out because we aren't the front line. We're the last line."

Meanwhile, the number of Americans who have gotten their first shot of the COVID-19 vaccine climbed to at least 5.9 million Thursday, a one-day gain of about 600,000, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Hundreds of millions will need to be vaccinated to stop the coronavirus.

About 1.9 million people around the world have died of the virus, more than 360,000 in the U.S. alone. December was by far the nation's deadliest month yet, and health experts are warning that January could be more terrible still because of family gatherings and travel over the holidays.

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A new, more contagious variant is spreading around the globe and in the U.S. Also, it remains to be seen what effect the thousands of supporters of President Donald Trump who converged this week in Washington, many of them without masks, will have on the spread of the scourge.

Trump has long downplayed the virus and scorned masks, and many of his ardent supporters have followed his example. He has also raged against lockdowns and egged on protesters objecting to restrictions in states such as Michigan, where armed supporters invaded the statehouse last spring.

On Wednesday, the day a horde of protesters breached the U.S. Capitol, disrupting efforts to certify the election of Joe Biden, the U.S. recorded 3,865 virus deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University. The numbers can fluctuate dramatically after holidays and weekends, and the figure is subject to revision.

"The domestic terrorists overran the Capitol police, just as the virus has been allowed to overrun Americans," said Dr. Eric Topol, head of the Scripps Research Translational Institute. "The U.S. lost control of a Trump-incited mob and a Trump-played-down pandemic virus."

Some of the forces contributing to the eruption of violence were partially foreseen by experts in global disease planning when they held a tabletop exercise in 2019, said Dr. Eric Toner, a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security who directed the drill.

"We did consider the possibility of active disinformation and using a pandemic for political gain," Toner said. "Real life turned out to be much worse."

In California, health authorities Thursday reported 583 new deaths, a day after 459 people died. The overall death toll there stands at more than 28,000. The state also registered more than a quarter-million new weekly cases, and only Arizona tops California in cases per resident. Florida broke its record for the highest single-day number of cases with over 19,800, while its death toll reached 22,400.

Los Angeles County, the nation's most populous with 10 million residents, and nearly two dozen other counties have essentially run out of intensive care unit beds for COVID-19 patients.

"This is a health crisis of epic proportions," said Barbara Ferrer, public health director for Los Angeles County.

Guidelines posted on the website for Methodist Hospital of Southern California warned: "If a patient becomes extremely ill and very unlikely to survive their illness (even with life-saving treatment), then certain resources ... may be allocated to another patient who is more likely to survive."

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Associated Press writers Olga Rodriguez in San Francisco and Tamara Lush in Tampa, Florida, contributed to this report.

## Trump finally faces reality — amid talk of early ouster

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With 13 days left in his term, President Donald Trump finally bent to reality Thursday amid growing talk of trying to force him out early, acknowledging he'll peacefully leave after Congress affirmed his defeat.

Trump led off a video from the White House by condemning the violence carried out in his name a day earlier at the Capitol. Then, for the first time on camera, he admitted his presidency would soon end — though he declined to mention President-elect Joe Biden by name or explicitly state he had lost.

"A new administration will be inaugurated on Jan. 20," Trump said in the video. "My focus now turns to ensuring a smooth, orderly and seamless transition of power. This moment calls for healing and reconciliation."

The address, which appeared designed to stave off talk of a forced early eviction, came at the end of a day when the cornered president stayed out of sight in the White House. Silenced on some of his favorite internet lines of communication, he watched the resignations of several top aides, including two Cabinet secretaries.

And as officials sifted through the aftermath of the pro-Trump mob's siege of the U.S. Capitol, there was growing discussion of impeaching him a second time or invoking the 25th Amendment to oust him from

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the Oval Office.

The invasion of the Capitol building, a powerful symbol of the nation's democracy, rattled Republicans and Democrats alike. They struggled with how best to contain the impulses of a president deemed too dangerous to control his own social media accounts but who remains commander in chief of the world's greatest military.

"I'm not worried about the next election, I'm worried about getting through the next 14 days," said Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, one of Trump's staunchest allies. He condemned the president's role in Wednesday's riots and said, "If something else happens, all options would be on the table."

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi declared that "the president of the United States incited an armed insurrection against America." She called him "a very dangerous person who should not continue in office. This is urgent, an emergency of the highest magnitude."

Neither option to remove Trump seemed likely, with little time left in his term to draft the Cabinet members needed to invoke the amendment or to organize the hearings and trial mandated for an impeachment. But the fact that the dramatic options were even the subject of discussion in Washington's corridors of power served as a warning to Trump.

Fears of what a desperate president could do in his final days spread in the nation's capital and beyond, including speculation Trump could incite more violence, make rash appointments, issue ill-conceived pardons — including for himself and his family — or even trigger a destabilizing international incident.

The president's video Thursday — which was released upon his return to Twitter after his account was restored — was a complete reversal from the one he put out just 24 hours earlier in which he said to the violent mob: "We love you. You're very special." His refusal to condemn the violence sparked a firestorm of criticism and, in the new video, he at last denounced the demonstrators' "lawlessness and mayhem."

As for his feelings on leaving office, he told the nation that "serving as your president has been the honor of my lifetime" while hinting at a return to the public arena. He told supporters "our incredible journey is only just beginning."

Just a day earlier, Trump unleashed the destructive forces at the Capitol with his baseless claims of election fraud at a rally that prompted supporters to disrupt the congressional certification of Biden's victory. After the storming of the Capitol and the eventual wee-hours certification of Biden's win by members of Congress, Trump released a statement that acknowledged he would abide by a peaceful transfer of power on Jan. 20.

The statement was posted by an aide and did not originate from the president's own Twitter account, which has 88 million followers and for four years has been wielded as a political weapon that dictates policy and sows division and conspiracy.

Trump couldn't tweet it himself because, for the first time, the social media platform suspended his account, stating that the president had violated its rules of service by inciting violence. Facebook adopted a broader ban, saying Trump's account would be offline until after Biden's inauguration.

Deprived of that social media lifeblood, Trump remained silent and ensconced in the executive mansion until Thursday evening. But around him, loyalists headed for the exits, their departures — which were coming in two weeks anyway — moved up to protest the president's handling of the riot.

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao became the first Cabinet member to resign. Chao, married to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, one of the lawmakers trapped at the Capitol on Wednesday, said in a message to staff that the attack "has deeply troubled me in a way that I simply cannot set aside."

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos followed. In her resignation letter Thursday, DeVos blamed Trump for inflaming tensions in the violent assault on the seat of the nation's democracy. "There is no mistaking the impact your rhetoric had on the situation, and it is the inflection point for me," she wrote.

Others who resigned in the wake of the riot: Deputy National Security Advisor Matthew Pottinger; Ryan Tully, senior director for European and Russian affairs at the National Security Council; and first lady Melania Trump's chief of staff Stephanie Grisham, a former White House press secretary.

Mick Mulvaney, Trump's former chief of staff-turned-special envoy to Northern Ireland, told CNBC that he

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had called Secretary of State Mike Pompeo "to let him know I was resigning. ... I can't do it. I can't stay."

Mulvaney said others who work for Trump had decided to remain in their posts in an effort to provide some sort of guardrails for the president during his final days in office.

"Those who choose to stay, and I have talked with some of them, are choosing to stay because they're worried the president might put someone worse in," Mulvaney said.

Mulvaney's predecessor in the chief of staff job, retired U.S. Marine Corps general John Kelly, told CNN that "I think the Cabinet should meet and have a discussion" about Section 4 of the 25th Amendment — allowing the forceful removal of Trump by his own Cabinet.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer joined Pelosi in declaring that Trump "should not hold office one day longer" and urged Vice President Mike Pence and the Cabinet to act. But Chao's departure may stall nascent efforts to invoke the amendment.

Staff-level discussions on the matter took place across multiple departments and even in parts of the White House, according to two people briefed on the talks. But no member of the Cabinet has publicly expressed support for the move — which would make Pence the acting president — though several were believed to be sympathetic to the notion, believing Trump is too volatile in his waning days in office.

In the West Wing, shell-shocked aides were packing up, acting on a delayed directive to begin offboarding their posts ahead of the Biden team's arrival. The slowdown before now was due to Trump's single-minded focus on his defeat since Election Day at the expense of the other responsibilities of his office.

Most glaringly, that included the fight against the raging coronavirus that is killing record numbers of Americans each day.

Few aides had any sense of the president's plans, with some wondering if Trump would largely remain out of sight until he left the White House. White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany read a brief statement in which she declared that the Capitol siege was "appalling, reprehensible and antithetical to the American way."

But her words carried little weight. Trump has long made clear that only he speaks for his presidency.

— Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed reporting from Washington.

## **Black leaders cheer Georgia success, push for more progress**

By KAT STAFFORD AND AARON MORRISON Associated Press

What started as a day of celebration for Black organizers, voters and other Georgians who helped deliver two historic Senate runoff victories was overshadowed Wednesday when a violent, mostly white mob of President Donald Trump's supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol.

But Black leaders and organizers say the rioters' insurrection won't deter the momentum achieved after the hard-fought victories of Georgia Democrats Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock. Instead, it serves as a harsh reminder of the work that lies ahead for the nation to truly grapple with white supremacy and racism, which Trump's presidency emboldened.

"It's a little bit bittersweet because on one hand it feels like vindication that if we invest in our communities and our organizations, then amazing things can happen," said Cliff Albright, co-founder of Black Voters Matter, which estimates that it reached 2.8 million individuals in Georgia through text and phone banking campaigns, digital and social media advertising, door knocking and street outreach, and billboards.

"But then you come around the next day and people are literally swarming the Capitol in the name of overturning an election and trying to take away the power of Black voters," Albright said. "So while it's a victory that's worth celebrating ... it's still in this wider context of what our larger struggles are and we've got a long way to go."

Despite the challenges ahead, there's hope that the Georgia victories could serve as a blueprint to transform the Southern political landscape, which has been a Republican stronghold for decades.

"The beauty of what happened in Georgia is that by knocking on people's doors, by sitting on people's front porches, by putting money and energy into really hearing people and giving them a voice in their

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community, it has awakened a generation of folks who never would have thought that this was possible and that's empowering and it's contagious," said Nadia Brown, a Purdue University political science professor. "And it doesn't stop at the borders of Georgia. It's going to spill over."

Britney Whaley, a political strategist for the Working Families Party, said keeping up this level of voter engagement among Black Georgians and Black voters in general requires a commitment to them beyond these nationally important elections.

"Sure, Black people saved the day," Whaley said. "My question then becomes: What next? What have you learned? How do you thank them? It is not in lip service. It's in policy. It's in changing material conditions for people who are in need."

The political vision of flipping Georgia blue rested largely with grassroots organizations that knocked on doors and traveled from city cores to more rural areas to directly interface with Black voters who have long felt ignored by both political parties.

The Rev. Barrett Berry, who directed a bus tour organized by the Black Church PAC, a national group of prominent Black clergy, said the large Black turnout in the runoff was due to a growing understanding among organizers that winning required being "competitive in places outside of Fulton County," which is home to Atlanta.

Berry's bus crisscrossed the state with several organizing partners, making stops in Albany, Valdosta and Savannah. He and other pastors distributed hot meals, groceries and toys for hundreds of families struggling to make Christmas cheer happen amid the pandemic. The gifts and food came with voter education, Berry said.

The voters needed to know they had a voice and could make the change that they had been told they couldn't make, he said.

"It's difficult to tell Black folks what they can't do, because that's when they go out and show you what they can do!"

The New Georgia Project, which played an integral part in both the November and runoff election, said on Jan. 5 alone it knocked on more than 124,000 doors, sent more than 14,000 texts and made over 317,000 phone calls. In total, the organization said it knocked on more than 2 million doors throughout the full election cycle.

And that strategy paid off.

Black voters made up 32% of the electorate in Georgia's runoffs, a slight uptick from their share in the November election, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 3,700 voters in the state.

Black voters across gender, age and education levels supported the Democratic candidates overwhelmingly, with at least 9 in 10 voting for Ossoff and Warnock. Roughly three-quarters of white voters, at 60% of the electorate, supported the Republicans.

