

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 1 of 90

- [1- Today on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [2- Finnesand's 60th Anniversary](#)
- [2- Governor Noem Signs Executive Order](#)
- [3- New Report: \\$321 Million Lost: 4 Stimulus Check Scams South Dakota Residents Should Avoid](#)
- [4- Upcoming Schedule](#)
- [5- Covid-19 Update by Marie Miller](#)
- [8- No. 2 Northern Rallies Back in Road Win](#)
- [9- Monson, Krueger win three matches with a pin at Lyman County](#)
- [10- Girls DAK-XII/NEC Clash](#)
- [11- February 5th COVID-19 UPDATE](#)
- [18- Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs](#)
- [19- Weather Pages](#)
- [23- Daily Devotional](#)
- [24- American Standard Shower Ad](#)
- [25- News from the Associated Press](#)
- [90- ADT AD](#)



**Boys**

**Groton at Tiospa Zina**  
**1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 6, 2021**  
**C Team at 1 p.m.**  
**followed by JV and Varsity**

A graphic for the Groton boys basketball team. It features a tiger's face on the left, an eagle logo in the middle, and a basketball hoop on the right. The word "Boys" is written in a gold, serif font at the top right. Below the images, the text reads: "Groton at Tiospa Zina", "1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 6, 2021", "C Team at 1 p.m.", and "followed by JV and Varsity".

**OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton  
The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.



*Over and Darlene  
Finnesand*  
**60th Anniversary  
on Feb. 11, 2021**

**Greetings may  
be sent to  
505 3rd Ave. W.  
Groton, SD  
57445**

## **Governor Noem Signs Executive Order**

PIERRE, S.D. – Today, Governor Kristi Noem signed an executive order regarding license and permit knowledge tests and to authorize dentists to aid in vaccine distribution.

Executive Order 2021-04:

Provides a 180-day grace period waiving the knowledge test requirement when individuals renew their expired licenses and permits. This only applies to individuals who allowed their license or permit to lapse between the dates of March 13, 2020 and December 30, 2020;

Allows dentists with experience giving injections to administer vaccines for COVID-19.

## **New Report: \$321 Million Lost: 4 Stimulus Check Scams South Dakota Residents Should Avoid**

The second stimulus check for \$600 being distributed to Americans has led to unprecedented online scams that broke the \$300 million milestone. The IRS reported 416K payments totaling \$759 million were made in South Dakota for the first round and residents should be on alert for the most common scams currently being used.

The FTC has received more than 340,668 reports of fraud relating to Coronavirus, costing victims more than \$321 million as of February 3. Google reported during the first stimulus it was blocking 18 million scam emails every single day; and 150,000 fraudulent stimulus check sites were launched.

With a third stimulus for \$1.9 trillion being negotiated in congress, Americans must be on alert and know how to protect themselves right now and going forward.

SocialCatfish.com today released a report today on 4 Stimulus Check Scams and How to Avoid Them based on information from the FTC, FBI and IRS during the Coronavirus pandemic.

1) **ROBOCALL CHECK SCAMS:** The scammer will call pretending to be the IRS and ask for your personal financial information. They will claim they need this to deposit the stimulus check into your account and will also ask for a fee to deposit said check. The truth is, they want your information so that they can pretend to be you and claim the check for themselves. They can also drain your bank account with this information and will keep the fee for themselves for good measure.

**How to Avoid:** Do not give out any personal information. The government already has your information on file from when you filed your taxes. The stimulus check will either be automatically deposited into your account or you will get it mailed to your house.

2) **EMAIL AND TEXT SCAMS:** Scammers will send you a phishing email, text message, or message on social media claiming that they are the government. They may email you telling you to click on a link to "verify" information, or text message you a link to fill out an application to receive your check.

**How to Avoid:** Do not click on any links that are emailed or texted to you. Again, the government already has your information and checks or debit cards are either directly deposited or mailed to you.

3) **FAKE WEBSITE:** If you click on suspicious links, they will likely take you to fake websites that will download malware onto your device and steal your information to drain your bank account. These sites also contain fake forms so any personal or financial information you provide will go to the scammer.

**How to Avoid:** Do not go to any website that does not end in ".gov". There are no non-government websites giving stimulus checks. If you suspect a fake website, get off it immediately and report it.

4) **PHONY CHECKS:** Scammers have been mailing fake checks that look exactly like the official government-issued paper stimulus checks. Once deposited, the scammers text you pretending to be the government asking for some of the money back claiming too much was sent.

**How to Avoid:** Make sure the check is legitimate, ask your bank to verify it. If anyone asks for a portion of the check back, tell your bank immediately.

If you encounter a coronavirus scam, contact local law enforcement, or file a complaint with the FTC. For more information on the status of your stimulus check visit the IRS website.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 4 of 90

## Upcoming Schedule

### Saturday, Feb. 6

Girls Basketball at DAK12-NEC Clash in Madison.  
Boys Basketball at Tiospa Zina (C game (Charla Imrie) at 1 p.m., JV (Jim and Shirley VanDenHemel) at 2:30 p.m. followed by varsity.

### Monday, Feb. 8

Junior High Basketball hosts Webster. 5:30 p.m.  
School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

### Tuesday, Feb. 9

Girls Basketball hosts Tiospa Zina. JV game (Ed and Connie Stauch) at 6 p.m. followed by varsity.

### Wednesday, Feb. 10

LifeTouch Pictures in GHS Gym, 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

### Thursday, Feb. 11

Parent-Teacher Conference, 1:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Basketball Doubleheader with Milbank in Groton. JV girls (Trent and Heather Traphagen) at 4 p.m. followed by JV boys, Varsity Girls and Varsity Boys.

### Saturday, Feb. 12

Basketball Doubleheader at Mobridge. JV girls (Rich and Tami Zimney) at 1 p.m., JV boys at 2 p.m., Varsity Girls at 3 p.m. followed by Varsity Boys.

### Monday, Feb. 15

Junior High Basketball at Aberdeen Roncalli Elementary School (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.)  
Boys Basketball at Aberdeen Roncalli (C game at 5 p.m., JV at 6:15 and Varsity at 7:30).

### Thursday, Feb. 18

Junior High Basketball hosts Mobridge-Pollock in the Arena. 7th at 6 p.m., 8th at 7 p.m.

### Friday, Feb. 19

Basketball Doubleheader with Deuel in Groton. JV girls at 4 p.m., JV boys at 5 p.m. followed by Varsity Girls and Varsity Boys.

### Saturday, Feb. 20

Regional Wrestling Tournament in Groton, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 23: GBB Region

Thursday, Feb. 25: GBB Region

### Friday, Feb. 26

Boys Basketball hosts Aberdeen Christian. JV at 6 p.m. followed by Varsity.

Tuesday, March 2: BBB Region

Thursday, March 4: GBB SoDAK 16

Friday, March 5: BBB Region

Tuesday, March 9: BBB SoDAK 16

March 11-13: State Girls Basketball Tournament in Watertown

March 18-20: State Boys Basketball Tournament in Sioux Falls

## #348 in a series

### Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Better day than yesterday. There were 120,600 new cases reported today. Be nice to get that below 100,000, but at least we're staying well below 300,000 and 200,000. Small favors, right? We have now reported 26,837,100 cases in the US, which is 0.5% more than yesterday. If something bad happens, we could theoretically hit 27 million tomorrow, but I'm betting on midday Sunday instead. Hospitalizations are down again—26 days running—to 88,668 today. All good.

I've been wondering whether there was some sort of reporting anomaly yesterday that I hadn't read about because we're back down to well under 4000 new deaths today. Scoured the reports and discovered finally that there was, although I'm not yet clear on what was behind it. It appears yesterday can be put in perspective, which helps. There were 3275 deaths reported today—which is still far too many. We have now lost 458,918 Americans to this virus, 0.7% more than yesterday. I don't know what number we're going to reach this month: I've seen lots of projections. I will point out that, if we manage to hit 530,000 as some projections have it, we will have lost one American life for every minute of the pandemic, and that is truly horrifying.

A paper from AstraZeneca available in preprint (so not yet peer-reviewed) presents data showing their vaccine candidate is 74.6 percent efficacious against the highly transmissible B.1.1.7 variant first seen in the UK; this was an efficacy rate not much lower than for the other variants. This candidate is an adenovirus-vectored DNA vaccine with a two-dose regimen. This means all of the leading contenders—Moderna, Pfizer/BioNTech, Janssen/Johnson & Johnson, Novavax, and Oxford/AstraZeneca—have some decent efficacy against this variant. While we're still waiting for data on the B.1.351 variant for this candidate, we've seen the others showing diminished, but still protective immunity against that one. Maybe, just maybe, if we can outrun these variants with strong, well-coordinated, and speedy vaccination programs worldwide, those vaccines can hold us until we have time to reassess the need for reformulated boosters and provide those as needed. For the record, this candidate (Oxford/AstraZeneca) also was completely protective against severe illness and death against all variants tested, much as with the others. I'm still sort of shaking my head at how incredibly lucky we've been on the vaccine front—to be putting highly effective, safe vaccines into arms just about a year into this pandemic. No one predicted that.

The White House announced today they are sending 1100 active-duty military personnel to set up the first five federal vaccination centers in an effort to step up our efforts to get vaccines into people. FEMA will run the sites; teams of military will staff them. Between FEMA's logistics experience and the military's availability of highly-trained people, this will be a big step. They expect to stand up these sites by the middle of the month. FEMA has plans to establish a total of around 100 vaccination sites before this is over, and they plan to use military support to do so. Each state government has to approve the deployment of military personnel before the plan can go forward in a state, and some states do not want them. That will necessarily have some effect on where these sites will be set up.

Today, in their Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, the CDC published research showing that state-wide mask mandates are associated with decreased hospitalization numbers. The data analyzed were from 10 states—Oregon, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio, New York, Connecticut, and Maryland. Growth in hospitalizations for adults from 40 to 64 years of age dropped two weeks after the mandates were enacted. This serves as more evidence that masking reduces transmission, and we know reducing transmission saves lives.

I've had a couple of questions recently that I thought I'd address tonight since it was a relatively slow news day. Both of them are not news, and I'm going to repeat some things we've already talked about; but I think it may help to get all of the information together in one place. So here goes.

First is this issue of needing to continue precautions—mask-wearing and distancing—after you've been fully vaccinated. Makes you sort of wonder why bother then, right? First thing is this: The reason you bother is so that we slow down this runaway train we're on. Fewer susceptible people means fewer people to give the virus to. And that means slowing down transmission. We need to do this so that people who

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 6 of 90

can't get vaccinated have a reduced chance of dying from this virus. We also need to do it in an effort to slow down the mutation rate of the virus. Early on, we weren't too worried about mutation because it was a relatively rare event for this virus. Then we had 100,000+ people getting infected a day just in the US and it was brought home to us—something the virologists already knew—that the more the virus replicates, even a one-in-a-zillion thing is going to start happening pretty damned often. We cannot keep seeing these transmission rates, and we cannot continue to watch people die. So yes, bother. You get a chance, get vaccinated.

Now as to why you still need to exercise precautions after you're protected, here's the story. There's a thing called sterilizing immunity. You see, when you have an immune response to a virus (or a vaccine), you might make high enough levels of so-called neutralizing antibodies that you can completely prevent the virus from even being able to enter your cells. In that case, the virus, being deprived of the use of your cellular machinery, is unable to replicate and just degrades. This is sterilizing immunity: You are protected from getting sick, and you are unable to harbor virus you could shed to make others sick. Holy grail.

On the other hand, the immune response to other viruses or vaccines elicits fewer neutralizing antibodies, so you can tamp a virus down, keeping it from doing enough damage to produce symptoms and eventually eliminating it, but not entirely preventing infection. Since we know asymptomatic infected people can transmit this virus, that scenario would mean vaccination would not necessarily prevent transmission. If you can still transmit even though you're vaccinated, then you must still take precautions so you don't go around making other people—unvaccinated people—sick.

Some vaccines produce sterilizing immunity, and some don't. Many of our "old" vaccines result in sterilizing immunity, but new ones frequently do not. Because we're still learning in the early days, it is not unusual for the first vaccines against a given pathogen to produce lower titers of neutralizing antibodies and then, as time goes on, we get better at targeting just the sort of response we want in later iterations of vaccine. Even when the first vaccines do not yield sterilizing immunity, sometimes later versions do.

The issue at hand today is that we do not yet know whether people are producing sterilizing immunity from the vaccines we have in use. Discovering that during clinical trials would have required having everybody in the clinical trial tested for virus throughout the trial. I'm going to guess that, at the state of testing during those phase 3 trials for the two mRNA vaccines (Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna), the cost and difficulty of this would have slowed down the trials significantly. It's harder to get folks to enroll in a trial if they have to go in every three days or every week (or whatever) to get one of those nasopharyngeal swabs. The greater the burden you put on participants, the harder it is to get them to sign up; and we really, really wanted folks to sign up in a hurry back in the late summer. The result is that trade-offs were made. Another result is that we got our vaccines authorized in record time, which is not a terrible trade-off when you think about it.

Some of these later trials for other vaccine candidates are doing nasal swabs right along. Those less unpleasant, do-it-yourself tests were not so readily available a few months ago, so it's a whole lot easier and cheaper to do this now than it was then. We should have better information on this point for at least some of the upcoming candidates.

The current plan for these already-authorized vaccines is to do some observational studies during the vaccine rollout in order to collect additional data. That should enable scientists to make a determination on whether vaccinated individuals can transmit infection. In the meanwhile, we have to operate as though vaccinated people are able to transmit until we (a) drive community virus counts much farther down, (b) get enough people vaccinated to seriously dent transmission by virtue of the fact that there aren't as many susceptible people to give it to, or (c) get answers to that question. Not forever, but for a while.

CDC is firm that vaccinated people must continue mask-wearing and distancing along with the other precautions. My opinion is worth considerably less than theirs, but for whatever it is worth, I concur.

The other thing that's come up several times over the past couple of weeks as various people I know (and envy) are being vaccinated is questions about side effects from the vaccinations. The general run of things is that the first dose has fewer side effects and the second dose more. A whole lot of people report soreness at the injection site, ranging from "It feels like a bruise" to "I feel like I was hit by a 100

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 7 of 90

mph fastball" to "I thought my arm was going to fall off." Some others report fever, fatigue, body aches in varying degrees. Duration is from a few hours to a couple of days.

Most people have gotten the memo that says these side effects are a sign the vaccine is working. They are. But then the people who feel just dandy after receiving their vaccination are worrying about whether theirs are working. Some have suggested maybe they'll go in and spend \$150 or whatever to have an antibody test to prove to themselves whether it did, indeed work. So let's talk side effects.

While the side effects are, indeed, a sign the vaccine is working, oddly, the lack of side effects is not a sign it is not working. These vaccines do not demonstrate as much of what the fancy-pants experts call reactogenicity in some folks as others, even though those folks are having every bit as good an immune response as the ones who got pretty sick. Turns out reactogenicity (the ability to elicit side effects) and immunogenicity (the ability to elicit an immune response) are not exactly the same thing. Older people (over 55), for example, are far less likely to have side effects, and yet the trial data are clear that these folks are having very strong immune responses.

Bottom line: Some of us will get reassuring, if unpleasant, evidence our vaccine is doing a very nice job, and others have to trust the science that tells you it's working. Only about 15% of recipients have what are classified as "severe" side effects—the kind where you feel pretty terrible for a couple of days. For the rest, it's no big deal. So how can we tell if it's working? Keep in mind that, in trials for these two vaccines with some 36,000 vaccinated individuals, the vast majority of whom did not suffer severe side effects, there were less than 20 who developed symptomatic infections at all and none of them were "severely ill." Compare this with the control (placebo) groups who developed a total of 349 symptomatic infections, 39 of which were classified as severe. Must've been working in all those no-side-effects folks too, huh? That's how you know it is working—because you know it works. That's what the clinical trials were for. Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech vaccines have very similar profiles on this; we'll see about the others as they come online; those are built on different platforms which may have different profiles. I would not waste my money on an antibody test; I'd save it for a gorgeous dinner out just as soon as it is safe to do that.

Kids have been having a tough time during this pandemic, cut off from their peers and also from the learning supports they would get in school every day. Some kids have gone out of their way to find solutions to these problems, and we've talked about those kids from time to time. Here's another one, this one from Texas. Charvi Goyal had been sort of informally tutoring fellow students between classes before the pandemic hit, and after, she realized they were still going to need the help when she didn't see them each day. Her solution was to simply take her tutoring online to touch base with those kids.

This high school junior realized the people she was helping probably weren't going to be the only ones needing that sort of thing, so she persuaded three classmates to join her in setting up something she called TutorScope. They made it available to peers and to younger students, establishing one-on-one relationships with the students they were tutoring. This is the third semester they've been in operation, and they've grown. Now they accept donations from adults, but accept only student tutors. They've received nonprofit status and talked a software company into donating free access to a scheduling app. The whole thing is run by four high school students, Goyal, 17; Jessica Ding, 16, who manages the website and parent e-mails; Angelina Ehara, 17, who coordinates public outreach and social media; and Kaustubh Sonawane, 16, who manages signups. These kids are going to school, tutoring others, and running a company in their spare time.

The program now has a stable of 22 tutors in three states; they have worked with 300 students from all over, including South Korea. They don't provide a lot of training to tutors—mostly just viewing tutoring sessions done by experienced tutors; but they insist their tutors come in with a passion for helping others to learn. All of the tutors are volunteers, and TutorScope does not charge for their services.

One mother told the AP the tutoring for her twins was a life-saver, citing the patience the tutor shows the kids, patience she was struggling to muster while trying to work from home and manage a household herself. She also said she had looked for help for her children, but that cost for private tutoring an hour per week in each subject was more than she could afford.

Goyal explained, "We kind of want to keep the whole 'for students by students' thing really prominent

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 8 of 90

since it provides a sort of solidarity. Because everyone is going through the same thing, you know that your tutor is also having the same struggles learning right now that you are." That seems to be working out pretty well. She talks like a CEO: "Our system is pretty scalable. The only thing we really need to manage (2,000) students would be more tutors." And she says this has given her the opportunity to look outside herself in a difficult time; growing a nonprofit has helped her deal with any potential boredom from being stuck at home. Help someone else; help yourself. Smart kid. Good kid. She deserves a good life going forward.

Be well. We'll talk again.

## No. 2 Northern Rallies Back in Road Win

Bismarck, N.D. – The No. 2 Northern State University men's basketball team tallied their 11th victory of the season over the University of Mary, out-scoring the Marauders by 12 in the second half. Northern tallied four season and career highs in the win.

### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 83, MARY 76

Records: NSU 11-0 (9-0 NSIC), MARY 4-7 (4-5 NSIC)

Attendance: 250

### HOW IT HAPPENED

- Northern kept things interesting, trailing 39-34 at the half, as each team shot just over 48% from the floor
- UMary was potent from the 3-point line in the first, knocking down 7-of-10
- The Wolves lit a fire in the second, hitting 20-of-31 from the floor, including 6-of-7 from beyond the arc
- Northern tallied 49 points in the second half comeback and kicked up their defensive effort holding the Marauders to just 4-of-11 from 3-point land
- The Wolves tallied 50 points in the paint, 12 points off turnovers, 11 second chance and fast break points, and two points off the bench
- They shot 56.5% from the floor and 53.3% from the 3-point line in the game
- Both teams notched 33 rebounds in the game, notching eight offensive boards and 25 defensive
- Northern dished out a season high 27 assists and added seven steals and five blocks
- Parker Fox, Mason Stark, and Andrew Kallman each scored in double figures, shot over 50.0% from the floor, and dished out five or more assists

### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

- Parker Fox: 30 points (season high), 10 rebounds, 59.1 FG%, 4 blocks
- Mason Stark: 17 points, 57.1 FG%, 7 assists (career high), 5 rebounds
- Andrew Kallman: 16 points (season high), 54.5 FG%, 8 assists (season high), 6 rebounds

### UP NEXT

Northern State faces off against the Marauders again at 4 p.m. today. Live video, stat, and audio links are available on the men's basketball schedule on nsuwolves.com.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 9 of 90

## Monson, Krueger win three matches with a pin at Lyman County

Dragr Monson and Lane Krueger scored three pins at the Lyman County quad wrestling meet held Friday. Christian Ehresmann wrestled one match and won by pin, winning the other two by forfeits. Eastern Ekern won one match by forfeit and he won one by a pin. Nick Morris won one by forfeit and he was pinned in a match. Korbin Kucker won a match by a pin, one by a major decision and one by forfeit. Cole Bisbee won a match by a major decision and was pinned in two other matches.

### Groton Area 42, Bennett County 36

- 106: Gavin Risse (Bennett County) wins by forfeit
- 113: Dragr Monson (Groton Area) over Neil Hicks (Bennett County) (Fall 1:20)
- 120: Tyce Gropper (Bennett County) wins by forfeit
- 126: Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) wins by forfeit
- 132: Easten Ekern (Groton Area) over Ethan Harris (Bennett County) (Fall 0:39)
- 138: Nick Morris (Groton Area) wins by forfeit
- 145: Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) over Trey Tetrault (Bennett County) (Fall 1:08)
- 152: Haden Chase Alone (Bennett County) wins by forfeit
- 160: Ty Allen (Bennett County) over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) (Fall 5:41)
- 170: Mason Heath (Bennett County) wins by forfeit
- 182: Ace Hahn (Bennett County) wins by forfeit
- 195: Double Forfeit
- 220: Lane Krueger (Groton Area) over Alex Baker (Bennett County) (Fall 1:20)
- 285: Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) wins by forfeit

### Lyman 54, Groton Area 28

- 106: Braydon Oldenkamp (Lyman) wins by forfeit
- 113: Dragr Monson (Groton Area) over Hunter Collins (Lyman) (Fall 1:37)
- 120: Easton Robbins (Lyman) wins by forfeit
- 126: Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) over Kellen Griffith (Lyman) (Fall 3:30)
- 132: Shilo Mowry (Lyman) over Nick Morris (Groton Area) (Fall 0:05)
- 138: Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) wins by forfeit
- 145: Tristan Penny (Lyman) wins by forfeit
- 152: Rory McManus (Lyman) wins by forfeit
- 160: Tance Wagner (Lyman) wins by forfeit
- 170: Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) over Isaac McManigal (Lyman) (MD 8-0)
- 182: Gunner Johnson (Lyman) wins by forfeit
- 195: Lane Krueger (Groton Area) over Ayden Brakke (Lyman) (Fall 1:19)
- 220: Louie Thiry (Lyman) wins by forfeit
- 285: Demery Hood (Lyman) over Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) (Fall 0:18)

### Marion/Freeman/Freeman Academy/Canistota/Menno 48, Groton Area 34

- 106: Riley Tschetter (M/F/FA/C/M) wins by forfeit
- 113: Dragr Monson (Groton Area) over Keaton Prehiem (M/F/FA/C/M) (Fall 0:51)
- 120: Finley McConniel (M/F/FA/C/M) wins by forfeit
- 126: Easten Ekern (Groton Area) wins by forfeit
- 132: Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) wins by forfeit
- 138: Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) over Zac Saylor (M/F/FA/C/M) (MD 16-2)
- 145: Tim Epp (M/F/FA/C/M) wins by forfeit
- 152: Owen Eitenmiller (M/F/FA/C/M) wins by forfeit
- 160: Ethan Ortman (M/F/FA/C/M) wins by forfeit
- 170: Chris Kessler (M/F/FA/C/M) over Cole Bisbee (Groton Area) (Fall 1:08)
- 182: Grant Anderson (M/F/FA/C/M) wins by forfeit
- 195: Lane Krueger (Groton Area) over Jeremy Waldner (M/F/FA/C/M) (Fall 3:44)
- 220: Clayton Smith (M/F/FA/C/M) wins by forfeit
- 285: Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) wins by forfeit

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 10 of 90

## DAK-XII / NEC CONFERENCE CLASH



## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2021

ALL GAMES PLAYED IN MADISON.

### GIRLS PAIRINGS

Madison Main Gym		Madison Auxiliary Gym	
10:00	Groton Area vs. Tri-Valley	10:45	Tiospa Zina vs. Elk-Point Jefferson
11:45	Redfield vs. Vermillion	12:30	Deuel vs. Dell Rapids
1:30	Sisseton vs. Dakota Valley	2:15	Milbank vs. Lennox
3:15	Parkston vs. Tea Area	4:00	Webster Area vs. Madison
5:00	Hamlin vs. Sioux Falls Christian	5:45	Clark/Willow Lake vs. Canton
6:45	Aberdeen Roncalli vs. West Central		

All games will also be live streamed at the following websites:

The link for the Main Gym will be [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ3qcUvSNwh1QG\\_6hIe\\_WKA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ3qcUvSNwh1QG_6hIe_WKA)

The link for the Auxiliary Gym will be [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQ9DzC9IXocj8\\_H3rr3fGew](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQ9DzC9IXocj8_H3rr3fGew)

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 11 of 90

County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased Among Cases	Community Spread	% RT-PCR Test Positivity Rate (Weekly)
Aurora	450	425	830	15	Moderate	5.00%
Beadle	2619	2522	5572	39	Moderate	4.64%
Bennett	377	363	1136	9	Minimal	0.93%
Bon Homme	1499	1473	1995	24	Minimal	1.56%
Brookings	3459	3298	11133	35	Substantial	3.32%
Brown	4992	4756	12002	79	Substantial	11.35%
Brule	679	663	1801	9	Moderate	7.50%
Buffalo	419	402	870	13	Minimal	16.00%
Butte	960	922	3064	20	Moderate	6.60%
Campbell	126	119	244	4	Moderate	13.64%
Charles Mix	1233	1168	3763	18	Substantial	10.00%
Clark	350	329	913	4	Moderate	0.00%
Clay	1757	1724	4950	15	Substantial	3.20%
Codington	3773	3606	9235	74	Substantial	9.29%
Corson	461	445	979	11	Minimal	13.04%
Custer	728	706	2589	12	Moderate	8.45%
Davison	2909	2806	6188	59	Substantial	4.35%
Day	617	567	1674	27	Substantial	10.53%
Deuel	459	446	1074	8	Moderate	11.63%
Dewey	1390	1353	3715	21	Substantial	6.45%
Douglas	415	398	865	9	Minimal	6.67%
Edmunds	465	439	977	11	Substantial	6.67%
Fall River	511	484	2485	15	Moderate	9.52%
Faulk	341	318	661	13	Moderate	6.67%
Grant	927	853	2099	37	Substantial	18.75%
Gregory	507	466	1184	27	Moderate	0.00%
Haakon	242	231	508	9	Minimal	0.00%
Hamlin	671	615	1675	38	Moderate	8.06%
Hand	320	310	761	6	Minimal	4.55%
Hanson	341	325	671	4	Moderate	22.58%
Harding	91	89	173	1	None	0.00%
Hughes	2218	2137	6205	33	Substantial	2.01%
Hutchinson	763	717	2224	23	Moderate	8.33%

# Groton Daily Independent

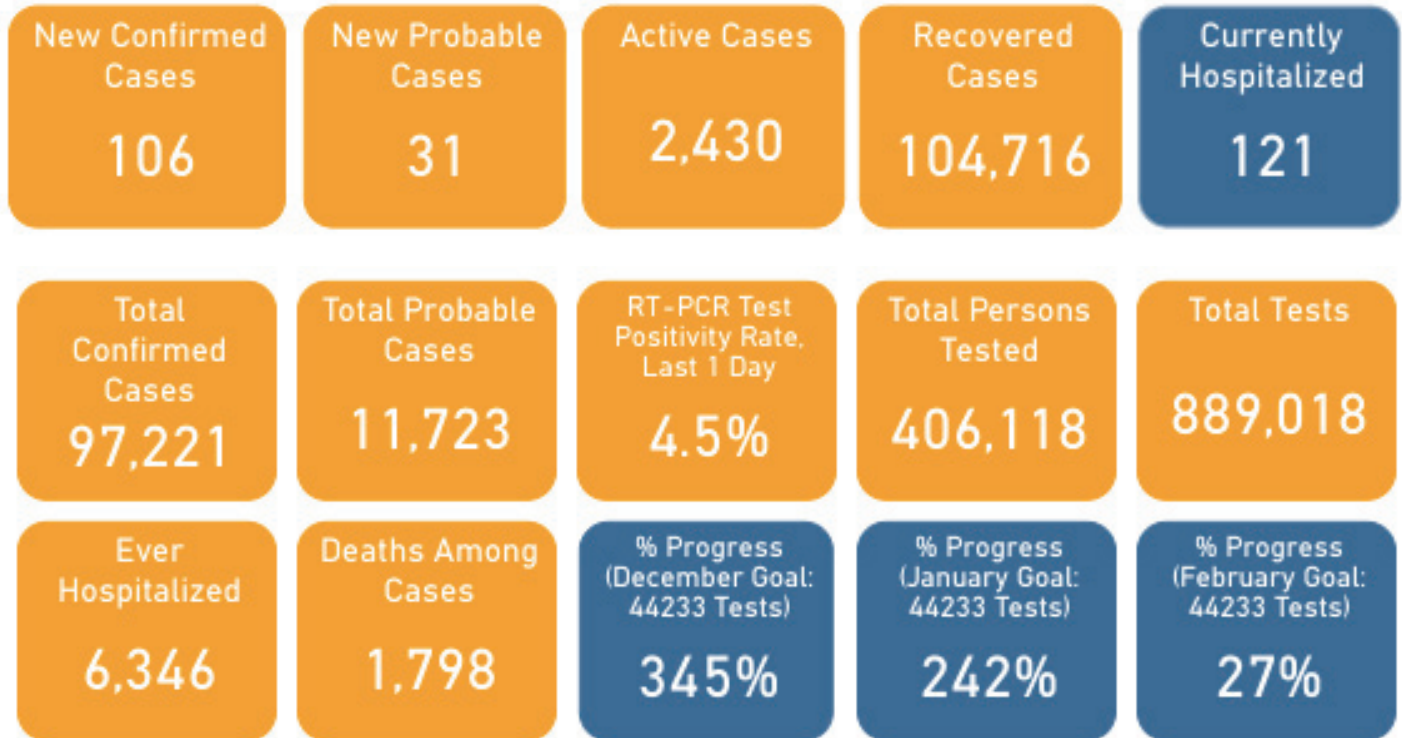
Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 12 of 90

Hyde	135	133	390	1	None	0.00%
Jackson	268	253	887	13	None	0.00%
Jerauld	268	246	534	16	Minimal	8.33%
Jones	82	81	208	0	Minimal	7.14%
Kingsbury	609	581	1545	13	Moderate	6.00%
Lake	1148	1095	3087	17	Substantial	5.88%
Lawrence	2763	2685	8155	44	Moderate	7.19%
Lincoln	7504	7265	19118	75	Substantial	10.27%
Lyman	590	576	1818	10	Moderate	7.69%
Marshall	289	274	1110	5	Moderate	4.84%
McCook	723	688	1531	24	Moderate	13.95%
McPherson	236	219	530	4	Moderate	2.52%
Meade	2488	2403	7274	31	Substantial	10.38%
Mellette	241	236	707	2	Minimal	8.70%
Miner	269	244	542	7	Moderate	28.57%
Minnehaha	27194	26273	73629	315	Substantial	8.64%
Moody	604	575	1678	16	Substantial	6.67%
Oglala Lakota	2040	1960	6466	44	Substantial	10.78%
Pennington	12464	12019	37334	175	Substantial	8.97%
Perkins	338	312	748	12	Substantial	27.50%
Potter	353	335	792	3	Moderate	8.70%
Roberts	1116	1060	3944	35	Substantial	9.63%
Sanborn	325	317	654	3	Minimal	3.39%
Spink	779	726	2026	25	Substantial	12.36%
Stanley	320	309	871	2	Moderate	0.00%
Sully	135	131	290	3	Minimal	0.00%
Todd	1213	1171	4036	25	Substantial	4.27%
Tripp	658	635	1420	15	Moderate	6.98%
Turner	1044	980	2565	50	Moderate	2.74%
Union	1886	1782	5811	39	Substantial	9.91%
Walworth	707	672	1758	15	Moderate	3.75%
Yankton	2751	2682	8830	28	Substantial	4.37%
Ziebach	335	323	848	9	Minimal	0.00%
Unassigned	0	0	1823	0		

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 13 of 90

## South Dakota



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

Age Range with Years	# of Cases	# of Deaths Among Cases
0-9 years	4252	0
10-19 years	12175	0
20-29 years	19547	4
30-39 years	17922	15
40-49 years	15542	34
50-59 years	15346	104
60-69 years	12461	237
70-79 years	6664	407
80+ years	5035	997

### SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths Among Cases
Female	56847	854
Male	52097	944

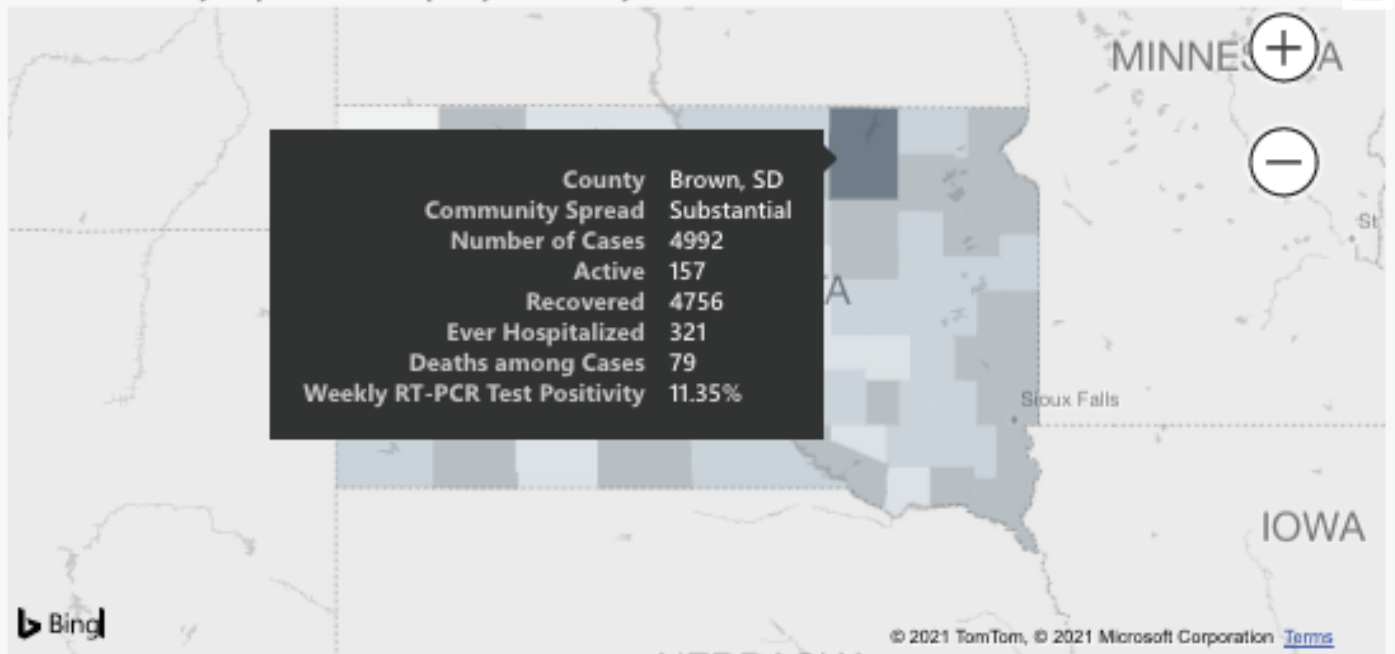
# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 14 of 90

## Brown County

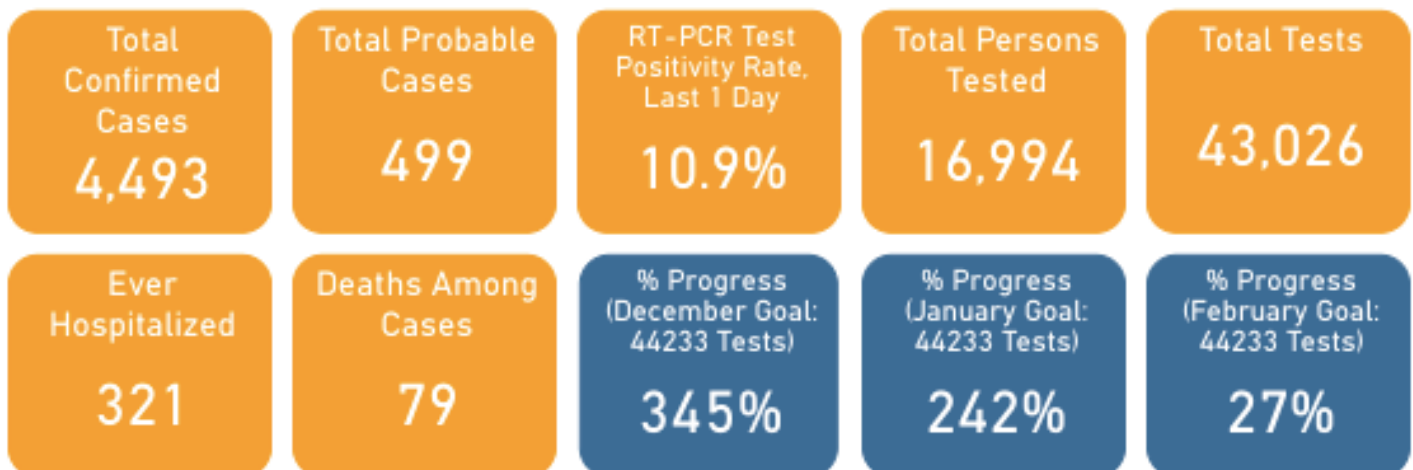


### Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread: None Minimal Moderate Substantial

Hover over a county to see its details, or click county to update the orange boxes.



