

# Danville Register & Bee

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GODANRIVER.COM • THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021 • DANVILLE, VA.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

## OUT OF CONTROL

Angry mob of President Trump supporters storm the U.S. Capitol in a chaotic riot aimed at thwarting a peaceful transfer of power; 1 dead



President Donald Trump supporters gather outside the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday in Washington, D.C. As Congress prepares to affirm President-elect Joe Biden's victory, thousands of people have gathered to show their support for Trump and his claims of election fraud.

BY LISA MASCARO, ERIC TUCKER  
AND MARY CLARE JALONICK  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A violent mob loyal to President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday and forced lawmakers into hiding, in a stunning attempt to overturn America's presidential election, undercut the nation's democracy and keep Democrat Joe Biden from replacing Trump in the White House.

The nation's elected representatives scrambled to crouch under desks and donned gas masks, while police futilely tried to barricade the building, one of the most jarring scenes ever to unfold in a seat of American political power. A woman was shot and killed inside the Capitol, and Washington's mayor instituted an evening curfew in an attempt to contain the violence.

The rioters were egged on by Trump, who has spent weeks falsely attacking the integrity of the election and had urged his supporters to descend on Washington Wednesday to protest Congress' formal approval of Biden's victory. Some Republican lawmakers were in the midst of raising objections to the results on his behalf when the proceedings were abruptly halted by the mob.

Together, the protests and the GOP election objections amounted to an almost

### INSIDE

» Warnock, Ossoff win in Georgia, handing Democrats Senate control. **A4**



ABOVE: Trump supporters try to break through a police barrier Wednesday at the Capitol. BELOW: People shelter in the House gallery as protesters try to break into the House Chamber.



## An extraordinary and unprecedented scene unfolds in Washington

BY LISA MASCARO, BEN FOX, ASHRAF KHALIL  
AND MICHAEL BALSAMO  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

The crowd pushed past the police barricades, up the steps to the iron doors and in what seemed like no time at all, hoisted a Trump flag from the U.S. Capitol.

"Protesters are in the building," came the last words picked up by a microphone carrying a live feed of the Senate before it shut off.

Hundreds of President Donald Trump's supporters paraded and hollered through some of the most hallowed spaces in the Capitol — propped at the Senate dais and in the House speaker's office — all to protest the election and keep President Donald Trump in office.

It was an extraordinary, unprecedented scene.

Trump, the defeated president, had been encouraging protesters as Congress convened for a

SEE **SCENE** | A5

*"To storm the Capitol, to smash windows, to occupy offices, and to threaten the safety of duly elected officials is not protest. It is insurrection."*

— President-elect **Joe Biden**



**48** Partly sunny  
**33** today; cloudy  
tonight. **B6**



Annie's Mailbox.....	B4	Lottery.....	A2	Puzzle.....	B5
Classifieds.....	B6	Money & Markets.....	B3	Region & State.....	A2,3
Comics.....	B5	Obituaries.....	A4	Sports.....	B1
Horoscope.....	B5	Opinion.....	A6	TV Listings.....	B4

**COMING FRIDAY:**  
Take a stroll down memory lane with our weekly Flashback Friday feature.



MAN DIES  
AFTER  
HOUSE  
FIRE IN  
BLAIRS  
» LOCAL, A3



BUILD A  
BEDROOM  
OF YOUR  
DREAMS  
BETTER SECTION

MORE THAN 250 IN COUPON SAVINGS INSIDE TODAY

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# Danville Register & Bee

GODANRIVER.COM • SUNDAY • DANVILLE, VA.  
JANUARY 24, 2021

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

## SLEEVES ROLL UP

Averett University hosts the first large-scale vaccination event in region

BY PARKER COTTON  
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Though they were wearing masks, the smiles were obvious as four friends emerged from the back door of Averett University's gymnasium Saturday morning. They had all just received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and they were in celebratory moods.

The women were all proud of being a part of history, as they said, after taking part in the first of hopefully many large-scale vaccination events in the Dan River Region.

"I had a former student who took me to the table and a former student who got to give me my shot, so that was really cool," said Jennifer Watson, a history teacher at Tunstall High School.

Tara Mills, also a history teacher at Tunstall, put the moment into perspective — how distributing the vaccine widely will slowly lead to a return to normal life.

"We really miss the students back in class full time," Mills said. "We want it to be safe. We miss their energy."

Along with friends Edna Combs and Joan Graham, the four women were equal parts excited and relieved to have the opportunity to get the vaccine this early. They urged many of their friends and colleagues to also sign up to receive the vaccine when they can.

"We want to keep that spread from happening," Watson said.

**Event comes together quickly**

Saturday's vaccination event came together quickly through the Pittsylvania-Danville Health Department's coordination with



Chris Garrett, local health emergency coordinator for the Pittsylvania-Danville Health District (center), speaks to COVID-19 vaccine volunteers Saturday at Averett University.