"Georgia and other Southern states have been battleground states," said Nse Ufot, CEO of the New Georgia Project. "So we're going to continue to register voters and we're going to continue to work to build power and a people's agenda."

The Georgia runoff success was built upon a strong legacy of Black-led organizing work, much of which can be traced back to earlier battles for voting and civil rights. But the unique power and resiliency of Black women organizers took center stage again during the runoffs, including former gubernatorial candidate and voting rights advocate Stacey Abrams and Black Voters Matter co-founder LaTosha Brown, who were at the center of Georgia's extraordinary efforts.

"I'm so optimistic about the future of Black women organizers and I'm looking forward to continuing to defy conventional wisdom about what a leader looks like and how they get it done," Ufot said.

A majority of Black voters in Georgia's runoffs, 56%, say the coronavirus pandemic is the top issue facing the country today, according to AP VoteCast. Another 18% say they consider racism the most important issue, and 12% name the economy and jobs. Black voters and activists say attention will now turn toward pushing for President-elect Biden and Congress to actualize real, systemic change.

Ebonie Riley, D.C. bureau chief of the National Action Network, said Warnock and Ossoff's victories mean it was time for the country to "move past the 2020 election and come together to deal with challenges that



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we all face with COVID relief, expand health care access, and deliver racial justice and police accountability.”  
Meanwhile, in suburban Atlanta, Bev Jackson was talking to her son on the phone when the images flashed on the screen of people climbing the Capitol.

As the chair of the Democratic Party’s Cobb County African American caucus, Jackson had worked hard for years to help flip Georgia blue and she’d been glued to the election returns showing the Democratic candidates for Senate overtaking the Republican incumbents.

So Jackson said she refused to let Wednesday’s darkness overshadow their success.

“Georgia delivered the nation. It is incredible,” she said. “People are saddened by what has happened but it doesn’t take away our joy from the election. This is our time.”

Associated Press writer Claire Galofaro in Louisville contributed. Morrison reported from New York City. Stafford from Detroit. Morrison and Stafford are members of AP’s Race and Ethnicity team. Follow Morrison on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/aaronlmorrison>. Follow Stafford on Twitter: [https://twitter.com/kat\\_\\_stafford](https://twitter.com/kat__stafford).

## Capitol Police rejected offers of federal help to quell mob

By COLLEEN LONG, LOLITA BALDOR, MICHAEL BALSAMO, and NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press WASHINGTON (AP) — Three days before supporters of President Donald Trump rioted at the Capitol, the Pentagon asked the U.S Capitol Police if it needed National Guard manpower. And as the mob descended on the building Wednesday, Justice Department leaders reached out to offer up FBI agents. The police turned them down both times, according to senior defense officials and two people familiar with the matter.

Despite plenty of warnings of a possible insurrection and ample resources and time to prepare, the Capitol Police planned only for a free speech demonstration.

Still stinging from the uproar over the violent response by law enforcement to protests last June near the White House, officials also were intent on avoiding any appearance that the federal government was deploying active duty or National Guard troops against Americans.

The result is the U.S. Capitol was overrun Wednesday and officers in a law enforcement agency with a large operating budget and experience in high-security events protecting lawmakers were overwhelmed for the world to see. Four protesters died, including one shot inside the building.

The rioting and loss of control has raised serious questions over security at the Capitol for future events. The actions of the day also raise troubling concerns about the treatment of mainly white Trump supporters, who were allowed to roam through the building for hours, while Black and brown protesters who demonstrated last year over police brutality faced more robust and aggressive policing.

“This was a failure of imagination, a failure of leadership,” said Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo, whose department responded to several large protests last year following the death of George Floyd. “The Capitol Police must do better and I don’t see how we can get around that.”

Acevedo said he has attended events on the Capitol grounds to honor slain police officers that had higher fences and a stronger security presence than what he saw on video Wednesday.

Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said that as the rioting was underway, it became clear that the Capitol Police were overrun. But he said there was no contingency planning done in advance for what forces could do in case of a problem at the Capitol because Defense Department help was turned down. “They’ve got to ask us, the request has to come to us,” said McCarthy.

U.S. Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund, under pressure from Schumer, Pelosi and other congressional leaders, was forced to resign. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell asked for and received the resignation of the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, Michael Stenger, effective immediately. Paul Irving, the longtime Sergeant at Arms of the House, also resigned.

“There was a failure of leadership at the top,” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said.

The U.S. Capitol had been closed to the public since March because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has now killed more than 360,000 people in the U.S. But normally, the building is open to the public and lawmakers pride themselves on their availability to their constituents.

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It is not clear how many officers were on-duty Wednesday, but the complex is policed by a total of 2,300 officers for 16 acres of ground who protect the 435 House representatives, 100 U.S. senators and their staff. By comparison, the city of Minneapolis has about 840 uniformed officers policing a population of 425,000 in a 6,000-acre area.

There were signs for weeks that violence could strike on Jan. 6, when Congress convened for a joint session to finish counting the Electoral College votes that would confirm Democrat Joe Biden had won the presidential election.

On far-right message boards and in pro-Trump circles, plans were being made.

The leader of the far-right extremist group Proud Boys was arrested coming into the nation's capital this week on a weapons charge for carrying empty high-capacity magazines emblazoned with their logo. He admitted to police that he had made statements about rioting in Washington, local officials said.

Both Acevedo and Ed Davis, a former Boston police commissioner who led the department during the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, said they did not fault the responses of clearly overmatched front-line officers, but the planning and leadership before the riot.

"Was there a structural feeling that well, these are a bunch of conservatives, they're not going to do anything like this? Quite possibly," Davis said. "That's where the racial component to this comes into play in my mind. Was there a lack of urgency or a sense that this could never happen with this crowd? Is that possible? Absolutely."

Trump and his allies were perhaps the biggest megaphones, encouraging protesters to turn out in force and support his false claim that the election had been stolen from him. He egged them on during a rally shortly before they marched to the Capitol and rioted. His personal attorney Rudy Giuliani, a former New York mayor known for his tough-on-crime stance, called for "trial by combat."

McCarthy said law enforcement's intelligence estimates of the potential crowd size in the run-up to the protests "were all over the board," from a low of 2,000 to as many as 80,000.

So the Capitol Police had set up no hard perimeter around the Capitol. Officers were focused on one side where lawmakers were entering to vote to certify Biden's win.

Barricades were set up on the plaza in front of the building, but police retreated from the line and a mob of people broke through. Lawmakers, at first unaware of the security breach, continued their debate. Soon they were cowering under chairs. Eventually they were escorted from the House and Senate. Journalists were left alone in rooms for hours as the mob attempted to break into barricaded rooms.

Sund, the Capitol Police chief, said he had expected a display of "First Amendment activities" that instead turned into a "violent attack." But Gus Papathanasiou, head of the Capitol Police union, said planning failures left officers exposed without backup or equipment against surging crowds of rioters.

"We were lucky that more of those who breached the Capitol did not have firearms or explosives and did not have a more malign intent," Papathanasiou said in a statement. "Tragic as the deaths are that resulted from the attack, we are fortunate the casualty toll was not higher."

The Justice Department, FBI and other agencies began to monitor hotels, flights and social media for weeks and were expecting large crowds. Mayor Muriel Bowser had warned of impending violence for weeks, and businesses had closed in anticipation. She requested National Guard help from the Pentagon on Dec. 31, but the Capitol Police turned down the Jan. 3 offer from the Defense Department, according to Kenneth Rapuano, assistant defense secretary for homeland security.

"We asked more than once and the final return that we got on Sunday the 3rd was that they would not be asking DOD for assistance," he said.

The Justice Department's offer for FBI support as the protesters grew violent was rejected by the Capitol Police, according to the two people familiar with the matter. They were not authorized to publicly discuss the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity.

By then, it was too late.

Officers from the Metropolitan Police Department descended. Agents from nearly every Justice Department agency, including the FBI, were called in. So was the Secret Service and the Federal Protective Service. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives sent two tactical teams. Police from as

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far away as New Jersey arrived to help.

It took four hours to evict the protesters from the Capitol complex. By then, they had roamed the halls of Congress, posed for photos inside hallowed chambers, broken through doors, destroyed property and taken photos of themselves doing it. Only 13 were arrested at the time; scores were arrested later.

In the aftermath, a 7-foot fence will go up around the Capitol grounds for at least 30 days. The Capitol Police will conduct a review of the carnage, as well as their planning and policies. Lawmakers plan to investigate how authorities handled the rioting.

The acting U.S. attorney in the District of Columbia, Michael Sherwin, said the failure to arrest more people is making their jobs harder.

"Look, we have to now go through cell site orders, collect video footage to try to identify people and then charge them, and then try to execute their arrest. So that has made things challenging, but I can't answer why those people weren't zip-tied as they were leaving the building by the Capitol Police."

Associated Press writers Ben Fox, Mary Clare Jalonick, Andrew Taylor and Ashraf Khalil contributed to this report.

## **The day my 'second home,' the Capitol, was overtaken by mob**

By ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Capitol is my second home. I have been covering the occupants of the building for an absurdly long period of time, the last 15 years spent mostly at a workspace just steps from the Senate gallery.

I knew Wednesday would not be typical in the time of COVID-19. Instead of working in my basement, I was going to the Capitol. Since COVID-19, reporters have kept their numbers down in the Capitol, with competing journalists sharing interview sound files through a cooperative pool arrangement as others work from home. When I've gone, the place has been a bit of a ghost town. But Wednesday was to be a momentous day watching the Senate debate whether to throw out the Electoral College votes of Arizona and Pennsylvania.

There would be cool moments and lots of genuine news — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., finally telling Trump of the folly of trying to get Congress to overturn the will of voters — even though the outcome was clear before the debate started.

On top of that, the Democrats had just won control of the chamber, starting whenever the two new Georgia Democrats are sworn in. This was a big day, especially for the House and Senate leadership lane, one of my specialties. But incoming Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., ducked my question about COVID-19 relief at a late-morning news conference.

If you've seen "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" you've seen my work area since a press gallery scene from the movie was filmed there more than 70 years ago. (The Senate chamber, however, was a soundstage). It overlooks the north lawn of the Capitol, where a steady march of insurgents began ominously arriving. The Senate pros who have offices near the chamber started getting nervous.

The crowd had an urgency and was moving around to the East Front where an ancient window offered a limited angle as the throng eyed three sets of steps up to the Capitol — Senate, House, and the main, middle set of stairs — which were being blocked by Capitol Police. But I know the doors are strong and I didn't worry. The building has been essentially closed to the general public for months because of the pandemic.

It was time to watch the Senate floor, off and on. Proceedings are televised, but I like to watch from the overhead gallery to see the body language and pick up things the cameras don't catch, like the rapt attention paid when McConnell upbraided Trump.

But I was at my desk when the Senate suddenly gavelled out of session. I jumped to check it out. Soon word came to huddle in the chamber. "Lock the doors," gallery staff was instructed. That's the safe space. So it was then when maybe a dozen reporters and aides in the gallery and virtually the entire Senate huddled inside. Tight COVID-19 quarters despite the masks.

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The police were in charge. "Move away from the doors," they ordered. Staff was squeezed into a corner. High-ranking senators like Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., the incoming Senate Rules Committee chairwoman, provided an alarming update: reports of shots fired.

In the center aisle, right between McConnell and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York, stood an officer with an identifying sash. His back was to us as he faced the center Senate door. He had a large rifle, it seemed, but he was trying to hide it. Behind him were three boxes holding electoral college vote certificates.

This was an unprecedented, stunning — and untelevised — scene, a small, unaccessible nugget in history's first draft. But there was no sense of panic.

Things elsewhere deteriorated rapidly. The officers announced an evacuation. Take the elevators to the basement, then cross underneath Constitution Avenue by tunnel to a secret location in a nearby office building, they said.

Working for The Associated Press grants me special privileges in such situations. There's a plan, put in place since the 9/11 attacks, on how to handle an off-site session of Congress. If that happened, the AP would have to be there. I headed over to the undisclosed location. In the House chamber, AP's Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Scotty Applewhite stayed put, snapping shots that landed on front pages across the country.

In the basement, I saw McConnell being hurried to the secret spot. I followed.