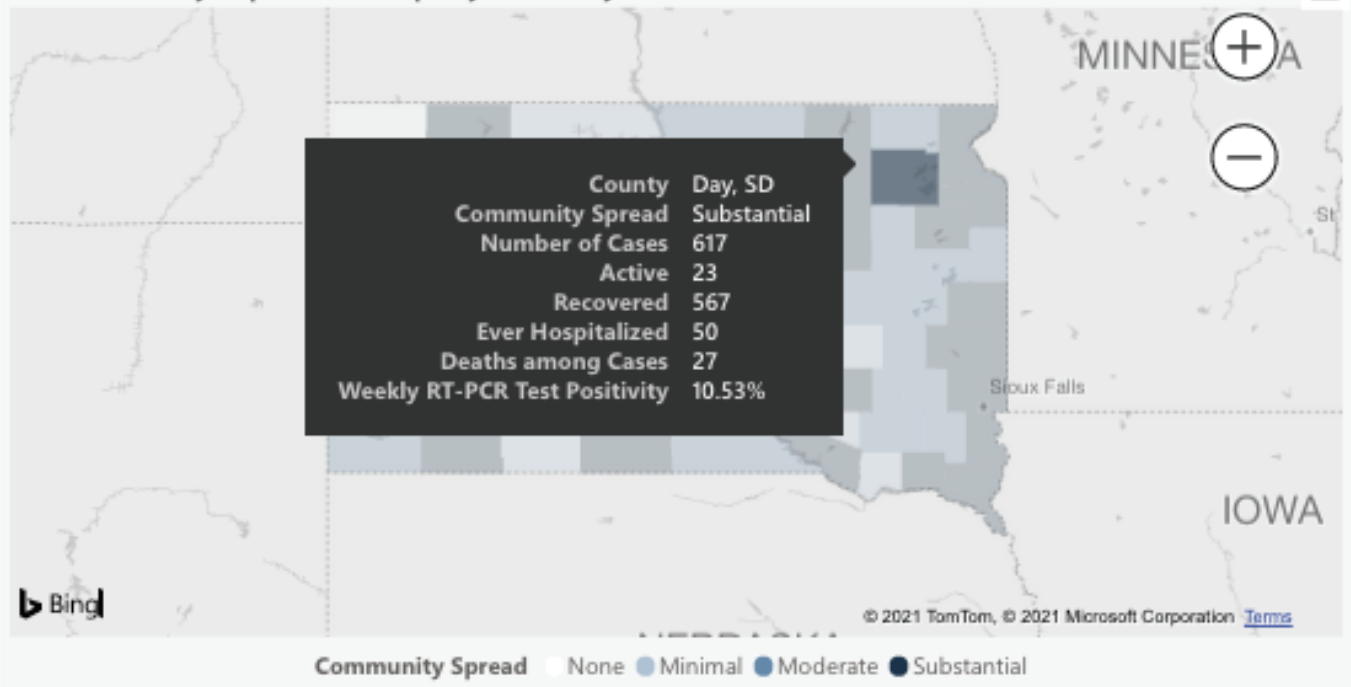
# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 15 of 90

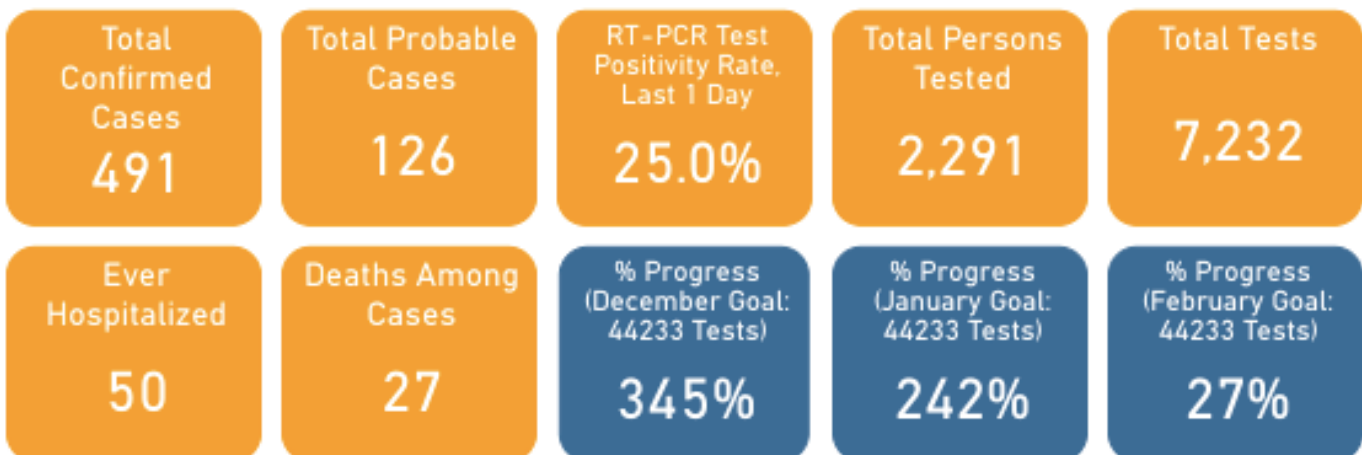
## Day County



Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Hover over a county to see its details, or click county to update the orange boxes.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 16 of 90

## Vaccinations

Total Doses Administered

115,783

Total Persons Administered a Vaccine

80,700

Manufacturer	Number of Doses
Moderna	61,046
Pfizer	54,737

Doses	Number of Recipients
Moderna - 1 dose	26,406
Moderna - Series Complete	17,320
Pfizer - 1 dose	19,211
Pfizer - Series Complete	17,763

County	# Doses	# Persons (1 dose)	# Persons (2 doses)	Total # Persons
Aurora	216	110	53	163
Beadle	2225	1,007	609	1,616
Bennett*	192	118	37	155
Bon Homme*	1087	297	395	692
Brookings	3171	1,237	967	2,204
Brown	5324	1,828	1,748	3,576
Brule*	726	374	176	550
Buffalo*	72	64	4	68
Butte	638	382	128	510
Campbell	459	95	182	277
Charles Mix*	1010	374	318	692
Clark	444	240	102	342
Clay	1839	721	559	1,280
Codington*	3935	1,635	1,150	2,785
Corson*	69	51	9	60
Custer*	864	458	203	661
Davison	3010	674	1,168	1,842
Day*	856	390	233	623
Deuel	522	248	137	385
Dewey*	181	89	46	135
Douglas*	476	176	150	326
Edmunds	409	181	114	295
Fall River*	955	515	220	735
Faulk	278	210	34	244
Grant*	960	254	353	607
Gregory*	623	231	196	427
Haakon*	231	79	76	155



# Groton Daily Independent

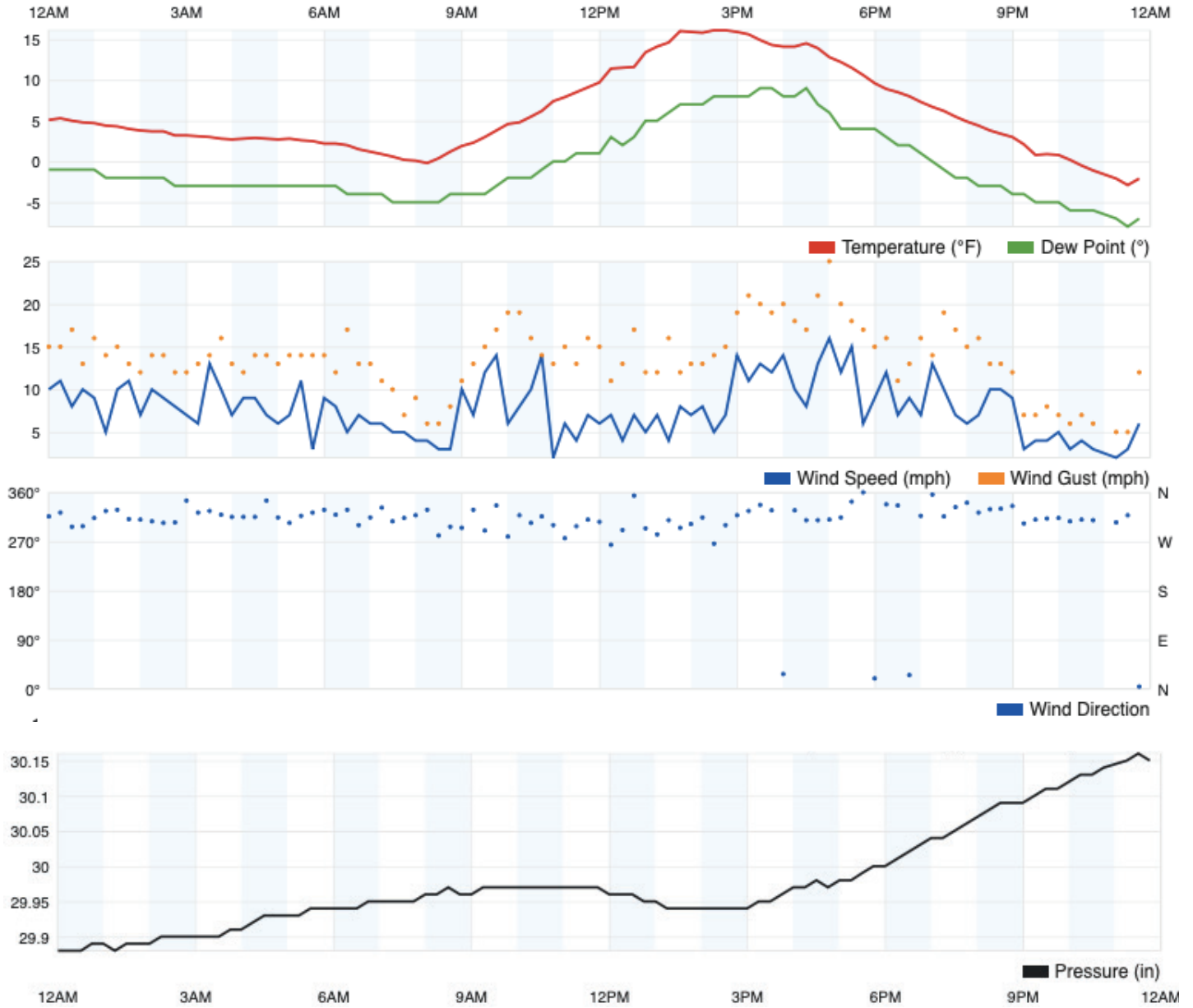
Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 17 of 90

Hamlin	626	280	173	453
Hand	484	200	142	342
Hanson	151	35	58	93
Harding	25	19	3	22
Hughes*	2553	1,301	626	1,927
Hutchinson*	1300	368	466	834
Hyde*	235	53	91	144
Jackson*	156	86	35	121
Jerauld	226	92	67	159
Jones*	249	99	75	174
Kingsbury	768	296	236	532
Lake	1404	636	384	1,020
Lawrence	2425	1,635	395	2,030
Lincoln	11306	3,218	4,044	7,262
Lyman*	252	156	48	204
Marshall*	461	215	123	338
McCook	781	331	225	556
McPherson	74	34	20	54
Meade*	1898	1,082	408	1,490
Mellette*	16	4	6	10
Miner	304	154	75	229
Minnehaha	31299	10,553	10,373	20,926
Moody*	548	216	166	382
Oglala Lakota*	52	34	9	43
Pennington*	12602	6,550	3,026	9,576
Perkins*	145	99	23	122
Potter	254	96	79	175
Roberts*	1314	878	218	1,096
Sanborn	333	181	76	257
Spink	1210	332	439	771
Stanley*	363	179	92	271
Sully	95	57	19	76
Todd*	65	31	17	48
Tripp*	808	332	238	570
Turner	1491	537	477	1,014
Union	749	361	194	555
Walworth*	728	336	196	532
Yankton	4342	1,564	1,389	2,953
Ziebach*	29	17	6	23
Other	2890	932	979	1,911

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 18 of 90






## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



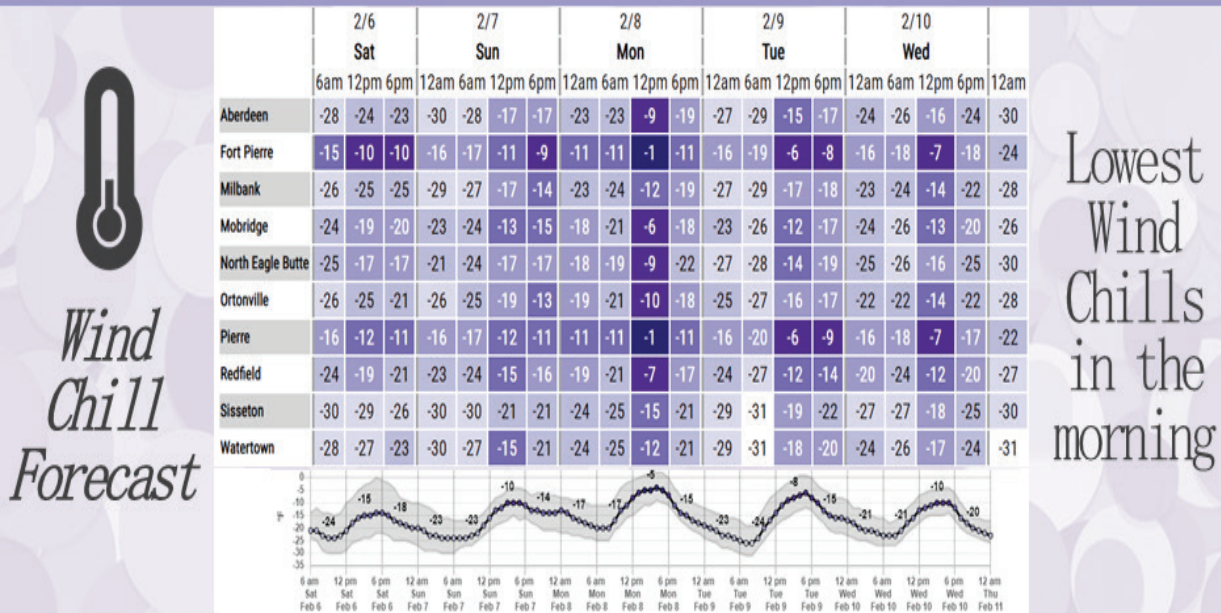
# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 19 of 90

**Wind Chill Advisory**

Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
				
Chance Flurries	Partly Cloudy	Cold	Mostly Cloudy	Cold
<b>High: -1 °F</b>	<b>Low: -15 °F</b>	<b>High: 1 °F</b>	<b>Low: -10 °F</b>	<b>High: 6 °F</b>

## Continued Cold with Bitterly Cold Wind Chills



### Cold Weather Safety

Dress in Layers

Cover Exposed Skin

Limit Outdoor Time

Don't forget about Pets

Check vehicle Safety Kit



National Weather Service  
**Aberdeen, SD**  
Updated: 2/6/2021 3:24AM Central




Much below average temperatures will continue through next week, as an Arctic air mass remains firmly entrenched across the region. North to northwesterly winds around 5 to 15 mph will combine with the cold air to produce wind chills in the teens below to around 30 degrees below zero each morning. These wind chills could result in frostbite on exposed skin in as little as 10 to 30 minutes. To stay safe in bitterly cold conditions: Dress in layers, cover exposed skin, and limit outdoor time.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 20 of 90

## FROSTBITE

A victim is often unaware of frostbite because frozen tissue is numb.



**Signs & Symptoms**


- Redness or pain in any skin area may be the first sign of frostbite.

**Other signs include:**

- a white or grayish-yellow skin area
- skin that feels unusually firm or waxy
- numbness

## HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia often occurs at very cold temperatures, but can occur at cool temperatures (above 40°F), if a person is wet (from rain, sweat or cold water) and becomes chilled.




**Signs & Symptoms**

**Adults:**


- shivering
- exhaustion
- confusion
- fumbling hands
- memory loss
- slurred speech
- drowsiness

**Infants:**

- bright red, cold skin
- very low energy



**If a person's temperature is below 95° get medical attention immediately.**



**Wind Chill Chart**  
Wind (mph)

Calrn	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60
40	36	34	32	30	29	28	28	27	26	26	25	25
35	31	27	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	19	18	17
30	25	21	19	17	16	15	14	13	12	12	11	10
25	19	15	13	11	9	8	7	6	5	4	4	3
20	13	9	6	4	3	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-3	-4
15	7	3	0	-2	-4	-5	-7	-8	-9	-10	-11	-11
10	1	-4	-7	-9	-11	-12	-14	-15	-16	-17	-18	-19
5	-5	-10	-13	-15	-17	-19	-21	-22	-23	-24	-25	-26
0	-11	-16	-19	-22	-24	-26	-27	-29	-30	-31	-32	-33
-5	-16	-22	-26	-29	-31	-33	-34	-36	-37	-38	-39	-40
-10	-22	-28	-32	-35	-37	-39	-41	-43	-44	-45	-46	-48
-15	-28	-35	-39	-42	-44	-46	-48	-50	-51	-52	-54	-55
-20	-34	-41	-45	-48	-51	-53	-55	-57	-58	-60	-61	-62
-25	-40	-47	-51	-55	-58	-60	-62	-64	-65	-67	-68	-69
-30	-46	-53	-58	-61	-64	-67	-69	-71	-72	-74	-75	-76
-35	-52	-59	-64	-68	-71	-73	-76	-78	-79	-81	-82	-84
-40	-57	-66	-71	-74	-78	-80	-82	-84	-86	-88	-89	-91
-45	-63	-72	-77	-81	-84	-87	-89	-91	-93	-95	-97	-98



**Frostbite Times**

■	30 minutes
■	10 minutes
■	5 minutes



**Do you know the symptoms of frostbite and hypothermia? An extended period of cold weather and low wind chills will result in the potential for frostbite in as little as 30 minutes most mornings through the upcoming work week.**

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 21 of 90

## Today in Weather History

February 6, 1959: A man from Gary in Deuel County was in critical condition with frozen hands, feet, and arms after spending the night in his car in subzero weather.

Record warmth occurred across all of central, north-central, and northeast South Dakota as well as west-central Minnesota with highs in the mid-50s to the lower 60s. Aberdeen, Kennebec, Mobridge, Pierre, Sisseton, Timber Lake, Watertown, and Wheaton all set record highs on this date in 1987. Pierre recorded the warmest temperature for the day with 62 degrees.

1958: The Munich air disaster occurred when British European Airways Flight 609 crashed on its third attempt to take off from a slush-covered runway at Munich-Riem Airport, West Germany. On the plane was the Manchester United football team, nicknamed the "Busby Babes," along with supporters and journalists. Twenty of the 44 on the aircraft died at the scene. The injured, some unconscious, were taken to the Rechts der Isar Hospital in Munich where three more died, resulting in 23 fatalities with 21 survivors.

1978: A massive nor'easter buried the cities of the northeastern U.S. Storm totals included 18 inches in New York City, 16 inches at Philadelphia, and 14 inches in Baltimore. The Boston MA area received 25 to 30 inches in "The Great New England Blizzard," and the mayor outlawed travel in the city for an entire week.

2010: On February 5-6, a severe nor'easter, commonly referred to as Snowmageddon, impacted the east coast from North Carolina to New York. Some snowfall amounts include; 32.9 inches at Washington Dulles International Airport; 28.5 inches at the Philadelphia International Airport; 21.1 inches at the Pittsburgh International Airport; 18.2 in Atlantic City; Trace in Central Park.

1807 - It was the famous "Cold Friday" in the Midwest and South. The temperature did not rise above zero in Ohio and Kentucky. (David Ludlum)

1978 - A massive nor'easter buried the cities of the northeastern U.S. Storm totals included 18 inches at New York City, 16 inches at Philadelphia, and 14 inches at Baltimore. The Boston MA area received 25 to 30 inches in "The Great New England Blizzard" and the mayor outlawed travel in the city for an entire week. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Brownsville, TX, was deluged with seven inches of rain in just two hours, and flooding in some parts of the city was worse than that caused by Hurricane Beulah in 1967. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Arctic cold invaded the south central and eastern U.S. Sixteen cities reported new record low temperatures for the date. Squalls in the Great Lakes Region produced a foot of snow at Arcade NY in three hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Forty-one cities in the western U.S. reported new record low temperatures for the date. Lows of -30 degrees at Ely NV and -33 degrees at Richfield UT were all-time records. Morning lows of 31 degrees at San Francisco CA and -15 degrees at Reno NV were records for February. Logan Canyon UT was the cold spot in the nation with a low of 54 degrees below zero, and Craig CO hit 51 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - A second cold front brought more heavy snow to the high elevations of Oregon, with 12 inches reported at Sunset Summit. Ten inches of snow blanketed Crater Lake and Mount Bachelor. Heavy snow also blanketed northeastern Nevada and parts of Washington State. In Nevada, up to a foot of snow was reported between Spring Creek and Lamoille. Stevens Pass WA received 14 inches of snow in 24 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

# Groton Daily Independent

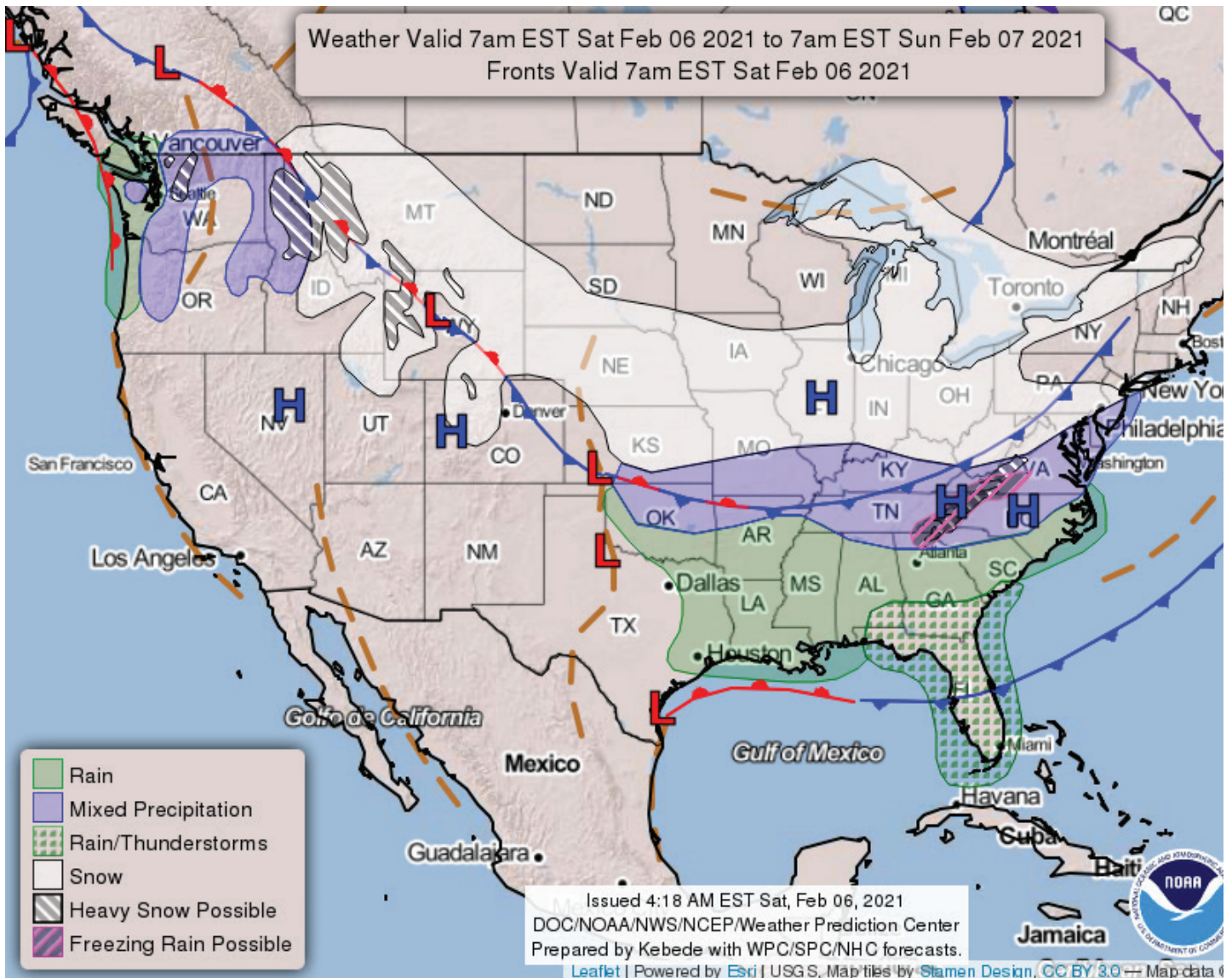
Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 22 of 90

## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp:** 16.1 °F  
**Low Temp:** -2.9 °F  
**Wind:** 25 mph  
**Precip:**

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 58° in 1987  
**Record Low:** -33° in 1907  
**Average High:** 25°F  
**Average Low:** 4°F  
**Average Precip in Feb.:** 0.08  
**Precip to date in Feb.:** 0.14  
**Average Precip to date:** 0.55  
**Precip Year to Date:** 0.14  
**Sunset Tonight:** 5:48 p.m.  
**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 7:46 a.m.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 23 of 90



## LIFE'S ULTIMATE QUESTION

Two of the world's most famous theologians, Karl Barth and Paul Tillich, were having a debate about the important questions people have about life. Tillich said that theology should answer the psychological questions people have about their "felt needs." Barth responded with a loud "No!"

He continued his objection to that idea stating that "the world does not know the right questions to ask. "God," he continued, "must reveal the right questions to man as well as the right answers!"

In Psalm 15 God revealed both the right questions and the right answers through David. "Who," David wanted to know, "may live in the presence of God? Who can stand before Him? Who can know Him now and forever? And who can go to heaven?"

David asked questions that force us to look at both our attitudes and our actions. They cover our walk as well as our works. They also address the fact that it is not possible to remain neutral in our relationship with God. We are either growing closer to Him or drifting farther away from Him.

David did not ask any superficial questions of God. He was serious as well as sincere. He was not only concerned about his journey through life but about his ultimate destination – abiding with Him forever.

Jesus addressed the necessity of "abiding" in Him every day. "Those who abide in me," He said, "will produce much fruit. But apart from me, you can do nothing."

Prayer: Help us, Father, to abide in You and produce fruit that is consistent with Christian living and service. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Who may worship in your sanctuary, Lord? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill? Psalm 15:1

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 24 of 90

*American Standard*  
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## News from the Associated Press

### Staying in shape during COVID-19 pandemic can be challenging

By STEPHEN PEREZ Sioux Falls Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The early months of the COVID-19 pandemic threw Jaden Fisher's routine into a spiral as it made getting to the gym more of a chore than a choice.

"I used to work out a lot before, but when it hit I found I had no motivation to get into the gym, so I gained some weight," Fisher said.

In the middle of the pandemic, Fisher was in a different state, and her opportunities to hit the gym were limited. She said it wasn't until after she moved back to South Dakota from Georgia when she could recommit to the routine she had previously.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced gyms to close and people to stay indoors during the spring and summer of 2020, and many gained weight as a result of the reduced activity.

In a study published in the journal *Obesity*, 27.5% of respondents reported gaining weight during the pandemic, while 33.4% of those who are obese gained weight, the Sioux Falls Argus Leader reported.

Although overall scores for healthy eating increased slightly because of less eating out and increased cooking, sedentary behaviors increased and physical activity declined, the study found.

"I don't think it's a surprise that these new normals of the pandemic have made it more difficult to keep up with healthy habits," said Tiffany Krogstead, a dietician at Sanford Health.

During a time of decreased physical activity, a rise in stress levels and a lack of motivation, it can be easy to fall into a complacent pattern of doing nothing, Krogstead said.

Krogstead also added that those stressful times can lead to a variety of coping mechanisms, including food, which can make weight gain worse.

Although businesses were not forced to close during the spring of 2020 in South Dakota, many gyms did. And many stayed away from those that were open out of an abundance of caution.

But moving your body and staying active can be done from your own living room. Krogstead said that getting a recommended 30 minutes of exercise a day does not need to be intense to still be effective.

"Even getting up and going for a walk, it doesn't have to be much," Krogstead said. "A mid-morning break and a mid-afternoon break and then maybe in the evening, just try to get some activity throughout the day."

Sometimes it is not all that easy to find the motivation to keep up with normal routines at home.

For 23-year old Lucas Anderson of Sioux Falls, he despised every moment of working out from home because he said it didn't mirror the intensity from his gym workouts.

"I did not enjoy it all, because it was hard to feel the same atmosphere as being at the gym," he said. "I can definitely say I did not work out as much or as hard from home."

Working out from home does not have to be an exact replica of your pre-COVID routine at the gym. Walking, running or biking can present a challenge and it is even possible to maintain during the winter months with the proper gear and preparation.

But for those who do not want to get out during the winter, purchasing inexpensive workout items online such as resistance bands and pull-up bars could help, according to tips from the Cleveland Clinic.