ABOVE: Tara Mills (from left), Jennifer Watson, Edna Combs and Joan Graham hold up their COVID-19 vaccination cards after receiving the first dose on Saturday morning at Averett University. RIGHT: Yolanda Pool, an infection preventionist at Sovah Health-Danville, unboxes several vials of the COVID-19 vaccine.

**INSIDE**

» A lockdown Saturday at Averett triggered by a threatening email didn't effect the vaccination event. **A3**

» The Pittsylvania-Danville Health District records more than 7,000 COVID-19 cases, three more outbreaks surface at K-12 schools and one more resident reported dead in Saturday's data update. **A2**



SEE CLINIC | A5



Danville Mayor Alonzo Jones receives his first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine Thursday at PATHS Community Medical Center.

## 'Stay as healthy as we can stay'

Danville and Pittsylvania County leaders urge residents to get a COVID-19 vaccine

BY PARKER COTTON  
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One week into Phase 1b of the COVID-19 vaccination distribution in the Pittsylvania-Danville Health District, there appear to be two certainties: the vaccine is in high demand, and it is difficult to obtain.

In response to the high demand, the health department and the city of Danville announced an online portal Friday, giving those who wish to pre-register for the vaccine a way to do so.

"Vaccine demand is overwhelmingly higher than supply," Dr. Scott Spillmann, director of the health district, wrote in an email earlier in the week, when he also described an "avalanche of phone calls."

The online portal is now meant to alleviate that influx of phone calls.

The portal can be accessed at [www.danvilleva.gov/PittDanSignup](http://www.danvilleva.gov/PittDanSignup).

Anybody can pre-register to receive the vaccine, but those determined to be in Phase 1a

SEE LEADERS | A8



47  
36

» Some sun today, clouds move in tonight. **B5**



Annie's Mailbox..... C3  
Business..... B6  
Classifieds..... C5-C6

Dan River Life..... C1  
Horoscope..... C3  
Local news..... A2

Lottery..... A2  
Obituaries..... A4  
Opinion..... A6

Puzzle..... C3  
Scoreboard..... B2  
Sports..... B1

TV listings..... C4-C5



# Danville Register & Bee

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GODANRIVER.COM • THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021 • DANVILLE, VA.

## FAST FACTS THE FORECAST



- » A winter storm warning remains in effect through 7 a.m. Friday.
- » Computer models continue to forecast a crippling ice storm on a collision course with Southern Virginia.
- » The main threat comes in the form of ice — anywhere from one-half to three-quarters of an inch.
- » The weather service warning doesn't sugar-coat the possibilities: Power outages and tree damage are likely.
- » Temperatures are expected to reach 32 degrees today.
- » Another round of snow and sleet is possible tonight.

## CLOSINGS



- » All Pittsylvania County offices are closed today including branches of the public library, the Pittsylvania Pet Center, the community center and the Pittsylvania County courthouse.
- » The James F. Ingram Justice Center (Danville courthouse) is closed today.
- » The Danville School Board meeting scheduled today has been postponed until 5:30 p.m. Feb. 25 in the Danville Room at 341 Main St.
- » Danville Transit will delay the start of reservation-based service until 6 p.m. today. Street conditions will be evaluated this morning to determine if further delay is needed. Fixed-route operations, which normally begin at 6 a.m., also may be delayed.
- » Danville Public Schools are closed today. There will be no virtual or face-to-face instruction.

## VENTURING OUT



- » Travel could be hazardous — or nearly impossible — today and Friday morning.
- » Danville Public Works crews pretreated major thoroughfares, bridges and overpasses with brine — a mixture of water and salt — Wednesday. The water in the brine evaporates, leaving the salt behind on the road. The salt helps prevent the precipitation from freezing on roads and bridges. Residential streets are not pretreated.
- » The Virginia Department of Transportation also treated main routes Wednesday. VDOT officials do not recommend traveling during the storm, particularly since ice is involved.
- » Likewise, the city of Danville urges residents and visitors are to be cautious. If you must travel, keep an extra flashlight, food and water in your vehicle in case of an emergency. When venturing outside, watch your first few steps taken on steps, sidewalks and driveways, which could be icy and slippery, increasing your risk of a fall and injury.

## WINTER WEATHER

# Time to hunker down

City, county will open warming stations to help in possible prolonged powerless stretch

BY PARKER COTTON  
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In anticipation of a significant ice storm Wednesday night into today — which likely will result in power outages on a broader scale than this past weekend — public safety officials in Danville and Pittsylvania County are urging residents to prepare as best they can.

Ben Meeks, the chief at Gretna Fire and Rescue, suggested stocking up on non-perishable food items and batteries for flashlights before the end of the day Wednesday.

“Go ahead and get prepared now. If you wait until after [Wednesday night], it'll be too

late,” Meeks said. “I would get enough food to last for several days. Get non-perishable items because the power is probably going to go back out.”