At the new location, we took a breath. Lots of heavily armed law enforcement officers, including from the FBI and Department of Homeland Security, made us feel secure. There was an announcement that the cops were securing a path to buses that might carry us away.

It didn't happen.

Senate leaders were determined to reconvene and continue the Electoral College count. And it would happen in the very chambers that had been defiled by the mob. So we waited. They brought in food and water.

They also had CNN on to watch the melee. At one point, host Jake Tapper excoriated Sens. Ted Cruz, R-Texas., and Josh Hawley, R-Mo., for challenging the election results and whipping up Trump zealots with baseless, mob-motivating rhetoric. The duo, a key Democratic aide said, had to just sit there and take it.

I had a private conversation with a veteran Republican about the sorry state of affairs. The senator said he had not even talked much to his colleagues about the tectonic change coming to the Senate with the changeover to Democratic control. He was dismayed.

The mob was out of the building by then and, strangely, it almost seemed boring, waiting for the Capitol to be declared safe. But by 7:30 p.m. we were allowed back in, taking a meandering route back through the tunnel to the Capitol.

I ran into parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough, a beloved figure in the tight-knit Senate family. She and her colleagues had made sure the Electoral College certificates were safe — their seizure by the mob actually would have delayed the certification of the result — and she was supervising their return to the chamber. I'm not sure if MacDonough knew by then, but her office on the first floor of the Capitol was trashed.

When we returned, a swarm of officers — SWAT-like FBI and DHS units most significantly — guaranteed everyone's safety. Sandy residue from pepper spray covered floors and surfaces.

The Daily Press Gallery where I work had not been breached.

I wrote a quick story about the Senate's dramatic debate. Short version: Trump got smoked by onetime allies like Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and veteran GOP figures, Sens. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., and Mitt Romney, R-Utah. Romney savaged Hawley, who forced debates on frivolous electoral challenges that put his colleagues in a terrible position and surely added kindling to the fire.

A fellow reporter and I left well after midnight. I had parked close to the Washington home of McConnell and Elaine Chao, who resigned as secretary of transportation on Thursday.

Security was robust. It was a day I hope never to repeat.

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EDITOR'S NOTE — Andrew Taylor has covered Congress since 1990, including the past 15 years for The Associated Press.

## **GOP's Loeffler concedes to Warnock in Georgia runoff**

By BEN NADLER Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Republican Sen. Kelly Loeffler on Thursday conceded to Democrat Raphael Warnock in one of two Georgia Senate runoffs that will give control of the U.S. Senate to Democrats.

Loeffler, who was appointed to the position a year ago to replace outgoing Sen. Johnny Isakson, posted a video to social media Thursday evening saying that she had called Warnock to congratulate him.

With his victory in Tuesday's election, Warnock becomes the first African American from Georgia elected to the Senate.

"Unfortunately we came up slightly short in the runoff election," Loeffler says in the video. "Earlier today I called Rev. Warnock to congratulate him and to wish him well in serving this great state."

A spokesman for Warnock's campaign confirmed that Loeffler had conceded but declined to comment further.

Democrat Jon Ossoff beat Republican David Perdue in Georgia's other Senate runoff. Perdue has yet to concede. In a statement released early Wednesday, his campaign vowed to "mobilize every available resource and exhaust every legal recourse."

The two Democrats' wins, along with President-elect Joe Biden's victory in Georgia in November, mark a huge shift in Georgia politics, which have been dominated by Republicans in recent years. Biden is the first Democratic presidential candidate to carry the state since 1992.

Warnock is pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. preached.

Loeffler, a wealthy businesswoman who has closely allied herself with President Donald Trump, relentlessly tried to paint Warnock as a "radical liberal" during the campaign — rarely mentioning his name without that epithet attached. But in the end, Warnock was able to defeat Loeffler with a diverse coalition that included Black voters, young people and suburbanites uncomfortable with the GOP's direction under Trump.

Tuesday's runoff election broke turnout records for a Georgia runoff, with more than 4.4 million ballots cast.

## **Hurt feelings, anger linger after Pence, Trump clash**

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — They were never a natural fit, the straight-laced evangelical and the brash reality TV star. But for more than four years, President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence made their marriage of political convenience work.

Now, in the last days of their administration, each is feeling betrayed by the other. It's part of the fallout from an extraordinary 24-hour stretch in which Pence openly defied Trump, Trump unleashed his fury on the vice president, and a mob of violent supporters incensed by Trump's rhetoric stormed the Capitol building and tried to halt the peaceful transfer of power.

The Trump-Pence relationship is "pretty raw right now," said one top GOP congressional aide, who described multiple phone calls in which Trump berated Pence and tried to pressure the vice president to use powers he does not possess to try to overturn the results of the 2020 election. Pence, for his part, was left feeling "hurt" and "upset" by the episode, according to people close to him. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal matters.

Pence's decision to publicly defy Trump was a first for the notoriously deferential vice president, who has been unflinchingly loyal to Trump since joining the GOP ticket in 2016. Pence has spent his tenure defending the president's actions, trying to soothe anxious world leaders put off by Trump's caustic rhetoric, and carefully avoiding the president's ire.

He has taken on some of the administration's most high-pressure projects, including leading its response to the coronavirus. And he has stood by Trump even as the president leveled baseless allegations of voter

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fraud and refused to concede the election after his loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

Under normal circumstances, the vote-tallying procedure that began on Wednesday would have been a mere formality. But after losing court case after court case, and with no further options at hand, Trump and his allies zeroed in on the congressional tally as their last chance to try to challenge the race's outcome.

In a bizarre interpretation of the law, they argued that the vice president had the unilateral power to reject Electoral College votes supporting Biden. The Constitution makes clear that only Congress has that power.

The effort effectively turned Pence into a scapegoat who could be blamed for Trump's loss if the vice president refused to go along with the plan. Trump and his lawyers spent days engaged in an aggressive pressure campaign to force Pence to bend to their will in a series of phone calls and in-person meetings, including one that stretched for hours on Tuesday.

When Pence, who consulted with his own legal team, constitutional scholars and the Senate parliamentarian, informed Trump on Wednesday morning that he would not be going along with the effort, the president "blew a gasket," in the words of one person briefed on the conversation.

Not long after, Trump took the stage in front of thousands of his supporters at a "Stop the Steal" rally, where he urged them to march to the Capitol and continued to fan false hopes that Pence could change the outcome.

"If Mike Pence does the right thing we win the election," Trump wrongly insisted. He repeatedly returned to Pence throughout his speech as he tried to pressure the vice president to fall in line.

But Trump already knew what Pence intended. And as Trump spoke, Pence released a letter to Congress laying out his conclusion that a vice president cannot claim "unilateral authority" to reject states' electoral votes. He soon gaveled into order the joint session of Congress where his and Trump's defeat would be cemented.

Not long after that, members of Trump's rally crowd arrived at the Capitol, where they overwhelmed police, smashed windows, occupied the building and halted the electoral proceedings. Pence was whisked from the Senate chamber to a secure location, where he was held for hours with staff as well as his wife and daughter, who had been there to support him.

Trump did not call to check in on his vice president's safety during the ordeal and instead spent much of Wednesday consumed with anger over Pence's action, tweeting, "Mike Pence didn't have the courage to do what should have been done to protect our Country and our Constitution."

Later, members of the mob outside the Capitol were captured on video chanting, "Hang Mike Pence!"

For allies of Pence, it was a deeply upsetting episode that put the vice president in danger after four years of unstinting loyalty to the president and left Pence himself feeling hurt.

"I just think he's had enough," said John Thompson, who served as Pence's campaign spokesman and also worked for the Republican Governors' Association.

"Yesterday just really pulled on his heartstrings," Thompson said. "He's been this loyal individual and the president was asking him to break the law and act outside his constitutional duties. I think it just reached a boiling point and the vice president said, 'I've had enough.'"

Republican Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma told Tulsa World, "I've never seen Pence as angry as he was today."

"He said, 'After all the things I've done for (Trump),'" Inhofe added.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, an informal Trump adviser, also came to Pence's defense, tweeting that his action was "a profile in courage."

It remains unclear how the dynamic between Trump and Pence will play out over the next two weeks and how long the president will hold his grudge. The White House declined to discuss Trump's thinking, but allies said Pence intends to spend the next two weeks focused on the transition.

He is also expected to attend Biden's inauguration.

And while Pence had been banking on his close relationship with the president to propel him to top-tier status if he decides to run for president in 2024, allies said they didn't think the vice president's actions this week would have long-term consequences, even if some voters blame him for Trump's defeat.

"I thought that was a very courageous moment for him," Thompson said. "And I think that's going to

help his future.”

\_\_\_ Associated Press writers Alan Fram and Zeke Miller contributed to this report.

## **EXPLAINER: Breaking down the uncertainty after Capitol siege**

By The Associated Press undefined

What happens in Washington after the seat of American lawmaking is overrun by supporters of a president who insists he won an election he actually lost, members of Congress are forced to flee their chambers and general chaos ensues on Capitol Hill — and all of it takes place 14 days before the new president is inaugurated?

As is evident from the question itself, the short answer is this: No one really knows.

There are, however, clues and hints and things to focus on. Julie Pace, Washington bureau chief for The Associated Press, explains the haze around the nation’s capital after Wednesday’s events, and what she’s watching most closely in coming days.

**YOU’VE SAID THERE’S LITTLE INDICATION WHERE THIS IS GOING TO GO IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. WHAT MIGHT THAT MEAN?**

What is striking about this moment is that we are in pretty uncharted territory. We have a sitting president who lost an election and has raised challenges about the integrity of that election and has millions of Americans believing his successor is illegitimate. While he has said he’ll leave on the 20th, there are two weeks left. And there’s great uncertainty.

It’s very possible that he will finish up the business he has on his plate and leave. But given what we saw at the Capitol, people are very concerned that this could go in a much different direction.

**HOW SIGNIFICANT IS THIS KIND OF UNCERTAINTY AT A TIME THAT’S BOTH VOLATILE AND MOMENTOUS?**

We’re at one of these moments where you’re going to see a transfer of power from not just one man to the next but one party to another. You’re going to see a significant shift in priorities from one administration to another. You’re going to see a changeover on Capitol Hill. And it’s all happening with major historic issues taking place — the pandemic, the national reckoning over race.

You don’t want delay. You don’t want obstacles in the way for the new administration. But there are already some real concerns about what the Trump administration will leave the Biden administration, and whether that will hamper them at the start.

**HOW DOES AMERICANS’ PERCEPTION OF THIS UNCERTAINTY FIGURE IN ALL THIS?**

For a lot of Americans, this is something they have never seen before in their own government. And you can’t help but believe that is creating uncertainty and confusion and concern about what comes next. But that plays out in two different ways across the country.

It’s important to know that for every person in America who wants to get through this next 13 days and get Joe Biden inaugurated, there’s another one who wants Donald Trump to get sworn in for a second term. How those two groups coexist is really what we need to watch.

**WHAT PART OF THE UNCERTAINTY ARE YOU WATCHING THE MOST CLOSELY?**

One piece of this being discussed is whether it’s riskier for lawmakers and cabinet officials to leave Trump in office for the next two weeks or to risk a gambit and move toward impeachment and stir up his supporters. That is, again, uncharted territory. And the fact that we’re having a discussion about whether it’s too risky to leave a president in office for two more weeks is really extraordinary.

## **Lawmakers openly discuss ousting Trump, possible impeachment**

By ZEKE MILLER and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers of both parties raised the prospect Thursday of ousting President Donald Trump from office, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said that if he wasn’t removed, the House may move forward with a second impeachment.

Though Trump has less than two weeks in office, lawmakers and even some in his administration began

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discussing the issue Wednesday afternoon as Trump first refused to forcefully condemn the violent assault on the U.S. Capitol by a mob of his supporters, and then appeared to excuse it.

Senior Trump administration officials raised the long-shot possibility of invoking Section 4 of the 25th Amendment — the forceful removal of Trump from power by his own Cabinet.

Pelosi told a news conference she is waiting for a decision from Vice President Mike Pence and other Cabinet officials. She challenged several of them by name, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin.

"Do they stand by these actions?" Pelosi asked. "Are they ready to say that for the next 13 days this dangerous man can do further harm to our country?"