Cleveland Clinic notes that even utilizing items around the house or performing movements that do not require equipment helps, as well as using online home workout videos on YouTube.

Another important aspect in remaining healthy and to keep weight gain under control is to remember to monitor your daily food intake.

Krogstead recommends focusing on portion sizes, meal planning and avoiding sugary food to stick with your plan to achieve the goals set.

Snacking and overeating during the early stages of the pandemic was one of the hardest parts for Anderson.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 26 of 90

"I ate whatever was around," Anderson said. "I have been trying to make up for it by coming back to the gym a bit more often as well as eating different things, but you can only do as much as you can at times."

Through all the uncertain times, everyone can choose to stay in their state of comfort or push the limit and turn their life to where they want it to be, Fisher said.

"This year is what I am going to make it to be," Fisher said. "I was unhappy, and the only thing that was going to make a difference was me getting out there and doing it."

## Plitzuweit lifts South Dakota past S. Dakota St. 64-56

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — A.J. Plitzuweit had 19 points as South Dakota extended its winning streak to 10 games, beating South Dakota State 64-56 on Friday night.

Stanley Umude had 14 points and seven rebounds for South Dakota (11-6, 9-0 Summit League). Kruz Perrott-Hunt added 11 points. Tasos Kamateros had six points and 16 rebounds.

South Dakota State scored 23 points in the first half, a season low for the team.

Noah Freidel had 18 points for the Jackrabbits (10-4, 4-1), whose five-game win streak ended with the loss. Baylor Scheierman added 15 points and 16 rebounds. Douglas Wilson had 10 points.

The Coyotes improve to 2-0 against the Jackrabbits on the season. South Dakota defeated South Dakota State 91-78 on Dec. 12.

For more AP college basketball coverage: <https://apnews.com/Collegebasketball> and [http://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](http://twitter.com/AP_Top25)

This was generated by Automated Insights, <http://www.automatedinsights.com/ap>, using data from STATS LLC, <https://www.stats.com>

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Friday:

Mega Millions

14-17-28-29-44, Mega Ball: 2, Megaplier: 4

(fourteen, seventeen, twenty-eight, twenty-nine, forty-four; Mega Ball: two; Megaplier: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$54 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$30 million

## Friday's Scores

By The Associated Press

BOYS BASKETBALL=

Avon 50, Bon Homme 40

Belle Fourche 61, Douglas 60

Bridgewater-Emery 52, Gayville-Volin 37

Brookings 52, Rapid City Stevens 45

Chamberlain 65, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 51

Colome 74, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 56

Custer 57, Hot Springs 50

Ethan 66, Kimball/White Lake 43

Florence/Henry 70, Tri-State 38

Garretson 47, McCook Central/Montrose 46

Hamlin 55, Redfield 53

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 27 of 90

Irene-Wakonda 54, Centerville 53  
Kadoka Area 54, Wall 30  
Mitchell 61, Sturgis Brown 34  
New Underwood 57, Edgemont 50  
Parkston 67, Gregory 35  
Potter County 67, Sully Buttes 37  
Rapid City Christian 57, Chadron, Neb. 43  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 63, Aberdeen Central 52  
Sisseton 62, Webster 19  
Spearfish 51, Huron 48  
St. Thomas More 67, Winner 63  
Tiospa Zina Tribal 64, Deuel 49  
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 77, Marty Indian 51  
Vermillion 62, Lennox 32  
Viborg-Hurley 79, Freeman Academy/Marion 49  
Warner 42, Langford 35  
Watertown 64, Rapid City Central 62  
LMC Tournament=  
Semifinal=  
Faith 57, Harding County 40  
Timber Lake 62, Lemmon 57  
GIRLS BASKETBALL=  
Aberdeen Central 50, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 49, OT  
Andes Central/Dakota Christian 49, Colome 39  
Belle Fourche 51, Douglas 15  
Bridgewater-Emery 57, Gayville-Volin 22  
Colman-Egan 53, Estelline/Hendricks 40  
Custer 58, Hot Springs 43  
DeSmet 50, Elkton-Lake Benton 34  
Deubrook 53, Arlington 33  
Ethan 52, Kimball/White Lake 34  
Flandreau 69, Sioux Valley 43  
Florence/Henry 72, Tri-State 35  
Howard 62, Canistota 39  
Huron 42, Spearfish 37  
Milbank 65, Britton-Hecla 25  
Mitchell 60, Sturgis Brown 43  
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 60, Chamberlain 41  
Parkston 64, Gregory 33  
Rapid City Central 41, Watertown 32  
Rapid City Christian 52, Chadron, Neb. 27  
Rapid City Stevens 58, Brookings 31  
St. Thomas More 67, Winner 63  
Sully Buttes 61, Potter County 25  
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 65, Marty Indian 47  
Viborg-Hurley 72, Freeman Academy/Marion 22  
Wall 52, Kadoka Area 40  
West Central 65, Madison 36  
Wilmot 44, Great Plains Lutheran 38

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

## No. 23 South Dakota State women win 11th straight

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Myah Selland had 17 points, five rebounds and nine assists, Tylee Irwin added 12 points and seven rebounds, and No. 23 South Dakota State beat South Dakota 64-45 on Friday night for its 11th straight victory.

South Dakota State snapped a three-game losing streak in the series. Last season, the Coyotes swept the regular-season series and claimed the Summit League tournament crown — marking the first time one of the teams had done so since 2013.

Sydney Stapleton scored 11 points for South Dakota State (14-2, 7-0 Summit League).

The Jackrabbits held the Coyotes to 27.3% shooting in the first half to help build a 33-24 lead. Stapleton scored all of her points in the first half, making three straight 3-pointers. The Jackrabbits outscored the Coyotes 21-9 in the third quarter to extend their lead to 21 points.

Liv Korngable scored 16 points and Hannah Sjerven had 10 points and 15 rebounds for South Dakota (10-4, 6-1).

The in-state rivals will face each other on back-to-back nights for the first time in the history of the series on Saturday.

More AP women's basketball: <https://apnews.com/hub/womens-college-basketball> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](https://twitter.com/AP_Top25)

## Senators reject bill banning birth certificate sex changes

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota Senate committee on Friday unanimously rejected a bill that would have banned transgender people from changing the sex designation on their birth certificates.

The bill was passed by the House last month in a vote that divided Republicans who dominate the Legislature. But GOP senators on a Health and Human Services Committee all opposed its passage, saying it was unnecessary and would have made life much harder for transgender people.

Law changes that affect transgender people have become perennial battles in the South Dakota legislature. The House is currently considering a bill that would prohibit transgender females from participating in school sports leagues for girls. But such proposals have struggled to clear the Senate.

Several transgender people who have had their birth certificates amended told senators that the step was "vital" to their ability to apply for jobs, mortgages and other financial services.

Scott Dover, a transgender man from South Dakota, said he once had difficulty cashing a check at a bank because his driver's license did not match his gender identity.

"The bill is clearly discriminatory and fueled by disinformation," Dover said.

Rep. Fred Deutsch, who introduced the bill, said he proposed it after hearing that a judge had expressed that South Dakota law is not clear on the process for changing sex designations on birth certificates. He argued that sex is an immutable trait and it was important for record-keeping to keep birth certificates the same.

Other conservative lawmakers cast the bill as a proxy-battle for much broader social issues.

"Is objective truth still alive and is it still important?" said Bethany Soye, a Republican from Sioux Falls.

But advocates for transgender people warned that even if the bill became law, it would spark a costly legal battle. In 2018, a similar policy in Idaho was struck down by a federal judge as unconstitutional.

For the transgender people who spoke out against the bill, it amounted to another fight to receive equal treatment in South Dakota.

Elliot Vogue, a 17-year-old transgender boy had traveled to the Capitol last year to speak against a different bill brought by Deutsch that would have banned puberty blockers and gender confirmation surgery for

transgender children under 16. He spoke again this year, smiling in relief as he saw Deutch's bill rejected by the same Senate committee in the same room as last year.

Vogue is starting the process of changing his birth certificate and said it was frustrating to see some lawmakers continually try to interfere in his life.

"I'm 17," he said. "I need to be living my life worrying about college and not my rights being taken away."

## Republicans reject effort to disclose Noem's security costs

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A GOP-led South Dakota House committee rejected a proposal Friday from a fellow Republican that would've required Gov. Kristi Noem and other state officials to disclose taxpayer funds used for their security.

Noem, who has traveled the country with a security detail from the state's Highway Patrol as she campaigned for Donald Trump and raised money for her own gubernatorial committee, pressured Republicans to drop the matter. Her public safety secretary, Craig Price, argued that revealing state funds used for security, even a total figure over the course of a year, would compromise the governor's safety because would-be criminals could discern the number of state troopers protecting the governor.

But Rep. Taffy Howard, a Republican from Rapid City, said the bill was a bipartisan effort to bring transparency to how taxpayer funds are used. Howard, a fiscal conservative who works on a legislative committee that crafts the state budget, said she was "dumbfounded" when she learned that the Department of Public Safety would not release how much money it has spent protecting the governor. She has found 14 other states that release the amounts of state funds used protecting the governor.

"Why is conservative South Dakota acting more secretive than Washington state?" Howard asked a committee of House lawmakers evaluating the bill.

Several people from across the state called into the House State Affairs Committee to testify, saying they were supportive of Noem's politics, but wanted to know how much the state spent protecting the governor.

"I simply don't see how providing a total cost of the dollars incurred threatens that security," said Tim Waltner, a former president of the South Dakota Newspaper Association.

But Republicans on the committee sided with Price's argument that telling the public the amount would "put lives in danger." The Highway Patrol currently submits a total annual budget for approval by legislators, but that figure does not spell out how much is used for its various responsibilities.

South Dakota law does not allow state funds to be used for influencing political campaigns, but Price said that the Highway Patrol is tasked with protecting the governor no matter where she is or what she is doing.

The committee voted along party lines to dismiss the proposal, with the two Democrats objecting as they argued revealing the security disbursements would not significantly compromise her security.

The governor's office has declined records requests from The Associated Press and other media outlets to show how much the state spent on security while she traveled out-of-state last year. She has said she does not discuss security matters.

Two Republicans who had initially signed on to support Howard's bill had withdrawn their names from supporting it after receiving pressure from Noem, Howard said. A mass texting campaign attacking Howard was also launched. The governor has said she had nothing to do with the text messages.

As Noem's profile among conservatives continues to rise nationwide and she stays in the conversation of potential presidential picks, her travel schedule is likely to stay active. She is slated later this month to travel to both Florida to speak at the Conservative Political Action Conference and to Texas for a fundraiser.

But Howard plans to keep up the push for more transparency in the use of taxpayer dollars, even if she gets pushback.

"Just because we're the same party doesn't mean we shouldn't be looking into expenditures," she said.

## Biden's dilemma in virus aid fight: Go big or go bipartisan

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden's push for a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill is forcing an internal reckoning that pits his instincts to work toward a bipartisan deal against the demands of an urgent crisis and his desire to deliver for those who helped elect him.

His bipartisan bona fides have been a defining feature of his political career, first as a Senate deal-maker, later as he led legislative negotiations for the Obama administration when vice president and finally during his successful 2020 campaign.

But the scope of the multiple crises confronting the nation now, along with the lessons Democrats learned from four years of Republican obstructionism during Barack Obama presidency, seem to be pushing Biden toward quick action on the coronavirus aid bill, even if Republicans get left behind.

"I have told both Republicans and Democrats that's my preference: to work together. But if I have to choose between getting help right now to Americans who are hurting so badly and getting bogged down in a lengthy negotiation or compromising on a bill that's up to the crisis, that's an easy choice," Biden said Friday. "I'm going to help the American people who are hurting now."

So far, the administration has proceeded on two parallel tracks.

One featured a public show of trying to reach across the political aisle, with bipartisan rhetoric and a White House invitation for Republican senators. Their housewarming gift was a proposal more than \$1 trillion short of what Biden wanted.

At the same time, Biden has insisted on the need for a sizable package to address the deadly pandemic. The administration has encouraged Democratic senators to be prepared to go it alone, to ready a plan that combines money to address the virus and vaccines with money to fulfill a progressive agenda that includes a higher federal minimum wage.

Not out of the realm of possibility is a third option — having even one or two Republicans sign on to the bigger bill, giving it a veneer of bipartisanship. But it's more likely that the White House will need to choose between the two extremes.

That could send a clear signal about Biden's governing priorities and potentially set a template for how he will navigate a deeply polarized Washington going forward.

"President Biden's got some pretty big tests in front of him when it comes to domestic policy. He is someone who prides himself on his deal-making skills and yet he may have to take a page out of the LBJ-style playbook and jam some things through both the House and the Senate to get anything done," said Jim Manley, a longtime aide to former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

For Biden, working with Republicans is as much a point of personal pride as it is good politics.

He is known for his love of schmoozing and personal outreach to lawmakers after 36 years in the Senate and eight more working with Capitol Hill as vice president. He frequently spoke about bipartisanship during the campaign, and that political brand helped him win 62% of moderates and 8% of Republican voters in November, according to data from AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 110,000 voters nationwide.

If Biden loses that moderate profile — and the goodwill from Republicans who've known him in the past as an honest deal-maker — there's a risk, Manley said, that "it's going to poison the well for the future."

GOP Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio, one of the lawmakers invited to meet with Biden at the White House, warned as much during a floor speech this past week.

"If we can't come together as Republicans and Democrats, as we have proven we can, time and time again over the last year, what can we come together on?" Portman asked. "Wouldn't it make it harder for us then to find that common ground on things like infrastructure investments, on things like retirement security?"

But Democrats say they have learned some key lessons from Obama's first term about bipartisanship in the face of crisis.

Biden was tasked with steering the White House's overtures to Congress in dealing with the financial meltdown. For months, Biden focused his efforts on his former GOP colleagues, in the end to get the

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 31 of 90

backing of just three Republicans.

The process of securing the \$787 billion package — aid broadly credited for helping boost an economy in free fall — left a bad taste for the Obama-Biden White House. The package drew withering criticism from most on the right for being too big. Many in the Democratic Party have come to believe it was too small, a missed opportunity to not just help the economy but reinvent it.

“The lesson from the Great Recession is that without sustained economic relief, the recovery will take longer, unemployed workers will experience more pain, and already historic levels of inequality will worsen,” said Chris Lu, a deputy labor secretary under Obama.

Democrats also say they will not be burned again by expectations for bipartisanship that proved to be naive during the Obama years.

Austan Goolsbee, a former chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, said one of the other lessons of those negotiations was that “Republicans are going to argue against Joe Biden if he does anything at all.”

“Everyone believed at that time that if the economy struggled, we could come back” and pass additional aid, Goolsbee said. But Republicans were staunchly opposed to Obama’s agenda throughout his eight years in office. The prospect that they will again refuse to work with Biden should make him go big while he still can, in Goolsbee’s view.

“If there is a hyperpartisan gridlock environment in Washington, that ought to make you doubly careful about trimming your own wings out of the gate,” he said.

Facing economic storm clouds, Biden has told aides he will not settle for a too-small bill in the name of token bipartisanship.

He has made clear he values bipartisan support, has courted Republicans and has signaled a willingness to trim the overall price tag somewhat. He would prefer a traditional deal that crosses the aisle.

But he insists he will not budge on delivering \$1,400 stimulus checks to individuals, believing that reducing the amount would be a broken promise and could undermine his credibility with the public early in his term.

Moreover, Democrats have pointed to the stimulus checks as a winning issue in the pair of Georgia runoff races in January that gave their party control of the Senate. And many progressives, already wary of Biden’s moderate instincts, have made clear they do not want the president to compromise on liberal promises to woo Republicans likely to consistently oppose him.

Moderate Democrats in the Senate have also shown broad support for the bill and this past week all voted in favor of using a legislative maneuver that would allow the bill to pass with only Democratic votes. It was an implicit endorsement of a go-big strategy that could give Biden cover in pursuing a bill without Republican votes.

Sen. Angus King, a Maine independent who caucuses with Democrats, said that while “I generally tend to be concerned about budgets and budget deficits,” the spending in the COVID-19 relief package “is justified and important.”

He added that without a good-faith effort from Republicans on the bill, negotiation isn’t worth it.

“I just don’t think what they proposed was real, realistic or what was necessary to meet the situation that we’re in,” he said of the GOP counteroffer. “You know, you can’t clap with one hand. Bipartisanship requires serious discussion and an attempt to meet in the middle and so far I haven’t seen that.”

## Justices: California can’t enforce indoor church service ban

By JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is telling California that it can’t bar indoor church services because of the coronavirus pandemic, but it can keep for now a ban on singing and chanting indoors.

The high court issued orders late Friday in two cases where churches had sued over coronavirus-related restrictions in the state. The high court said that for now, California can’t ban indoor worship as it had in almost all of the state because virus cases are high.

The justices said the state can cap indoor services at 25% of a building’s capacity. The justices also declined to stop California from enforcing a ban put in place last summer on indoor singing and chanting.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 32 of 90

California had put the restrictions in place because the virus is more easily transmitted indoors and singing releases tiny droplets that can carry the disease.

The justices were acting on emergency requests to halt the restrictions from South Bay United Pentecostal Church in Chula Vista and Pasadena-based Harvest Rock Church and Harvest International Ministry, which has more than 160 churches across the state.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote that "federal courts owe significant deference to politically accountable officials" when it comes to public health restrictions, but he said deference "has its limits."

Roberts wrote that California's determination "that the maximum number of adherents who can safely worship in the most cavernous cathedral is zero—appears to reflect not expertise or discretion, but instead insufficient appreciation or consideration of the interests at stake."

In addition to Roberts, Justice Neil Gorsuch and Justice Amy Coney Barrett also wrote to explain their views. Gorsuch and Justice Clarence Thomas would have kept California from enforcing its singing ban. Barrett, the court's newest justice, disagreed. Writing for herself and Justice Brett Kavanaugh, she said it wasn't clear at this point whether the singing ban was being applied "across the board."

She wrote that "if a chorister can sing in a Hollywood studio but not in her church, California's regulations cannot be viewed as neutral," triggering a stricter review by courts. The justices said the churches who sued can submit new evidence to a lower court that the singing ban is not being applied generally.

The court's three liberal justices dissented, saying they would have upheld California's restrictions. Justice Elena Kagan wrote in a dissent for herself, Justice Stephen Breyer and Justice Sonia Sotomayor that the court's action "risks worsening the pandemic." She said that the court was "making a special exception for worship services" rather than treating them like other activities where large groups of people come together "in close proximity for extended periods of time." In areas of California where COVID-19 is widespread, which includes most of the state, activities including indoor dining and going to the movies are banned.

"I fervently hope that the Court's intervention will not worsen the Nation's COVID crisis. But if this decision causes suffering, we will not pay. Our marble halls are now closed to the public, and our life tenure forever insulates us from responsibility for our errors. That would seem good reason to avoid disrupting a State's pandemic response. But the Court forges ahead regardless, insisting that science-based policy yield to judicial edict," she wrote.

Charles LiMandri, an attorney for South Bay United Pentecostal Church, said in a statement that he and his clients were "heartened by this order" and "thank the high court for upholding religious liberty."

Liberty Counsel's Mat Staver, who represents Harvest Rock Church, said in a statement that he and his clients would "continue to press this case until religious freedom is totally restored."

The court's action follows a decision in a case from New York late last year in which the justices split 5-4 in barring the state from enforcing certain limits on attendance at churches and synagogues. Shortly after, the justices told a federal court to reexamine California's restrictions in light of the ruling.

## Coast Guard honors Black veteran, NFL great Emlen Tunnell

By PAT EATON-ROBB AP Sports Writer

Before he became the first Black player inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Emlen Tunnell served in the Coast Guard during and after World War II, where he was credited with saving the lives of two shipmates in separate incidents.

Now, a Coast Guard cutter and an athletic building on the Coast Guard Academy campus are being named in honor of the former NFL defensive back, who died in 1975, as the service aims to highlight his little-known story and its own efforts to do better when it comes to race and celebrating diversity.

"I think it's important, because you have a teachable moment with young people when you talk about a guy like Emlen Tunnell," Coast Guard Academy football coach C.C. Grant said. "They need to understand what he did, what he went through and what kind of a person he was."

Tunnell was the first Black player signed by the New York Giants and later played for the Green Bay Packers. But not much was known about his Coast Guard service until 2008, when Cmdr. Bill McKinstry



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 33 of 90

recognized Tunnell's name on the back of photograph showing a Coast Guard basketball team from the late 1940s.

His research uncovered a remarkable service career that Tunnell, who had been a steward's mate, had downplayed.

In April 1944, Tunnell was unloading fuel and explosives from a cargo ship in Papua New Guinea when it was hit by a Japanese torpedo. Tunnell used his bare hands to beat out flames that had engulfed a shipmate, suffering burns in the process. Two years later, while stationed in Newfoundland, Tunnell jumped into 32-degree Fahrenheit water to save another man who had fallen from the USS Tampa.

Given the context of what a Black steward's mate was expected or even allowed to do during that time in American history — largely restricted to duties like keeping the dishes on the ship clean — his accomplishments are all the more remarkable, McKinstry said.

"If you look at the pictures of him in uniform, he is the one African American in a sea of other people," McKinstry said. "It is so important that we take a look at these trailblazers, just like Mr. Tunnell and we honor them, because of all things they faced in laying the groundwork for where we are today in making a better future."

In 2011, the Coast Guard posthumously awarded Tunnell the Silver Lifesaving Medal. The cutter, currently under construction in Louisiana, is tentatively scheduled to be commissioned in October. The Coast Guard Academy plans to open the \$3.5 million Emlen Tunnell Strength and Conditioning Center in September.

Tunnell played college football at Toledo before the war and after the war — he enlisted from 1943 to 1946 — continued his collegiate career at the University of Iowa, suffering a serious neck injury. But after leaving college in 1948, he hitchhiked from his home on Pennsylvania to New York for a tryout with the Giants.

He ended up playing 14 seasons in the NFL and when he retired as a player, he held league records with 79 interceptions, 1,282 interception return yards, 258 punt returns and 2,209 punt return yards. He then became a scout and one of the league's first Black assistant coaches, helping fully integrate both the Giants and the Packers, said David Lyons, an author who is writing a biography of Tunnell.

He died of a heart attack at the age of somewhere between 50 and 53 — his birth records were not clear.

He was the first Black man and the first defensive specialist to be enshrined in Canton. But he never gained the fame of contemporaries in other sports, such as Jackie Robinson, because he played at a time before football was widely televised or popular — and because of his humility, Lyons said.

"Emlen was a great Giant as a player, coach and scout," Giants co-owner John Mara said. "More importantly, he was a wonderful human being, which is why he was the most beloved person in our organization throughout his time with us. Vince Lombardi traded for Emlen in Green Bay because he knew Emlen would be vital in establishing a championship culture."

Mara called Tunnell "an outstanding leader, teammate and competitor."

"He brought those attributes to the Coast Guard, the Giants and the Packers, so this recognition is most fitting," he said.

Tunnell's cousin, Yvonne Gilmore Jordan, said Tunnell endured racism, such as not being welcomed at hotels and restaurants with his white teammates. He was forced to sit out a Giants exhibition game in 1951 in Alabama, because the organizers would not allow Black players, Lyons said.

But Gilmore Jordan, 82, said her cousin endured those indignities by being kind to everyone and making jokes about his situation.

"You wouldn't think he was humble, because he looked very flashy and he was handsome, but he was really a very humble person," she said. "He didn't ever let it get him down, he really didn't."

The Coast Guard coach Grant, who is Black, said naming a cutter and a building on campus after Tunnell not only honors his memory, but also is another step in showing that the Coast Guard and its academy are committed to celebrating diversity.

Last June, the academy was criticized in a report from the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general for failing to properly address complaints of racial harassment on campus. The complaints

investigated included episodes in which cadets used racial epithets, posed with a Confederate flag and watched and laughed at a blackface video in a common area.

"We just need to keep taking steps to make sure that every player, every cadet, every coach, every person of color here feels like they belong and they feel like they are being included and their voice is heard here on campus," Grant said.

## Myanmar junta blocks internet access as coup protests expand

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) —

Myanmar's new military authorities appeared to have cut most access to the Internet on Saturday as they faced a rising tide of protest over their coup that toppled Aung San Suu Kyi's elected civilian government.

Numerous internet users noted a slow disappearance of data services, especially from mobile service providers, that accelerated sharply late Saturday morning. Broadband connection also later failed, while there were mixed reports on whether landline telephone service and mobile voice connections were still working.

Netblocks, a London-based service that tracks internet disruptions and shutdowns, said Saturday afternoon that "a near-total internet shutdown is now in effect" in Myanmar, with connectivity falling to just 16% of normal levels.

The broad outage followed Friday's military order to block Twitter and Instagram because some people were trying to use the platforms to spread what authorities deemed fake news. Facebook had already been blocked earlier in the week — though not completely effectively.

The communication blockages are a stark reminder of the progress Myanmar is in danger of losing after Monday's coup plunged the nation back under direct military rule after a nearly decade-long move toward greater openness and democracy. During Myanmar's previous five decades of military rule, the country was internationally isolated and communication with the outside world strictly controlled.

Suu Kyi's five years as leader since 2015 had been Myanmar's most democratic period despite the military retaining broad powers over the government, the continued use of repressive colonial-era laws and the persecution of minority Rohingya Muslims.

The blockages are also adding greater urgency to efforts to resist the coup, with Saturday seeing some of the largest street protests against the takeover. In one of the bigger ones, about 1,000 protesters — factory workers and students prominent among them — marched down a main street in Yangon, the country's biggest city, and were met by more than 100 police in riot gear.

Members of the crowd shouted "down with dictatorship" and other slogans. They marched with their hands in the air, formed into three-fingered salutes, a symbol of defiance adopted from protesters in neighboring Thailand, who borrowed the gesture from the "Hunger Games" movie franchise.

The demonstration ended peacefully with no clashes reported. It dispersed around the time communications were cut, and it was unclear if the marchers later regrouped.

Similar-sized demonstrations took place in at least two other areas of the city, and likewise were tense but peaceful. People at a protest at Yangon's City Hall presented flowers to the police.

Other reports that slipped through the communications blockade said protests were held in other areas, including Mandalay, the country's second-largest city.

Telenor Myanmar, a major mobile operator, confirmed it had received Friday's order to block Twitter and Instagram. In a statement, Twitter said it was "deeply concerned" about the order and vowed to "advocate to end destructive government-led shutdowns."

"It undermines the public conversation and the rights of people to make their voices heard," its spokesperson said.

Since the coup, social media platforms have been major sources of independent news as well as organizing tools for protests.

Amnesty International said that to shut down the internet while the country was coping with the coup, people displaced by years of civil conflict and the COVID-19 crisis was "a heinous and reckless decision."

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 35 of 90

Those opposed to the coup and the arrests of activists and politicians have also been gathering at night at windows and on balconies around Yangon to make a cacophony of noise in protest by banging on pots and pans.

The action was not limited to aggrieved citizens on the street. On Friday, nearly 300 elected lawmakers from Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party who met in an online meeting declared themselves as the sole legitimate representatives of the people and asked for international recognition as the country's government.

They were supposed to have taken their seats Monday in a new session of Parliament following November elections when the military announced it was taking power for a year.

The military accused Suu Kyi and her party of failing to act on its complaints that last November's election was marred by fraud, though the election commission said it had no found no evidence to support the claims.

Suu Kyi and President Win Myint are also under house arrest and have been charged with minor offenses, seen by many as merely providing a legal veneer for their detention.

In addition to the 134 officials and lawmakers who were detained in the coup, some 18 independent activists were also held, said the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners in Myanmar, which added that some have been released.

The office of Australia's foreign minister said in a statement Saturday that the government was "deeply concerned about reports of Australian and other foreign nationals being detained arbitrarily in Myanmar."

The statement said the government was concerned in particular about one Australian who was detained at a police station. The statement did not provide details on the identities of those being held or the reasons for their detention.

In New York, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres pledged Friday that the United Nations will do everything it can to unite the international community and create conditions for the military coup in Myanmar to be reversed.

Guterres said Christine Schraner Burgener, the U.N. special envoy for Myanmar, had a first contact with the military since the coup and expressed the U.N.'s strong opposition to the takeover.

## **EXPLAINER: How Trump's second impeachment trial will work**

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Donald Trump's historic second impeachment trial begins Tuesday, forcing the Senate to decide whether to convict him of incitement of insurrection after a violent mob of his supporters laid siege to the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6.

While Trump's acquittal is expected, all 100 senators will first have to sit at their desks and listen to hours of graphic testimony from House Democrats about the riots, which left five people dead. The House impeached Trump on Jan. 13, one week after the violence.

A look at the basics of the upcoming impeachment trial:

### HOW DOES THE TRIAL WORK?

The Constitution says the House has the sole power of impeachment while the Senate has the sole power to try the individual on the charges. The person being impeached — who can be the president, the vice president or any civil officer of the United States — can be convicted by two-thirds of the senators present.

The House appoints managers as prosecutors who set up on the Senate floor, along with the defendant's lawyers, to present their case. The prosecutors and Trump's defense team will have a set amount of time to make arguments, and then senators can ask questions in writing before a final vote.

The chief justice of the United States normally presides over the trial of a president, but because Trump has left office, the presiding officer will be Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., who is the ceremonial head of the Senate as the longest-serving member of the majority party.

Once the senators reach a final vote on the impeachment charge — this time there is just one, incitement of insurrection — each lawmaker will stand up and cast their vote: guilty or not guilty.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 36 of 90

## HOW LONG WILL THE TRIAL LAST?

Unclear. The Senate has to agree to the rules of the trial, and party leaders are still working out the details.

Trump's first impeachment trial, in which he was acquitted on charges that he abused power by pressuring Ukraine to investigate now-President Joe Biden, lasted almost three weeks. But this one is expected to be shorter, as the case is less complicated and the senators know many of the details already, having been in the Capitol during the insurrection.

And while the Democrats want to ensure they have enough time to make their case, they do not want to tie up the Senate for long. The Senate cannot confirm Biden's Cabinet nominees and move forward with their legislative priorities, such as COVID-19 relief, until the trial is complete.

## WHY TRY TRUMP WHEN HE IS OUT OF OFFICE?

Republicans and Trump's lawyers argue that the trial is unnecessary, and even unconstitutional, because Trump is no longer president and cannot be removed from office. Democrats disagree, pointing to opinions of many legal scholars and the impeachment of a former secretary of war, William Belknap, who resigned in 1876 just hours before he was impeached over a kickback scheme.

While Belknap was eventually acquitted, the Senate held a full trial. And this time, the House impeached Trump while he was still president, seven days before Biden's inauguration.

If Trump were convicted, the Senate could take a second vote to bar him from holding office again. Democrats feel that would be an appropriate punishment after he told the angry mob of his supporters to "fight like hell" to overturn his election defeat.

Democrats also argue that there should not be a "January exception" for presidents who commit impeachable offenses just before they leave office. They say the trial is necessary not only to hold Trump properly accountable but also so they can deal with what happened and move forward.

"You cannot go forward until you have justice," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi this week. "If we were not to follow up with this, we might as well remove any penalty from the Constitution of impeachment."

## HOW IS THIS TRIAL DIFFERENT FROM TRUMP'S FIRST TRIAL?

Trump's first trial was based on evidence uncovered over several months by the House about a private phone call between Trump and the president of Ukraine, as well as closed-door meetings that happened before and afterward. Democrats held a lengthy investigation and then compiled a report of their findings.

In contrast, the second trial will be based almost entirely on the visceral experience of a riot that targeted the senators themselves, in the Capitol building. The insurrectionists even breached the Senate chamber, where the trial will be held.

The fresh memories of Jan. 6 could make it easier for the House impeachment managers to make their case, but it doesn't mean the outcome will be any different. Trump was acquitted in his first trial a year ago Friday with only one Republican, Utah Sen. Mitt Romney, voting to convict, and there may not be many more guilty votes this time around.

In a test vote Jan. 26, only five Senate Republicans voted against an effort to dismiss the trial — an early indication that Trump is likely to be acquitted again.

## WHAT WILL TRUMP'S LAWYERS ARGUE?

Beyond the constitutionality of the trial, Trump's lawyers say that he did not incite his supporters to violence and that he did nothing wrong. "It is denied that President Trump ever endangered the security of the United States and its institutions of Government," they wrote in a brief for the trial. "It is denied he threatened the integrity of the democratic system, interfered with the peaceful transition of power, and imperiled a coequal branch Government."

Trump's lawyers also say he was protected by the First Amendment to "express his belief that the election results were suspect."

There was no widespread fraud in the election, as Trump claimed falsely over several months and again to his supporters just before the insurrection. Election officials across the country, and even former Attorney General William Barr, contradicted his claims, and dozens of legal challenges to the election put

forth by Trump and his allies were dismissed.

WHAT WOULD ACQUITTAL MEAN FOR TRUMP?

A second impeachment acquittal by the Senate would be a victory for Trump — and would prove he retains considerable sway over his party, despite his efforts to subvert democracy and widespread condemnation from his GOP colleagues after Jan. 6.

Still, acquittal may not be the end of attempts to hold him accountable. Sens. Tim Kaine, D-Va., and Susan Collins, R-Maine, floated a censure resolution after last month's vote made clear that Trump was unlikely to be convicted.

While they haven't said yet if they will push for a censure vote after the impeachment trial, Kaine said this week that "the idea is out there on the table and it may become a useful idea down the road."