After thousands of people lost electricity over the weekend, today's new ice storm could threaten to be an even more prolonged stretch without power. Meeks said it would be wise to stock up on bottles of water or make sure to have buckets or other vessels of water available. He also said flashlights are the preferred emergency light source over candles, which could be a fire hazard. Meeks added staying with family or friends who have a generator could be a wise decision considering how

## Potential warming centers

- » Residents should watch Danville and Pittsylvania County Public Safety social media pages to learn about the availability of warming centers.
- » Pittsylvania County fire departments
- » Danville's four recreation centers (Ballou, Coates, Stonewall and Glenwood)
- » In the city, call (434) 799-5111, option 8, to request or learn about warming center availability

[generators] can save lives,” he said.

## Staying warm

The Gretna fire station, located at 122 East Gretna Road, served as a warming station and charging station Wednesday for the few residents in the area who still were without power. Meeks said the station hasn't experienced crowds of any great size, but it has seen people seeking warmth, bottled water or a shower every day this week.

Meeks said the station expects to be open in a similar capacity during and after the ice storm for people who need to charge their phones or be

long some people can expect to be without power. “Stay with them because

SEE DARK | A5

# IN HIGH DEMAND

Residents buy heaters, chainsaws, generators after weekend storm, ahead of today's

BY JOHN R. CRANE  
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Riverside True Value Hardware sold out of its two generators last Friday and customers grabbed all of the store's 24 kerosene heaters just two hours after they arrived Wednesday morning.

“I'm about to sell out of everything we've got,” owner Randy Stephens told the Danville Register & Bee during a busy day at the store Wednesday on Trade Street.

Customers have been buying up oil lamps and kerosene, electric and propane heaters and other items in reaction to last weekend's ice storm and in anticipation of another.

“We've sold so many chainsaws this week,” said Suzanne Long, Stephens' daughter and an employee at the store.

Though managers at other stores including Home Depot, Lowe's and Sam's Club declined to be interviewed, at least one said they had sold out of generators.

Disasters play a large role in increasing sales of home generators that provide backup power in case of an outage.

“Major power outages due to natural disasters [have] been instrumental in driving the growth of the market,” according to a March 13, 2020, Business Wire article.

The residential portable generator market in the United States is expected to grow by about 8% through 2024, according to the article.



JOHN R. CRANE/REGISTER & BEE

Suzanne Long, an employee at Riverside True Value Hardware, said the store has sold out of oil lamps, heaters and other items since last weekend's ice storm.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has tips for those opting to purchase and use a generator:

- » If water has been near electrical circuits and electrical equipment, turn off the power at the main breaker or fuse on the service panel. Do not turn the power back on until electrical equipment has been inspected by a qualified electrician.
- » If you must use a portable generator, manufacturer recommendations and specifications must be strictly followed.
- » The generator should always be positioned outside the structure.
- » When using gasoline- and diesel-powered portable generators, switch

the main breaker or fuse on the service panel to the “off” position before starting the generator. This will prevent power lines from being inadvertently energized by backfeed electricity from the generators, and help protect utility line workers or other workers or people in neighboring buildings from electrocution.

» Backfeed in electrical energy is a potential risk for electrical energy workers. Electrocutions are the fifth leading cause of all reported occupational deaths.

Generator use is also a major cause of carbon monoxide poisoning, according to the CDC. Generators should only be used in well-ventilated areas.

# When power goes out, danger lurks in ways to stay warm

Heaters and portable generators can cause problems if safety rules are not adhered to

BY BILL WYATT  
Martinsville Bulletin

MARTINSVILLE — The region is bracing for another winter storm while still recovering from the effects of one just this past weekend.

Poweroutage.us reports Danville and Pittsylvania County still have 5,919 homes

without electricity.

The National Weather Service in Blacksburg has placed the region under a winter storm warning from midnight Wednesday to 7 a.m. Friday, calling for a significant mix of wintry precipitation.

Lisa Garrett, fire marshal for Henry County, said residents should get ready to be without

power for two to three days, but some people have been without power for longer than that already.

“Our power has been out since Saturday morning around 10,” said Richard Motley, who lives in the Rondo community of Pittsylvania County. “Monday, I borrowed a generator from a friend at work. It's enough to keep the freezer frozen and a couple of other things.”

Motley is the manager of

Norris Funeral Services & Crematory-West End Chapel in Danville and pastors the Woodberry Hills Baptist Church on Audubon Drive in Danville.

“I just wear extra clothes, but in bed it hasn't been bad once you get warm,” he said. “I have been getting to work a little bit earlier.”

Electrical service to Motley's home is provided by Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative, and

SEE DANGER | A5



36  
31

Heavy ice; heavy rain in the evening. B6



Annie's Mailbox.....B4  
Classifieds.....B6  
Comics.....B5  
Horoscope.....B5

Lottery.....A2  
Money & Markets.....B3  
Obituaries.....A4  
Opinion.....A6

Puzzle.....B5  
Region & State.....A2.3  
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TV Listings.....B4

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