Most Democrats, and many Republicans, put the blame squarely on Trump after hundreds of protesters bearing Trump flags and clothing broke into the Capitol on Wednesday and caused destruction and mass evacuations. The president had urged his supporters to protest as Congress was counting the electoral votes that confirmed Joe Biden's win.

Pelosi said "a threshold was crossed of such magnitude" that Trump should not be allowed to make any decisions. And if the Cabinet doesn't act, the House might, she said.

There did not appear to be public support for the move, for now, among members of Trump's Cabinet, especially after Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao resigned in protest Thursday following the Capitol attack. But officials across the government went so far as to study up on the procedures for declaring Trump "unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office."

According to two people involved in the administration talks, staff-level discussions on the matter took place across multiple departments and even parts of the White House. No member of the Cabinet has publicly expressed support for the move, which would make Pence the acting president. But several were believed to be sympathetic to the notion, believing Trump is too volatile in his waning days before Biden's inauguration on Jan. 20.

Under the 25th Amendment, Trump could dispute his Cabinet's finding, but the Cabinet could quickly reaffirm its position, keeping Pence in power while the question fell to lawmakers.

As lawmakers assessed damage in the ransacked Capitol, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer also called Thursday for the Cabinet to remove him.

Schumer said the attack on the Capitol "was an insurrection against the United States, incited by the president." He said Trump "should not hold office one day longer."

Schumer said Pence and the Cabinet should invoke the 25th Amendment and immediately remove Trump from office. Otherwise, he said, it's up to Congress.

"If the vice president and the Cabinet refuse to stand up, Congress should reconvene to impeach the president," Schumer said.

While the House could quickly vote to impeach Trump, it is extremely unlikely that Congress could remove the president in the next 13 days. The Senate would have to receive the articles and then hold a trial and vote on them.

And even if it did so, the Republican Senate would be unlikely to vote to convict. Democrats are set to narrowly take the Senate when Biden is inaugurated, but Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell holds the gavel until then.

But in one measure of the uncomfortable position that Trump's goading of the mob had placed Republican lawmakers, there was a noteworthy lack of GOP statements attacking Democrats' calls for his removal.

Biden distanced himself from his fellow Democrats' push to oust Trump with the 25th Amendment. Andrew Bates, a spokesman for the president-elect, said Biden was focused on taking office on Jan. 20 "and will leave it to Vice President Pence, the Cabinet and the Congress to act as they see fit."

As Pelosi suggested impeachment was a possibility, three Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee announced articles of impeachment. Reps. David Cicilline of Rhode Island, Jamie Raskin of Maryland and Ted Lieu of California wrote in the articles that Trump "willfully made statements that encouraged — and foreseeably resulted in — imminent lawless action at the Capitol."

The House impeached Trump in 2019, but the Republican-led Senate acquitted him in early 2020.



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At least one House Republican also called for Trump's removal. Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., a frequent Trump critic, said in a video on Twitter that Trump is "unfit" and "unwell."

Kinzinger said the president "must now relinquish control of the executive branch voluntarily or involuntarily."

Former Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., who's clashed with Trump for years, said he doesn't think invoking the 25th Amendment is realistic because of the support it would need from Cabinet members and because of the short time left in Trump's term. But he said in an interview that he supported the decisions both by some White House and administration officials to quit and others who are remaining "to ensure that basically the guard rails stay where they should."

Flake added: "We've got two weeks here, and let's make sure we get to the inauguration."

Associated Press writers Alan Fram and Alexandra Jaffe contributed to this report.

## Missouri woman believed to be last Civil War widow dies

By JIM SALTER Associated Press

O'FALLON, Mo. (AP) — Helen Viola Jackson's 1936 marriage to James Bolin was unusual to say the least: He was 93 and in declining health, and she was a 17-year-old schoolgirl.

Bolin was also a Civil War veteran who fought for the Union in the border state of Missouri. Jackson was almost certainly the last remaining widow of a Civil War soldier when she died Dec. 16 at a nursing home in Marshfield, Missouri. She was 101.

Several Civil War heritage organizations have recognized Jackson's quiet role in history, one that she hid for all but the final three years of her life, said Nicholas Inman, her pastor and longtime friend. Yet in those final years, Inman said, Jackson embraced the recognition that included a spot on the Missouri Walk of Fame and countless cards and letters from well-wishers.

"It was sort of a healing process for Helen: that something she thought would be kind of a scarlet letter would be celebrated in her later years," Inman said.

Jackson grew up one of 10 children in the tiny southwestern Missouri town of Niangua, near Marshfield. Bolin, a widower who had served as a private in the 14th Missouri Cavalry during the Civil War seven decades earlier, lived nearby.

Jackson's father volunteered his teenage daughter to stop by Bolin's home each day to provide care and help with chores. To pay back her kindness, Bolin offered to marry Jackson, which would allow her to receive his soldier's pension after his death, a compelling offer in the context of the Great Depression.

Jackson agreed in large part because "she felt her daily care was prolonging his life," Inman said.

They wed on Sept. 4, 1936, at his home. Throughout their three years of marriage there was no intimacy and she never lived with him. She never told her parents, her siblings or anyone else about the wedding. She never remarried, spending decades "harboring this secret that had to be eating her alive," Inman said.

After Bolin's death in 1939, she did not seek his pension.

She also realized the stigma and potential scandal of a teenager wedding a man in his 90s, regardless of her reason. In an oral history recording in 2018, Jackson said she never spoke of the wedding to protect Bolin's reputation as well as her own.

"I had great respect for Mr. Bolin, and I did not want him to be hurt by the scorn of wagging tongues," she said.

Inman and Jackson were longtime friends. She was a charter member of the Methodist church where he serves as pastor. One day in December 2017, she told Inman about her secret marriage to a much older man. She mentioned in passing that he fought in the Civil War.

"I said, 'What? Back up about that. What do you mean he was in the Civil War?'" Inman said.

Inman checked into her story and found that everything she told him was "spot on." Officials at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield sent him copies of Bolin's service information. She identified where he was buried, in Niangua.

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She also kept a Bible that he gave her — in which he wrote about their marriage. Those written words were good enough for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and other heritage organizations to recognize Jackson's place in history.

After a lifetime of avoiding her past, Jackson embraced it in her final years, Inman said. She spoke to schoolchildren and had a Facebook page dedicated to her. She enjoyed getting cards and letters.

She also found new peace. A stoic nature that kept her from shedding tears at her own siblings' funerals seemed to evaporate.

After Bolin's relatives found out about Jackson's role in his life, they went to the nursing home and presented her with a framed photo of him.

"She broke down and cried," Inman recalled. "She kept touching the frame and said, 'This is the only man who ever loved me.'"

## **Chaos, violence, mockery as pro-Trump mob occupies Congress**

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, ANDREW TAYLOR, LISA MASCARO and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press WASHINGTON (AP) — "Where are they?" a Trump supporter demanded in a crowd of dozens roaming the halls of the Capitol, bearing Trump flags and pounding on doors.

They — lawmakers, staff members and more — were hiding under tables, hunkered in lockdowns, saying prayers and seeing the fruits of the country's divisions up close and violent.

Guns were drawn. A woman was shot and killed by police, and three others died in apparent medical emergencies. A Trump flag hung on the Capitol. The graceful Rotunda reeked of tear gas. Glass shattered.

On Wednesday, hallowed spaces of American democracy, one after another, yielded to the occupation of Congress.

The pro-Trump mob took over the presiding officer's chair in the Senate, the offices of the House speaker and the Senate dais, where one yelled, "Trump won that election."

They mocked its leaders, posing for photos in the office of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, one with his feet propped on a desk in her office, another sitting in the same seat Vice President Mike Pence had occupied only moments before during the proceedings to certify the Electoral College vote. That certification would eventually take place, but not until well after midnight.

There was a heavy police presence at the Capitol on Thursday morning, including officers from D.C., Maryland and Virginia and the D.C. National Guard. But the streets were quiet.

Wednesday began as a day of reckoning for President Donald Trump's futile attempt to cling to power as Congress took up the certification of President-elect Joe Biden's victory. It devolved into scenes of fear and agony that left a prime ritual of American democracy in tatters.

Trump told his morning crowd at the Ellipse that he would go with them to the Capitol, but he didn't. Instead he sent them off with incendiary rhetoric.

"If you don't fight like hell, you're not going to have a country anymore," he said. "Let the weak ones get out," he went on. "This is a time for strength."

His lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, told the crowd, "Let's have trial by combat."

What happened Wednesday was nothing less than an attempted coup, said Rep. Diana DeGette, D-Colo. Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., a frequent Trump critic, said, "Today, the United States Capitol — the world's greatest symbol of self-government — was ransacked while the leader of the free world covered behind his keyboard."

Sasse went on: "Lies have consequences. This violence was the inevitable and ugly outcome of the president's addiction to constantly stoking division."

Police said they recovered two pipe bombs, one outside the Democratic National Committee and one outside the Republican National Committee and a cooler from a vehicle that had a long gun and Molotov cocktail on Capitol grounds.

Yet Trump, in a video posted 90 minutes after lawmakers were evacuated, told the insurrectionists "We love you. You're very special," while asking them to go home.

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Authorities eventually regained control as night fell.

Heavily armed officers brought in as reinforcements started using tear gas in a coordinated effort to get people moving toward the door, then combed the halls for stragglers, pushing the mob farther out onto the plaza and lawn, in clouds of tear gas, flash-bangs and percussion grenades.

Video footage also showed officers letting people calmly walk out the doors of the Capitol despite the rioting and vandalism. Only about a dozen arrests were made in the hours after authorities regained control. They said a woman was shot earlier as the mob tried to break through a barricaded door in the Capitol where police were armed on the other side.

She was hospitalized with a gunshot wound and later died.

Early on, some inside the Capitol saw the trouble coming outside the windows. Democratic Rep. Dean Phillips of Minnesota surveyed the growing crowd on the grounds not long after Trump had addressed his supporters by the Ellipse, fueling their grievances over an election that he and they say he won, against all evidence.

"I looked out the windows and could see how outmanned the Capitol Police were," Phillips said. Under the very risers set up for Biden's inauguration, Trump supporters clashed with police who blasted pepper spray in an attempt to hold them back.

It didn't work. Throngs of maskless MAGA-hatted demonstrators tore down metal barricades at the bottom of the Capitol's steps. Some in the crowd were shouting "traitors" as officers tried to keep them back. They broke into the building.

Announcements blared: Due to an "external security threat," no one could enter or exit the Capitol complex, the recording said. A loud bang sounded as officials detonated a suspicious package to make sure it was not dangerous.

It was about 1:15 p.m. when New Hampshire Rep. Chris Pappas, a Democrat, said Capitol Police banged on his door and "told us to drop everything, get out as quickly as we could."

"It was breathtaking how quickly law enforcement got overwhelmed by these protesters," he told The Associated Press.

Shortly after 2 p.m., Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa and Vice President Mike Pence were evacuated from the Senate as protesters and police shouted outside the doors.

"Protesters are in the building," were the last words picked up by a microphone carrying a live feed of the Senate before it shut off.

Police evacuated the chamber at 2:30 p.m., grabbing boxes of Electoral College certificates as they left.

Phillips yelled at Republicans, "This is because of you!"

Rep. Scott Peters, D-Calif., told reporters he was in the House chamber when protesters began storming it. He said security officers urged lawmakers to put gas masks on and herded them into a corner of the massive room.

"When we got over to other side of the gallery, the Republican side, they made us all get down, you could see that they were fending off some sort of assault, it looked like," he said. "They had a piece of furniture up against the door, the door, the entry to the floor from the Rotunda, and they had guns pulled." The officers eventually escorted the lawmakers out of the chamber.

Shortly after being told to put on gas masks, most members were quickly escorted out of the chamber. But some members remained in the upper gallery seats, where they had been seated due to distancing requirements.

Along with a group of reporters who had been escorted from the press area and Capitol workers who act as ushers, the members ducked on the floor as police secured a door to the chamber down below with guns pointed. After making sure the hallways were clear, police swiftly escorted the members and others down a series of hallways and tunnels to a cafeteria in one of the House office buildings.

Describing the scene, Democratic Rep. Jim Himes of Connecticut said "there was a point there where officers had their guns and weapons pointed at the door, they were obviously expecting a breach through the door. It was clear that there were pretty close to pulling the trigger so they asked us all to get down

in the chamber.”