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker and Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

## China gives approval for broader use of Sinovac vaccine

By HUIZHONG WU Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — China has given broader approval for the domestic-made Sinovac coronavirus vaccine, expanding those who can receive it beyond the high-risk and priority groups already allowed under an emergency clearance.

Regulators gave conditional approval for Sinovac Biotech Ltd's shot, CoronaVac, on Friday, clearing the way for general use, The National Medical Products Administration announced in a statement Saturday.

The Sinovac vaccine has already been sold to at least 10 other countries and is being administered to people in at least five other countries. In China, the shot was given emergency approval last July, allowing people such as medical workers and employees of state-owned firms to receive it.

The conditional approval means the vaccine can now be given to the general public, though research is still ongoing. The company will be required to submit follow-up data as well as reports of any adverse effects after the vaccine is sold on the market.

It is the second locally made vaccine to be given conditional approval. Beijing authorized the state-owned Sinopharm's vaccine in December.

China has previously said any COVID-19 vaccine will be free for its public, with the government footing the bill. Sinovac declined to give a figure for the price of each dose.

Both Sinovac's shot and Sinopharm's shot are two-dose inactivated vaccines, relying on traditional technology that makes it easier to transport and store than Pfizer's vaccines, which requires ultracold storage. That could make a difference for developing countries that have fewer resources.

Sinovac's vaccine however, has also been subject to intense scrutiny and criticism for lack of transparency, largely in part owing to the different efficacy data in different countries across the world. Officials in Turkey, where part of the stage 3 clinical trials were staged, have said the efficacy rate was 91.25%.

But in a much bigger trial in Brazil, officials there initially announced an efficacy rate of 78%, but revised that down to just over 50% after including mild infections. The Brazil segment of the trial enrolled 12,396 volunteers, and recorded 253 infections, the company said in a statement Friday.

So far the company has only released stage 1 and stage 2 data for its vaccine.

Full clinical trial data for the stage 3 trials will be released later in a peer-reviewed journal, said Pearson Liu, a spokesperson for the company.

Global health authorities have said any vaccine that is at least 50% effective would be useful. The flu vaccine is generally around 50% effective. Experts have also said that it is meaningful that those who fall ill despite taking the vaccine should still be less likely to suffer serious symptoms.

Its stage 3 clinical trials were held in Brazil, Chile, Indonesia and Turkey, with a total of 25,000 volunteers.

## Asylum-seekers stuck in Cyprus' cramped camp want out

By MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Emmanuel Conteh negotiates the muddy, rutted pathways in shorts and torn plastic flip-flops and says he can't sleep in his heavy canvas tent at night because of the cold.

He laments the "hellish" conditions in ethnically divided Cyprus' cramped Pournara migrant reception camp, where he's been living for the past two months after flying to the breakaway Turkish Cypriot north and then clandestinely crossing into the internationally recognized south.

He says he fled his native Sierra Leone because he was persecuted for refusing to follow in his father's footsteps and practice a kind of witchcraft.

"The head of this society, they want to train me, but I refused," said Conteh.

He wants Cypriot authorities to swiftly process his asylum application and let him and others out of the razor-wire-encircled former military camp near the industrial western fringes of the capital Nicosia that he says feels like prison.

"We're not prisoners. We're asylum-seekers. Let them finish our process and then (free) us," Conteh said. "That's all we're asking."

The small eastern Mediterranean island republic is trying to cope with a huge backlog of asylum applications and despite government efforts to expedite the process, migrants say they feel literally left out in the cold.

Designed to accommodate 1,000 people at the most, Pournara is a "first instance" camp where in theory asylum-seekers are initially processed and released after three days. But it now houses 1,500 people, some of whom have been there for months.

Interior Minister Nicos Nouris said this week that Cyprus remains first among all other European Union member states in asylum applications relative to its population.

Last year, the country of around 1.1 million racked up 7,000 asylum applications — most of them from Syrians. Nouris said the government is doing its best to speed up the application process to let in those who qualify and to send back migrants whose application is turned down.

Like Conteh, most asylum-seekers enter the island from the Turkish Cypriot north and cross a porous, United Nations-controlled buffer zone into the south. Many hope to transfer to another EU country on the continent.

But asylum-seekers say the process is just taking too long amid a slow-down in application processing brought on by COVID-19 restrictions. They insist that they've tested negative numerous times for the coronavirus and want authorities to open the camp's gates so they can seek better accommodation.

Hansoa Anyan from Cameroon says the camp's overcrowded conditions, compounded by asylum processing delays, have caused friction between African and Syrian migrants.

He claimed that authorities are favoring Syrians, letting them out of the camp sooner and more frequently than Africans.

That frustration boiled over earlier this week when African migrants tried in protest to block Syrians from exiting.

Cypriot government officials deny there's any discrimination regarding the timing of migrants' release. Interior Ministry spokesman Loizos Michael said releases must be done gradually and in order of priority, starting with women, children and minors.

He said a daily stream of arrivals to the camp is making conditions tougher on those living there, but camp authorities are making "herculean efforts" to improve the situation.

But Corina Drousiotou who heads the Cyprus Refugee Council — a group that offers legal help to migrants with their asylum applications — said the migrants' "de facto detention" at Pournara is "completely unnecessary" and is fanning anger among the migrants, some of whom have been living there for as many as five months.

Drousiotou said despite continued, island-wide COVID-19 restrictions including a night-time curfew, authorities could have eased tensions by allowing people who found a place to stay outside the camp to leave. Others could have been permitted to leave for short periods on condition they return before the

start of curfew.

"The situation in Pournara signals a failure by the authorities to effectively address ongoing issues related to migrants and refugees," said Droushiotou, adding that the government lacks a comprehensive migration and integration strategy.

## **An antidote to pandemic blues, with some assembly required**

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — He hunches at the dining room table, putting the finishing touches on his miniature World War II tank. Deep in concentration, he keeps his hand steady as he works to make the scaled-down plastic model look as realistic as possible.

And as he does so, Maxime Fannoy — locked-down husband and father riding out the coronavirus with his family in Belgium — feels the outside world's unremitting pandemic nightmare slip thankfully out of focus.

"It's an escape. When you are building a kit or a scene, you really plunge into it," Fannoy says. "Everything else loses its importance, and in the current context, that is a real help."

Rejuvenated by quarantines and lockdowns, the old-school pastime of creating miniature worlds by assembling and decorating scaled-down models or running mini trains on mini tracks is enjoying a revival — plastic therapy against the pandemic blues.

Sales are booming as families shorn of their social lives keep idle hands and minds busy by making models and dusting off train sets. British brand Airfix saw a run on plastic kits for Spitfires, the iconic World War II fighter plane. Hornby, which owns Airfix and also makes an array of model trains and cars under other brands, has become profitable again with sales soaring.

The analog pleasures of gluing and painting, fixing and fiddling, are also peeling some members of the digital generation away from their screens. Teens are catching the modeling bug from parents and grandparents who suddenly find themselves with time again to indulge in hobbies many had been too busy to pursue since childhood.

In France, 70-year-old retiree Guy Warein says his lockdown-time renovations on a model train set that had been gathering dust in his attic have helped him connect with his video-gaming grandkids, pulling them "from the virtual world to reality."

On a visit when school was out, the eldest, aged 16, said: "Come on Grandpa, let's go and see the trains and make them work.' So we put them together and did things together," Warein says. "It's a coming together of generations, and that can only be beneficial."

So he repaired the HO-scale locomotives and rolling stock inherited from his father-in-law and fixed up the room where he intends to run them on a U-shaped track layout that he's designing. The activity helped Warein, a former educator and municipal councilor, tune out the pandemic and its anxieties.

"You fill your time and forget what's happening around you," he says. "Turning on the radio or the television is like being hit with a truncheon, because they systematically talk about the virus and the misfortunes it has brought. ... Having a hobby allows me to think of other things."

Manufacturers have struggled to meet the global surge in interest. Hornby's CEO, Lyndon Davies, says he had to airfreight 10,000 Spitfire kits from a factory in India when Airfix's stocks ran dry for the first time in the company's 71-year history.

"What you don't want of your kids, your grandchildren, is them sitting watching the TV or staring at phones all the time. This pandemic has really brought families together at home," he says. "They have used the types of products we make to try and forget what was going on in the outside world."

Another British manufacturer, Peco, has hired extra staff to satisfy surging orders — up by 50% in some markets — for its miniature trains, tracks and modeling accessories.

"This is happening everywhere: Our markets in the UK, across Europe, in Australia, North America, in China," says Steve Haynes, the sales manager. "People are making far greater use of their spare time, their free time, their enforced time stuck at home to tackle the boredom, to tackle the isolation and do something creative."

In Belgium, Fannoy calls himself a "model-maker made from lockdown." He had long bought plastic kits, because they reminded him of childhood, but had never had time to build them. Instead, he hoarded them away in a wardrobe.

When the pandemic shut down his busy life and forced him to do his job as a business developer from home, he set to work on his stash, stocking up on brushes and paints in the final days before lockdown.

He first completed a series of 1/24th-scale rally cars. A WWII Tiger tank, painted to look weathered and mounted in a wintry scene with troops and a jeep, followed at the end of 2020. He posted photos of the diorama, the fruit of 50 hours of handiwork, on Facebook.

"I generally start in the evenings at around 8 p.m. and stop around 11 p.m. to midnight," Fannoy says. "I can no longer do the things I would normally do. So what do I do? I open a kit and work on it. In fact, it's my wife who comes and pulls me out of this mini-world I live in."

"The hours fly by. It's a form of meditation," he says. "It has helped enormously in getting me through the past year."

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

## AP Interview: Olympic champion adds voice to #MeToo movement

By DEREK GATOPOULOS and THEODORA TONGAS Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Before she could join sailing classes near her home in Athens, Sofia Bekatorou had to show an instructor she could tie a basic knot properly. Passing the test at age 8 changed her life.

Bekatorou spent her first afternoons in a bathtub-sized sailboat stuck in circles, but coaches took note of the girl's determination. By her 12th birthday, she was outperforming the boys in competitive races and on a path to winning gold medals as a world champion and at the Olympics.

But the most successful woman in modern Greece's sporting history revealed in January that an incident almost 23 years ago had marred much of her personal happiness and professional career — an alleged sexual assault by a Greek sailing federation official at a hotel in Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

Her disclosure was made at a little-advertised online sports seminar, but it gained national attention and elicited statements of support for Bekatorou from the country's prime minister and first female president. It was followed by dozens of public claims of sexual misconduct and workplace intimidation in the worlds of elite sports, the performing arts, and academia.

Bekatarou, 43, said she hoped the reaction marked a turning point for Greek society, which often seems resigned to official cronyism and impunity.

"I'm very happy that they came forward and spoke out," she said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We need to embrace people who have lived through such experiences, because it's a very big step, even talking about it."

Bekatorou won a gold medal in the women's double-handed dinghy event with teammate Emilia Tsoulfa at the 2004 Summer Olympics, which was held in Athens.

Greeks caught televised glimpses of the many successes that followed: the keelboat race that returned her to an Olympics podium four years later in Beijing, and opening the parade of nations for the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Summer Games as the first female flag-bearer ever to lead the Greek Olympic team.

Bekatorou dedicated the honor at Maracana Stadium to her older sister, Varia, who had died of brain cancer four months earlier. Her long run in top-tier competition included a battle with a career-threatening back injury and, as she recently revealed, years of therapy. Reserved and soft-spoken, Bekatorou says the sailing federation official sexually assaulted her in 1998, on the day she celebrated qualifying for the Sydney Olympics. Neither she nor prosecuting authorities have publicly identified the accused official, who has denied the allegations.

Along with her Olympic medals, Bekatorou brought home four World Championship titles and a shelfful of national and European trophies. She was twice named World Sailor of the Year. In recognition of her



accomplishments, she was given the rank of major in the Greek army.

But she alleges that the official who assaulted her also undermined her position on the national sailing team over nearly 20 years, arguing that priority should be given to younger competitors.

"It's a very big weight that we carry in our personal life. And these are things that can actually put you in a deep depression for a very long time," Bekatorou said. "And unless you have the (right) help and environment, it's not easy to overcome it and move on."

The accused official was fired last month from senior posts at the Hellenic Sailing Federation and the Hellenic Olympic Committee. He called Bekatorou's allegations "defamatory and deceitful."

The alleged assault has exceeded a 15-year statute of limitations, but a public prosecutor has agreed to examine the case for other possible victims.

Greek Justice Minister Kostas Tsiaras said the government planned to make legal changes to make it easier for sexual assault victims to report crimes.

Bekatorou said the impact of her revelations had taken her by surprise.

She smiled when asked about future plans and the test given to her when first learning to sail. Demonstrating her knowledge, and the skill she picked up as an 8-year-old, she looped a piece of microphone cable into a bowline knot.

"I'll have to sail on bigger boats that are less physically demanding, but I don't really like the idea of being called a former competitor."

She is happy, she said, to be associated with the #MeToo movement that followed the allegations of past sexual misconduct that exploded in 2017 and the subsequent conviction of Hollywood film producer Harvey Weinstein.

When the allegations emerged in the entertainment industry, "I was feeling, you know, something really strong coming from inside, but I wasn't ready to deal with it. And I didn't want just to talk about it. I wanted to change something," Bekatorou said.

"And I knew that in order to change something, I had to be ready, whether someone would follow me or no one would....Now, I'm ready."

Follow Gatopoulos at <https://twitter.com/dgatopoulos> and Tongas at <https://twitter.com/theodoratongas>

## Unwilling to wait, poorer countries seek their own vaccines

By MARIA CHENG and ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — With coronavirus cases still climbing, Honduras got tired of waiting to get vaccines through a United Nations program, so the small Central American country struck out on its own, securing the shots through a private deal.

Honduras "cannot wait on bureaucratic processes or misguided decisions" to give citizens "the peace of mind" offered by the COVID-19 vaccine, said Juan Carlos Sikaffy, president of the Honduran Private Business Council, which helped complete the purchase by providing a bank guarantee.

Other nations are getting impatient too. Unlike past disease outbreaks, where less wealthy countries have generally waited for vaccines to be delivered by the U.N. and other organizations, many are now taking matters into their own hands. Experts are increasingly concerned that these go-it-alone efforts could undermine a U.N.-backed program to get COVID-19 shots to the neediest people worldwide.

Countries including Serbia, Bangladesh and Mexico recently began vaccinating citizens through donations or commercial deals — an approach that could leave even fewer vaccines for the program known as COVAX, since rich countries have already snapped up the majority of this year's supply.

Led by the World Health Organization, a coalition for epidemic preparedness known as CEPI and a vaccine alliance called GAVI, COVAX was created to distribute COVID-19 vaccines fairly. Countries can join either to buy vaccines or to get donated shots.

Mustaqeem De Gama, a diplomat at the South African mission in Geneva, cited "a level of desperation" fueled by spreading virus variants and "the uncertainty of when any COVAX vaccines might arrive." He

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 42 of 90

doubted that countries that signed up for COVAX "will even get 10% of what they require."

Even if the effort succeeds, COVAX's stated goal is to vaccinate less than 30% of people in poor countries, meaning that governments must seek other sources to obtain enough shots to achieve herd immunity.

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said his country was forced to cut its own deals after watching rich countries scramble for the scarce shots. He criticized nations that, he said, bought more doses than they needed.

"It's as if they intend to vaccinate all their cats and dogs," he said.

Although Serbia paid 4 million euros to COVAX last year, it has not yet received any shots and last month began its immunization campaign with vaccines from Pfizer, China's Sinopharm and Russia.

Recent manufacturing delays in Europe raise concerns about whether drugmakers will be able to fulfill the multiplying orders.

"There are so many deals being signed that I think it's hard to see how the numbers could possibly add up for all the doses ordered to actually be produced in the foreseeable future," said Amanda Glassman, a public health expert and executive vice-president of the Center for Global Development.

Last week, the African Union completed a deal for 400 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine, to be produced by the Serum Institute of India. That's on top of a previously negotiated African Union deal for 270 million doses from several pharmaceutical companies and in addition to the 600 million doses Africa expects to receive from COVAX.

Some experts warn that these new deals could move COVAX further to the back of the line, especially if some countries are willing to pay a premium for speed.

To ensure South Africans got doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine quickly, government officials reluctantly agreed to pay a higher price per shot than Europe or North America. The first shipments arrived this week.

COVAX hopes to start sending its first vaccine batches to Africa later this month, but those plans are subject to change depending on manufacturers' production capacities and countries' immunization plans.

Mexico began vaccinating health workers in December because of a direct purchase agreement with Pfizer. In recent weeks, the country has been forced to turn to Russia's Sputnik V vaccine, which was expected to arrive next week, even though it has not been approved by Mexican regulators.

Kate Elder, senior vaccines policy adviser at Doctors Without Borders, said developing countries should not be criticized for securing private vaccine deals since that is precisely what rich countries did last year.

"Every country is just doing what it feels it needs to do to protect their people," she said, but the ability of poor countries and regions to get vaccine faster than COVAX could hurt future U.N. efforts.

"If countries are getting vaccines on their own, then how are WHO and GAVI delivering for them?" she asked.

Although India is contracted to provide COVAX with several hundred million doses of vaccine, the shots have not yet been authorized by the WHO, meaning India cannot release them for the U.N. program. In the meantime, India has already gifted neighbors, including Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal, with more than 5 million doses.

Dr. Haritha Aluthge of Sri Lanka's Government Medical Officers' Association, called for the WHO to intervene amid the intense competition for vaccines and the failure of COVAX to deliver.

"Not a single dose (from COVAX) has been received," Aluthge said.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned recently that the world is on the brink of a "catastrophic moral failure" if COVID-19 vaccines are not distributed fairly, but the agency has no authority to force rich countries to share.

Its entreaties for countries to act in solidarity have mostly been ignored.

Norway is the only country that said it would send vaccines to developing countries as its own citizens are immunized, but it has not specified how many would be donated. Britain said it would not divert any vaccines until it finishes its own immunization program. Australia, which has mostly stamped out COVID-19, has no timeline for when it might share vaccines with its poorer neighbors in southeast Asia and the Pacific islands.

The unrelenting pressure on the world's vaccine supplies might only lift when more shots prove success-

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 43 of 90

ful, said Krishna Udayakumar, director of the Duke Global Health Institute.

"COVAX is the only global, multilateral platform to enable something close to global access and equity, and yet, it has access to a relatively small amount of vaccines," he said. "The only way out is to have more vaccines."

Cheng reported from Toronto. Associated Press writers Dusan Stojanovic in Belgrade, Christopher Sherman in Mexico City, Marlon González in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and Krishan Francis in Colombo, Sri Lanka, contributed to this report.

## Christopher Plummer got a third act worth singing about

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

It's one of the great Hollywood ironies that Christopher Plummer didn't like the film that made him a legend. He was an actor's actor and had cut his teeth doing Shakespeare. "The Sound of Music," he thought, was sentimental shlock. And he wasn't alone — reviews at the time were famously terrible. Then, like a personal curse, it would go on to become a universally beloved classic. He'd played Henry V and Hamlet and yet Captain von Trapp, he said in 1982, followed him around "like an albatross."

But even Plummer, who died Friday at the age of 91, lived long enough to soften a bit. And why wouldn't he? He also got to enjoy something that so few actors do: A genuine third act with terrific roles as "60 Minutes" correspondent Mike Wallace in Michael Mann's "The Insider," a widower who comes out later in life in Mike Mills' "Beginners" and, most recently, a slain mystery writer in Rian Johnson's whodunnit "Knives Out." He got three Academy Award nominations in one decade and, at age 82, would become the oldest actor to ever win an Oscar (for "Beginners"). He still holds that title.

"You're only two years older than me, darling. Where have you been all my life?" he said to his Oscar in 2012. "When I first emerged from my mother's womb, I was already rehearsing my Academy thank you speech. But it was so long ago, mercifully for you I've forgotten it."

Dapper and dashing with an aristocratic air, Plummer could have been a leading man without the talent. With it he was a star with a character actor's spirit, which he later would attribute his longevity to.

"I'm thrilled that I turned into a character actor quite early on. I hated being a poncey leading man," he told Vanity Fair in 2015. "You really start to worry about your jawline. Please."

Born in Toronto in 1929, Plummer was the great grandson of Canadian Prime Minister John Abbott and fell for the theater at a young age. Classically trained, he was a self-proclaimed snob about the stage and resisted the allure of the big screen for a time. As if to prove his own point, his first few films are not well-remembered. Then came "The Sound of Music." It didn't help that he got the added blow that his singing voice was going to be dubbed in the final film.

"The only reason I did this bloody thing was so I could do a musical on stage on film!" he said. But he did get a lifelong friendship with Julie Andrews out of the deal.

He retreated to the theater for a time, which would be a refrain through his life. He won Tony Awards for Cyrano and Barrymore and would even get to go back to Shakespeare, as King Lear, later in life.

Over his six-decade career, his screen credits would prove wildly diverse. He was in "Malcolm X" and "Must Love Dogs." He was a Klingon in a "Star Trek" and Tolstoy in "The Last Station," Rudyard Kipling in "The Man Who Would Be King" and Captain Newport in "The New World."

"For a long time, I accepted parts that took me to attractive places in the world. Rather than shooting in the Bronx, I would rather go to the south of France, crazed creature than I am," he told The Associated Press in 2007. "I sacrificed a lot of my career for nicer hotels and more attractive beaches."

Plummer was also a legendary "hard-fisted" drinker, alongside similarly inclined friends like Jason Robards, Richard Harris and Peter O'Toole.

"Our intention was that we should be if were to be called men. We must drink as much as we can. And if we can still get through Hamlet the next day without a hitch, that made you a man, my son," he told Terry Gross in 2008. "You weren't worth anything unless you could."

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 44 of 90

A little Fernet-Branca laced with creme de menthe was his preferred "pick me up" before going on stage after an especially heavy night. But, he warned, stick to one. Two or three and "you're drunk again."

He slowed down in later years and would write about his own antics in his acclaimed memoir "In Spite of Myself." Plummer had decided that he was going to "keep crackin'" since "retirement in any profession is death." And he did, marking his turn in "The Insider," from 1999, as a turning point.

"Then the scripts improved. I was upgraded! Since then, they've been first-class scripts," he told the AP at the time. "Not all successful, but worth doing."

In 2017 in the thick of the first #MeToo revelations, he made headlines when he replaced a disgraced Kevin Spacey as J. Paul Getty in Ridley Scott's "All the Money in the World" just six weeks before the film was set to hit theaters. Not only did the rush recall the energy of the theater for him, it also proved professionally fruitful: The role got him his third Oscar nomination.

And although he retained some of that charming arrogance to the end, Plummer was also a man capable of evolving, even about "The Sound of Music."

"As cynical as I always was about 'The Sound of Music,'" Plummer told Vanity Fair, "I do respect that it is a bit of relief from all the gunfire and car chases you see these days. It's sort of wonderfully, old-fashionedly universal."

Plummer entered his 80s worried about what he'd be able to accomplish, but a few years in he had put those worries aside.

"I'm enjoying myself very much. And in my 80s, I had another career. I'm very happy about that. It's gone better than most other decades have," he said in 2018. "I played everything in the theater. I still would like to do something else in the theater, of course. But I've played all the great parts. And not too shabbily. Now I want the same great parts, if I can, on the screen. And so far, yes. I've played marvelous characters."

Follow AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/lbahr](http://www.twitter.com/lbahr)

## AP analysis: Federal executions likely a COVID superspreader

By MICHAEL TARM, MICHAEL BALSAMO and MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the Trump administration was nearing the end of an unprecedented string of executions, 70% of death row inmates were sick with COVID-19. Guards were ill. Traveling prisons staff on the execution team had the virus. So did media witnesses, who may have unknowingly infected others when they returned home because they were never told about the spreading cases.

Records obtained by The Associated Press show employees at the Indiana prison complex where the 13 executions were carried out over six months had contact with inmates and other people infected with the coronavirus, but were able to refuse testing and declined to participate in contact tracing efforts and were still permitted to return to their work assignments.

Other staff members, including those brought in to help with executions, also spread tips to their colleagues about how they could avoid quarantines and skirt public health guidance from the federal government and Indiana health officials.

The executions at the end of Donald Trump's presidency, completed in a short window over a few weeks, likely acted as a superspreader event, according to the records reviewed by AP. It was something health experts warned could happen when the Justice Department insisted on resuming executions during a pandemic.

It's impossible to know precisely who introduced the infections and how they started to spread, in part because prisons officials didn't consistently do contact tracing and haven't been fully transparent about the number of cases. But medical experts say it's likely the executioners and support staff, many of whom traveled from prisons in other states with their own virus outbreaks, triggered or contributed both in the Terre Haute penitentiary and beyond the prison walls.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 45 of 90

Of the 47 people on death row, 33 tested positive between Dec. 16 and Dec. 20, becoming infected soon after the executions of Alfred Bourgeois on Dec. 11 and Brandon Bernard on Dec. 10, according to Colorado-based attorney Madeline Cohen, who compiled the names of those who tested positive by reaching out to other federal death row lawyers. Other lawyers, as well as activists in contact with death row inmates, also told AP they were told a large numbers of death row inmates tested positive in mid-December.

In addition, at least a dozen other people, including execution team members, media witnesses and a spiritual adviser, tested positive within the incubation period of the virus, meeting the criteria of a super-spreader event, in which one or more individuals trigger an outbreak that spreads to many others outside their circle of acquaintances. The tally could be far higher, but without contact tracing it's impossible to be sure.

Active inmate cases at the Indiana penitentiary also spiked from just three on Nov. 19 — the day Orlando Cordia Hall was put to death — to 406 on Dec. 29, which was 18 days after Bourgeois' execution, according to Bureau of Prisons data. The data includes the inmates at the high-security penitentiary, though the Bureau of Prisons has never said whether it included death row inmates in that count.

In all, 726 of the approximately 1,200 inmates at the United States Penitentiary at Terre Haute have tested positive for COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic, according to Bureau of Prisons data. Of them, 692 have recovered.

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Advocates and lawyers for the inmates, a Zen Buddhist priest who was a spiritual adviser for one prisoner, and even the families of some of the victims fought to delay the executions until after the pandemic. Their requests were rebuffed repeatedly and their litigation failed. And some got sick.

Witnesses, who were required to wear masks, watched from behind glass in small rooms where it often wasn't possible to stand six feet apart. They were taken to and from the death-chamber building in vans, where proper social distancing often wasn't possible. Passengers frequently had to wait in the vans for an hour or more, with windows rolled up and little ventilation, before being permitted to enter the execution-chamber building. And in at least one case, the witnesses were locked inside the execution chamber for more than four hours with little ventilation and no social distancing.

Prison staff told their colleagues they should first get on planes, go back to their homes and then they could take a test, according to two people familiar with the matter. If they were positive, they said, they could just quarantine and wouldn't be stuck in Terre Haute for two weeks, said the people, who could not publicly discuss the private conversations and spoke to AP on condition of anonymity.

Following Hall's execution in November, only six members of the execution team opted to get coronavirus tests before they left Terre Haute, the Justice Department said in a court filing. The agency said they all tested negative. But days later, eight members of the team tested positive for the virus. Five of the staff members who had tested positive were brought back to Terre Haute for more executions a few weeks later.

Yusuf Ahmed Nur, the spiritual adviser for Hall, stood just feet away inside the execution chamber when Hall was executed on Nov. 19. He tested positive for the virus days later.

Writing about the experience, Nur said he knew he would be putting himself at risk, but that Hall had asked him to be at his side when he was put to death. He, and Hall's family, felt obliged to be there.

"I could not say no to a man who would soon be killed," Nur wrote. "That I contracted COVID-19 in the process was collateral damage" of executions during a pandemic.

Later, two journalists tested positive for the virus after witnessing other executions in January, then had contact with activists and their own loved ones, who later tested positive as well. Despite being informed of the diagnoses, the Bureau of Prisons knowingly withheld the information from other media witnesses and decided not to initiate any contact tracing efforts.

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By mid-December, prison officials said that both Corey Johnson and Dustin Higgs were sick. They were the last two prisoners to be executed, just days before President Joe Biden took office.

Death row was put on lockdown after their results, inmates told Ashley Kincaid Eve, a lawyer and anti-death penalty activist. But even though they had also tested positive, she said Higgs and Johnson were

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 46 of 90

still moved around the prison — potentially infecting guards accompanying them — so they could use phones and email to speak with their lawyers and families as their execution dates approached. Eve said prisons officials may have worried a court would delay the executions on constitutional ground if that access was denied.

In response to questions from the AP, the Bureau of Prisons said staff members who don't experience symptoms "are clear to work" and that they have their temperatures taken and are asked about symptoms before reporting for duty. (The AP has previously reported that staff members at other prisons were cleared with normal temperatures even when thermometers showed hypothermic readings.)

The agency said it also conducts contact training in accordance with federal guidance and that "if staff are circumventing this guidance, we are not aware."

Officials said staff members were required to participate in contact tracing "if they met the criteria for it" and agency officials couldn't compel employees to be tested.

"We cannot force staff members to take tests, nor does the CDC recommend testing of asymptomatic individuals," an agency spokesperson said, referring to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The union for Terre Haute employees declined to comment, saying it did not want to "get into the public fray of this whole issue."

Elsewhere, union officials have long complained about the spread of the coronavirus through the federal prison system, as well as a lack of personal protective equipment and room to isolate infected inmates. Some of those issues have been alleviated, but containing the virus continues to be a concern at many facilities.

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No more executions have yet been scheduled under Biden. The Bureau of Prisons has repeatedly refused to say how many other people have tested positive for the coronavirus after the last several executions. And the agency would not answer questions about the specific reasoning for withholding the information from the public, instead directing the AP to file a public records request.

The Bureau of Prisons said it also "took extensive efforts to mitigate the transmission" of the virus, including limiting the number of media witnesses and adding an extra van for the witnesses to space them out.

It has argued witnesses were informed social distancing may not be possible in the execution chamber and that witnesses and others were required to wear masks and were offered additional protective equipment, like gowns and face shields. The agency also refused to answer questions about whether Director Michael Carvajal or any other senior leaders raised concerns about executing 13 people during a worldwide pandemic that has killed more than 450,000 in the U.S.

Still, it appears their own protocols weren't followed. After a federal judge ordered the Bureau of Prisons to ensure masks were worn during executions in January, the executioner and U.S. marshal in the death chamber removed their masks during one of the executions, appearing to violate the judge's order. The agency argued they needed to do so to communicate clearly and that they only removed their masks for a short time and disputes that it violated the order.

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In a Nov. 24 court filing on the spread of COVID at Terre Haute, Joe Goldenson, a public health expert on the spread of disease behind bars, said hundreds of staff participated in one way or another at each execution, including around 40 people on execution teams and those on 50-person specialized security teams who traveled from other prisons nationwide. He said he had warned earlier that executions were likely to become a superspreader.

Medical and public health experts repeatedly called on the Justice Department to delay executions, arguing the setup at prisons made them especially vulnerable to outbreaks, including because social distancing was impossible and health care substandard.

"These are the type of high-risk superspreader events that the (American Medical Association) and (the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) have been warning against throughout the pandemic," James L. Madara, the executive vice president of the AMA, wrote to the Department of Justice on Jan. 11, just before the last three federal executions were carried out.

Tarm reported from Chicago and Sisak reported from New York.

On Twitter, follow Michael Tarm at [twitter.com/mtarm](https://twitter.com/mtarm), Michael Balsamo at [www.twitter.com/MikeBalsamo1](https://www.twitter.com/MikeBalsamo1) and Michael Sisak at [twitter.com/mikesisak](https://twitter.com/mikesisak).

## **A test for Trumpism: Virginia Republicans seek new playbook**

By STEVE PEOPLES and SARAH RANKIN Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — The national Republican Party in Washington is at war with itself, struggling to reconcile a bitter divide between former President Donald Trump's fierce loyalists and those who want Trumpism purged from the GOP.

They need only look across the Potomac River into Virginia to see the dangers that lurk if they cannot correct course.

In just nine months, Virginia voters will elect a new governor in what marks the first significant test of the Republican Party's strength in the post-Trump era.

Although the state had a Republican governor as recently as 2014, it has trended solidly Democratic in recent years as the suburban counties outside Washington, swelling in population with a diverse blend of highly educated, well-to-do voters, have rejected the harsher edges of the GOP agenda in general, and Trump, in particular.

Republicans also will be closely watching whether the governor's race serves as a portent of their party ahead of next year's midterm elections as GOP leaders work to ease exploding tensions between mainstream conservatives and pro-Trump adherents. The party's future success — and maybe its survival — depends on whether Republicans in competitive states like Virginia can re-create a coalition that moves beyond Trump's hardcore base.

So far, that playbook does not exist.

And the challenges are coming from within. Two high-profile Republicans are threatening third-party bids that would effectively kill the GOP's chance to reclaim the governor's office. Several other candidates are trying to cobble together a coalition that features both pro-Trump extremists and mainstream moderates, an ideological blend for which there is no successful model.

At the center of the Virginia GOP's challenge sits gubernatorial candidate Amanda Chase, a polarizing state senator who seems to have won the hearts and minds of the Trump faithful with her fiercely anti-establishment, pro-gun positions and her embrace of the false notion that Trump is the legitimate winner of the November election.

Nicknamed "Trump in heels," Chase emulates the former president in manner and policy. She was censured by Democrats and Republicans in the state legislature just last week for exhibiting a pattern of "conduct unbecoming of a senator," including an allegation that she described the pro-Trump mob that invaded the U.S. Capitol last month as "patriots."

And yet, in the Republican Party remade in Trump's image over the last five years, Chase is considered a serious contender for the gubernatorial nomination.

"I like to think I'm a little more polished than President Trump. I'm a little bit more diplomatic, but I am not afraid to speak my mind," Chase said in an interview.

Democrats have an entirely different issue. Former Gov. Terry McAuliffe headlines a slate of candidates competing in a quieter nomination contest. McAuliffe, whose ties to his party's establishment have come under attack from his left flank, is quick to highlight the progressive policies he would pursue and to condemn the Republican field.

The former Democratic governor described Chase as "the Republican front-runner" during an interview. "You've got a bunch of candidates all trying to out-Trump each other," McAuliffe told The Associated Press. "2021 will be a key test for if Trumpism is still alive."

McAuliffe, a key ally of President Joe Biden who enjoys a massive fundraising advantage and near-

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 48 of 90

universal name recognition in Virginia, is navigating a crowded primary contest of his own that features three African Americans — state senator Jennifer McClellan, former state delegate Jennifer Carroll Foy and Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax — plus a self-described democratic socialist, Lee Carter.

Meanwhile, the state GOP is disorganized and broke.

Moving away from a traditional statewide primary election, the party plans to hold an in-person nominating convention on May 1, though the state's social-distancing rules would make such a gathering illegal. Party leaders are leaning toward an "unassembled" satellite convention but have not ruled out letting the state GOP's 12-member executive committee pick the nominee.

Chase is openly threatening to run as a third-party candidate if she believes the rules are being manipulated against her.

"If they disenfranchise the people of Virginia, I will declare the Republican Party is dead," Chase warned. "I will start the Patriot Party of Virginia. And I won't look back."

She is not alone.

Former Republican congressman Denver Riggleman, who has repeatedly railed against Trump and his acolytes since leaving office last month, also raised the possibility of pursuing a third-party run for governor in recent days.

A third-party bid from either contender would split the Republican electorate and make it all but impossible for Republicans to win this fall.

Meanwhile, the Republican field features a handful of candidates who are sticking with their party. They include Kirk Cox, the former state House speaker; northern Virginia businessman Pete Snyder, who previously lost a bid for lieutenant governor; and political newcomer and former private equity CEO Glenn Youngkin.

Cox is trying to focus the election on local issues instead of Trump. He described Biden as "the legitimate president" in an interview and disavowed the pro-Trump conspiracy theory known as QAnon.

Cox also declined to say whether he'd want Trump to campaign in Virginia on his behalf.

"I would like to see everyone turn and focus on Virginia and Virginians," he said.

Trump adviser Jason Miller said it was "too early to tell" what role the former president or his high-profile surrogates would or would not play in the Virginia contest.

John Fredericks, who twice served as Trump's Virginia state director, described the state GOP as "a dumpster fire." He predicted that Trump would get involved personally, though more likely in the general election than the Republican nominating contest.

As for Chase, Trump's most passionate ally in the race, Fredericks fears that she's not viable in a general election because of her "shenanigans."

"The word I get from Republicans is that she's exhausting," he said. "They've had enough."

Chase insists she has a history of winning "impossible races." She was first elected to the General Assembly in 2015 after she knocked off a longtime incumbent who had far outlasted her in the primary.

Despite her combative social media presence and the fact that she's suing the Senate itself, she's typically peppy and warm in personal interactions. During floor sessions, she sits behind a plexiglass shield erected because she refuses to wear a mask. Chase, who has previously said she doesn't "do COVID," was awaiting the results of a test Friday after a possible exposure.

Since late 2019, she's engaged in what her critics see as increasingly bizarre, radical behavior.

In an interview, Chase declined to disavow QAnon, questioned her colleagues' mental health after they questioned hers in floor speeches last week and refused to say that Trump lost the November election.

"I believe the election was stolen nationwide," she insisted, though later in the interview she said she did accept the election results.

In December, she called on Trump to declare martial law rather than leave office.

While Fredericks said Chase could win as much as one-third of the vote in a traditional Republican primary, she's almost completely alienated from Republican officials inside the state Capitol. She's been booted from her own local party and in late 2019 decided to stop caucusing with fellow Senate Republicans.

Democrats are optimistic they can capitalize on the Republican chaos. But history is against them. Over



the last four decades, Virginia voters have elected a governor from the party that does not win the White House in every election but one.

McAuliffe also believes that Trump's absence will make it more difficult for Democrats to energize their coalition later this year in Virginia and beyond.

"I tell Democrats all the time: Trump is now gone. And he has been a major driver of our turnout. He's not on the ballot anymore," McAuliffe said. "We've got to be on our game."

Peoples reported from New York.

## As Trump prosecutor, delegate gets her say on impeachment

By PADMANANDA RAMA and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Stacey Plaskett couldn't cast a vote last month when the House impeached former President Donald Trump. But she can help prosecute him.

The non-voting delegate from the Virgin Islands is among the impeachment managers selected by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to argue the case that Trump incited a deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. It's an extraordinary moment that places Plaskett in the center of just the fourth impeachment trial of an American president.

But there will also be a familiar dynamic when Plaskett walks into the Senate chamber, one that she's experienced from elementary school through her legal career: being one of the only Black women in the room. Now that Kamala Harris has left the Senate to become vice president, there are only two Black senators left, both male. The chamber remains overwhelmingly white despite growing diversity in the House.

Like most of the impeachment managers, Plaskett brings considerable legal experience to the case, including a stint in the Bronx District Attorney's office and as a senior counsel at the Justice Department. She said being asked to join the team was an invigorating way to deal with the catastrophic events of Jan. 6, when she and her staff barricaded themselves in her office as the rioters descended on the Capitol.

"My method of handling things like this is to work," Plaskett said, adding that receiving the unexpected call from Pelosi "really gave me a charge and something to do."

As an impeachment manager, it falls to Plaskett and the other Democrats to break through partisan divisions and persuade skeptical Republicans in the Senate — 45 of whom have already voted for an effort to dismiss the case — that they should take the unprecedented step of convicting Trump and barring him from office.

To do so, they'll have to retell the harrowing events of Jan. 6, when hundreds of people, some bearing racist and anti-Semitic symbols on their clothing, terrorized the Capitol and forced lawmakers into hiding. They intend to link it all to Trump, the man they say is "singularly responsible" for the riot by telling his supporters to "fight like hell" against the certification of President Joe Biden's election victory.

Trump's rhetoric, Plaskett said, was "an attempt to destroy what I believe America is."

As a woman of color, Plaskett says she'll be speaking at the trial for individuals who were "particularly traumatized by what happened on January 6th. You know, as an African-American, as a woman seeing individuals storming our most sacred place of democracy, wearing anti-Semitic, racist, neo-Nazi, white supremacy logos on their bodies and wreaking the most vile and hateful things."

The trial also gives Plaskett a chance to work alongside Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., the lead impeachment manager who was one of her law school professors at American University's Washington College of Law. She called him an "incredible man" and said his ability to "be inclusive, and to tease out and to encourage people to share" has brought her back to those days.

In turn, Raskin said Plaskett was "truly dazzling" as a law school student.

"Other students used to take notes when she spoke and that was amazing to me," Raskin says. "She struck me quickly in class as a potentially brilliant prosecutor and I encouraged her to take that path. I could not be prouder of her career, and adore her even though she has more seniority than me and teases me about that constantly."

Plaskett was born in the Bronx to parents who moved to the United States from the Virgin Islands. At

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 50 of 90

13, she started at an exclusive Connecticut boarding school where she says she "continually had to raise my hand and try and speak to non-minority people about actions and events to let them see through a lens that what has happened is, in fact, racist or demonstrates their privilege."

Pelosi's impeachment team is diverse — including Colorado Rep. Joe Neguse, who is also Black — but Plaskett will be the first manager of a presidential impeachment from a U.S. territory.

Plaskett says people in the Virgin Islands — once home to a young Alexander Hamilton — may live in a small place, but don't think of themselves as small people. "We're big shots in everything we do," she said.

"Virgin Islanders are always looking for space to be a part of this America and try to make it better, even without a vote," she said.

"I'm going to make sure that their voice and the voice of people from territories representing four million Americans — Puerto Rico and other places — are actually heard."

## **Biden back in Delaware with moving on his weekend to-do list**

By AAMER MADHANI, ZEKE MILLER and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — On President Joe Biden's weekend to-do list? Moving.

Biden flew aboard Air Force One for the first time as president on Friday, but not on a trip to sell his \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief plan or to confer with a U.S. ally.

He just went home, to Delaware, to help his wife, Jill, figure out what other "stuff" they need in their "other house," meaning the White House.

"It's a great honor," Biden said of flying aboard Air Force One as president. "But I didn't think about it, to tell you the truth. I was reading the paper."

He said he went to his home near Wilmington for the weekend "to see my grandchildren and to hang out with Jill to get the rest of the stuff we have to move from our house to the other house." Biden's son Hunter also turned 51 on Thursday.

Biden flew even as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended that Americans avoid travel because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The White House said the trip would be far less risky for Biden, who is at higher risk because he is 78, than the sort of commercial travel that people are being urged to put on hold.

"Any president of the United States, Democrat or Republican, obviously takes Air Force One, a private plane, when they travel," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said hours before Biden's inaugural flight.

Biden told reporters shortly after landing in Delaware that the plane was much like the one he flew as vice president for eight years, "only it's much nicer."

Biden has made controlling the pandemic the central focus of the early work of his presidency. His team has repeatedly emphasized that he will model safe behavior for the nation.

Any time the president travels, an entourage of support staff, security personnel and media travels with him.

The CDC's guidance notes that "travel increases your chance of spreading and getting COVID-19" and that the agency "recommends that you do not travel at this time." But it says people who must travel should first complete their COVID-19 vaccinations, if they're eligible, and wait two weeks after getting the second dose before embarking on travel.

Biden got his second dose of the coronavirus vaccine more than three weeks ago.

Biden and his aides have been meticulous about how they go about their business as they try to reduce the chances of infection among White House staffers. Mask wearing is mandatory throughout the White House complex, much of the administration is working remotely and the duration and size of meetings has been limited.

Biden also has made few appearances outside the White House complex during the first weeks of his presidency — all for official business or to attend church.

The trip for Biden, who spent decades in the Senate and eight years as vice president, marked his first time on Air Force One in more than 20 years. He flew to South America with President Bill Clinton in 2000

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 51 of 90

as Clinton announced \$1.3 billion in aid to help Colombia battle drug traffickers.

For security reasons, the vice president travels separately from the president and relies on the more modest Air Force Two aircraft for out-of-town travel.

For the 25-minute flight from Joint Base Andrews in Maryland to the New Castle Air National Guard Base, Biden flew on the smaller C-32 model from the Air Force's fleet.

It is a specially configured version of the Boeing 757-200 commercial intercontinental airliner, compared to the iconic VC-25A, which is a modified Boeing 747.

Biden's predecessor, former President Donald Trump, didn't hide his affection for Air Force One, perhaps the greatest perk of the job.

But Trump was not a fan of the Kennedy-era blue and white color scheme that is known the world over. Trump viewed the design as dated, too muted and insufficiently patriotic, and announced plans in 2019 to overhaul the color scheme using the colors of the American flag. He kept a model of his planned overhaul on display in the Oval Office.

Psaki has said that a new Air Force One paint job isn't on Biden's priority list.

"I can confirm for you here that the president has not spent a moment thinking about the color scheme of Air Force One," she said from the briefing room.

Madhani reported from Chicago. Miller reported from Washington.

## Biden says 'erratic' Trump shouldn't get intel briefings

By AAMER MADHANI and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden said Friday that Donald Trump's "erratic behavior" should prevent him from receiving classified intelligence briefings, a courtesy that historically has been granted to outgoing presidents.

Asked in an interview with CBS News what he feared if Trump continued to receive the briefings, Biden said he did not want to "speculate out loud" but made clear he did not want Trump to continue getting them.

"I just think that there is no need for him to have the intelligence briefings," Biden said. "What value is giving him an intelligence briefing? What impact does he have at all, other than the fact he might slip and say something?"

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said earlier this week that the issue of granting Trump intelligence briefings was "something that is under review."

Some Democratic lawmakers, and even some former Trump administration officials, have questioned the wisdom of allowing Trump to continue to be briefed.

Susan Gordon, who served as the principal deputy director of national intelligence during the Trump administration from 2017 to 2019, in a Washington Post op-ed last month urged Biden to cut off Trump.

"His post-White House 'security profile,' as the professionals like to call it, is daunting," Gordon wrote days after a pro-Trump mob laid siege to the U.S. Capitol as lawmakers sought to certify his defeat in last November's election. "Any former president is by definition a target and presents some risks. But a former president Trump, even before the events of last week, might be unusually vulnerable to bad actors with ill intent."

Whether to give a past president intelligence briefings is solely the current officeholder's prerogative. Biden voiced his opposition to giving Trump access to briefings as the former president's second impeachment trial is set to begin next week.

Biden, however, said Friday that his hesitance to allow Trump access to the briefing was due to the former president's "erratic behavior unrelated to the insurrection."

Gordon also raised concerns about Trump's business entanglements. The real estate tycoon saw his business founder during his four years in Washington and is weighed down by significant debt, reportedly about \$400 million. Trump during the campaign called his debt load a "peanut" and said he did not owe

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 52 of 90

any money to Russia.

"Trump has significant business entanglements that involve foreign entities," Gordon wrote. "Many of these current business relationships are in parts of the world that are vulnerable to intelligence services from other nation-states."

Rep. Adam Schiff, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, also urged Biden to cut off briefings for Trump.

"There's no circumstance in which this president should get another intelligence briefing," Schiff said shortly before Trump ended his term last month. "I don't think he can be trusted with it now, and in the future."

## **Fox Business cancels 'Lou Dobbs Tonight' after a decade**

By LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Fox Business Network's "Lou Dobbs Tonight," whose host has trumpeted unfounded assertions of voter fraud in the 2020 election, has been canceled.

In a statement Friday, Fox News Media said the move was part of routine programming alterations that it had foreshadowed in an announcement last fall.

Fox News Media "regularly considers programming changes and plans have been in place to launch new formats as appropriate post-election, including on Fox Business — this is part of those planned changes," the company said.

Whether the cancellation ends Dobbs' career with Fox Business wasn't addressed, and the company had no further comment. The former CNN host started his show at the channel in March 2011, and it became among the most-watched business news channel programs.

The statement appeared to distance the cancellation from a multibillion-dollar defamation lawsuit filed Thursday against Fox and three of its hosts, including Dobbs, by the election technology company Smartmatic. In a previous statement, Fox News said it would "vigorously defend against this meritless lawsuit in court."

The replacement for "Lou Dobbs Tonight" will be announced soon, Fox News said. The show last aired on Friday, with a guest host sitting in for Dobbs, who had no immediate statement.

An interim show, "Fox Business Tonight," will air starting 5 p.m. Eastern Monday with rotating hosts Jackie DeAngelis and David Asman and repeat at 7 p.m. EST.

In December, Smartmatic sent a letter threatening legal action to Fox and two other networks, Newsmax and One America News Network, also popular with supporters of former President Donald Trump.

That month, Fox aired pre-taped segments in which a voting technology expert said he hadn't seen any evidence that Smartmatic software was used to alter vote counts. The segments aired on Dobbs' program and on Fox News Channel shows with Maria Bartiromo and Jeanine Pirro.

## **Activists complain of weakened voting security standard**

By FRANK BAJAK AP Technology Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Leaders of the federal agency overseeing election administration have quietly weakened a key element of proposed security standards for voting systems, raising concern among voting-integrity experts that many such systems will remain vulnerable to hacking.

The Election Assistance Commission is poised to approve its first new security standards in 15 years after an arduous process involving multiple technical and elections community bodies and open hearings. But ahead of a scheduled Feb. 10 ratification vote by commissioners, the EAC leadership tweaked the draft standards to remove language that stakeholders interpreted as banning wireless modems and chips from voting machines as a condition for federal certification.

The mere presence of such wireless hardware poses unnecessary risks for tampering that could alter data or programs on election systems, say computer security specialists and activists, some of whom have long complained that the EAC bends too easily to industry pressure.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 53 of 90

Agency leaders argue that overall, the revised guidelines represent a major security improvement. They stress that the rules require manufacturers to disable wireless functions present in any machines, although the wireless hardware can remain.

In a Feb. 3 letter to the agency, computer scientists and voting integrity activists say the change "profoundly weakens voting system security and will introduce very real opportunities to remotely attack election systems." They demand the wireless hardware ban be restored.

"They're trying to do an end run to avoid scrutiny by the public and Congress," said Susan Greenhalgh, senior advisor on election security for Free Speech for People, a nonpartisan nonprofit, accusing agency leaders of bowing to industry pressure.

Seven members of the commission's 35-member advisory board including its chair, Michael Yaki, wrote EAC leadership on Thursday to express dismay that the standards were "substantially altered" from what they approved in June. At the very least, they wrote, they deserve an explanation why the draft standards "backtracked so drastically on a critical security issue."

Yaki said he was puzzled by the commission's move because "the mantra adopted by pretty much the entire cyber community has been to take radios or things that can be communicated via wireless out of the equation."

Yaki asked in the letter that the commissioners postpone the Feb. 10 vote, but he withdrew that request on Friday after hearing their explanation for the changes. But he said his concerns remain.

A modem ban is especially important because millions of Americans continue to believe former President Donald Trump's unfounded claims that voting equipment was somehow manipulated to rob him of reelection in November, said Yaki. "You don't want to give QAnon enthusiasts or the 'Stop the Steal' people any reason to think that our our voting infrastructure is less than perfect."

EAC Chair Benjamin Hovland noted that the agency relied on experts with the National Institute of Standards and Technology to help draft the guidelines. He said objections to the change should not be allowed to hold up the new rules' significant cybersecurity improvements.

The ban on wireless hardware in voting machines would force vendors who currently build systems with off-the-shelf components to rely on more expensive custom-built hardware, Hovland said, which could hurt competition in an industry already dominated by a trio of companies. He also argued that the guidelines are voluntary, although many state laws are predicated on them.

"You have people putting their own personal agenda, putting themselves before the health of our democracy," Hovland said, adding that elections officials are among those supporting the change. "It's so small-sighted the way some people have been approaching this."

Hovland stressed that the amended guidelines say all wireless capability must be disabled in voting equipment. But computer experts say that if the hardware is present, the software that activates it can be introduced. And the threat is not just from malign actors but also from the vendors and their clients, who could enable the wireless capability for maintenance purposes then forget to turn it off, leaving machines vulnerable.

Still, one member of the NIST-led technical committee, Rice University computer scientist Dan Wallach, said that while the changes came as a surprise, they don't seem "catastrophic." Objections shouldn't hold up adoption of the new guidelines, he said.

California, Colorado, New York and Texas already ban wireless modems in their voting equipment. The standards being updated, known as the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines, are used by 38 states either as a benchmark or to define some aspect of equipment testing and certification. In 12 states, voting equipment certification is fully governed by the guidelines.

In 2015, Virginia decertified and scrapped a voting machine called the WINVote after determining that it could be wirelessly accessed and manipulated.

Created to modernize voting technology following the "hanging chad" debacle in the 2000 presidential election, the Election Assistance Committee has never had much authority. That's partly because voting administration is run individually by the 50 states and territories.

But after Russian military hackers meddled in the 2016 election in Trump's favor, the nation's voting equipment was declared critical infrastructure and Democrats in Congress have attempted to exert greater federal control to improve security.

Republicans, however, have stymied attempts at election security reform in the Senate. While the most unreliable voting machines — touchscreens with no paper ballots to recount — have largely been scrapped, privately held equipment vendors continues to sell proprietary systems that computer scientists say remains vulnerable to hacking. Experts are pushing for universal use of hand-marked paper ballots and better audits to bolster confidence in election results.

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Associated Press writer Christina A. Cassidy contributed from Atlanta.

## Coronavirus cases drop at US homes for elderly and infirm

By JAY REEVES Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Coronavirus cases have dropped at U.S. nursing homes and other long-term care facilities over the past few weeks, offering a glimmer of hope that health officials attribute to the start of vaccinations, an easing of the post-holiday surge and better prevention, among other reasons.

More than 153,000 residents of the country's nursing homes and assisted living centers have died of COVID-19, accounting for 36% of the U.S. pandemic death toll, according to the COVID Tracking Project. Many of the roughly 2 million people who live at such facilities remain cut off from loved ones because of the risk of infection. The virus still kills thousands of them weekly.

The overall trend for long-term care residents is improving, though, with fewer new cases recorded and fewer facilities reporting outbreaks. Coupled with better figures for the country overall, it's cause for optimism even if it's too early to declare victory.

"We definitely think there's hope and there's light at the end of the tunnel," said Marty Wright, who heads a nursing home trade group in West Virginia.

Nursing homes have been a priority since vaccinations began in mid-December, and the federal government says 1.5 million long-term care residents have already received at least an initial dose.

Researchers and industry leaders say they are seeing marked improvements after months in which some nursing homes lost dozens of residents to the disease and had to keep others in semi-isolation for protection. Some 2,000 nursing homes are now virus-free, or about 13% nationally, according to an industry group, and many are dealing with far fewer cases than before.

In West Virginia, where about 30% of the state's roughly 2,080 COVID-19 deaths occurred at long-term care centers, fewer outbreaks are happening and fewer residents are requiring hospitalization, said Wright, chief executive of the West Virginia Health Care Association. Pennsylvania-based Genesis HealthCare, which operates more than 325 nursing homes, assisted-living facilities or senior living communities in 24 states, has seen similar improvements, said spokeswoman Lori Mayer.

The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living, an industry trade organization, said Thursday that data from about 800 nursing homes where initial vaccine doses were administered in late December offered promising results. Cases among residents fell by 48% at homes where immunizations had occurred, compared to a 21% decline at non-vaccinated facilities nearby. Meanwhile, cases among employees dropped by 33% at vaccinated homes, compared to 18% at non-vaccinated facilities.

After reaching a high of almost 73,600 new weekly cases in long-term care facilities nationwide in mid-December, the number was down 31% by late January, to about 50,000 new cases per week, an Associated Press analysis found. Still, the most recent weekly count is 18% higher than the seven-day period that ended on Thanksgiving, when numbers started climbing.

The weekly count of new deaths remains stubbornly high, with a record 7,042 recorded during the seven-day span that ended Jan. 14 and only a slight decline since. By comparison, for the seven days that ended on Thanksgiving, 3,181 deaths were recorded. More encouragingly, the COVID Tracking Project found that only 251 facilities reported new outbreaks recently, compared to 1,410 in early January.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 55 of 90

Dr. David Gifford, chief medical officer for the national association, said the numbers show signs for hope since they indicate vaccines might decrease the spread of COVID-19, a finding not shown in trials.

"If verified with additional data, this could expedite the reopening of long-term care facilities to visitors, which is vital to residents' health and wellbeing," he said in a statement.

The ability to visit left Mark Badger and his 91-year-old father Billy, who is in an Anchorage, Alaska, nursing home, in tears. It was the first face-to-face visit in a year. Mark Badger's mother had died at the home a year ago.

"This is a period when he really needs us," Mark Badger said. "He's been lonely."

Experts caution that only some of the improvement can be linked to vaccines.

Studies from Israel show it takes a patient about 12 days for the first of the two-dose Pfizer or Moderna vaccines to provide meaningful protection, said Roni Rosenfeld, a computational epidemiologist who heads the Machine Learning Department at Carnegie Mellon University. Despite all the long-term care facility residents and workers who have received at least one dose of vaccine, those doses haven't had enough time to work for most people, he said this week.

"The vaccine likely contributed, but very, very little," said Rosenfeld.

Health officials say other factors are likely playing a larger role, including an ebb in the post-holiday surge, an ever-larger number of people who are immune because they've had the disease, behavioral changes and more abundant protective gear. And they caution that there are still threats lurking, including more contagious strains of the virus and a reluctance by many nursing home workers to get vaccinated.

At Arbor Springs Health and Rehabilitation Center in Opelika, Alabama, where 19 patients died of COVID-19 early in the pandemic, none of the roughly 115 patients are infected now, said Mark Traylor, who heads the facility's parent company, Traylor-Porter Healthcare.

"We look after each other in here. We take care of each other," resident Susan McEachern said Wednesday as she and a friend — both wearing masks — sat in a communal room that was recently reopened because many residents had been vaccinated.

Traylor said a better understanding of how to prevent the spread of the virus and how to treat COVID-19 was the difference between "looking into an abyss" during those first weeks of the crisis and visitors now being allowed back on a limited basis.

"We're going to be in great shape once we get everybody vaccinated," said Traylor.

PruittHealth, which operates about 100 nursing homes in the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida, has 29 locations that are free of COVID-19 and fewer patients overall testing positive in recent weeks, said CEO Neil Pruitt.

Although more than 70% of PruittHealth's eligible nursing home residents have been immunized, only 27% of its employees have agreed to be vaccinated, Pruitt said. Without a big improvement in that employee figure, he's worried cases could spike again once people start traveling over spring break.

"Right now, I'm not confident," he said.

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Associated Press Medical Writer Carla K. Johnson in Washington state; Adrain Sainz in Memphis, Tennessee; Mark Thiessen in Anchorage, Alaska; data journalist Nicky Forster; and photographer Julie Bennett in Opelika contributed to this report.

## AP analysis: Federal executions likely a COVID superspreader

By MICHAEL TARM, MICHAEL BALSAMO and MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the Trump administration was nearing the end of an unprecedented string of executions, 70% of death row inmates were sick with COVID-19. Guards were ill. Traveling prisons staff on the execution team had the virus. So did media witnesses, who may have unknowingly infected others when they returned home because they were never told about the spreading cases.

Records obtained by The Associated Press show employees at the Indiana prison complex where the 13 executions were carried out over six months had contact with inmates and other people infected with

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 56 of 90

the coronavirus, but were able to refuse testing and declined to participate in contact tracing efforts and were still permitted to return to their work assignments.

Other staff members, including those brought in to help with executions, also spread tips to their colleagues about how they could avoid quarantines and skirt public health guidance from the federal government and Indiana health officials.

The executions at the end of Donald Trump's presidency, completed in a short window over a few weeks, likely acted as a superspreader event, according to the records reviewed by AP. It was something health experts warned could happen when the Justice Department insisted on resuming executions during a pandemic.

It's impossible to know precisely who introduced the infections and how they started to spread, in part because prisons officials didn't consistently do contact tracing and haven't been fully transparent about the number of cases. But medical experts say it's likely the executioners and support staff, many of whom traveled from prisons in other states with their own virus outbreaks, triggered or contributed both in the Terre Haute penitentiary and beyond the prison walls.

Of the 47 people on death row, 33 tested positive between Dec. 16 and Dec. 20, becoming infected soon after the executions of Alfred Bourgeois on Dec. 11 and Brandon Bernard on Dec. 10, according to Colorado-based attorney Madeline Cohen, who compiled the names of those who tested positive by reaching out to other federal death row lawyers. Other lawyers, as well as activists in contact with death row inmates, also told AP they were told a large numbers of death row inmates tested positive in mid-December.

In addition, at least a dozen other people, including execution team members, media witnesses and a spiritual adviser, tested positive within the incubation period of the virus, meeting the criteria of a superspreader event, in which one or more individuals trigger an outbreak that spreads to many others outside their circle of acquaintances. The tally could be far higher, but without contact tracing it's impossible to be sure.

Active inmate cases at the Indiana penitentiary also spiked from just three on Nov. 19 — the day Orlando Cordia Hall was put to death — to 406 on Dec. 29, which was 18 days after Bourgeois' execution, according to Bureau of Prisons data. The data includes the inmates at the high-security penitentiary, though the Bureau of Prisons has never said whether it included death row inmates in that count.

In all, 726 of the approximately 1,200 inmates at the United States Penitentiary at Terre Haute have tested positive for COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic, according to Bureau of Prisons data. Of them, 692 have recovered.

Advocates and lawyers for the inmates, a Zen Buddhist priest who was a spiritual adviser for one prisoner, and even the families of some of the victims fought to delay the executions until after the pandemic. Their requests were rebuffed repeatedly and their litigation failed. And some got sick.

Witnesses, who were required to wear masks, watched from behind glass in small rooms where it often wasn't possible to stand six feet apart. They were taken to and from the death-chamber building in vans, where proper social distancing often wasn't possible. Passengers frequently had to wait in the vans for an hour or more, with windows rolled up and little ventilation, before being permitted to enter the execution-chamber building. And in at least one case, the witnesses were locked inside the execution chamber for more than four hours with little ventilation and no social distancing.

Prison staff told their colleagues they should first get on planes, go back to their homes and then they could take a test, according to two people familiar with the matter. If they were positive, they said, they could just quarantine and wouldn't be stuck in Terre Haute for two weeks, said the people, who could not publicly discuss the private conversations and spoke to AP on condition of anonymity.

Following Hall's execution in November, only six members of the execution team opted to get coronavirus tests before they left Terre Haute, the Justice Department said in a court filing. The agency said they all tested negative. But days later, eight members of the team tested positive for the virus. Five of the staff



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 57 of 90

members who had tested positive were brought back to Terre Haute for more executions a few weeks later.

Yusuf Ahmed Nur, the spiritual adviser for Hall, stood just feet away inside the execution chamber when Hall was executed on Nov. 19. He tested positive for the virus days later.

Writing about the experience, Nur said he knew he would be putting himself at risk, but that Hall had asked him to be at his side when he was put to death. He, and Hall's family, felt obliged to be there.

"I could not say no to a man who would soon be killed," Nur wrote. "That I contracted COVID-19 in the process was collateral damage" of executions during a pandemic.

Later, two journalists tested positive for the virus after witnessing other executions in January, then had contact with activists and their own loved ones, who later tested positive as well. Despite being informed of the diagnoses, the Bureau of Prisons knowingly withheld the information from other media witnesses and decided not to initiate any contact tracing efforts.

By mid-December, prison officials said that both Corey Johnson and Dustin Higgs were sick. They were the last two prisoners to be executed, just days before President Joe Biden took office.

Death row was put on lockdown after their results, inmates told Ashley Kincaid Eve, a lawyer and anti-death penalty activist. But even though they had also tested positive, she said Higgs and Johnson were still moved around the prison — potentially infecting guards accompanying them — so they could use phones and email to speak with their lawyers and families as their execution dates approached. Eve said prisons officials may have worried a court would delay the executions on constitutional ground if that access was denied.

In response to questions from the AP, the Bureau of Prisons said staff members who don't experience symptoms "are clear to work" and that they have their temperatures taken and are asked about symptoms before reporting for duty. (The AP has previously reported that staff members at other prisons were cleared with normal temperatures even when thermometers showed hypothermic readings.)

The agency said it also conducts contact training in accordance with federal guidance and that "if staff are circumventing this guidance, we are not aware."

Officials said staff members were required to participate in contact tracing "if they met the criteria for it" and agency officials couldn't compel employees to be tested.

"We cannot force staff members to take tests, nor does the CDC recommend testing of asymptomatic individuals," an agency spokesperson said, referring to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The union for Terre Haute employees declined to comment, saying it did not want to "get into the public fray of this whole issue."

Elsewhere, union officials have long complained about the spread of the coronavirus through the federal prison system, as well as a lack of personal protective equipment and room to isolate infected inmates. Some of those issues have been alleviated, but containing the virus continues to be a concern at many facilities.

No more executions have yet been scheduled under Biden. The Bureau of Prisons has repeatedly refused to say how many other people have tested positive for the coronavirus after the last several executions. And the agency would not answer questions about the specific reasoning for withholding the information from the public, instead directing the AP to file a public records request.

The Bureau of Prisons said it also "took extensive efforts to mitigate the transmission" of the virus, including limiting the number of media witnesses and adding an extra van for the witnesses to space them out.

It has argued witnesses were informed social distancing may not be possible in the execution chamber and that witnesses and others were required to wear masks and were offered additional protective equipment, like gowns and face shields. The agency also refused to answer questions about whether Director Michael Carvajal or any other senior leaders raised concerns about executing 13 people during a worldwide pandemic that has killed more than 450,000 in the U.S.

Still, it appears their own protocols weren't followed. After a federal judge ordered the Bureau of Prisons

to ensure masks were worn during executions in January, the executioner and U.S. marshal in the death chamber removed their masks during one of the executions, appearing to violate the judge's order. The agency argued they needed to do so to communicate clearly and that they only removed their masks for a short time and disputes that it violated the order.

In a Nov. 24 court filing on the spread of COVID at Terre Haute, Joe Goldenson, a public health expert on the spread of disease behind bars, said hundreds of staff participated in one way or another at each execution, including around 40 people on execution teams and those on 50-person specialized security teams who traveled from other prisons nationwide. He said he had warned earlier that executions were likely to become a superspreader.

Medical and public health experts repeatedly called on the Justice Department to delay executions, arguing the setup at prisons made them especially vulnerable to outbreaks, including because social distancing was impossible and health care substandard.

"These are the type of high-risk superspreader events that the (American Medical Association) and (the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) have been warning against throughout the pandemic," James L. Madara, the executive vice president of the AMA, wrote to the Department of Justice on Jan. 11, just before the last three federal executions were carried out.