As he walked out of the Capitol, Himes said he had lived in Latin America and “always assumed it could never happen here.

“We’ve known for four years that our democracy was in peril and this is hopefully the worst and final moment of it,” Himes said. “But with a president egging these people on, with the Republicans doing all they can to try to make people feel like their democracy has been taken away from them even though they’re the ones doing the taking, it’s really hard, really sad. I spent my entire political career reaching out to the other side. And it’s really hard to see this.”

Democratic Illinois Rep. Mike Quigley was also in the balcony. “It’s not good to be around terrified colleagues, with guns drawn toward people who have a barricade ... people crying. Not what you want to see,” he said.

“This is how a coup is started,” said Rep. Jimmy Gomez, D-Calif. “This is how democracy dies.”

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Associated Press writers Ben Fox, Ashraf Khalil, Alan Fram and Michael Balsamo in Washington and Michael Casey in Concord, New Hampshire, contributed to this report.

## **Biden introduces Merrick Garland as attorney general pick**

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, STEVE PEOPLES and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — President-elect Joe Biden introduced his pick for the nation’s top law enforcement official on Thursday, turning to experienced judge Merrick Garland to help de-politicize the Justice Department and restore the rule of law after what the incoming president described as four years of lawlessness under President Donald Trump.

Biden also described the pro-Trump mob that stormed the Capitol on Wednesday as “domestic terrorists” and assailed the Republican president for inciting the siege.

“The past four years we’ve had a president who’s made his contempt for our democracy, our Constitution, the rule of law, clear in everything he has done,” Biden said, vowing a dramatic shift in his administration. “More than anything, we need to restore the honor, the integrity, the independence of the Department of Justice that’s been so badly damaged.”

If confirmed by the Senate, which is likely, Garland would take over as the U.S. attorney general at a critical moment for the country and the agency. He would inherit urgent challenges related to policing and civil rights, an ongoing criminal tax investigation into Biden’s son Hunter and Democratic calls to pursue criminal inquiries into Trump after he leaves office.

Beyond those issues, Garland would be tasked with repairing the American people’s broader distrust in the Justice Department, fomented during a tumultuous four years under Trump’s leadership. The Republican president regularly meddled in the department, most notably firing FBI Director James Comey while his agency was investigating Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

Biden vowed that Garland’s loyalty would rest not with the president, but with the law and Constitution.

“You don’t work for me,” Biden charged as he introduced Garland.

Facing the public for the first time at Biden’s side, Garland promised to restore an equal commitment to law and order and integrity to the nation’s top law enforcement agency, pointing to Wednesday’s assault on the Capitol as a consequence of failing to do so.

“As everyone who watched yesterday’s events in Washington now understands, if they did not understand before, the rule of law is not just some lawyers’ turn of phrase, it is the very foundation of our democracy,” Garland said.

Garland may be a familiar name to political observers.

Senate Republicans spurned him four years ago, refusing even to hold hearings when President Barack Obama nominated him for the Supreme Court. His confirmation prospects as attorney general were all but ensured when Democrats scored control of the Senate majority by winning both Georgia Senate seats.

Biden also introduced three others for senior Justice Department leadership posts on Thursday, includ-

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ing Obama administration homeland security adviser Lisa Monaco as deputy attorney general and former Justice Department civil rights chief Vanita Gupta as associate attorney general, the No. 3 official. He also named an assistant attorney general for civil rights, Kristen Clarke, now the president of Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, an advocacy group.

Garland was selected over other finalists including former Sen. Doug Jones, D-Ala., and former Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates.

The department is expected to change course dramatically under new leadership, including through a different approach to civil rights issues and national policing policies following the racial reckoning sparked by continued deaths of Black Americans at the hands of law enforcement.

Black and Latino advocates wanted a Black attorney general or someone with a background in civil rights causes and criminal justice reform. Groups including the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund had championed Garland's Supreme Court nomination, but the extent of support from minority groups for the attorney general job was not immediately clear.

Though Garland is white, the selection of Gupta and Clarke, two women with significant experience in civil rights, appeared designed to blunt any concerns and served as a signal that progressive causes would be prioritized in the new administration. Gupta is the daughter of immigrants from India and Clarke's parents are from Jamaica.

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris addressed racial justice disparities head on during Thursday's event, connecting them to this week's storming of the Capitol.

She said that fixing the conditions that led to the Washington violence would require the new administration to understand "how to reform, how to transform, a justice system that does not work equally for all — a justice system that is experienced differently depending on whether you're white or Black."

"We witnessed two systems of justice when we saw one that let extremists storm the United States Capitol, and another that released tear gas on peaceful protesters last summer," Harris added. "We know we should be better."

Having worked for the Justice Department decades ago, Garland would return to an agency radically different from the one he left. A proliferation of aggressive cyber and counterintelligence threats from foreign adversaries have made countries like China, Russia and North Korea top priorities for federal law enforcement.

Monaco in particular brings to the department significant national security experience, including in cybersecurity — an especially urgent issue as the U.S. government confronts a devastating hack of federal agencies that officials have linked to Russia.

Some of the issues from Garland's first stint at the department persist.

The FBI has confronted a surge in violence from antigovernment and racially motivated extremists. Garland, as a senior Justice Department official, helped manage the federal government's response to the 1995 bombing of a government building in Oklahoma City that killed 168 people. The bomber, Timothy McVeigh, was later executed.

Garland has called the work the "most important thing I have done" and was known for keeping a framed photo of Oklahoma City's Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in his courthouse office in Washington.

Garland has been on the federal appeals court in Washington since 1997. Before that, he had worked in private practice, as well as a federal prosecutor, a senior official in the Justice Department's criminal division and as the principal associate deputy attorney general.

AP writer Michael Balsamo in Washington contributed.

## World watches US chaos with shock, dismay and some mockery

By LORI HINNANT Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — As the world watched American institutions shaken to the core by an angry mob, officials and ordinary citizens wondered: How fragile is democracy, and how much stress could their own political

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systems withstand?

"If it can happen in the U.S., it can happen anywhere," said Gunjan Chhibber, a 39-year-old who works for an American tech company in India, the world's largest democracy. She stayed up all night, watching and worrying at her home in Delhi as the chaos unfolded many time zones away.

In Germany, whose modern system of governance was nurtured by successive American administrations, Chancellor Angela Merkel was unusually blunt Thursday, drawing a direct line from President Donald Trump's refusal to concede his election defeat to the atmosphere that made the storming of the U.S. Capitol by his supporters possible.

"A fundamental rule of democracy is that, after elections, there are winners and losers. Both have to play their role with decency and responsibility so that democracy itself remains the winner," Merkel said.

Eva Sakschewska, a German who followed the news closely, said the events in Washington were almost inconceivable.

"You can only fear how far this can go when populists come to power and do such things," she said. "You know that in the U.S., democracy has a long history and that it comes to something like that – yes one is afraid."

Even the United Nations offered up the kind of statement usually reserved for fragile democracies, expressing sadness and calling on unidentified political leaders to foster respect for "democratic processes and the rule of law."

In Iraq, where the violent U.S.-led overthrow of Saddam Hussein in 2003 led to years of sectarian conflict and a deeply flawed democracy, many watched and marveled at the scenes unfolding in Congress.

Iraqis have suffered for years under power-sharing arrangements among competing elites divided along sectarian lines. Backroom deals are common to avoid political paralysis, and democratic ideals have been tainted by an entrenched system of patronage through which state jobs are doled out in exchange for support. Political parties also have affiliated militias that wield significant power on the street. From afar, the violence in Washington had a contemptible familiarity.

"Iraq calls on the U.S. regime to respect the principles of democracy, or it will intervene militarily to bring down the dictator," said Mustafa Habib, a well-known Iraqi analyst and researcher, in a tweet that mocked Washington's actions abroad.

Venezuela, which is under U.S. sanctions, said the events showed that the U.S. "is suffering what it has generated in other countries with its politics of aggression."

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has survived U.S.-backed opposition efforts to oust him despite accusations of human rights abuses, civil unrest and a humanitarian crisis that has forced millions to flee the oil-rich country.

"We exported so much democracy that we don't have any left," American-Palestinian scholar Yousef Monayyer wrote on Twitter, the social network favored by Trump until he was locked out of it late Wednesday.

His comment joined the growing strain of sarcasm bordering on schadenfreude from those who have long resented the perceived American tendency to chastise other countries for less-than-perfect adherence to democratic ideals.

This time, however, it was an attempt by Americans to stop a peaceful transition of power to President-elect Joe Biden after a democratic election in a country that many around the world have looked at as a model for democratic governance.

In China, which has had constant friction with Washington over trade, as well as military and political issues, people were scathing in their criticism of Trump and his supporters, citing both the coronavirus pandemic and the mob action.

Communist-ruled China has long accused the U.S. of hypocrisy in its efforts to promote democracy and advocate for human rights overseas.

The Communist Youth League ran a photo montage of the Capitol violence on its Twitter-like Weibo microblog with the caption: "On the sixth, the U.S. Congress, a most beautiful site to behold." That ap-

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peared to mock House Speaker Nancy Pelosi for her June 2019 comments in praise of sometimes-violent anti-government protests in Hong Kong.

"The U.S. is not as safe as China, right? I think Trump is a self-righteous and selfish person," said financial adviser Yang Ming.

Iran, which faces routine U.S. criticism over violations of human rights and democratic values, jumped on the chaos as proof of American hypocrisy.

The semiofficial Fars news agency called the United States a "fragmented democracy," while Iran's pro-government Twitter accounts gloated, circulating photos of the mobs with hashtags that included #DownfalloftheUS.

The events tarnished the American insistence that it is a bastion of democracy for countries that have only in recent decades, in some cases, given up autocratic or military-controlled forms of government.

"The beauty of democracy?" with a shrug emoji was the reaction tweeted by Bashir Ahmad, a personal assistant to the president of Nigeria, which has seen several coups since independence — including one led decades ago by President Muhammadu Buhari, who was elected to office in 2015.

Some legislatures in Asia — South Korea and Taiwan, for instance — have at times been marred by brawls and screaming matches, but democracies throughout the region are normally staid versions of European and American lawmaking models.

"This is shocking. I hope this will serve as chance for the Americans to review their democracy," said Na HyunPil at the Korean House for International Solidarity, a Seoul-based NGO. "Trump is entirely responsible for this incident. After his four-year rule, the Americans find it difficult to tell other countries that their country is a good model for democracy."

Several countries, both U.S. allies and antagonists, issued travel warnings to their citizens, although with coronavirus infections soaring in the United States, arrivals from abroad are down to a trickle.

Ally after ally expressed shock, followed by affirmations that U.S. democratic institutions would withstand the turmoil.

"All my life, America has stood for some very important things: an idea of freedom and an idea of democracy," said British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. "Insofar as he encouraged people to storm the Capitol, and insofar as the president has consistently cast doubt on the outcome of a free and fair election, I believe that was completely wrong."

But some, like European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, warned that the attempt to halt a peaceful transition in what many consider the world's oldest democracy showed that no place is immune and that backsliding is reversed only with difficulty.

"Democracy is never self-evident. It has to be worked on each and every day. It has to be won anew every day. And that applies to all democracies," she told German news outlets. And that's why we know that it starts as a very small thing."

For others, less friendly, it was portrayed as a last gasp and one that belonged solely to Americans themselves.

"American democracy is obviously limping on both feet," said Konstantin Kosachev, head of the foreign affairs committee in Russia's upper house of parliament. "I say this without a shadow of gloating. America no longer charts a course and therefore has lost all rights to set it — and even more so to impose it on others."

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Associated Press journalists from around the world contributed.

## Race double standard clear in rioters' Capitol insurrection

By AARON MORRISON Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Black Lives Matter protests, 2020: Overwhelming force from law enforcement in dozens of cities. Chemical dispersants. Rubber bullets and hand-to-hand combat with largely peaceful crowds and some unruly vandals and looters. More than 14,000 arrests.

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The U.S. Capitol, Jan. 6, 2021: Barely more than a few dozen arrests. Several weapons seized, improvised explosive devices found. Members of a wilding mob escorted from the premises, some not even in handcuffs.

The key difference? The first set of protesters were overwhelmingly Black Americans and their allies. The second group was overwhelmingly white Americans who support outgoing President Donald Trump's baseless claims of election fraud.

The violent breaching of the halls of power on Capitol Hill by the insurrectionist mob on Wednesday, which left one woman dead of a police gunshot wound, represents one of the plainest displays of a racial double standard in both modern and recent history.

"When Black people protest for our lives, we are all too often met by National Guard troops or police equipped with assault rifles, shields, tear gas and battle helmets," the Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation said in a statement.

"When white people attempt a coup, they are met by an underwhelming number of law enforcement personnel who act powerless to intervene, going so far as to pose for selfies with terrorists," it said.

Broad and bipartisan condemnation of the insurrectionist mob came swiftly as they had a nearly unhindered, hours-long run of the Capitol building complex, the Senate chamber and the House speaker's office. The ordeal drew expressions of bewilderment and disbelief from some observers who believed such a display was impossible in a democracy as revered as America's.

However, the response to the mayhem is consistent with a long pattern of society's coddling of racists and downplaying the violent white supremacist ideology that routinely places the grievances of white people above those of their Black, often disenfranchised and downtrodden countrymen and women.

Since the founding of the democracy in the blood and secession of the American Revolution, white people's destructive and obstructionist conduct has been couched in patriotism. It's been a fundamental part of a national myth about whose dissent and pursuit of redress for grievance is justified, and whose is not.

Newly sworn-in St. Louis Rep. Cori Bush, who was among the protesters to face down police and National Guardsmen in 2014 after police killed Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, told The Associated Press that the race of the Capitol rioters played a big part in their ability to breach the congressional fortress.

Had the mob been Black, "we would have been laid out," Bush said.

"The thing is, these are the same people who called us terrorists," Bush continued. "Confederate flags, 'don't tread on me,' 'blue lives matter' flags, the Trump flags — all of it symbolizes the same thing. It symbolizes racism and white supremacy."

The show of force by law enforcement at the Capitol bore little resemblance to the lines of National Guardsmen and other police forces that assembled last year to protect luxury brand retailers against looting, government buildings against breaching and highways against marching by demonstrators across the country.

Rashad Robinson, president of Color of Change, the nation's largest digital racial justice advocacy group, told the AP that he sees it as "a clear example of how racism works in this country and the clear ways there are different sets of rules and different sets of outcomes based on what race you are."

Although Wednesday's events represented one of the most alarming attacks on democratic institutions in recent memory, it wasn't the only seen that day. Apparent Trump supporters forced disruptions at statehouses across the country, including in Georgia, New Mexico and Ohio.

And that wasn't the first time that such a disparate law enforcement response to such attacks drew national outrage and criticism of police. Last May, a large group of mostly white men carrying long rifles stormed the Michigan Statehouse building in Lansing over the governor's coronavirus pandemic shutdown mandates. There were few arrests and little condemnation from the White House.

In June, Trump administration officials had federal officers clear BLM protesters with flash bang grenades and tear gas, to facilitate a now infamous photo-op in front of a church near the White House.

BLM protesters and their supporters in Portland, Oregon, quickly pointed out Wednesday the huge disparity between Trump's response to racial justice protests in the Pacific Northwest city and his encouragement of the violence in D.C.



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On July 27, following his deployment of U.S. agents to quell weeks of demonstrations, Trump tweeted: "Anarchists, Agitators or Protestors who vandalize or damage our Federal Courthouse in Portland, or any Federal Buildings in any of our Cities or States, will be prosecuted under our recently re-enacted Statues and Monuments Act. MINIMUM TEN YEARS IN PRISON. Don't do it!"

The thousands of Capitol building rioters, many who were egged on by the president's speech at a Wednesday afternoon rally over his election loss, heard a much more compassionate message from their leader, albeit a defiant one.

"I know your pain, I know your hurt," Trump said in a now-deleted video posted to his Twitter account. "You have to go home, now. ... We love you. You're very special."

On Thursday, President-elect Joe Biden noted the double standard, saying he had received a text message from his granddaughter, Finnegan, of a photo showing "military people in full military gear — scores of them lining the steps of the Lincoln Memorial" during a BLM protest last year.

"She said 'Pop, this isn't fair.'" the president-elect recounted.

"No one can tell me that if it had been a group of Black Lives Matter protesting yesterday ... they would have been treated very, very differently than a mob of thugs that stormed the Capitol," Biden said.

"We all know that's true. And it is unacceptable," he added.

Former presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter also weighed in with expressions of consternation, some of them placing blame squarely on Trump.

Adding to the cruelty of it all, some observers have noted, is the Capitol building's history. It was built with help from enslaved Africans, whose blood and sweat later allowed the union to meet there and strategize its battle against pro-slavery Confederates. On Wednesday, images emerged showing custodial staffers of color in the Capitol sweeping up the shards of glass and trash left behind by the rioters.

NAACP President Derrick Johnson said the people who violated the Capitol on Wednesday should not be seen as patriotic.

"This is not protesting or activism; this is an insurrection, an assault on our democracy, and a coup incited by President Trump," Johnson said.

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Associated Press writers Gillian Flaccus in Portland, Oregon, and Padmananda Rama in Washington, and Michelle Price in Las Vegas contributed. Morrison is a member of the AP's Race and Ethnicity team. Follow him on Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/aaronlmorrison>.

## **EXPLAINER: Transfer of power under 25th Amendment**

By JESSICA GRESKO and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's role in inciting violence at the Capitol and his long refusal to acknowledge his election defeat is prompting some lawmakers to urge his removal from office through the 25th Amendment.

The amendment allows for the vice president and a majority of the Cabinet to declare a president unfit for office. The vice president then becomes acting president. The section of the amendment specifically addressing this procedure has never been invoked.

On Thursday, a day after a pro-Trump mob stormed the Capitol, the Senate's top Democrat, Chuck Schumer of New York, called for Trump's immediate removal. "What happened at the U.S. Capitol yesterday was an insurrection against the United States, incited by the president. This president should not hold office one day longer," Schumer said.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi joined those calling on the Cabinet to invoke the 25th Amendment to force Trump from office, including Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill.

"The president is unfit. And the president is unwell," Kinzinger said in remarks posted on Twitter. He said Trump "must now relinquish control of the executive branch voluntarily or involuntarily."

Some questions and answers about the 25th Amendment:

WHY WAS IT PASSED?

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The push for an amendment detailing presidential succession plans in the event of a president's disability or death followed the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963. President Lyndon B. Johnson in his 1965 State of the Union promised to "propose laws to insure the necessary continuity of leadership should the President become disabled or die." The amendment was passed by Congress that year and ratified in 1967.

**HAS THE 25TH AMENDMENT BEEN INVOKED BEFORE?**

Yes, presidents have temporarily given up power, but those instances have been generally brief and voluntary, for example when the president was having a medical procedure.

In 2002, President George W. Bush became the first to use the amendment's Section 3 to temporarily transfer power to Vice President Dick Cheney while Bush was anesthetized for a colonoscopy. Section 4 of the amendment, which allow the Cabinet to declare the president unfit, has never been invoked.

**HOW CAN THE CABINET DECLARE THE PRESIDENT UNFIT?**

The 25th Amendment's Section 4 lays out what happens if the president becomes unable to discharge his duties but doesn't transfer power to the vice president himself.

The vice president and majority of the Cabinet can declare the president unfit. They then would send a letter to the speaker of the House and president pro tempore of the Senate saying so. The vice president then becomes acting president.

The president can send his own letter saying he is fit to serve. But if the vice president and majority of the Cabinet disagree, they can send another letter to Congress within four days. Congress would then have to vote. The president resumes his duties unless both houses of Congress by a two-thirds vote say the president is not ready.

**ISN'T THERE SOME OTHER LEGISLATION ABOUT THIS?**

Section 4 of the amendment also gives Congress the power to establish a "body" that can, with the support of the vice president, declare that the president is unable to do the job. If they agree the president is unfit, the vice president would take over. But Congress has never set up the body.

In October, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., announced legislation that proposed the creation of a commission to fill that role. The legislation would set up a 16-member bipartisan commission chosen by House and Senate leaders. It would include four physicians, four psychiatrists and eight retired public figures such as former presidents, vice presidents and secretaries of state. Those members would then select a 17th member to act as a chair.

After the commission was in place, Congress would be able to pass a resolution requiring the members to examine the president, determine whether the president is incapacitated and report back.

## **Ugandan police confront Bobi Wine during online briefing**

Associated Press undefined

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Police in Uganda confronted popular opposition presidential candidate Bobi Wine during his online press conference Thursday to announce a petition to the International Criminal Court over alleged abuses by security forces. He said they fired tear gas and bullets as they swarmed his car.

Journalists watched as an officer dragged Wine from the car while he pleaded that he had broken no law. "As you can see, I'm being arrested," he said to the camera, before popping sounds were heard.

"You are embarrassing the country," Wine told officers. He was later allowed to finish the briefing and drive on. He had spent the day campaigning, during which he said 23 members of his team had been arrested.

The confrontation played out hours after the deadly riot in the U.S. Capitol led to questions about whether some governments would be emboldened to push back harder against people invoking democratic ideals like fair elections.

The singer and opposition leader was announcing he is petitioning the ICC to investigate allegations of torture and other rights abuses in the East African country ahead of next week's election. The ICC receives hundreds such applications from around the world each year.

The 38-year-old Wine, whose real name is Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, has fired the imagination of many across

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Africa as he tries to unseat longtime President Yoweri Museveni, who has deployed the military to prevent what he sees as opposition attempts to create civil unrest that could cause regime change.

Wine and other opposition figures have called the 76-year-old Museveni a dictator. "Many atrocities are being committed on the orders of Museveni," the singer told reporters.

Government officials did not immediately comment.

Wine, arrested many times on various charges but never convicted, now says his life may be in danger. He now campaigns while wearing a bulletproof vest and helmet.

"I expect a live bullet targeted at me any time," said Wine, who has sent his children to the United States over safety concerns.

When asked by the organizer whether he wanted to end the briefing, he said he felt safer with the cameras on.

At least 54 people were killed in Uganda's capital, Kampala, and other parts of the country in November as security forces put down riots provoked by the arrest of Wine for allegedly violating campaign regulations aimed at preventing the spread of the coronavirus.

Those deaths form a critical part of Wine's petition to the ICC to investigate alleged acts of torture, mutilation and murder of civilian protesters.

The petition by Wine and two other alleged torture victims mentions Museveni, Security Minister Elly Tumwine and other security officials. The petitioners are represented by U.S.-based attorney Bruce Afran, who said he filed documents with The Hague-based court on Thursday.

Tumwine "issued the 'shoot to kill' orders nominally to target protestors who attacked police but the orders were deliberately targeted against civilian demonstrators," says the complaint, which includes grisly photos of people purportedly mutilated during election-related violence.

Wine was a popular singer before he won a seat in parliament and attracted national attention as the beret-wearing leader of a movement known as "People Power." He has been arrested many times and sometimes beaten in the past year for alleged offenses such as disobeying lawful orders.

Prosecutors at the ICC can take years to reach a decision on a petition. Before deciding whether to conduct a preliminary probe, they seek to filter out those that are clearly not within their jurisdiction. Those that do are then assessed for admissibility — whether the crimes are serious enough to merit an ICC investigation and whether the country in question is already investigating or prosecuting the allegations.

Finally, prosecutors gauge whether an investigation would be in the interest of justice.

Uganda is a signatory to the statute that created the ICC.

Other Ugandans citing similar rights abuses have in recent years petitioned the ICC, which in December declined to prosecute a case related to alleged abuses by security forces in a 2016 confrontation with supporters of a traditional ruler.

Museveni has ruled Uganda since 1986. He has defied many calls for his retirement, saying he has been elected many times by Ugandans who love him. He has spoken disparagingly of the ICC, calling it "a bunch of useless people."

Ugandan polls are often marred by allegations of rigging. The country has never seen a peaceful transfer of power since independence from Britain in 1962.

## Capitol police chief defends response to 'criminal' rioters

By MATTHEW DALY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the U.S. Capitol Police defended his department's response to the storming of the Capitol, saying Thursday that officers "acted valiantly when faced with thousands of individuals involved in violent riotous actions." Washington's mayor called the police response "a failure."