Tarm reported from Chicago and Sisak reported from New York.

On Twitter, follow Michael Tarm at [twitter.com/mtarm](https://twitter.com/mtarm), Michael Balsamo at [www.twitter.com/MikeBalsamo1](https://www.twitter.com/MikeBalsamo1) and Michael Sisak at [twitter.com/mikesisak](https://twitter.com/mikesisak).

## Judge rules Republican Tenney won last open US House race

By MARINA VILLENEUVE Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — A New York judge ruled Friday that Republican Claudia Tenney defeated U.S. Rep. Anthony Brindisi by 109 votes in the nation's last undecided congressional race.

The ruling by Judge Scott DelConte could clear the way for Tenney to be sworn in as the representative for central New York's 22nd Congressional District, barring emergency intervention by a state appeals court.

She previously was the district's representative for one term, until she was defeated by Brindisi, a Democrat, in 2018.

DelConte's ruling came after he spent three months reviewing ballot challenges and trying to fix a myriad of problems with vote tabulation. He rejected an argument by Brindisi's lawyers that certification of the election results should be delayed until an appeals court had a chance to review the case.

DelConte's order directed New York to certify results immediately.

The judge said even if the results end up changing after any litigation, New York could simply amend its certification. He issued his ruling hours after a last public hearing, in which he told Brindisi's lawyers that he was disinclined to delay the results any further.

"I've been asked to stop this election ... and that's a very very high burden," he said.

Tenney has maintained a small lead even as months of litigation revealed problems with ballots that either weren't counted properly or were improperly rejected.

"I'm honored to have won this race," Tenney said. "It was a hard-fought campaign and I thank Anthony Brindisi for his service. Now that every legal vote has been counted, it's time for the results to be certified. The voters need a voice in Congress, and I look forward to getting to work on behalf of New York's 22nd Congressional District."

Tallies have shifted as county election officials counted a flood of absentee ballots and courts weighed in on which challenged ballots could be counted.

Brindisi had argued that once the election gets certified and Tenney is sworn in, only Congress has the power to remove her, not the courts.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 59 of 90

He's pushing for an audit that could trigger a hand recount, which he said Friday "is the only way to resolve this race." Brindisi said he was "shocked and surprised" by the judge's decision.

"With the margin so thin, the ever changing tally, and the countless errors that have occurred arriving at today's final number we can't afford to wonder here," Brindisi said Friday. "We have to get it right. Because this is not a raffle, this is a congressional election."

But the judge said Friday only the U.S. House can order a new election or recount at this point. A new law requiring hand recounts in tight races only takes effect for 2021 races, according to DelConte.

DelConte said Brindisi can still challenge the election in the House and potentially unseat Tenney. The U.S. House can unseat a member who is "not truly the lawful winner of an election," the judge wrote.

"Indeed, the House now has, as it had since the start of this proceeding, the sole authority to seat or refuse to seat Tenney or Brindisi, or to seat one of them conditionally during the course of this litigation, including any appeals," he wrote.

Democrats control the U.S. House with 221 seats, while Republicans have 211 seats. The 22nd Congressional District is one of three vacant seats, according to Congress's website — the other two vacant seats are the result of a death and a January resignation.

## **Biden wants fast COVID aid, but minimum wage hike in doubt**

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden laid out his case Friday for moving fast to pass \$1.9 trillion in coronavirus relief, but even as he opened the door to proceeding without Republicans, he conceded that a key element of his plan — hiking the minimum wage to \$15 per hour — was unlikely to become law.

The stakes for the county and economy were amplified Friday morning by the release of the government's jobs report for January, which showed that hiring had stalled to a pace that could hinder a return to full employment for several years. Some 406,000 people left the labor force last month as deaths from the pandemic have surged.

"A lot of folks are losing hope," Biden said in a speech at the White House. "I believe the American people are looking right now to their government for help, to do our job, to not let them down. So I'm going to act. I'm going to act fast. I'd like to be doing it with the support of Republicans ... they're just not willing to go as far as I think we have to go."

The jobs report landed shortly after Senate Democrats cast a decisive vote to muscle the COVID relief plan through the chamber without Republican support, a step toward final approval next month. Vice President Kamala Harris cast the tie-breaking vote in the Senate, her first.

Biden's speech solidified a marked shift in tone and strategy for a president who entered the White House pledging bipartisanship and met on Monday with 10 Republican senators pushing a slimmed-down \$618 billion alternative. Biden concluded in his Friday speech that aid at that level would only prolong the economic pain.

Still, the president acknowledged Friday that one of his most ambitious proposals, raising the minimum wage, would likely be left out of the final bill.

"I put it in, but I don't think it's going to survive," Biden said in an interview with "CBS Evening News" anchor Norah O'Donnell, adding he would push to raise it in a standalone bill. "No one should work 40 hours a week and live below the poverty wage. And if you're making less than \$15 an hour, you're living below the poverty wage."

Senate Democrats applauded after Harris announced the chamber's 51-50 vote on the budget measure at around 5:30 a.m. The action came after a grueling all-night session, where senators voted on amendments that could define the contours of the eventual COVID-19 aid bill.

Following Senate approval, the House passed the measure 219-209 on Friday afternoon, also without a Republican vote. The coronavirus aid package can now work its way through congressional committees with the goal of finalizing additional relief by mid-March, when extra unemployment assistance and other pandemic aid expires. It's an aggressive timeline that will test the ability of the new administration and

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 60 of 90

Congress to deliver.

"We have been focused like a laser on getting this done," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said after leading Democrats in the House met with Biden on Friday. "We hope to be able to put vaccines in people's arms, money in people's pockets, children safely in schools and workers in their jobs. That's what we are doing now."

The push for stimulus comes amid new signs of a weakening U.S. economy. Employers added just 49,000 jobs in January, after cutting 227,000 jobs in December, the Labor Department said Friday. Restaurants, retailers, manufacturers and even the health care sector shed workers last month, meaning that private employers accounted for a meager gain of 6,000 jobs last month.

"At that rate, it's going to take 10 years until we hit full employment," Biden said during his Oval Office meeting with House Democrats. "That's not hyperbole. That's a fact."

The unemployment rate fell to 6.3% from 6.7%, but there was a decline in the number of people who were either working or looking for a job in a sign that people are dropping out of the labor force. The U.S. economy is 9.9 million jobs shy of its pre-pandemic level.

Biden, who has been meeting with lawmakers in recent days to discuss the package, welcomed the leaders of House committees who will be assembling the bill under the budget process known as "reconciliation." Money for vaccine distributions, direct payments to households, school reopenings and business aid are at stake.

The size of the package has been a concern for several Republican lawmakers and some economists. Larry Summers, a former treasury secretary during the Clinton administration, said in a column for The Washington Post that the \$1.9 trillion package was three times larger than the projected economic shortfall. A separate analysis by the Penn Wharton Budget Model found the plan would do little to boost growth relative to its size.

The Senate also passed an amendment 99-1 that would prevent the \$1,400 in direct checks in Biden's proposal from going to "upper-income taxpayers." But the measure, led by Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., is ultimately symbolic and nonbinding and does not specify at what level a person qualifies as upper income.

Biden told CBS he was "prepared to negotiate" on the upper boundary for where payments would phase out. "Middle-class folks need help," he said. "But you don't need to get any help to someone making 300,000 bucks or \$250,000."

And while Biden seemed willing to break with Republicans in his speech, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters afterward that the budget process approved by the Senate still allows for bipartisanship.

"The process enables for time for negotiations through committee work," Psaki said. "We certainly are hopeful that there will be opportunities for amendments from Republicans, amendments from others across the board to be a part of this process moving forward."

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Associated Press writers Zeke Miller and Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

## Reopening debate testing Biden's ties with teachers unions

By COLLIN BINKLEY AP Education Writer

The increasingly heated school reopening debate is forcing President Joe Biden to balance two priorities: getting children back into the classroom and preserving the support of powerful labor groups that helped him get elected.

Following weeks of standoff in some cities and states where teachers unions are demanding vaccines as a condition of reopening, the issue came to a head Wednesday when Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said vaccination of teachers "is not a prerequisite for safe reopening of schools."

But in a juggling of positions, the White House declined to back Walensky, saying she was speaking "in her personal capacity." Asked Friday about her earlier comments, Walensky punted.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 61 of 90

So far, it doesn't appear that the issue is driving a wedge between Biden and the unions. Even those demanding vaccines say shots would not be required if schools were taking other steps to make buildings safe.

Walensky on Wednesday cited CDC data showing that social distancing and wearing a mask significantly reduce the spread of the virus in school settings. Just a week earlier, the agency issued a study similarly finding that, with mask wearing and other precautions, it's generally safe to hold in-person schooling.

To many Republicans and some on the left, Walensky's comment was seen as an endorsement to reopen schools immediately. Some believed it discredited teachers unions that have demanded vaccines before returning to in-person instruction.

Unions, however, largely met it with a shrug. With the right mix of safety measures in places, teachers unions generally agree the vaccines aren't a condition for reopening. The problem is that many schools are far behind on ventilation updates and other important measures recommended by health officials, said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers.

"Vaccinations go from a priority to essential if you can't do some of these basic mitigation strategies," Weingarten said. "Rather than keep these schools closed for months, why not vaccinate teachers more quickly?"

Even among state and local unions that have taken a harder line on vaccinations, Walensky's comment drew little fire. The California Teachers Association is pushing for all teachers to be vaccinated but it's largely because many schools "aren't anywhere close" to making buildings safe through other methods, said Claudia Briggs, a union spokesperson.

Briggs applauded the Biden administration's response, saying the president has made clear that teacher safety is of "paramount importance." She cited his proposal for \$130 billion in additional pandemic relief to help schools reopen.

In Chicago, vaccinations have been a major sticking point between the city and the teachers union as they work to negotiate a return to the classroom. At a Friday news conference held by the Chicago Teachers Union, special education teacher Dawn Kelly said teachers want to return but feel they aren't being protected.

"We want to come back to school. I miss my babies, I want to hug my students, I want to sit on the carpet and do read-alongs, but right now it's just not safe," she said.

Despite the seemingly definitive statement from the CDC, the White House has declined to take a firm stance on teacher vaccinations. Asked about it on Thursday, Biden press secretary Jen Psaki said Walensky was speaking "in her personal capacity" and that the White House would await updated school guidance that Biden has requested from the CDC.

"Obviously she's the head of the CDC, but we're going to wait for the final guidance to come out so we can use that as a guide for schools around the country," Psaki said.

Biden has pledged to reopen most of the nation's K-8 schools within his first 100 days in office, a goal he says is possible if Congress approves his pandemic rescue plan and if states prioritize teachers in vaccine rollouts. In many states, teachers are being included early in a second wave of shots.

But the plan has drawn fire from critics who say Biden is cowing to teachers unions who see him as an ally.

Both of the nation's two major teachers unions endorsed Biden for president, including the National Education Association, whose 3 million members include first lady Jill Biden, who is a longtime community college professor.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said efforts to get students back in the classroom have been blocked by "rich, powerful unions that donate huge sums to Democrats and get a stranglehold over education in many communities."

"An administration that puts facts and science first would be conducting a full-court press to open schools," he said on the Senate floor Wednesday.

Some on the left have issued similar rebukes, including former New York Mayor and Democratic presidential candidate Mike Bloomberg, who said on MSNBC that Biden must "stand up" to teachers unions and force a return to the classroom.

In California, Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom cited Walensky's comment as evidence that it's safe to

reopen schools before all teachers get vaccines. He has been pressing schools to reopen for weeks, but so far it appears the CDC's finding has done little to persuade teachers to return.

Vaccine shortages and slow rollouts have jeopardized Biden's reopening plan as more schools delay in-person instruction. Leaders in some districts have expressed doubt that they will bring all students back for in-person instruction until next school year.

The Biden administration says it hopes to accelerate openings by boosting funding and helping schools implement virus testing. Miguel Cardona, Biden's pick for education secretary, has said he's prepared to help reopen schools safely even if teachers have not all been vaccinated.

Weingarten, of the AFT, said Biden's proposed pandemic relief would go far toward getting schools opened. But even if Congress approves it, she said, it could be months before schools receive it and make necessary fixes. Instead of scapegoating teachers, though, she said blame should fall to the Trump administration for failing to deliver vaccines sooner and to districts that have failed to update buildings for years.

"There's not a lot of trust for districts because we've had years and years of austerity budgets, and we know that the facilities are not what they should be," she said. "It shouldn't take a pandemic to fix ventilation systems."

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Associated Press writer Don Babwin contributed to this report.

## Oscar winner, 'Sound of Music' star Christopher Plummer dies

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Christopher Plummer, the dashing award-winning actor who played Captain von Trapp in the film "The Sound of Music" and at 82 became the oldest Academy Award acting winner in history, has died. He was 91.

Plummer died Friday morning at his home in Connecticut with his wife, Elaine Taylor, by his side, said Lou Pitt, his longtime friend and manager.

Over more than 50 years in the industry, Plummer enjoyed varied roles ranging from the film "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo," to the voice of the villain in 2009's "Up" and as a canny lawyer in Broadway's "Inherit the Wind." In 2019 he starred as murdered mystery novelist in Rian Johnson's whodunnit "Knives Out" and in the TV suspense drama series "Departure."

But it was opposite Julie Andrews as von Trapp in 1965 that made him a star. He played an Austrian captain who must flee the country with his folk-singing family to escape service in the Nazi navy, a role he lamented was "humorless and one-dimensional." Plummer spent the rest of his life referring to the film as "The Sound of Mucus" or "S&M."

"We tried so hard to put humor into it," he told The Associated Press in 2007. "It was almost impossible. It was just agony to try to make that guy not a cardboard figure."

A GIF of the captain ripping a Nazi flag became a popular meme in recent years, and gave Plummer a new dose of fame.

"The world has lost a consummate actor today and I have lost a cherished friend. I treasure the memories of our work together and all the humor and fun we shared through the years," Andrews said in a statement.

The role catapulted Plummer to stardom, but he never took to leading men parts, despite his silver hair, good looks and ever-so-slight English accent. He preferred character parts, considering them more meaty. His memoir in 2012 was titled "In Spite of Myself."

Plummer had a remarkable film renaissance late in life, which began with his acclaimed performance as Mike Wallace in Michael Mann's 1999 film "The Insider," continued in films such as 2001's "A Beautiful Mind" and 2009's "The Last Station," in which he played a deteriorating Tolstoy and was nominated for an Oscar.

"He was a mighty force both as Man and Actor," Helen Mirren, his co-star in "The Last Station," said in a statement Friday. "He was fearless, energetic, courageous, knowledgeable, professional and a monument to what an actor can be."

In 2012, Plummer won a supporting actor Oscar for his role in "Beginners" as Hal Fields, a museum

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 63 of 90

director who becomes openly gay after his wife of 44 years dies. His loving, final relationship becomes an inspiration for his son, who struggles with his father's death and how to find intimacy in a new relationship.

"Too many people in the world are unhappy with their lot. And then they retire and they become vegetables. I think retirement in any profession is death, so I'm determined to keep crackin'," he told AP in 2011.

Plummer in 2017 replaced Kevin Spacey as J. Paul Getty in "All the Money in the World" just six weeks before the film was set to hit theaters. That choice that was officially validated in the best possible way for the film — a supporting Oscar nomination for Plummer, his third. "I was just hopeful that at my age, my memory would serve me," he said at the time. "I had to learn my lines very quickly."

Director Ridley Scott said he had "a wonderful experience" with Plummer on the film. "What a guy. What a talent. What a life," Scott said in a statement.

There were fallow periods in his career — a "Pink Panther" movie here, a "Dracula 2000" there and even a "Star Trek" — as a Klingon, no less. But Plummer had other reasons than the scripts in mind.

"For a long time, I accepted parts that took me to attractive places in the world. Rather than shooting in the Bronx, I would rather go to the south of France, crazed creature than I am," he told AP in 2007. "And so I sacrificed a lot of my career for nicer hotels and more attractive beaches."

The Canadian-born actor performed most of the major Shakespeare roles, including Hamlet, Iago, Othello, Prospero, Henry V and a staggering "King Lear" at Lincoln Center in 2004. He was frequent star at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival in Canada.

"I've become simpler and simpler with playing Shakespeare," he said in 2007. "I'm not as extravagant as I used to be. I don't listen to my voice so much anymore. All the pitfalls of playing the classics — you can fall in love with yourself."

He won two Tony Awards. The first was in 1974 for best actor in a musical for playing the title role in "Cyrano" and his second in 1997 for his portrayal of John Barrymore in "Barrymore." He also won two Emmys.

Plummer was born Arthur Christopher Orme Plummer in Toronto. His maternal great-grandfather was former Canadian Prime Minister Sir John Abbott. His parents divorced shortly after his birth and he was raised by his mother and aunts.

Plummer began his career on stage and in radio in Canada in the 1940s and made his Broadway debut in 1954 in "The Starcross Story." While still a relative unknown, he was cast as Hamlet in a 1963 performance co-starring Robert Shaw and Michael Caine. It was taped by the BBC at Elsinore Castle in Denmark, where the play is set, and released in 1964. It won an Emmy.

Plummer married Tony-winning actress Tammy Grimes in 1956, and fathered his only child, actress Amanda Plummer, in 1957. Like both her parents, she also won a Tony, in 1982 for "Agnes of God." (Grimes won two Tonys, for "Private Lives" and "The Unsinkable Molly Brown.")

Plummer and Grimes divorced in 1960. A five-year marriage to Patricia Lewis ended in 1967. Plummer married his third wife, dancer Taylor, in 1970, and credited her with helping him overcome a drinking problem.

He was given Canada's highest civilian honor when he was invested as Companion of the Order of Canada by Queen Elizabeth II in 1968, and was inducted into the American Theatre's Hall of Fame in 1986.

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AP Film Writers Lindsey Bahr and Jake Coyle in New York and AP Entertainment Writer Andrew Dalton in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

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Mark Kennedy is at <http://twitter.com/KennedyTwits>

## What of 'Individual-1'? Feds' Trump campaign case is 'dead'

By JIM MUSTIAN and LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The federal probe of hush money paid to cover up former President Donald Trump's alleged extramarital affairs hasn't been restarted, even though he no longer has the legal shield of the presidency, The Associated Press has learned.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 64 of 90

Trump's exit from the White House last month prompted speculation that U.S. prosecutors might revive the investigation that sent his former attorney, Michael Cohen, to prison. Trump himself had been publicly implicated by prosecutors as complicit in Cohen's campaign finance crimes during his 2016 run for office.

But several people involved in the case say the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan has made no such move, and is unlikely to do so going forward.

An attorney for one key witness described the investigation as "dead," adding prosecutors have even returned certain evidence they collected — a likely indication no one else will be charged. The attorney spoke on the condition of anonymity because prosecutors have not discussed the case publicly.

One current and one former law enforcement official told the AP that factors beyond presidential immunity prevented Trump from being charged for his role in buying the silence of Karen McDougal and porn actress Stormy Daniels, who said they'd had extramarital affairs with him.

Trump's departure from office has not altered that equation, said the officials, who weren't authorized to discuss internal deliberations and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Cohen, who has cast himself as a potential star witness against his former boss, told the AP that he has not heard from the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan since late 2018, when he was sentenced to three years in prison for arranging the payments.

The U.S. attorney's office declined to comment. A message seeking comment was sent to Trump's attorney; his legal team is preparing for the start of his second impeachment trial.

Trump has said the payments to Daniels and McDougal were a private matter and did not amount to campaign finance violations.

Federal prosecutors infamously referred to Trump as "Individual-1" in charging Cohen with skirting campaign contribution rules by arranging six-figure payments to Daniels and McDougal, a former Playboy model, to keep them quiet about years-old affairs that Trump consistently denied.

The investigation turned up evidence that Trump himself had been aware of the payments, despite his initial public claims he knew nothing about them, including a recording in which he can be heard speaking to Cohen about efforts to buy McDougal's continued silence.

Prosecutors said "Individual-1" directed Cohen to make the payments, which they said should have been subject to campaign finance laws because they were made for the purpose of helping Trump win the election.

Trump's lawyers maintained during his presidency that he was shielded from prosecution while in office, raising questions about his legal exposure following his tenure — and even the prospect he would preemptively pardon himself.

But prosecutors harbored other concerns, particularly over the reliability of Cohen as a witness, the former enforcement official said, adding it was "not likely for new witnesses to emerge." As part of the same case, Cohen was also charged with lying to Congress about a Trump project in Russia.

At the time, Manhattan prosecutors said in court filings that Cohen had been "forthright and credible" but added that he "repeatedly declined to provide full information about the scope of any additional criminal conduct in which he may have engaged or had knowledge."

Prosecutors also believed it was far from clear that Trump could be convicted of a campaign finance crime, even if a jury believed Cohen's allegations that he directed the hush-money payments.

Campaign finance prosecutions are fraught with challenges, as evidenced by a similar case over hush-money payments to a woman that the government brought — and ultimately dropped — against former U.S. Sen. John Edwards, a Democrat.

Daniels' attorney, Clark Brewster, declined to say when she last spoke with federal prosecutors in Manhattan but said this week he wasn't aware of any new movement in the case.

Trump still faces a minefield of other potential legal issues on top of his second impeachment trial opening next week, including investigations of his business practices by the Manhattan district attorney and the New York attorney general.

The Manhattan prosecutor's probe includes a look at the 2016 hush-money payoffs. Cohen has said that Trump greenlighted a \$130,000 payment to Daniels ahead of the election and later reimbursed him for



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 65 of 90

the payment with “fake legal fees.”

The AP reported last month that the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office recently interviewed Cohen for hours, quizzing him about Trump’s business dealings.

“Trump has since gotten himself embroiled in more dramatic — and potentially more easily provable — forms of criminality,” said Elie Honig, a legal analyst and former federal prosecutor in Manhattan.

Federal prosecutors in New York first revealed they had closed their investigation into Cohen’s hush-money payments in July 2019 amid a push by news organizations, including AP, to unseal search warrants relating to the FBI raid of Cohen’s office and hotel room.

That didn’t preclude them from reopening it, however, and speculation lived on that it could be revived. Instead, prosecutors have moved on. Several assigned to the case also have left the U.S. attorney’s office — departures that may have been delayed if they were eying a criminal case against a former president.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker in Washington and Michael R. Sisak in New York contributed to this report.

## Prosecutor charged with sex assault vows to remain in office

TOWANDA, Pa. (AP) — A Pennsylvania district attorney vowed Friday to remain in office while he fights sexual assault charges, maintaining his innocence and complaining that he was handcuffed and “paraded in front of television cameras” by the state attorney general.

Bradford County District Attorney Chad Salsman, who took office a year ago, was charged with sexually assaulting women who were his clients in criminal and child custody cases when he worked as a defense attorney.

The accusers told a grand jury that he groped them, sought nude photos, and pressured or forced them into sexual acts, sometimes on his office desk.

In a statement emailed Friday from his Bradford County government address, Salsman cast the accusations as “vicious lies” and pledged to “vigorously defending myself against these false allegations.” He added: “Anyone who knows me knows that the picture the Attorney General is painting is not Chad Salsman.”

State prosecutors said Salsman told women to keep quiet about his attacks, and people who worked in his law firm told investigators they repeatedly saw female clients leave his office crying. He was charged Wednesday with three counts of sexual assault, five counts of indecent assault, witness intimidation, obstruction, and promoting prostitution.

Salsman, a Republican, accused Attorney General Josh Shapiro, a Democrat, of turning his case into a media spectacle. He also asserted that Shapiro’s office told him that if he resigned office, “they would treat me less harshly. If I continued to maintain my innocence, they would handle things much differently. Because I committed no crimes, I refused their offer and they kept their word to publicly humiliate me and attempt to destroy my life and career.”

Shapiro’s office said a grand jury considered the evidence against Salsman as it would in any other case, adding the public “has a right to understand charges against a sitting public official.”

“Mr. Salsman’s allegations trying to politicize his arrest and this investigation are false,” said Shapiro’s spokesperson, Jacklin Rhoads.

Salsman said he has turned over trial and courtroom work to his assistants while his criminal case is pending. He said he will continue to set policy and supervise the district attorney’s office.

Salsman, 44, was elected in November 2019.

## S&P 500 climbs again, closing out best week since November

DAMIAN J. TROISE and ALEX VEIGA AP Business Writers

Wall Street closed out a winning week Friday as the S&P 500 notched its fifth gain in a row and its biggest weekly increase since November.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 66 of 90

The benchmark index rose 0.4% and ended the week 4.6% higher, more than making up for its decline in January. The latest gain nudged the S&P 500 to another all-time high. The Nasdaq composite also capped the week with a record high. Small -company stocks fared even better than the broader market, a sign that investors are feeling more optimistic about the economy.

The market largely shrugged off a dismal jobs report for January that showed the U.S. economy remaining in dire straits due to the pandemic. Investors have been focusing instead on the prospects for another economic boost from Washington. Overnight, the Senate narrowly passed a measure that will fast-track aid.

"It looks as if the Democrats are moving ahead with or without support from Republicans, and that's helping the market's tone," said Quincy Krosby, chief market strategist at Prudential Financial.

Surprisingly good company earnings reports, news that a recent surge in new coronavirus cases is easing, and progress in the distribution of vaccine, have also helped keep investors in a buying mood, she said.

The S&P 500 index rose 15.09 points, or 0.4%, to 3,886.83. Its weekly gain is its biggest since November. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 92.38 points, or 0.3%, to 31,148.24. The Nasdaq rose 78.55 points, or 0.6%, to 13,856.30.

The Department of Labor said Friday that employers added only 49,000 jobs in the month of January, far below economists' forecasts. The disappointing report came as much of the country remains saturated with coronavirus cases. A report on Thursday showed the number of Americans who filed for unemployment benefits remained well above historic norms.

"It's very consistent with data over last two months which show that job growth is slowing," said Sameer Samana, senior global market strategist at Wells Fargo Investment Institute.

Service industries continue to be the hardest hit by the pandemic as people continue to refrain from travel and dining out, among other activities.

"In some ways it seems the reopening economy is still struggling a little bit and it's responsible for quite a few jobs," Samana said.

Investors are focused on the prospects for more stimulus. President Joe Biden urged Democratic lawmakers this week to "act fast" on his economic stimulus plan. Democrats and Republicans remain far apart on support for Biden's \$1.9 trillion stimulus package, but it appears Senate Democrats will be using their new-found majority to push the measure through without Republican support.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks climbed 30.91 points, or 1.4%, to 2,233.33, a record high. When the Russell outpaces other indexes it's a sign that investors are growing more confident about the economy's growth prospects. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 1.17% from 1.12% late Thursday.

Gains in communications stocks and companies that rely on consumer spending helped lift the market, outweighing a decline in technology sector stocks.

Meanwhile, companies that online investors have clambered to over the past few weeks continued to trade with heavy volatility. GameStop jumped 19.2% to \$63.77. That's far below the high of \$483 it reached last week but still well above the \$17 it traded at near the beginning of the year.

The rally in GameStop may have been spurred by Robinhood's move Friday to lift all the restrictions the online trading platform had placed last week on trading in the stock and shares of a few other companies that were hyped on social media and internet forums.

## Super Bowl 55: A Viewer's Guide to get you through Sunday

By JOE REEDY AP Sports Writer

Sunday's Super Bowl between the Kansas City Chiefs and Tampa Bay Buccaneers marks the biggest day of sports broadcasting for networks.

Here are some things to know about the CBS coverage as well as Super Bowl-related programming on other networks:

**SUPER 21 FOR CBS**

This marks the 21st Super Bowl broadcast for CBS, which is the most among all networks. NBC is next

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 67 of 90**

with 19 followed by Fox (9) and ABC (7). CBS and NBC both aired the first Super Bowl.

## OUT OF ROTATION

CBS is doing the big game for the second time in three years after agreeing to a trade with NBC, which originally had the rights. NBC will do next year's game from Los Angeles, if it remains on Feb. 6, will coincide with the first weekend of the network's coverage of the Beijing Winter Games.

## IN THE BOOTH

Jim Nantz and Tony Romo team for their second Super Bowl. Nantz is handling the play by play for the sixth time. Gene Steratore will be the rules analyst for the second time. Reporters Tracy Wolfson, Evan Washburn and special teams analyst Jay Feely are on their third Super Bowl.

## PRODUCTION NOTES

CBS will use 120 cameras, including a trolley cam. It will be positioned to provide the viewing angle of a fan in the eighth row of the stands and can speed from one end of the stadium to the other by ziplining. That camera, as well as others, can be positioned throughout Raymond James Stadium because of crowd restrictions due to COVID-19. By comparison, CBS' broadcast of the Super Bowl in 1984, which was also in Tampa, had 20 cameras.

Jim Rikhoff is the lead producer for the second time and working his seventh Super Bowl on CBS. Mike Arnold is the lead director for the sixth time.

## PREGAME COVERAGE

CBS comes on the air at 11:30 a.m., with "That Other Pregame Show", which usually airs on the CBS Sports Network. NFL Films' "Road to the Super Bowl" follows at 12 p.m., and "Tony Goes to the Super Bowl" at 1 p.m.

"The Super Bowl Today" comes on at 2 p.m., leading into pregame ceremonies at 6 p.m. and kickoff at 6:30 p.m. This will be a record 10th Super Bowl pregame host assignment for James Brown and his sixth for CBS.

## PREGAME SEGMENTS OF INTEREST

A look at Kenny Washington, the man who reintegrated the NFL when he signed with the Los Angeles Rams in 1946.

The impact of Whitney Houston's national anthem performance during Super Bowl 25 in Tampa in 1991. A musically driven piece honoring the doctors, nurses, grocery workers, delivery drivers, restaurateurs and other essential workers for their work during the coronavirus pandemic.

A feature on the role of women in this year's game, including down judge Sarah Thomas, the first female to be on an officiating crew in a Super Bowl.

## OTHER PREGAME PROGRAMMING

NFL Network will air an 8 1/2-hour edition of "NFL GameDay Morning", starting at 9 a.m.

ESPN's "Postseason NFL Countdown" will go on the air at 10 a.m. for four hours.

For those with pregame fatigue, the Puppy Bowl kicks off on Animal Planet at 2 p.m., and the Shaq Bowl on Facebook Live at 3 p.m.

## FOR THE CORD CUTTERS

The CBS streaming coverage will be available for those who don't have a subscription on CBSSports.com and the CBS Sports app for OTT devices and services, smart TVs and mobile devices. It will also be available for free on the NFL website/apps as well as Yahoo Sports.

AT&T TV Now, Hulu with Live TV, YouTube TV and fuboTV also have CBS.

## SPANISH BROADCAST

ESPN Deportes will have the Spanish-language broadcast. It will also be streamed on the ESPN App.

## ON THE RADIO

Sirius XM will have four channels dedicated to the game. Besides the Westwood One national feed as well as the Kansas City and Tampa Bay broadcasts, the satellite radio service will broadcast the game in Spanish.

## POSTGAME COVERAGE

After CBS' broadcast ends, the CBS Sports Network will have an expanded version of "The Super Bowl Today Postgame Show." ESPN and NFL Network will also have postgame shows.

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Russia expels EU diplomats over Navalny as tensions rise

By DARIA LITVINOVA Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia said Friday it was expelling diplomats from Sweden, Poland and Germany, accusing them of attending a rally in support of opposition leader Alexei Navalny, as international tensions grew over the jailing of the Kremlin's most prominent foe.

The announcement came as the European Union's foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell told Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov that the treatment of Navalny represents "a low point" in relations between Brussels and Moscow.

The Russian Foreign Ministry accused Swedish and Polish diplomats in St. Petersburg and a German diplomat in Moscow of taking part in what it called "unlawful" rallies on Jan. 23. Tens of thousands of people across Russia took to the streets that day to protest Navalny's arrest.

The diplomats were declared "persona non grata" and were required to leave Russia "shortly," a ministry statement said.

European officials strongly denounced the move.

Germany said its diplomat was fulfilling his duty by following the developments, and it warned Moscow that its action won't go unanswered, summoning the Russian ambassador.

"We consider this expulsion unjustified and think it is another facet of the things that can be seen in Russia at the moment that are pretty far from the rule of law," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in Berlin after a videoconference with French President Emmanuel Macron. Macron expressed solidarity with Germany, Poland and Sweden and condemned "in the strongest terms" the expulsions and what happened to Navalny "from the beginning to the end."

Sweden said it "considers this entirely unjustified, which we have also conveyed to the Russian side," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mats Samuelsson said in a statement to The Associated Press. Stockholm "strongly rejects Russian claims that the diplomat took part in a demonstration in Russia" and "reserves the right to take appropriate measures in response," he said.

Poland also warned Moscow the move will further worsen relations.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken condemned the expulsion, tweeting: "This arbitrary and unjustified act is Russia's latest departure from its international obligations." British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab also said on Twitter that expelling diplomats "for simply doing their jobs is a crude attempt to distract from Russia's targeting of opposition leaders, protesters and journalists."

Speaking at the start of his talks with Lavrov, Borrell said "our relations are under a severe strain, and the Navalny case is a low point in our relations."

Afterward, Borell said he had relayed his concerns over Navalny's jailing and the arrests of thousands of who had rallied on his behalf. The EU official said he also communicated the bloc's support for Navalny's

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 69 of 90

release and for an investigation of the August poisoning but added that there were no proposals of additional sanctions against Russia from the EU at this point.