Chief Steven Sund, in his first public comment on the mayhem from Wednesday, said in a statement that rioters "actively attacked" Capitol police and other law enforcement officers with metal pipes, discharged chemical irritants and "took up other weapons against our officers."

The siege, as the House and Senate were affirming President-elect Joe Biden's election victory, was "un-

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like any I have ever experienced in my 30 years in law enforcement here in Washington, D.C.," said Sund, a former city police officer. "Make no mistake: these mass riots were not First Amendment activities; they were criminal riotous behavior. The actions of the USCP officers were heroic given the situation they faced."

Lawmakers from both parties have pledged to investigate law enforcement's actions and questioned whether a lack of preparedness allowed a mob to occupy and vandalize the building.

Mayor Muriel Bowser joined in the criticism of the police response. "Obviously it was a failure or you would not have had people enter the Capitol by breaking windows and terrorizing the members of Congress who were doing a very sacred requirement of their jobs."

A large crowd of Trump supporters had rallied near the White House on Wednesday morning, and the president told them that he would go with them to the Capitol. He didn't. Instead he sent them off with incendiary rhetoric. "If you don't fight like hell, you're not going to have a country anymore," he said. "Let the weak ones get out," he went on. "This is a time for strength."

Capitol Police, who are charged with protecting Congress, turned to other law enforcement for help with the mob that overwhelmed the complex and sent lawmakers into hiding. Both law enforcement and Trump supporters deployed chemical irritants during the hourslong occupation of the complex before it was cleared Wednesday evening.

Four people died, including a woman who was shot and killed by police inside the Capitol. Three other people died after "medical emergencies" related to the breach, said Robert Contee, chief of the city's Metropolitan Police Department.

D.C. police said Thursday that 68 people were arrested, while Capitol police said 14 were arrested, most for unlawful entry. More than 50 Capitol and D.C. police were injured, including several who were hospitalized, Sund said.

Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., chairwoman of the House Administration Committee, said the breach "raises grave security concerns." She said her committee will work with House and Senate leaders to review the police response — and its preparedness.

Rep. Val Demings, D-Fla., a former police chief, said it was "painfully obvious" that Capitol police "were not prepared" for what took place Wednesday. "I certainly thought that we would have had a stronger show of force, that there would have been steps taken in the very beginning to make sure that there was a designated area for the protesters in a safe distance from the Capitol."

In an interview with MSNBC, Demings said it appeared police were woefully understaffed, adding that "it did not seem that they had a clear operational plan to really deal with" thousands of protesters who descended on the Capitol following Trump's complaints of a "rigged election."

The rioters were egged on by Trump, who has spent weeks falsely attacking the integrity of the election and had urged his supporters to come to Washington to protest Congress' formal approval of Biden's victory. The protests interrupted those proceedings for nearly seven hours; lawmakers finished up early Thursday.

The mob broke windows, entered both the Senate and House chambers and went into the offices of lawmakers, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

Demings said there were "a lot of unanswered questions and I'm damn determined to get answers to those questions about what went wrong."

Rep. Tim Ryan, D-Ohio, suggested there could be leadership changes at the Capitol police.

"I think it's pretty clear that there's going to be a number of people who are going to be without employment very, very soon because this is an embarrassment both on behalf of the mob, and the president, and the insurrection, and the attempted coup, but also the lack of professional planning and dealing with what we knew was going to occur," Ryan said.

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Associated Press writer Michael Balsamo contributed to this report.

## **Biden win confirmed after pro-Trump mob storms US Capitol**

By LISA MASCARO, ERIC TUCKER, MARY CLARE JALONICK and ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress confirmed Democrat Joe Biden as the presidential election winner before dawn Thursday after a violent mob loyal to President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday in a stunning attempt to overturn the election, undercut the nation's democracy and keep Trump in the White House.

Lawmakers were resolved to complete the Electoral College tally in a display to the country, and the world, of the nation's enduring commitment to uphold the will of the voters and the peaceful transfer of power. They pushed through the night with tensions high and the nation's capital on alert.

Shortly before 4 a.m. Thursday, lawmakers finished their work, confirming Biden won the election.

Vice President Mike Pence, presiding over the joint session, announced the tally, 306-232.

Trump, who had repeatedly refused to concede the election, said in a statement immediately after the vote that there will be a smooth transition of power on Inauguration Day.

"Even though I totally disagree with the outcome of the election, and the facts bear me out, nevertheless there will be an orderly transition on January 20th," Trump said in a statement posted to Twitter by an aide.

The day after the siege at the Capitol, there were fresh questions and concerns across the government — about the president's fitness to remain in office for two more weeks, the ability of the police to secure the Capitol complex and the future of the Republican Party in a post-Trump era.

One Republican lawmaker publicly called for invoking the 25th Amendment to force Trump from office before Biden is inaugurated. Others said there must be a review of the U.S. Capitol Police's inability to prevent the breach of the complex by the protesters.

Most of the demonstrators were white. And newly elected Rep. Cori Bush, D-Mo., complained, "Had we as Black people did the same things that happened .... the reaction would have been different, we would have been laid out on the ground, there would have been, there would have been shootings, there would have been people in jail."

One protester, a white woman, was shot to death by Capitol Police, and there were dozens of arrests.

During the incursion on Wednesday, the nation's elected representatives scrambled to crouch under desks and don gas masks while police futilely tried to barricade the building in one of the most jarring scenes ever to unfold in a seat of American political power. Washington's mayor instituted an evening curfew in an attempt to contain the violence.

The rioters were egged on by Trump, who has spent weeks falsely attacking the integrity of the election and had urged his supporters to descend on Washington to protest Congress' formal approval of Biden's victory. Some Republican lawmakers were in the midst of raising objections to the results on his behalf when the proceedings were abruptly halted by the mob.

Together, the protests and the GOP election objections amounted to an almost unthinkable challenge to American democracy and exposed the depths of the divisions that have coursed through the country during Trump's four years in office. The support Trump has received for his efforts to overturn the election results have badly strained the nation's democratic guardrails.

Congress reconvened late Wednesday, with lawmakers decrying the protests that defaced the Capitol and vowing to finish confirming the Electoral College vote for Biden's election, even if it took all night.

Pence reopened the Senate and directly addressed the demonstrators: "You did not win."

Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said the "failed insurrection" underscored lawmakers' duty to finish the count. Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Congress would show the world "what America is made of" with the outcome.

The president gave his supporters a boost into action Wednesday morning at a rally outside the White House, where he urged them to march to the Capitol. He spent much of the afternoon in his private dining room off the Oval Office watching scenes of the violence on television. At the urging of his staff, he reluctantly issued a pair of tweets and a taped video telling his supporters it was time to "go home in peace" — yet he still said he backed their cause.

"The president caused this," said Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., on Thursday.

Kinzinger said it was with a "heavy heart" that he was calling for the 25th Amendment of the Constitu-

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tion to be invoked to remove Trump from office. "The president is unwell."

On Wednesday, Twitter for the first time time locked Trump's account, demanded that he remove tweets excusing violence and threatened "permanent suspension."

A somber President-elect Biden, two weeks away from being inaugurated, said American democracy was "under unprecedented assault," a sentiment echoed by many in Congress, including some Republicans. Former President George W. Bush said he watched the events in "disbelief and dismay."

The domed Capitol building has for centuries been the scene of protests and occasional violence. But Wednesday's events were particularly astounding both because they unfolded at least initially with the implicit blessing of the president and because of the underlying goal of overturning the results of a free and fair presidential election.

Tensions were already running high when lawmakers gathered early Wednesday afternoon for the constitutionally mandated counting of the Electoral College results. More than 100 GOP lawmakers supported objections.

Trump spent the lead-up to the proceedings publicly hectoring Pence, who had a largely ceremonial role, to aid the effort to throw out the results. He tweeted, "Do it Mike, this is a time for extreme courage!"

But Pence, in a statement shortly before presiding, defied Trump, saying he could not claim "unilateral authority" to reject the electoral votes that make Biden president.

In the aftermath of the siege, several Republicans announced they would drop their objections to the election, including Sen. Kelly Loeffler, R-Ga., who lost her bid for reelection Tuesday.

Protesters had fought past police and breached the building, shouting and waving Trump and American flags as they marched through the halls, many without masks during the COVID-19 crisis. Lawmakers were told to duck under their seats for cover and put on gas masks after tear gas was used in the Capitol Rotunda. Some House lawmakers tweeted they were sheltering in place in their offices.

Rep. Scott Peters, D-Calif., told reporters he was in the House chamber when rioters began storming it. Security officers "made us all get down, you could see that they were fending off some sort of assault."

He said they had a piece of furniture up against the door. "And they had guns pulled," Peters said. Glass panes to a House door were shattered.

The woman who was killed was part of a crowd that was breaking down the doors to a barricaded room where armed officers stood on the other side, police said. She was shot in the chest by Capitol Police and taken to a hospital where she was pronounced dead. City police said three other people died from medical emergencies during the long protest on and around the Capitol grounds.

Staff members grabbed boxes of Electoral College votes as the evacuation took place. Otherwise, said Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., the ballots likely would have been destroyed by the protesters.

The mob's storming of Congress prompted outrage, mostly from Democrats but from Republicans as well, as lawmakers accused Trump of fomenting the violence with his relentless falsehoods about election fraud. "Count me out," said Trump ally Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. "Enough is enough."

Several suggested that Trump be prosecuted for a crime or even removed under the Constitution's 25th Amendment, which seemed unlikely two weeks from when his term expires.

"I think Donald Trump probably should be brought up on treason for something like this," Rep. Jimmy Gomez, D-Calif., told reporters. "This is how a coup is started. And this is how democracy dies."

Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., who has at times clashed with Trump, issued a statement saying: "Lies have consequences. This violence was the inevitable and ugly outcome of the President's addiction to constantly stoking division."

Despite Trump's repeated claims of voter fraud, election officials and his own former attorney general have said there were no problems on a scale that would change the outcome. All the states have certified their results as fair and accurate, by Republican and Democratic officials alike.

Punctuating their resolve, both the House and Senate soundly rejected an objection to election results from Arizona, which had been raised by Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and Rep. Paul Gosar, R-Ariz., and another from Pennsylvania brought by Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., and Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pa. Still, most House Republicans supported the objections. Other objections to results from Georgia, Michigan, Nevada and

Wisconsin fizzled.

The Pentagon said about 1,100 District of Columbia National Guard members were being mobilized to help support law enforcement at the Capitol. Dozens of people were arrested.

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin, Zeke Miller, Kevin Freking, Alan Fram, Matthew Daly, Padmananda Rama, Ben Fox and Ashraf Khalil in Washington and Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.

## Insurrection marks moment of reckoning for Republicans

By STEVE PEOPLES AP Chief Political Writer

The insurrection at the U.S. Capitol was both stunning and predictable, the result of a Republican Party that has repeatedly enabled President Donald Trump's destructive behavior.

When Trump was a presidential candidate in 2016, Republican officials ignored his call to supporters to "knock the crap out" of protesters. Less than a year after he took office, GOP leaders argued he was taken out of context when he said there were "very fine people" on both sides of a deadly white supremacist rally.

Last summer, most party leaders looked the other way when Trump had hundreds of peaceful protesters forcibly removed from a demonstration near the White House so he could pose with a Bible in front of a church.

But the violent siege on Capitol Hill offers a new, and perhaps final, moment of reckoning for the GOP. The party's usual excuses for Trump — he's not a typical politician and is uninterested in hewing to Washington's niceties — fell short against images of mobs occupying some of American democracy's most sacred spaces.

The party, which has been defined over the past four years by its loyalty to Trump, began recalibrating in the aftermath of Wednesday's chaos.

One of Trump's closest allies in Congress, GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, said "enough is enough."

Rep. Nancy Mace, R-S.C., said Trump's accomplishments in office "were wiped out today."

Trump's former acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, now a special envoy to Northern Ireland, joined a growing number of administration officials who are resigning. "I can't do it. I can't stay," Mulvaney told CNBC on Thursday. "Those who choose to stay, and I have talked with some of them, are choosing to stay because they're worried the president might put someone worse in."