Merkel said that "we reserve the right to continue the sanctions" but noted the Navalny situation shouldn't affect the Nord Stream 2 pipeline under construction to deliver more Russian natural gas to Germany.

Lavrov again accused European officials of refusing to share evidence of the poisoning. The Kremlin has said it won't listen to Western criticism of Navalny's sentencing and police action against his supporters.

Navalny, 44, an anti-corruption investigator and Russian President Vladimir Putin's most prominent critic, was arrested Jan. 17 upon returning from Germany, where he spent five months recovering from a nerve-agent poisoning that he blames on the Kremlin. Russian authorities have rejected the accusation.

On Tuesday, a Moscow court ruled that while in Germany, Navalny violated probation terms of his suspended sentence from a 2014 money-laundering conviction and ordered him to serve two years and eight months in prison. The ruling prompted international outrage.

In the mass protests across Russia's 11 time zones for two weekends in a row, many people chanted slogans against Putin in the largest show of discontent in years. Thousands were detained. Several of Navalny's close allies face criminal charges and are under house arrest, and many of his associates were handed short jail terms.

Top Navalny strategist Leonid Volkov argued Thursday that trying to maintain rallies every weekend would only lead to many more arrests and wear out the participants and said that protests should pause until spring after reaching a peak.

Instead, he urged supporters to focus on challenging Kremlin-backed candidates in September's parliamentary elections and securing new Western sanctions against Russia to press for Navalny's release. He said Navalny's team would try to ensure that "every world leader would discuss nothing but Navalny's release with Putin."

On Friday, however, another Navalny ally, Vladimir Milov, expressed disappointment with Borrell's visit to Moscow. He called it a "disastrously weak visit" and said Lavrov "used him as a decoration to lecture Europe on 'international law.'"

"Maybe he'll bring back some Sputnik V vaccines as a reward," Milov tweeted, referencing Borrell's praise of Russia's domestically developed coronavirus vaccine.

Navalny, meanwhile, was back in court Friday for yet another trial — this time on a charge of defaming a World War II veteran featured in a pro-Kremlin video that Navalny denounced on social media last year.

A criminal probe was opened after Navalny slammed people featured in a video promoting constitutional amendments last year that allowed an extension to Putin's rule. Navalny called the people in the video "corrupt stooges," "people without conscience" and "traitors."

Russian authorities maintained that Navalny's comments "denigrate (the) honor and dignity" of Ignat Artemenko, the veteran featured in the video.

If convicted, Navalny faces a fine or community service. He has denied the charge and refused to enter a plea on Friday, calling the trial a "PR process" aimed at disparaging him.

"The Kremlin needs headlines (saying that) Navalny slandered a veteran," he said.

Artemenko, 94, took part in the hearing via teleconference, saying he was distressed by Navalny's comments and demanding a public apology.

Navalny accused Artemenko's family of exploiting the frail man for their own gain, alleging the case was fabricated and the evidence falsified.

"The judge should burn in hell, and you're selling your grandfather out," Navalny said, as Artemenko's grandson testified.

The hearing was eventually adjourned until Feb. 12.

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Associated Press writers Geir Moulson in Berlin, Jan M. Olsen in Copenhagen, Sylvie Corbet in Paris, Matthew Lee in Washington and Jill Lawless in London contributed.

## Pentagon deploys troops to fuel COVID-19 vaccine drive

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon will deploy more than 1,100 troops to five vaccination centers in what will be the first wave of increased military support for the White House campaign to get more Americans inoculated against COVID-19.

President Joe Biden has called for setting up 100 mass vaccination centers around the country within a month. One of the five new military teams will go to a vaccination center opening in California. Other centers are expected to be announced soon.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has asked the Pentagon to supply as many as 10,000 service members to staff 100 centers. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin approved the initial five teams, but the others will be approved in separate tranches as FEMA identifies the other site locations.

Acting FEMA Administrator Robert Fenton told reporters that two vaccination sites that will be “predominantly” federally run will open in California on Feb. 16, one at California State University, Los Angeles, and the other in Oakland.

Military troops will staff one of the two California centers, FEMA and Pentagon officials said. Personnel from other parts of the federal government will be at the other one. More sites will open around the country as more doses of vaccine become available.

The military deployment comes as the nation is in a race against a virus that is spawning mutations which may make it spread more easily and inflict deadlier disease.

Only about 2% of Americans have received the required two-dose vaccination regimen that confers optimum protection with the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines currently available. To reach widespread, or “herd” immunity, the U.S. must vaccinate 70% to 85% of its population, according to Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government’s top infectious disease expert.

That would be roughly 230 million to 280 million people, compared to 6.9 million who are currently fully immunized with two shots.

More help could be on the way soon. Johnson & Johnson announced this week it is seeking emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration for its vaccine, which requires only one shot.

Each of the Pentagon’s five military teams includes 222 personnel, including 80 who will give the vaccines, as well as nurses and other support staff. The teams would be able to provide about 6,000 shots a day.

The five teams represent a growing use of the active duty military to a vaccination campaign that already involves nearly 100 National Guard teams in 29 states across the country. National Guard leaders told The Associated Press that they are now considering training additional Guard members to give shots, so that they can also expand vaccinations in more remote and rural portions of their states.

Gen. Dan Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said the Guard has the ability to field about 200 additional teams. Training other medical personnel to give the vaccination shots, he said, would potentially provide more.

“If we reach the point where we’ve fully implemented all of our folks who can (give shots), then they’re looking at potential training opportunities if we’re going to need more than that,” said Hokanson. “We’re going to do everything to make a difference and meet whatever that need is.”

The Pentagon has said that the FEMA teams could be a mix of active duty, National Guard and Reserves. But Hokanson and Maj. Gen. Jerry Fenwick, director of the Guard’s Office of the Joint Surgeon, said that at this point, the FEMA teams are more likely going to be filled largely by active duty troops. The Guard, they said, will probably be tapped by their governors for use in their own states. are more likely to be used in remote, rural locations.

Guard leaders said the close to 100 mobile vaccination teams already active are delivering more than 50,000 shots a day.

“As more vaccines come on line, there’s surely going to be more demand for vaccinators,” said Fenwick.

Pentagon officials have made it clear that they are being careful about tapping National Guard and Reserves, because in many cases those service members are already working in medical jobs in their civilian lives at local hospitals and medical centers. Hokanson noted that while the Guard could staff as

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 71 of 90

many as 600 vaccine teams, he has to cut that number about in half because of those types of civilian job restrictions.

He said that so far Guard members are only operating in their own states, but could go to neighboring states if needed in the future, as long as they have enough teams.

Biden has compared the campaign against COVID-19 to a war. Alongside the troop deployment, he also invoked a Cold War-era law called the Defense Production Act to help bolster manufacturing of vaccines, at-home COVID-19 testing kits and nitrile gloves used by health care workers and vaccinators. Referred to as the DPA, the law in essence allows the government to assign missions to private companies during national emergencies.

Tim Manning, the White House's COVID-19 supply coordinator, said Friday the administration was looking to help drugmaker Pfizer clear a bottleneck around fill-and-finish capabilities with vaccine production by giving the drugmaker first priority to access needed supplies.

Manning said also said the government is investing in six manufacturers to develop at-home and point-of-care COVID-19 tests, with the goal of producing 60 million tests by the end of the summer. Earlier in the week, the White House announced a \$230 million contract with Ellume, manufacturer of an at-home test approved by the Food and Drug Administration. No prescription is required for the over-the-counter test.

"The country is well behind where we need to be in testing," said Manning. Due to contract issues, he said he could not yet reveal the names of the companies.

Another round of contracts will build capacity to produce surgical gloves in the U.S., including processing the raw materials for the gloves. There were widespread shortages at the start of the pandemic last year.

Manning said the goal is to produce more than 1 billion nitrile gloves domestically by the end of this year.

## **NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen this week**

By The Associated Press undefined

A roundup of some of the most popular but completely untrue stories and visuals of the week. None of these are legit, even though they were shared widely on social media. The Associated Press checked them out. Here are the facts:

Post shows family reunification from 2020, not this week

CLAIM: Nine parents who were deported under the Trump administration after being separated from their children at the border were allowed to return to the United States on Wednesday.

THE FACTS: The family reunions referenced on social media did not happen this week — they occurred in 2020 due to a court order. After President Joe Biden signed an executive order on Tuesday establishing a task force that will focus on reuniting families separated by border agents under the previous administration, a false rumor spread on social media that a group of parents had been given permission to return to America to reunify with their children. "Nine parents deported by the Trump administration landed back into the U.S. Wednesday to reunite with children they had not seen in a year and a half. Some of the children were at the airport to greet them, including David Xol's 9-year-old son Byron," the tweet claimed. But David Xol, who is from Guatemala, and his son were among a small number of families who were reunited in January 2020. The reunifications followed a 2018 American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit challenging family separations, which resulted in U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw allowing a small number of deported parents to return to the U.S. Sabraw found government agents had unlawfully prevented those parents from pursuing asylum cases. The erroneous post misrepresents an Associated Press photo of the father and son hugging at Los Angeles International Airport on Jan. 22, 2020, after Xol arrived on a flight. The facts are detailed in an AP report from the time. The author of the tweet issued a second post Thursday acknowledging the reunions happened in 2020, but by then the original tweet had been retweeted more than 37,000 times. Many social media users shared the original post along with praise for the president, and it was even retweeted by the White House director of political strategy and outreach, Emmy Ruiz. After other social media users notified her the post shared old information, Ruiz wrote: "I'm sorry. Will undo RT. Thank you for bringing to my attention. The graver error though was separating these families

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 72 of 90

to begin with." About 5,500 children have been identified in court documents as having been separated during Trump's presidency, including about 600 whose parents have yet to be found by a court-appointed committee.

— Associated Press writer Jude Joffe-Block in Phoenix contributed this report.

Photo shows 2011 Wisconsin protests, not U.S. Capitol during Kavanaugh hearings

CLAIM: Photo shows Democratic protesters storming the U.S. Capitol during the confirmation of then-Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh in 2018.

THE FACTS: The photo is being misrepresented. It was taken in February 2011 at the state Capitol rotunda in Madison, Wisconsin, during labor demonstrations against a proposal that would effectively strip union workers of collective bargaining rights. Nearly a month after the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, posts emerged on social media using the photo to falsely imply that similar riots happened during Senate confirmation hearings on Kavanaugh's nomination to the Supreme Court. "Remember when democrat protesters stormed the US Capitol in 2018, took over the US Senate building, and tried to get into the US Supreme Court during the Kavanaugh confirmations? Democrat legislators and the MSM cheered it on. If it wasn't for double standards liberals would have no standards at all..." said a post on the verified Facebook page for singer Ted Nugent, which featured the photo. Nugent did not respond to a request for comment from the AP. There were demonstrations against Kavanaugh's nomination following accusations of sexual assault by Christine Blasey Ford, which were denied by Kavanaugh. But those protests, while disruptive, were much smaller and resulted in far fewer arrests, mainly for unlawfully demonstrating in Senate office buildings. The February 2011 photo from Madison was taken as thousands of workers protested for weeks against then-Gov. Scott Walker's proposal to eliminate collective bargaining for many state workers. The Center for Media and Democracy, a progressive watchdog group, posted the original photo and confirmed to the AP in an email that the photo is from the Wisconsin protests in 2011.

Ocasio-Cortez didn't lie about location during Capitol riot

CLAIM: U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a Democrat from New York, falsely claimed she faced rioters in the main Capitol building during the Jan. 6 insurrection.

THE FACTS: Ocasio-Cortez never claimed she was in the main Capitol building, nor did she claim she was face-to-face with a mob of violent rioters. In a Feb. 2 Instagram Live video where the congresswomen opened up about the Capitol attack and her past sexual assault, she explained that she was in her office in a neighboring building on the Capitol complex, where she experienced a frightening encounter with a Capitol Police officer who she said didn't announce himself. Days later, viral social media posts falsely accused her of lying about the details. "Sooo is Twitter going to fact-check AOC's fake story about imaginary mobs in her hallway?" read one Facebook post viewed more than 66,000 times on Thursday. "Or do they only do that to conservatives..." Another Facebook post viewed more than 100,000 times read, "AOC wasn't even in the Capitol Building during her 'near-death' experience. One big lie. #AlexandriaOcasioSmollett." The hashtag #AlexandriaOcasioSmollett, which appeared in multiple social media posts this week and was trending nationwide on Twitter Wednesday night, appeared to liken the congresswoman to former "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett, who was accused of staging a racist, anti-gay attack against himself in 2019. But in her video explaining her experience of the insurrection, Ocasio-Cortez made a point to clarify that she was in her congressional office in a different building nearby. "For you all to know, there's the Capitol Hill complex," she told her Instagram followers. "But members of Congress, except for, you know, the speaker and other very, very high ranking ones, don't actually work in that building with the dome. There's buildings like right next to the dome, and that's where our actual offices are." Other social media posts falsely attributed a quote to her to undermine her account of an interaction she had with a Capitol police officer on Jan. 6. A Facebook post with more than 50,000 views on Wednesday features a picture of the congresswoman overlaid with the quote: "And then the Capitol police officer said 'This is MAGA country!'" But Ocasio-Cortez never made this claim. In the Instagram video, Ocasio-Cortez said she was in her office in a building near the Capitol building when she heard repeated bangs on the door, like some-



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 73 of 90

one was trying to get in. Her legislative director told her to hide, and she went into the bathroom. She then heard a male voice yelling, "Where is she?" She came out after her legislative director told her to, and a Capitol police officer was in the office. She said the officer told them to go to another building, but didn't say specifically where or escort them, leaving her feeling unsafe. She said the officer did not loudly announce himself and seemed angry, leaving her uneasy. "It didn't feel right, because he was looking at me with a tremendous amount of anger and hostility," Ocasio-Cortez said in the video. She didn't quote the officer saying anything else.

— Associated Press writer Ali Swenson in Semora, North Carolina, contributed this report.

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Myanmar does not use Dominion Voting Systems

CLAIM: Myanmar used the election technology firm Dominion Voting Systems for its recent elections.

THE FACTS: Dominion has never done business in Myanmar, according to a company spokesperson, and the country used paper ballots — not machines — to vote in its November 2020 election. Social media posts making the false claim about Dominion followed a coup on Monday by Myanmar's military. The military seized power after making unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud in the country's November elections. It detained the country's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi, whose party won by a landslide, along with other senior politicians. Social media users falsely linked the situation to baseless claims of election fraud from the United States. "Well, well, well: Soros-Dominion machines were used in Myanmar to steal the election for The Lady," said a Facebook post on Tuesday. In fact, voters used only paper ballots to vote in Myanmar's general elections, according to a 2020 report funded by the European Union. The 28-page report, which detailed the country's election process, did not mention Dominion or any other electronic voting system. An AP photographer who voted in the Myanmar election confirmed the voting process was entirely manual. AP video of voters casting their ballots and poll workers counting ballots shows no machines were involved. "No machines in Myanmar, no business in Myanmar," said Tony Fratto, a partner with the public relations firm Hamilton Place Strategies, who spoke to The Associated Press on behalf of Dominion.

— Ali Swenson

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Post makes false claim about COVID-19 vaccine risk

CLAIM: People may be more susceptible to serious COVID-19 illness after they have been vaccinated.

THE FACTS: An Instagram post with more than 4,000 likes falsely claims that people who receive the COVID-19 vaccine may experience more severe symptoms if they are exposed to the virus. "Studies have warned COVID-19 vaccines may result in more serious disease when exposed to the virus by way of pathogenic priming and immune enhancement," reads the post, which was shared by Joseph Mercola, a doctor who runs a natural health website. But scientists told The Associated Press that such effects simply haven't shown up in the data. Research has shown that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have been proven to be 95% effective in preventing COVID-19 illness. It is true that some vaccines can, on rare occasions, cause more serious illnesses later, but scientists say that effect — known as antibody-dependent enhancement — has not been seen with COVID-19 vaccines. Such enhancement happened with older shots and more recently with a dengue virus vaccine. There is "abundant evidence" that immunization-enhanced disease "will not be a problem" with the COVID-19 shots, Dr. Paul Offit, director of a vaccine education center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, wrote in a report to the National Institutes of Health. The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines were tested on thousands of people, some of whom were later likely exposed to the virus. The effect wasn't seen in the trials. The AP asked to see the studies mentioned in Mercola's claim, and his organization responded with links. All the studies were published before Pfizer and Moderna had released data from their late stage trials, and some of the studies specifically contradicted his claim. Dr. Timothy Cardozo, an associate professor at NYU Langone Health, was the author of one of the studies Mercola cited. The Pfizer and Moderna data that came out after he published his study greatly reduced his concern about antibody dependent enhancement, he told the AP in a statement. He also noted that his paper made no statement on whether COVID-19 vaccines should be taken or avoided.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 74 of 90

Mercola did not respond to a request for a response. If Mercola's post were accurate, vaccinated people would have had more infections than the unvaccinated, said Dr. Matthew Woodruff, an immunologist at Emory University. That hasn't been the case. "We are now six months out of vaccinating those people, with continued exposure, and no emerging evidence of enhanced disease," Woodruff said.

H&M not selling children's sweatshirt with 'Klan' message

CLAIM: Photo shows that the global clothing retailer H&M is selling a children's sweatshirt with printed text that reads "Kooolest Kid in the Klan."

THE FACT: The photo was altered. It did not appear on H&M's website. The manipulated image shows a blond child model in a white hooded sweatshirt that reads "Kooolest Kid in the Klan," with the K's accentuated in bold red font. The image is made to look like a screenshot from H&M's website, the layout showing various views and color selections for the sweatshirt, along with a label pricing it at \$24.99. However, neither the picture nor the sweatshirt is real. "This is a fake photo," the company told the Associated Press in an email. "We were upset and sad to see this as it goes against everything we stand for. To us, inclusion and diversity is key to the success of a global company and during the past year we have put extra focus on this." A reverse-image search reveals the fake photo has circulated as a meme online since at least 2018. That year, H&M was forced to apologize after a real image on its website showing a Black child modeling a "Coolest Monkey in the Jungle" sweatshirt was widely criticized as racist. The image was removed from all H&M channels and the company apologized. H&M Group has "increased the priority of diversity and inclusion in 2020 and for the coming years," according to an update published on its website on Thursday.

— Ali Swenson

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## A meager gain in US jobs last month highlights virus' damage

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's employers barely added jobs last month, underscoring the viral pandemic's ongoing grip on the economy and likely adding momentum to the Biden administration's push for a bold rescue aid package.

The increase of just 49,000 positions in January made scarcely any dent in the nearly 10 million jobs that remain lost since the virus intensified nearly a year ago. The tepid increase followed a decline of 227,000 jobs in December, the first loss since April.

The unemployment rate fell sharply in January from 6.7% to 6.3%, the Labor Department said Friday. Most of the drop in unemployment occurred because some people out of work found jobs, but others stopped looking for work and were no longer counted as unemployed.

Even last month's small job gain benefited from a technical adjustment to the government's data. And without an increase of 80,000 temporary jobs, the economy would have posted a net loss for January.

"What you have is a lousy report that shows a stalling recovery," said Nela Richardson, chief economist at the payroll processor ADP.

Soaring new virus infections in late fall had forced tighter business restrictions in California, New York, Virginia and other states, thereby reducing the need for workers. Consumers have also been less willing to dine out, travel or go to concert halls and other venues as the pandemic has persisted. Some business closures, notably in California, have since been eased or lifted, but in many cases too late to affect last month's jobs data.

President Joe Biden on Friday pointed to the discouraging jobs report as evidence that much more government aid for the economy is needed, and he said he would continue to push his \$1.9 trillion plan through Congress — if necessary, without Republican support. The proposal includes \$160 billion to sup-

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 75 of 90

port vaccination efforts.

"There's simply nothing more important than getting the resources we need to vaccinate people as soon and as quickly as possible," Biden said, echoing economists who have long argued that controlling the pandemic was a prerequisite for any sustained revival of the economy.

Biden's proposal would also provide \$1,400 checks for most U.S. individuals and a \$400 weekly unemployment payment on top of state benefits. The package would also extend two federal jobless aid programs, from mid-March through September.

Economists are increasingly hopeful that as vaccinations reach a critical mass in the coming months and the government provides further stimulus, the economy and job market will strengthen much faster than after previous recessions. Bank of America estimates that growth could reach 6% this year, which would be the fastest since 1984.

"The tunnel we're in does have a light," Richardson said. "It's later this year when the U.S. economy is reopened, and after widespread inoculation and maybe stimulus. This is not the end of the story by any means. But it does show the recovery could use more support."

Gregory Daco, chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics, forecasts that 6.6 million jobs could be regained by the end of this year, though that would still leave the U.S. economy several million short of its pre-pandemic level.

Still, more than 4 million Americans have lost jobs and stopped looking for work since the pandemic began. Including those individuals would raise the unemployment rate to 9%, Daco calculates.

Last month, service industries that deal with customers in person again posted the sharpest job losses as millions of consumers continue to hunker down at home. Within the service sector, restaurants, bars and hotels slashed 61,000 jobs. Retailers cut nearly 38,000 jobs. Employment in transportation and warehousing fell by 28,000.

Jobs in education jumped by nearly 120,000, including state and local schools as well as private education and colleges and universities. That increase, though, was likely exaggerated by seasonal adjustments that seek to strip out short-term changes, such as extra hiring around the holiday shopping season. Those seasonal adjustments have been distorted by the huge job losses earlier this year stemming from the virus.

"It's hard to imagine that (those gains) are sustainable if we don't reopen the schools," said Drew Matus, chief market strategist at MetLife Investment Management.

Women continue to be hurt disproportionately by the economic damage from the pandemic, which has led some of them to quit jobs to care for children or eliminated the jobs that many held in the hospitality industry. The proportion of women who either have a job or are looking for one declined in January. By contrast, the proportion for men remained flat.

Amy Cooper of Burlington, North Carolina, is among those struggling to find a job amid the pandemic, which has made her nervous about working in restaurants, where she's worked before. Last spring, she quit a job at a deli because of a difficult pregnancy with her fifth child.

After giving birth, she found a six-month contract job to do political polling from home. That ended in December. She and her husband, who is working at a factory, are fighting an eviction that may occur once a federal moratorium ends in March. She'd like to move to a new home but there aren't many available.

Cooper hopes to be able to work from home but is willing to take anything at this point. She's had two interviews during her job hunt but no offers.

"There's nowhere to move," said Cooper, 32. "There's no jobs and no houses."

Some hopeful signs have emerged recently to suggest that the economy might be picking up a bit. Auto sales rose solidly in January. And a gauge of business growth in the service sector picked up to its highest level in two years. It also showed that services firms added workers last month. A separate measure of manufacturing indicated that factories are also expanding. So is spending on home construction, as sales of existing homes actually soared last year to the highest level in 14 years.

And some small businesses have been able to expand even amid the pandemic. Allison Flinn, for example, has seen demand for her home organization business in Raleigh, North Carolina, jump during the

downturn. She added a new worker to bring her staff to six.

Flinn's company has benefited from people working or attending school online who want to declutter. There has also been a surge of families moving into the area who hire her company to help them unpack and organize. The pandemic has spurred many Americans to seek cheaper or larger living spaces.

Last month, Flinn, 41, hired someone who had been laid off by a hotel.

"Everyone is home all the time, and they can no longer avoid all the stuff that has accumulated," she said. "We are busier than ever."

## Out of this world: Shepard put golf on moon 50 years ago

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

Fifty years later, it remains the most impressive bunker shot in the history of golf, mainly because of the location.

The moon.

Apollo 14 commander Alan Shepard and his crew brought back about 90 pounds of moon rocks on Feb. 6, 1971. Left behind were two golf balls that Shepard, who later described the moon's surface as "one big sand trap," hit with a makeshift 6-iron to become a footnote in history.

Francis Ouimet put golf on the front page of American newspapers by winning the 1913 U.S. Open. Gene Sarazen put the Masters on the map by holing a 235-yard shot for an albatross in the final round of his 1935 victory.

Shepard outdid them all. He put golf in outer space.

"He might have put golf on the moon map," Jack Nicklaus said this week. "I thought it was unique for the game of golf that Shepard thought so much about the game that he would take a golf club to the moon and hit a shot."

Shepard became the first American in space in 1961 as one of NASA's seven original Mercury astronauts. After being sidelined for years by an inner ear problem he became the fifth astronaut to walk on the moon as Apollo 14 commander.

But he did more than just walk the moon.

Shepard waited until the end of the mission before he surprised American viewers and all but a few at NASA who did not know what Shepard had up his sleeve — or in this case, up his socks. That's how he got the golf gear in space.

"Houston, you might recognize what I have in my hand as the contingency sample return; it just so happens to have a genuine 6-iron on the bottom of it," Shepard said. "In my left hand, I have a little white pellet that's familiar to millions of Americans."

He hit more moon than ball on his first two attempts. The third he later referred to as a shank. And he caught the last one flush, or as flush as an astronaut can hit a golf ball while swinging with one hand in a pressurized spacesuit that weighs 180 pounds (on Earth).

"We used to say it was the longest shot in the history of the world because it hasn't come down yet," famed golf instructor Butch Harmon said with a laugh.

Harmon is loosely connected with the shot through his relationship with Jack Harden Sr., the former head pro at River Oaks Country Club in Houston whom Shepard asked to build him a 6-iron he could take to the moon. Harden managed to attach the head of a Wilson Staff Dyna-Power 6-iron to a collapsible tool used to collect lunar samples.

The shots did come down on the moon. Still up for debate is how far they went.

"Miles and miles and miles," Shepard said in a light moment that was broadcast in color to a captive television audience watching from nearly 240,000 miles away.

Not quite. The shot for years has been estimated at 200 yards, remarkable considering how much the bulk of his spacesuit restricted Shepard's movement. He had even practiced in his spacesuit in a bunker in Houston when no one was around.

On occasion of the 50-year anniversary, British-based imaging specialist Andy Saunders provided a more

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 77 of 90

accurate account. Saunders, who is working on a book called, "Apollo Remastered," worked out through digital enhancing and stacking techniques of video footage that the first shot went 24 yards. The second ball went 40 yards.

Former PGA champion Jimmy Walker hits a 6-iron about 200 yards on Earth. Walker, a space enthusiast with a skill and passion for astrophotography, worked with the USGA and Saunders as the Apollo 14 anniversary neared to see how far he could hit a 6-iron in one-sixth gravity of the moon.

"He was known for saying miles and miles," Walker said. "They took my launch conditions and said my ball would fly 4,600 yards and it would have just over a minute of hang time."

That would be a little over 2 1/2 miles.

That also would be a conventional 6-iron while wearing golf shoes and a sweater vest.

What stands out all these years later is Shepard even thinking about taking a golf club to the moon and back. The inspiration came from Bob Hope, who carried a golf club just about everywhere he went. That included a trip to Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston a year before the Apollo 14 mission.

According to USGA historian Michael Trostel, that's what made Shepard realize a golf shot would be the ideal illustration of the moon's gravitational pull. To build a club, he found the right person in Harden at River Oaks.

"He was incessant tinkerer with equipment," said Brandel Chamblee, a Golf Channel analyst and long-time friend of Harden's son. "I would tease Jack and his father, any club they got had been 'Hardenized.' No club off the rack was ever good enough for them. They always changed the lie, the loft, the bounce. They used lead tape. It was apropos he made Shepard's 6-iron."

Convincing his superiors took some doing. In a 1998 interview with NASA, Shepard said he ran his idea by the director of the Manned Spaceflight Center who told him, "Absolutely no way." Shepard told him club and two golf balls wouldn't cost the taxpayers anything. And he would only do it if the entire mission was a complete success.

Shepard said he told director Bob Gilruth, "I will not be so frivolous. I want to wait until the very end of the mission, stand in front of the television camera, whack these golf balls with this makeshift club, fold it up, stick it in my pocket, climb up the ladder, and close the door, and we've gone."

The actual club is one of the prize exhibits at the USGA Museum in New Jersey, which came with one awkward moment.

"He donates it at a ceremony at the 1974 U.S. Open," Trostel said. "NASA called him later and said it was looking at the club for the Smithsonian. He said he already had donated it to the USGA Museum. They said, 'Mr. Shepard, that's government property.' We had a replica commissioned and gave it to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum."

For years, no one knew what golf balls he used and Shepard was determined to avoid any commercialism. Chamblee and Harmon unlocked the mystery this week, and it came with a twist.

They were range balls from River Oaks.

"Within the Hardens, the legacy is he gave him golf balls from the range that had 'Property of Jack Harden' on them," Chamblee said. "Technically — if the balls aren't melted — Jack is the only person who owns property on the moon."

All because of a one-handed swing by Shepard, still the only person to hit a golf ball on the moon.

"It was designed to be a fun thing," Shepard said in the 1998 interview, five months before his death at age 74. "Fortunately, it is still a fun thing."

## EXPLAINER: 5 key takeaways from the January jobs report

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The struggles that have afflicted the American job market since the viral pandemic tore through the economy nearly a year ago are keeping a tight lid on hiring.

The Labor Department's report Friday that employers added a meager 49,000 jobs in January, after having slashed 227,000 in December, did nothing to brighten that picture. Still, the unemployment rate

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 78 of 90

slid to 6.3%, its lowest level since March, from 6.7% in December.

And January was the first month since June in which the economy generated more jobs than it did the month before: After a bounce-back of 4.8 million added jobs in June, net hiring had weakened to 1.7 million in July, 1.6 million in August, 716,000 in September, 680,000 in October and 264,000 in November — and then actually shrank in December.

All told, the United States still has 9.9 million fewer jobs than it did in February last year, just before the coronavirus erupted across the country.

In a sign of potential relief, new confirmed COVID-19 cases have fallen in half, from a daily average of around 250,000 in early January to just over 120,000 more recently. Still, the caseload remains high, and numerous states and localities have maintained restrictions on business hours and capacity. In addition, many Americans have avoided shopping, traveling, dining out and attending mass events for fear of infection.

Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital markets, called January's job gain "underwhelming." But he added that "the outlook is brightening as the vaccine rollout gains pace, and the jobless rate keeps tracking lower."

Here are five takeaways from the January jobs report:

## APPEARANCES ARE DECEIVING

The job market's January performance, with hiring perking up after having sunk in December, "may look good, but it ain't," write Gregory Daco and Lydia Boussour of Oxford Economics.

The Labor Department, they note, revised down November and December payrolls by a sizable combined 159,000, revealing that employers were even more reluctant to hire than we knew. Quirks in the way the government uses seasonal adjustments to calculate job growth may also have made the January numbers look better than they actually were.

And the jobless rate is falling in part because so many Americans have stopped looking for work and are therefore no longer counted as unemployed.

"Adjusting for the people that have dropped out of the labor force, by choice or obligation, the unemployment rate is above 9%," Daco and Boussour estimate.

## CAUTION AMONG PRIVATE COMPANIES

Private employers added an anemic 6,000 jobs in January, accounting for a mere 12% of last month's gain. Instead, the bulk of hiring came from state and local governments, which added 67,000 jobs, in part because schools reopened with some in-person learning in parts of the country. By contrast, the federal government shed 24,000 positions.

Leisure and hospitality companies, including restaurants, hotels and bars, lost 61,000 jobs last month. They now employ 3.9 million fewer people than they did in February 2020. Those businesses have absorbed the heaviest blow from pandemic restrictions on travel and from consumers' reluctance to go out.

Retailers, in the meantime, lost 38,000 jobs. Health care companies cut 30,000 as many patients cancelled non-essential visits to doctors and dentists.

One encouraging sign: Jobs at temporary employment firms climbed by 81,000. That could point to stronger hiring to come because companies often hire temps to test the market before committing to permanent hires.

## PERMANENT JOB LOSSES PILE UP

Most of the job gains since last spring have come from companies recalling workers they had furloughed after the virus hit. And so it was in January: The number of Americans on temporary layoff dropped by 293,000 to 2.7 million.

At the same time, the ranks of the permanently laid off climbed by 133,000 to 3.5 million. They have now outnumbered the temporarily jobless each month since September. In January, more than 4 million Americans were unemployed for at least six months, the highest such level since 2013. And they accounted for nearly 40% of the unemployed.

## WOMEN LEAVE THE LABOR FORCE

In a worrisome trend, the pandemic is continuing to push women out of the U.S. workforce

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 79 of 90

In January, the number of women who either had a job or were looking for one dropped by 275,000, compared with a drop of only 71,000 for men. Since February, nearly 2.4 million women have exited the labor force, compared with fewer than 1.8 million men.

One reason is that women tend to work disproportionately in jobs most vulnerable to the pandemic — at restaurants, beauty shops, hotels and doctors' offices, for instance, and as child care workers and home health aides.

Another is that some women have had to quit jobs to care for children stuck at home until schools reopen.

Women account for nearly 54% of the jobs lost since February.

Last month was an exception to the pandemic trend, though: Women gained 87,000 jobs; men lost 38,000.

## AFRICAN AMERICANS MAKE GAINS

Black Americans fared disproportionately well in the job market last month. Black employment rose by 262,000 to 18.3 million, and the Black unemployment rate fell to 9.2% from 9.9% in December. Hiring of whites (down by 4,000) and Hispanics (up 1,000), by contrast, was essentially flat.

Still, the white (5.7%) and Hispanic (8.6%) unemployment rates remained well below the rate for African Americans.

## Things to Know: Pentagon lends military aid to vaccine push

By The Associated Press undefined

Here's what's happening Thursday with the coronavirus pandemic in the U.S.:

### THREE THINGS TO KNOW TODAY:

— The Pentagon will deploy more than 1,100 troops to five vaccination centers in what will be the first wave of increased military support for the White House campaign to get more Americans vaccinated against COVID-19. President Joe Biden has called for setting up 100 mass vaccination centers around the country within a month. Two of the five new military teams will go to centers opening in California. Coronavirus senior adviser Andy Slavitt says military personnel will arrive at those centers in a little over a week. Three additional centers are expected to be announced soon.

— Tensions are running high in some state capitols over coronavirus precautions after this year's legislative sessions began with a COVID-19 outbreaks. The Associated Press has tallied at least 40 state lawmakers in roughly one-third of the states who already have fallen ill with the virus this year. More than 330 state lawmakers have contracted COVID-19 since the pandemic began. Most of the tensions are in Republican-controlled statehouses, where Democrats have been raising concerns about GOP colleagues who don't wear masks or practice social distancing. But some Republicans also are pushing back against statehouse restrictions in Democratic-led legislatures.

— Unemployment agencies across the country were bombarded with so many claims during the pandemic that many struggled to distinguish the correct from the criminal. Simple tax forms are now revealing the extent of the identity theft that made state-run unemployment offices lucrative targets for fraud after millions of people lost their jobs. Terri Finneman, of Lawrence, Kansas, was surprised when she got a form saying she owed taxes on \$1,500 in unemployment payments that she never received. In Ohio, the governor and lieutenant governor also learned that fraudulent claims had been filed in their names.

THE NUMBERS: According to data through Feb. 4 from Johns Hopkins University, the seven-day rolling average for daily new cases in the U.S. fell over the past two weeks, from about 187,728 on Jan. 21 to about 130,403 on Feb. 4. Over the same period, the seven-day rolling average for daily new deaths rose from about 3,095 to roughly 3,240.

QUOTABLE: "We've got to get this done. We've got to get people vaccinated so we can get this country moving again," said 76-year-old nurse practitioner Sigrid Stokes. Stokes is carrying on a life-saving family tradition each time she administers COVID-19 vaccines to her fellow health care workers at a Northern California hospital. Her mother volunteered at a local hospital during the deadly 1918 Spanish flu pandemic.

ICYMI: Residents at an assisted living center near Denver have gotten a taste of sorts of what life was like before the pandemic. Thanks to a "hug tent" set up outside the suburban facility, residents could em-

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 80 of 90

brace and hold hands with their families this week. Visitors were separated by construction-grade plastic but could hug through built-in sleeves attached by embroidery hoops. It wasn't ideal, but visitors and staff say the benefits are clear. A spokeswoman for the center says some residents haven't had physical contact with their families in almost a year, and a simple hug was like "a huge weight off their shoulders."

ON THE HORIZON: Coronavirus cases have dropped at U.S. nursing homes and other long-term care facilities over the past few weeks. The dip offers a glimmer of hope that health officials attribute to the start of vaccinations, an easing of the post-holiday surge and better prevention, among other reasons. Statistics show that more than 153,000 residents of the country's nursing homes and assisted living centers have died of COVID-19, accounting for 36% of the U.S. pandemic death toll. Although experts say the vaccination rollout may be contributing to the drop in cases, other factors are likely playing a larger role. And they caution that threats are still looming, including new strains of the virus.

Find AP's full coverage of the coronavirus pandemic: <https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-pandemic>

## A sexy Alexa, Dan Levy's M&M habit: Super Bowl ads to watch

By MAE ANDERSON AP Business Writer

It might not have seemed likely early in the pandemic, but the 55th Super Bowl Sunday is upon us yet again. Each year advertisers pull out all the stops to entertain the crowd of 100 million viewers expected to tune in to the CBS broadcast on Sunday. This year there are more than 20 newcomers as well as old favorites. Amazon shows off a sexy new body for its Alexa assistant, Dan Levy apologizes for eating M&M's and Bud Light Seltzer Lemonade makes a downpour of lemons a metaphor for 2020's troubles. And as always, expect some surprises, too.

Amazon "New Body"

In an ad ostensibly to tout Amazon's voice assistant Alexa's new spherical shape, a woman imagines that her new Alexa has the voice — and body — of actor Michael B. Jordan, who takes off his shirt to dim the lights and read an audio book to her in the tub, all to the chagrin of her hapless husband. It's one of the only ads to play with sexual innuendo this year.

"It pushes the sexiness, the weirdness, the fantasy element," said Mark DiMassimo, creative chief of marketing agency DiMassimo Goldstein. "Which is just so culturally right for the moment when people are stuck at home together without a lot of diversion."

Bud Light Seltzer Lemonade "Last Year's Lemons"

Bud Light introduces its new Seltzer Lemonade with an ad that depicts a downpour of literal lemons in 2020, which ruins weddings, cancels flights, disrupts at-home haircuts, destroys baseball stadium cardboard cutouts — and causes general chaos. It's a not-so-subtle nod to the plans that were derailed during 2020 and the axiom "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade."

Cadillac "Edgar Scissorhands"

In another nostalgia-fest, Cadillac revisits the classic 1990 movie "Edward Scissorhands." The ad portrays Edward's son Edgar, who has difficulty with his inherited scissor-hands when he deflates a football and severs a bus's stop cord. Then he tries out the Cadillac Lyriq's "Hands free super cruise" feature which allows you to drive with little hand contact. Winona Ryder from the original film also revisits her role as Edgar's mother.

Cheetos "It Wasn't Me"

Cheetos' ad shows real life married couple Mila Kunis and Ashton Kutcher wrangling over a bag of Cheetos Crunch Pop Mix — to the tune of Shaggy's 2000 pop hit "It Wasn't Me" — with the frayed nerves of a couple who have been stuck inside too long.

Dr. Squatch

There are more than 20 first-time advertisers this year, but most are sticking to nostalgia and celebrities to stand out. Dr. Squatch, a little known direct-to-consumer soap and personal care brand, is one of the few to embrace weird humor to stand out. The tongue-in-cheek ad shows a man walking through



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 81 of 90

the woods espousing why Dr. Squatch's natural soap is the right choice for the modern man who "opens pickle jars" and "lets his daughter braid his hair."

GM "No Way Norway"

When Will Ferrell finds out Norway has more electric vehicles per capita than the U.S., he goes on a madcap journey spanning countries with singer and actress Awkwafina and comedian Kenan Thompson to show that GM's new battery for electric cars will soon be available for everyone.

Inspiration4 "Join Us"

In what is surely a first in Super Bowl history, an ad for Inspiration4, a SpaceX supported all-civilian space mission touts a chance for viewers to join the mission. The ad shows shots of the SpaceX astronaut uniform in space to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" and is directed by Bryce Dallas Howard.

M&M's "Come Together"

A bag of M&M's is the perfect apology for mansplaining, calling someone a "Karen," having a gender reveal party accident and other contemporary faux pas. Dan Levy of "Schitt's Creek" apologizes to the M&M anthropomorphic characters that are Super Bowl mainstays and says he promises not to "eat any more of their friends."

Squarespace "5 to 9"

The website building and hosting company enlisted Dolly Parton herself to rewrite the lyrics of her classic ode to the working day, "9 to 5," to pay tribute to workers who work on their own businesses from "5 to 9" instead.

Uber Eats "Shameless Manipulation"

The food delivery service enlists "Wayne's World" actors Mike Myers and Dana Carvey — along with singer Cardi B — to promote ordering from local restaurants. It's one of several commercial that are trying to capitalize on viewer nostalgia.

SURPRISES

Although most ads have been revealed in order to try to capture pre-game buzz, there will undoubtedly be some surprises on game day. Jeep, which created the hit "Groundhog's Day" remake ad starring Bill Murray last year, will be back in the game as well. Online gig marketplace Fiverr, a first-time advertiser, has teased that its ad will feature Four Seasons Total Landscaping, the site of an ill-fated Rudy Giuliani press conference in November.

Another first-time advertiser, DoorDash, is teaming with Sesame Street to promote neighborhood delivery. And E-Trade, famous for the talking baby ads it ran in the Super Bowl from 2008 until they "retired" in 2014, is back in the big game with an undisclosed ad.

## A big mis-steak: Runaway cow escapes slaughter, roams RI

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — A 1,600-pound (725-kilogram) steer has been reported roaming the streets of Rhode Island's capital.

Workers with Rhode Island Beef & Veal told WJAR-TV that a wholesaler lost control of the cow while unloading it for slaughter.

The animal was first spotted in Johnston, about 10 miles (16 kilometers) west of Providence, by Tho Xaykosy, an Uber driver.

"It was about 2 a.m. I was on my way to pick up a passenger, and I look to my left, and there was a cow there, just hanging out, waiting for the red light! When it turned green, the cow goes! I was like ..." Xaykosy said, shaking his head.

The steer eventually made it to Providence, where local authorities contacted the Department of Environmental Management and animal control. Neither agency had the resources to capture and transport the animal, according to a police report.

Johnston police say the animal was still on the run as of Thursday night.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 82 of 90

## Rep. Greene says 'morons' voted to boot her from committees

By ALAN FRAM and BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene lashed out Friday at “morons” in both parties who voted to kick her off her committees, a day after the House meted out the unprecedented punishment that Democrats said she’d earned by spreading hateful and violent conspiracy theories.

Underscoring the political vise her inflammatory commentary has clamped her party into, all but 11 Republicans voted against the Democratic move on Thursday but none rose to defend her lengthy history of outrageous social media posts.

In the most riveting moment of that day’s debate, the freshman Republican from a deep-red corner of Georgia took to the House floor on her own behalf. She offered a mixture of backpedaling and finger-pointing as she wore a dark mask emblazoned with the words “FREE SPEECH.”

The chamber’s near party-line 230-199 vote was the latest instance of conspiracy theories becoming pitched political battlefields, an increasingly familiar occurrence during Donald Trump’s presidency. He faces a Senate trial next week for his House impeachment for inciting insurrection after a mob he fueled with his false narrative of a stolen election attacked the Capitol.

Thursday’s fight also underscored the uproar and political complexities that Greene — a master of provoking Democrats, promoting herself and raising campaign money — has prompted since becoming a House candidate last year.

Greene showed no signs of repentance Friday.

“I woke up early this morning literally laughing thinking about what a bunch of morons the Democrats (+11) are for giving some one like me free time,” she tweeted.

At a news conference later outside the Capitol, Greene accused news organizations of “addicting our nation to hate.” She deflected a question about her past online suggestion that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi could be executed for treason, and warned that Republicans opposing her should remember that Trump — with whom she is closely allied — controls the GOP.

“The party is his,” she said. “It doesn’t belong to anybody else.”

A day earlier on the House floor, Greene tried to dissociate herself from her “words of the past.” Contradicting past social media posts, she said she believes the 9/11 attacks and mass school shootings were real and no longer believes QAnon conspiracy theories, which include lies about Democratic-run pedophile rings.

But she didn’t explicitly apologize for supportive online remarks she’s made on other subjects, as when she mulled Pelosi, D-Calif., being assassinated or the possibility of Jewish-controlled space rays causing wildfires. And she portrayed herself as the victim of unscrupulous “big media companies.”

News organizations “can take teeny, tiny pieces of words that I’ve said, that you have said, any of us, and can portray us as someone that we’re not,” she said. She added that “we’re in a real big problem” if the House punished her but tolerated “members that condone riots that have hurt American people” — a clear reference to last summer’s social justice protests that in some instances became violent.

Greene was on the Education and Labor Committee and the Budget Committee. Democrats were especially aghast about her assignment to the education panel, considering the past doubt she cast on school shootings in Florida and Connecticut.

The political imperative for Democrats was clear: Greene’s support for violence and fictions was dangerous and merited punishment. Democrats and researchers said there was no apparent precedent for the full House removing a lawmaker from a committee, a step usually taken by their party leaders.

The calculation was more complicated for Republicans.

Though Trump left the White House two weeks ago, his devoted followers are numerous among the party’s voters, and he and Greene are allies. Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., hopes GOP victories in the 2022 elections will make him speaker. Republicans could undermine that scenario by alienating Trump’s and Greene’s passionate supporters, and McCarthy took no action to punish her.

“If any of our members threatened the safety of other members, we’d be the first ones to take them off a committee,” Pelosi angrily told reporters. She said she was “profoundly concerned” about GOP leaders’

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 83 of 90

acceptance of an "extreme conspiracy theorist."

At one point, No. 2 Democratic leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland strode to the GOP side of the chamber carrying a poster of a Greene Facebook post from last year. "Squad's Worst Nightmare," Greene had written in the post, which showed her holding an AR-15 firearm next to pictures of three of the four Democratic lawmakers, all young women of color, who've been nicknamed "The Squad."

"They are people. They are our colleagues," Hoyer said. He mimicked Greene's pose holding the weapon and said, "I have never, ever seen that before."

Republicans tread carefully but found rallying points.

McCarthy said Greene's past opinions "do not represent the views of my party." But without naming the offenders, he said Pelosi hadn't stripped committee memberships from Democrats who became embroiled in controversy. Among those he implicated was Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., who made anti-Israel insults for which she later apologized.

"If that's the new standard," he said of Democrats' move against Greene, "we have a long list."

Committee assignments are crucial for lawmakers for shaping legislation affecting their districts, creating a national reputation and raising campaign contributions. Even social media stars like Greene could find it harder to define themselves without the spotlights that committees provide.

Not all Republicans were in forgiving moods, especially in the Senate. There, fringe GOP candidates have lost winnable races in recent years and leaders worry a continued linkage with Trump and conspiracists will inflict more damage.

That chamber's minority leader, Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., this week called Greene's words a "cancer" on the GOP and country. On Thursday, No. 2 Senate GOP leader John Thune of South Dakota amplified that thinking.

Thune said House Republicans must stop "dabbling" in conspiracy theories, adding, "I don't think that's a productive course of action or one that's going to lead to much prosperity politically in the future."

News organizations have unearthed countless social media videos and "likes" in which Greene embraced absurd theories like suspicions that Hillary Clinton was behind the 1999 death of John F. Kennedy Jr. Greene responded, "Stage is being set," when someone posted a question about hanging Clinton and former President Barack Obama.

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Associated Press writer Kevin Freking contributed.

## Jamaica faces marijuana shortage as farmers struggle

By SHARLENE HENDRICKS and DANICA COTO Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Jamaica is running low on ganja.

Heavy rains followed by an extended drought, an increase in local consumption and a drop in the number of marijuana farmers have caused a shortage in the island's famed but largely illegal market that experts say is the worst they've seen.

"It's a cultural embarrassment," said Triston Thompson, chief opportunity explorer for Tacaya, a consulting and brokerage firm for the country's nascent legal cannabis industry.

Jamaica, which foreigners have long associated with pot, reggae and Rastafarians, authorized a regulated medical marijuana industry and decriminalized small amounts of weed in 2015.

People caught with 2 ounces (56 grams) or less of cannabis are supposed to pay a small fine and face no arrest or criminal record. The island also allows individuals to cultivate up to five plants, and Rastafarians are legally allowed to smoke ganja for sacramental purposes.

But enforcement is spotty as many tourists and locals continue to buy marijuana on the street, where it has grown more scarce — and more expensive.

Heavy rains during last year's hurricane season pummeled marijuana fields that were later scorched in the drought that followed, causing tens of thousands of dollars in losses, according to farmers who cultivate pot outside the legal system.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 84 of 90

"It destroyed everything," said Daneyel Bozra, who grows marijuana in the southwest part of Jamaica, in a historical village called Accompong founded by escaped 18th-century slaves known as Maroons.

Worsening the problem were strict COVID-19 measures, including a 6 p.m. curfew that meant farmers couldn't tend to their fields at night as is routine, said Kenrick Wallace, 29, who cultivates 2 acres (nearly a hectare) in Accompong with the help of 20 other farmers.

He noted that a lack of roads forces many farmers to walk to reach their fields — and then to get water from wells and springs. Many were unable to do those chores at night due to the curfew.

Wallace estimated he lost more than \$18,000 in recent months and cultivated only 300 pounds, compared with an average of 700 to 800 pounds the group normally produces.

Activists say they believe the pandemic and a loosening of Jamaica's marijuana laws has led to an increase in local consumption that has contributed to the scarcity, even if the pandemic has put a dent in the arrival of ganja-seeking tourists.

"Last year was the worst year. ... We've never had this amount of loss," Thompson said. "It's something so laughable that cannabis is short in Jamaica."

Tourists, too, have taken note, placing posts on travel websites about difficulties finding the drug.

Paul Burke, CEO of Jamaica's Ganja Growers and Producers Association, said in a phone interview that people are no longer afraid of being locked up now that the government allows possession of small amounts. He said the stigmatization against ganja has diminished and more people are appreciating its claimed therapeutic and medicinal value during the pandemic.

Burke also said that some traditional small farmers have stopped growing in frustration because they can't afford to meet requirements for the legal market while police continue to destroy what he described as "good ganja fields."

The government's Cannabis Licensing Authority — which has authorized 29 cultivators and issued 73 licenses for transportation, retail, processing and other activities — said there is no shortage of marijuana in the regulated industry. But farmers and activists say weed sold via legal dispensaries known as herb houses is out of reach for many given that it still costs five to 10 times more than pot on the street.

Coto reported from San Juan, Puerto Rico.

## AP-NORC poll: Americans are split on Trump's impeachment

By JILL COLVIN and EMILY SWANSON Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A majority of Americans say former President Donald Trump bears at least some blame for the Capitol insurrection, and about half say the Senate should vote to convict him at the end of his impeachment trial.

That's according to a survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research that also finds many Republicans continue to believe — contrary to all evidence — that President Joe Biden's election was illegitimate.

It's the latest sign that Trump's monthslong disinformation campaign could have long-lasting ramifications for Biden as he tries to govern a fractured country and underscores the deep partisan divides that will outlast Trump's presidency. But it also shows some degree of consensus, with even many Republicans saying that Trump was at least partially responsible for his supporters' deadly storming of the Capitol on Jan. 6 in a bid to overturn the results of the November election.

Nearly two-thirds of Americans believe that Trump bears at least a moderate amount of responsibility for the breach of the U.S. Capitol, including half who say he bears a great deal or quite a bit. Just over a third say he bears little to no responsibility.

Most Republicans absolve him of guilt, but about 3 in 10 think he bears at least a moderate amount of blame for the events.

Fewer Americans, 47%, believe the Senate should vote to convict Trump after his impeachment trial, which begins next week. Another 40% say he should not be convicted, and 12% aren't sure. Trump last

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 85 of 90

month became the first president in the nation's history to be impeached twice by the House, but it appears unlikely Democrats will have enough votes to convict him in the upper chamber.

Opinions on the trial fall along partisan lines, with more than 8 in 10 Democrats saying the Senate should convict, versus only about 1 in 10 Republicans. While those who believe he bears a large amount of responsibility generally believe he should be convicted, among those who say he is only moderately responsible, significantly more say the Senate should vote against than for conviction, 54% to 19%.

"I think it's kind of ridiculous. Are we going to start impeaching all the past presidents we don't like?" said Bill Stokes, 67, who lives in Casper, Wyoming, and voted for Trump in November, describing him as the "lesser of evils."

While Stokes allowed that Trump "perhaps" bore some responsibility for the events of Jan. 6, he said, "I don't think it warrants impeachment. Maybe a censure, if that."

"I really don't feel like he incited a riot. He asked them to go down there for a peaceful protest. Maybe he didn't understand mob psychology, but I think his responsibility there — they're trying to put more on him than there really is," he said.

In interviews, other Republican respondents faulted Trump for egging on the crowd — and some felt he should be held accountable in some way — but didn't think impeachment was the answer given that Trump has already left office and, they said, was unlikely to ever be elected again.

At the same time, the poll finds that many Republicans agree with the idea, championed by those who stormed the Capitol, that Biden's election was illegitimate. Overall, 66% of Americans say Biden was legitimately elected president, but 65% of Republicans say he was not.

They include Dolores Mejia, 71, who lives in Peoria, Arizona, and maintains that, had all the votes been counted, "I think Trump would have won, I really believe that."

A lifelong Democrat who switched her party registration to vote for Trump in November, Mejia cited everything from debunked conspiracies to friends' accounts to explain her reservations.

"I don't care what the Democrats say. They stole the election. There's just no way, with the amount of support we were seeing, watching the rallies on TV, things like Truckers for Trump ... there is no way they did not steal the election," she contended.

Others were more ambivalent. Mark Richardson, a Republican who lives in High Point, North Carolina, and voted for Trump twice, said he understood why measures had been taken to allow for mail-in voting during the coronavirus pandemic but argued they should never be used again.

"It leaves too much room for questions," he said. But Richardson, 39, who works in the electric vehicle industry, said the question of "legitimacy" is more nuanced.

"So I guess it depends on how you frame the question," he said. "Do I think every vote he received was legitimate? No. But do I think he's the president, legitimately? Yes."

"Joe Biden's the president," he said. "And that's a-OK with me."

GOP officials in several battleground states that Biden carried, including Arizona and Georgia, have said the election was fair. Trump's claims were roundly rejected in the courts, including by judges appointed by Trump and by his former attorney general, William Barr.

In general, the poll shows that Americans have a more negative than positive view of Trump's presidency and its impact on the country, but opposition is limited among Republicans. Only 36% of Americans overall say Trump was a great or even a good president, while 50% say he was a poor or terrible one.

By contrast, in late 2016, as Barack Obama was leaving office, 52% of Americans called him a good or great president, while 28% said he was poor or terrible.

While most Republicans say Trump was a good or great president, 15% call him just average and 11% say he was a poor or terrible president.

Americans are more mixed about how the Trump years impacted them personally. In fact, more call themselves better off than worse off than they were when Trump took office, by a margin of 38% to 27%.

The AP-NORC poll of 1,055 adults was conducted Jan. 28-Feb. 1 using a sample drawn from NORC's

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 86 of 90

probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.8 percentage points.

Online:

AP-NORC Center: <http://www.apnorc.org/>.

## **Somehow, the NFL pulled off playing every game in a pandemic**

By ROB MAADDI AP Pro Football Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Playing a contact sport in the middle of a pandemic seemed unthinkable to everyone except the NFL when the novel coronavirus shut down the country in March.

The improbable became achievable thanks to collaboration and sacrifice.

Super Bowl 55 takes place Sunday right on schedule. That was the plan all along. The league played 256 games in the regular season without any cancellations and made it through the playoffs to get here.

The NFL spent more than \$75 million on testing alone, played games on all seven days of the week, shuffled the schedule numerous times, and constantly revised health and safety protocols.

It paid off.

"There's so many people that had to work together to get this done," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said Thursday. "There were doubters. Obviously, there were people that didn't believe we could do it. Obviously, we had a lot of unknowns. But we believed that staying on schedule and working toward trying to get to 256 games done -- as we sort of say shorthand, avoid the asterisk. I think we were able to do that, but we've still got a few days left here, so we're focused on making sure we finish out strong."

Fresh off contentious negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement, the league and the players' union worked together to ensure health and safety were paramount. That meant the Denver Broncos had to play a game with a practice squad wide receiver as their quarterback. The Cleveland Browns had a playoff game with coach Kevin Stefanski at home on his couch.

"We have worked together to find solutions and work past our differences," Goodell said. "We've had our dustups in the past. But this season it really took all of us to get through this."

NFL Players Association Executive Director DeMaurice Smith even joined Goodell on stage toward the end of his news conference in a seemingly celebratory moment.

"This year has been, I think across businesses in the country, one of the best of labor and management working together to do something we couldn't do alone," Smith said.

There were nervous moments along the way as several teams experienced breakouts. The league had to impose intensive protocol measures to prevent disaster and keep things going.

"It started in Tennessee where we weren't sure how to control this, what was causing this," Goodell said. "Those were some anxious days, there's no question about it. But we believed in our medical experts. We believed in the protocols. We were able to get that under control, and we learned a lot from that, that we then applied and changed, and I think that helped us."

Contact tracing devices worn by players, coaches and team personnel played a vital role in the process. Ultimately, the league learned through extensive research and data analysis there was no on-field transmission of the virus during games or practices.

"I think what we learned from those experiences is being outdoors or in a large, well-ventilated space like our indoor stadiums are, is a really big, important factor here," said Dr. Allen Sills, the league's chief medical officer. "When we also looked at the data for our contact tracing devices, we saw that even though players are lined up close to each other in their tackling and doing all these things, when you sum up all those interactions, it's still a fairly brief exposure.

"So we had a number of very brief exposures happening in an open-air, a large-air environment with great ventilation, with a lot of air movement and a lot of position changes in and around the field. So I think that we've come to realize that all of those are protective factors and things that minimize or mitigate against the spread of virus. As we like to say, the virus never crossed the line of scrimmage as near as we can

tell. And I think that is an important observation, not only for the NFL, but sports and society at large.” Goodell said the goal was not to avoid positives because that wasn’t realistic with approximately 7,500 tests per day. Rather, the league focused on daily testing, identifying positive cases and isolating quickly. Overall, the league accumulated nearly a million tests.

Though stadiums were empty most of the season, 1.2 million fans attended NFL games when they were allowed. About 22,000 fans will be in attendance when the Kansas City Chiefs (16-2) meet the hometown Tampa Bay Buccaneers (14-5) on Sunday. Everyone in the stands will be required to wear a mask.

“We want our fans to be safe,” Goodell said. “They need to be smart.”

Just as it seems the NFL was for much of the last five months.

\_\_\_ More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Tiny chameleon a contender for title of smallest reptile

BERLIN (AP) — It fits on a human fingertip, but this chameleon could make a big splash.

Scientists from Madagascar and Germany say a newly discovered species of chameleon is a contender for the title of world’s smallest reptile.

Frank Glaw, who was part of the international team of researchers that classified the new species and named it *Brookesia nana* said the body of the male specimen appeared to be just 13.5-millimeters-long (a little more than a 1/2-inch.)

That’s at least 1.5 millimeters smaller than the previous record holder, another member of the *Brookesia* family.

Glaw, a reptile expert at the Bavarian State Collection of Zoology in Munich, said the tiny male and a slightly larger female were spotted on a mountainside by a local guide during a 2012 expedition.

“You really have to get down on your knees to find them,” Glaw told The Associated Press in a telephone interview Friday. “They are obviously camouflaged and they move very slowly.”

Glaw and his colleagues performed a CT scan of the female and discovered that it harbored two eggs, confirming that it was an adult.

For the male, the researchers took a close look at its “well-developed” genitals, which in chameleons come in pairs known as hemipenes.

They found that the genitals of the *Brookesia nana* specimen were almost one-fifth of its body size, possibly to allow it to mate with the larger female.

“I have few doubts it’s an adult male,” Glaw said. “If we had a pair mating it would obviously be better proof.”

Confirming *Brookesia nana* as the smallest reptile species will require finding more of them, which might take several years, he said.

The team’s research was recently published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

Chameleons are threatened by deforestation on Madagascar, which is home to numerous species.



**Picture taken in 2012 in Munich, Germany shows a newly discovered species of chameleon which is a contender for the title of world’s smallest reptile. Scientists from Madagascar and Germany called it *Brookesia nana*, said the male appeared is just 13.5 millimeters big.** (AP Poto/Frank Glaw)

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 88 of 90

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Feb. 6, the 37th day of 2021. There are 328 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 6, 1778, during the American Revolutionary War, the United States won official recognition and military support from France with the signing of a Treaty of Alliance in Paris.

On this date:

In 1756, America's third vice president, Aaron Burr, was born in Newark, N.J.

In 1788, Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1815, the state of New Jersey issued the first American railroad charter to John Stevens, who proposed a rail link between Trenton and New Brunswick. (The line, however, was never built.)

In 1862, during the Civil War, Fort Henry in Tennessee fell to Union forces.

In 1911, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, was born in Tampico, Illinois.

In 1933, the 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the so-called "lame duck" amendment, was proclaimed in effect by Secretary of State Henry Stimson.

In 1952, Britain's King George VI, 56, died at Sandringham House in Norfolk, England; he was succeeded as monarch by his 25-year-old elder daughter, who became Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1991, comedian and television performer Danny Thomas died in Los Angeles at age 79.

In 1993, tennis Hall of Famer and human rights advocate Arthur Ashe died in New York at age 49.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton signed a bill changing the name of Washington National Airport to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Carl Wilson, a founding member of The Beach Boys, died in Los Angeles at age 51.

In 2003, edging closer to war, President George W. Bush declared "the game is over" for Saddam Hussein and urged skeptical allies to join in disarming Iraq.

In 2008, the Bush White House defended the use of the interrogation technique known as waterboarding, saying it was legal — not torture as critics argued — and had saved American lives.

Ten years ago: Egypt's vice president met with the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood and other opposition groups and offered sweeping concessions, including granting press freedom and rolling back police powers in the government's latest attempt to end two weeks of upheaval. The Green Bay Packers won Super Bowl XLV (45), defeating the Pittsburgh Steelers 31-25. New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady became the first unanimous choice for The Associated Press NFL Most Valuable Player Award.

Five years ago: Seven GOP Republican hopefuls faced off three days before the New Hampshire primary; Marco Rubio, a first-term senator on the rise in the presidential race, faced a barrage of attacks while Sen. Ted Cruz, fresh off his victory in the Iowa caucuses, also came under withering criticism. A magnitude-6.4 earthquake struck Tainan, Taiwan, killing 116 people. Brett Favre, Ken Stabler, Marvin Harrison, Kevin Greene, Orlando Pace and Tony Dungy were elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton won The Associated Press NFL Most Valuable Player award in a landslide.

One year ago: A 57-year-old woman died in California's Santa Clara County; autopsy results would later reveal that the woman, identified by family members as Patricia Dowd of San Jose, had the coronavirus, despite not having traveled outside the country to a coronavirus outbreak area. (The death came some three weeks before health officials in the Seattle area announced what were believed then to be the first U.S. deaths from the virus.) A Chinese doctor, Li Wenliang, who got in trouble with authorities there for sounding an early warning about the coronavirus outbreak, died after coming down with the illness. Roger Kahn, the writer who wove memoir and baseball in "The Boys of Summer," a romantic account of the Brooklyn Dodgers, died in a New York suburb; he was 92.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Mamie Van Doren is 90. Actor Mike Farrell is 82. Former NBC News anchorman Tom Brokaw is 81. Singer Fabian is 78. Actor Gayle Hunnicutt is 78. Actor Michael Tucker is 76. Producer-director-writer Jim Sheridan is 72. Actor Jon Walmsley is 65. Actor Kathy Najimy is 64. Rock musician



# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 89 of 90**

Simon Phillips (Toto) is 64. Actor-director Robert Townsend is 64. Actor Barry Miller is 63. Actor Megan Gallagher is 61. Rock singer Axl Rose (Guns N' Roses) is 59. Country singer Richie McDonald is 59. Singer Rick Astley is 55. Rock musician Tim Brown (Boo Radleys) is 52. "Good Morning America" co-host Amy Robach is 48. Actor Josh Stewart is 44. Actor Ben Lawson is 41. Actor Brandon Hammond is 37. Actor Crystal Reed (TV: "Teen Wolf") is 36. Actor Alice Greczyn (GREH'-chihn) is 35. Actor Anna Diop is 33. R&B singer/actor Tinashe is 28.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 06, 2021 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 217 ~ 90 of 90

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BONUS \$100 off installation



Call now to redeem your exclusive offer!

▶ **1-605-824-1118**

Redemption code:

DF-CD-NP-Q121

Reply by:

April 15, 2021

We're available 24/7. See if you qualify for same-day service!

**\*\$19.99/month + †\$100 off Installation:** Requires 36-month monitoring contract with a minimum charge of \$28.99/mo. (before instant savings) (24-month monitoring contract in California, total fees from \$695.76 (before instant savings) and enrollment in Easy Pay. Service and installation charges vary depending on system configuration, equipment and services selected. Offer includes (i) \$9.00 instant savings per month applicable only towards monthly monitoring charge for the first 12 months of initial contract term (total value of \$108.00) and (ii) \$100 instant savings on installation with minimum purchase of \$449 after promotion is applied. Traditional Service Level requires landline phone. Excludes ADT's Extended Limited Warranty. Upon early termination by Customer, ADT may charge 75% of the remaining monthly service charges for the balance of the initial contract term. Limit one offer per new ADT customer contract. Not valid on purchases from ADT Authorized Dealers. Expires 4/15/2021.

**Interactive Services:** ADT Command Interactive Solutions Services ("ADT Command") helps you manage your home environment and family lifestyle. Requires purchase of an ADT alarm system with 36 month monitoring contract ranging \$45.99-\$57.99/mo with QSP (24-month monitoring contract in California, total fees ranging \$1,103.76-\$1,391.76), enrollment in ADT Easy Pay, and a compatible device with Internet and email access. These interactive services do not cover the operation or maintenance of any household equipment/systems that are connected to the ADT Command equipment. All ADT Command services are not available with all interactive service levels. All ADT Command services may not be available in all geographic areas. You may be required to pay additional charges to purchase equipment required to utilize the interactive service features you desire.

**General:** Additional charges may apply in areas that require guard response service for municipal alarm verification. System remains property of ADT. Local permit fees may be required. Prices and offers subject to change and may vary by market. Additional taxes and fees may apply. Satisfactory credit required. A security deposit may be required. Simulated screen images and photos are for illustrative purposes only.

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