Stephanie Grisham, the first lady Melania Trump's chief of staff and a former White House press secretary, submitted her resignation. Deputy national security adviser Matt Pottinger, White House social secretary Rickie Niceta and deputy press secretary Sarah Matthews also resigned, according to officials.

For the party to move forward, it will need to deal with the reality that Trump lost to President-elect Joe Biden by more than 7 million votes and a 306-232 margin in the Electoral College, a result Congress certified early Thursday when it finished accepting all the electoral votes.

Trump acknowledged his term was coming to a close, but not that he had actually lost.

"Even though I totally disagree with the outcome of the election, and the facts bear me out, nevertheless there will be an orderly transition on January 20th," he said in a statement minutes after Congress certified the vote. "I have always said we would continue our fight to ensure that only legal votes were counted. While this represents the end of the greatest first term in presidential history, it's only the beginning of our fight to Make America Great Again!"

Former Republican President George W. Bush described the violent mob as "a sickening and heartbreaking sight." He declined to call out Trump or his allies, but the implication was clear when Bush said the siege "was undertaken by people whose passions have been inflamed by falsehoods and false hopes."

Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, a top House Republican and the daughter of Bush's vice president, was much more direct in an interview on Fox News.

"There's no question the president formed the mob. The president incited the mob," Cheney said. "He lit the flame."

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Bush and Cheney were already among a smaller group of Republican officials willing to condemn Trump's most outrageous behavior at times. The overwhelming majority of the GOP has been far more reserved, eager to keep Trump's fiery base on their side.

Still, Trump's grip on his party appeared somewhat weakened when members of Congress returned to the Capitol on Wednesday night, having spent several hours hiding in secure locations after being evacuated. Before they left, a handful of Republican senators and more than 100 Republican House members were set to oppose the vote to certify Biden's victory.

It was a move led by Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Josh Hawley of Missouri, each with his own 2024 presidential ambitions, over the objection of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who warned that that U.S. democracy "would enter a death spiral" if Congress rejected state election results.

When they resumed debate, however, much of the energy behind the extraordinary push had fizzled. Several Republicans dropped their objections altogether. Hawley and Cruz did not, but they offered scaled-back arguments.

Hawley condemned the day's violence but also called for an investigation into "irregularities and fraud." Earlier in the day, his hometown newspaper, The Kansas City Star, released an editorial charging that Hawley "has blood on his hands" for enabling Trump's false claims.

Other Republicans were clearly more concerned about the day's violence and the events that preceded them.

"Dear MAGA- I am one of you," former White House aide Alyssa Farah tweeted. "But I need you to hear me: the Election was NOT stolen. We lost."

Jefferson Thomas, who led Trump's campaign in Colorado, expressed some regret about joining Trump's team in the first place, calling Wednesday's events "an embarrassment to our country."

"This isn't what I ever imagined when I signed up to #MAGA. Had I known then that this is how it would end, I never would've joined," he wrote on Twitter.

While there were obvious cracks in Trump's grip on the Republican Party, his fiercest detractors came from a familiar pool of frequent critics.

Trump's former secretary of defense, Jim Mattis, who denounced the president as a threat to the Constitution last year, described the violent assault on the Capitol as "an effort to subjugate American democracy by mob rule" and "was fomented by Mr. Trump."

"His use of the presidency to destroy trust in our election and to poison our fellow citizens has been enabled by pseudo political leaders whose names will live in infamy as profiles in cowardice," Mattis said.

Anthony Scaramucci, who served briefly as Trump's White House communications director in 2017, often has harsh words for Trump. But he offered his harshest on Wednesday for Trump's Republican enablers.

"Republican elected officials still supporting Trump need to be tried alongside of him for treason," he tweeted.

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Associated Press writer Meg Kinnard in Columbia, South Carolina, contributed to this report.

## US unemployment claims slip to still-high 787,000

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans seeking unemployment aid fell slightly last week to 787,000, a historically high number that points to a weak job market held back by the viral pandemic.

Thursday's figure from the Labor Department, a slight decline from the previous week, shows that even with the pandemic recession in its 10th month, many businesses are still laying off workers. Before the recession, weekly jobless claims typically numbered around 225,000.

The renewed surge in virus cases has caused millions of consumers to avoid eating out, shopping and traveling. And states have imposed new restrictions on restaurants, bars and other businesses. Economists at TD Securities estimate that more than half of states are now restricting gatherings to 10 people or fewer, up from roughly a quarter in September.



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Those restrictions are forcing many companies, having run through much of their cash reserves, to cut more jobs.

"Unemployment remains extremely high, although not nearly as bad as it was in the spring, and the pace of improvement in the job market has slowed dramatically from the summer," said Gus Faucher, an economist at PNC Financial. "Job growth should pick up in the spring as vaccine distribution continues, better weather allows for more outdoor activities and states gradually loosen restrictions."

Many economists, along with the Federal Reserve's policymakers, say they're hopeful that once the coronavirus vaccines are more widely distributed, the economy will achieve a broader recovery in the second half of the year.

The \$900 billion financial aid package that Congress enacted last month should also help accelerate an eventual rebound. Late Wednesday, Goldman Sachs upgraded its forecast for economic growth this year to a robust 6.4%, up from 5.9%. Its upgrade was based in part on the expectation that the Biden administration, with help from the now-Democratic Senate, will support another rescue aid package.

Last month's stimulus measure provided a \$300-a-week federal jobless benefit on top of an average state benefit of about \$320. As many as half the states are now distributing the federal benefit, according to an unofficial tally at UnemploymentPUA.com. In states that take longer to pay out the \$300, any missed payments can be made retroactively.

A federal program that provides extended benefits, after state benefits run out, was lengthened to 24 weeks by the aid package. That program will remain in place until mid-March. A separate program that provides jobless aid to contractors and gig workers who previously weren't eligible was also extended for 11 weeks. Both benefits had briefly expired Dec. 26, threatening about 13 million people with a cutoff in aid.

Thursday's report also showed that the number of people who are receiving regular state unemployment aid fell 125,000 to 5.1 million. And fewer people were on extended unemployment benefit programs. Those declines suggested that many of those people have used up all the benefits available to them, including extended federal aid. They can reapply, though, now that more weeks of aid are available. Overall, more than 19 million people are still receiving some form of unemployment benefit.

The Labor Department said this week that despite President Donald Trump's delay in signing the relief package — he did so six days after Congress' approval — jobless benefits under the extended programs that lapsed Dec. 26 should be paid out without interruption.

On Friday, the government will likely issue a gloomy jobs report for December. Economists expect it to show that hiring slowed for a sixth straight month. Some analysts have estimated that the economy shed jobs in December for the first time since April.

The continued weakening of the U.S. job market coincides with other signs that hiring and economic growth are faltering under the weight of the pandemic. On Wednesday, payroll processor ADP reported that private employers shed 123,000 jobs in December, the first such monthly decline since April. ADP's figures generally track the government's jobs data over time, though they can diverge significantly from month to month.

Last month, Coca-Cola Co. said it would cut 2,200 jobs from its global workforce, with about half those layoffs occurring in the United States. 3M, a major manufacturer, has said it will lay off 2,900 workers worldwide.

In November, U.S. consumer spending declined for the first time in seven months, having steadily weakened since summer. Retailers have been especially hurt. Purchases at retail stores have dropped for two straight months.

During the holiday shopping season, consumers pulled back on spending, according to debit and credit card data tracked by JPMorgan Chase based on 30 million consumer accounts. Such spending was 6% lower in December compared with a year ago. That was worse than in October, when card spending was down just 2% from the previous year.

**Today in History**

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By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Friday, Jan. 8, the eighth day of 2021. There are 357 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 8, 1998, Ramzi Yousef (RAHM'-zee YOO'-sef), the mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, was sentenced in New York to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

On this date:

In 1815, the last major engagement of the War of 1812 came to an end as U.S. forces defeated the British in the Battle of New Orleans, not having gotten word of the signing of a peace treaty.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson outlined his Fourteen Points for lasting peace after World War I. Mississippi became the first state to ratify the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which established Prohibition.

In 1935, rock-and-roll legend Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, Mississippi.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson, in his State of the Union address, declared an "unconditional war on poverty in America."

In 1968, the Otis Redding single "(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay" was released on the Volt label almost a month after the singer's death in a plane crash.

In 1973, the Paris peace talks between the United States and North Vietnam resumed.

In 1982, American Telephone and Telegraph settled the Justice Department's antitrust lawsuit against it by agreeing to divest itself of the 22 Bell System companies.

In 1994, Tonya Harding won the ladies' U.S. Figure Skating Championship in Detroit, a day after Nancy Kerrigan dropped out because of the clubbing attack that had injured her right knee. (The U.S. Figure Skating Association later stripped Harding of the title.)

In 1997, the state of Arkansas put three men to death in the second triple execution since capital punishment was reinstated in 1976. (The first also occurred in Arkansas, in 1994.)

In 2004, A U.S. Black Hawk medivac helicopter crashed near Fallujah, Iraq, killing all nine soldiers aboard.

In 2006, the first funerals were held in West Virginia for the 12 miners who'd died in the Sago (SAY'-goh) Mine disaster six days earlier.

In 2008, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton powered to victory in New Hampshire's 2008 Democratic primary in a startling upset, defeating Sen. Barack Obama and resurrecting her bid for the White House; Sen. John McCain defeated his Republican rivals to move back into contention for the GOP nomination.

Ten years ago: U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., was shot and critically wounded when a gunman opened fire as the congresswoman met with constituents in Tucson; six people were killed, 12 others also injured. (Gunman Jared Lee Loughner (LAWF'-nur) was sentenced in Nov. 2012 to seven consecutive life sentences, plus 140 years.)

Five years ago: Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, the world's most-wanted drug lord, was captured for a third time in a daring raid by Mexican marines, six months after walking through a tunnel to freedom from a maximum security prison in a made-for-Hollywood escape that deeply embarrassed the government and strained ties with the United States.

One year ago: Iran struck back at the United States for killing Iran's top military commander, firing missiles at two Iraqi military bases housing American troops; more than 100 U.S. service members were diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries after the attack. As Iran braced for a counterattack, the country's Revolutionary Guard shot down a Ukrainian jetliner after apparently mistaking it for a missile; all 176 people on board were killed, including 82 Iranians and more than 50 Canadians. South Korea said it had put a Chinese woman under isolated treatment amid concerns that she had brought back the virus that had sickened dozens in mainland China and Hong Kong. Britain's Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, said they planned to "step back" as senior members of the royal family while balancing their time between the U.K. and North America. Screenwriter and actor Buck Henry, who co-wrote and appeared in "The Graduate," died in Los Angeles at the age of 89.

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Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian Larry Storch is 98. Former CBS newsman Charles Osgood is 88. Singer Shirley Bassey is 84. Game show host Bob Eubanks is 83. Country-gospel singer Cristy Lane is 81. Rhythm-and-blues singer Anthony Gourdine (Little Anthony and the Imperials) is 80. Actor Yvette Mimieux is 79. Singer Juanita Cowart Motley (The Marvelettes) is 77. Actor Kathleen Noone is 76. Rock musician Robby Krieger (The Doors) is 75. Movie director John McTiernan is 70. Actor Harriet Sansom Harris is 66. Actor Ron Cephas Jones is 64. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is 63. Singer-songwriter Ron Sexsmith is 57. Actor Michelle Forbes is 56. Actor Maria Pitillo (pih-TIHL'-loh) is 55. Singer R. Kelly is 54. Rock musician Jeff Abercrombie (Fuel) is 52. Actor Ami Dolenz is 52. Reggae singer Sean Paul is 48. Actor Donnell Turner is 48. Country singer Tift Merritt is 46. Actor-rock singer Jenny Lewis is 45. Actor Amber Benson is 44. Actor Scott Whyte is 43. Singer-songwriter Erin McCarley is 42. Actor Sarah Polley is 42. Actor Rachel Nichols is 41. Actor Gaby Hoffman is 39. Rock musician Disashi Lumumbo-Kasongo (dih-SAH'-shee LUHM'-uhm-boh kuh-SAHN'-goh) (Gym Class Heroes) is 38. Actor Cynthia Erivo is 34. Actor Freddie Stroma is 34.