

Amid raging virus, Biden vows: ‘Help is on the way’

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR and ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With a burst of executive orders, President Joe Biden served notice on Thursday that America’s war on COVID-19 is under new command, promising an anxious nation progress to reduce infections and lift the siege it has endured for nearly a year.

At the same time, he tried to manage expectations in his second day in office, saying despite the best intentions “we’re going to face setbacks.” He brushed off a reporter’s question on whether his goal of 100 million coronavirus shots in 100 days should be more ambitious, a point pressed by some public health experts.

The 10 orders signed by Biden are aimed at jump starting his national COVID-19 strategy to increase vaccinations and testing, lay the groundwork for reopening schools and businesses, and immediately increase the use of masks — including a requirement that Americans mask up for travel. One directive calls for addressing health care inequities in minority communities hard hit by the virus.

“We didn’t get into this mess overnight, and it will take months to turn this around,” Biden said at the White House. U.S. deaths have surged past 400,000, and he noted projections that they could reach 500,000 in a month.

But then, looking directly into the TV camera, Biden declared: “To a nation waiting for action, let me be clear on this point: Help is on the way.”

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Friday that she will send the article of impeachment against former President Donald Trump to the Senate on Monday, triggering the start of the former president’s trial on a charge of incitement of insurrection over the deadly U.S. Capitol Jan. 6 riot.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer announced Pelosi’s intentions for a quick



Alex Brandon/AP Photo

President Joe Biden speaks about the coronavirus at the White House on Thursday.

trial on the Senate floor Friday, rejecting Republicans’ proposal to push it to mid-February to give Trump more time to prepare his case. Schumer said there will be “a full trial, it will be a fair trial.”

Biden has also directed his intelligence community to study the threat of domestic extremism in the United States, an undertaking being launched weeks after the violent mob stormed the Capitol.

U.S. DEATHS HAVE SURGED PAST 400,000.

Biden took executive action Friday to speed a stopgap measure of financial relief to millions of Americans affected by the coronavirus pandemic while Congress begins to consider his much larger \$1.9 trillion package.

The two executive orders that Biden signed would increase food aid, protect job seekers on unemployment and clear a path for federal workers and contractors to get a \$15 hourly minimum wage.

“This can help tens of millions of families — especially those who cannot provide meals for their kids,” Biden said. “A lot of Americans are hurting. The virus is surging. ... No matter how you look at it, we need to act.”

He faces steep obstacles,

with the virus actively spreading in most states, vaccine shortages, slow progress on distribution and political uncertainty over whether congressional Republicans will help him pass the \$1.9 trillion economic relief and COVID response package.

Adding to the challenges are virus mutations, particularly one that has emerged in South Africa, that may make vaccines somewhat less effective. Dr. Anthony Fauci told reporters at the White House briefing that “we are paying very close attention to it.” Biden’s plan includes an expansion of research capabilities to map out the genetic structure of new variants.

On Thursday a group influential with Republican office holders lent its support to the president’s strategy. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce said, “We support the new administration’s focus on removing roadblocks to vaccinations and reopening schools, both of which are important steps to accelerating a broad-based economic recovery for all Americans.”

Biden officials have said they’ve been hampered by a lack of cooperation from the Trump administration during the transition. They say they don’t have a complete understanding of their predecessors’ actions on vaccine distribution. And they face a litany of complaints from states that say they are not getting enough vaccine even as they are being asked to vaccinate more categories of people.

OBITUARIES

Carol Jo (Rennells) Wood

Astoria

June 25, 1945 — Jan. 6, 2021

On Jan. 6, 2021, Carol Jo Wood, of Astoria, walked away to heaven with Jesus to dance in the flower-filled meadows, to sing and play music and to meet those who are gathered there before her.

Once upon a time, a precious, tiny daughter was born to Rev. Joel Vernon Rennells and his bride, Ida “Fern” McGuire. That time was June 25, 1945, and that loved little girl, weighing just over 3 pounds was Carol Jo, who demonstrated that she was born a feisty fighter by thriving.

When Carol Jo’s mama had to go to heaven sooner than anyone wanted, God provided Leona Stillman as a wife and mother to the family, and Carol Jo’s mischievous yet faithful brother, Leon James Rennells, of Longview, Washington, was added to the family.

Carol Jo loved variety, vibrant and multiple colors, making and eating flavorful food and the simple life. Baking fresh bread brought her joy during the years she stayed home with us. She could often be found looking up new recipes and experimenting in the kitchen.

And, she loved to play music like her birth mama. Piano music often filled the spaces where Carol lived and, most Sundays, she could be found at a church organ or piano. We grew up listening to piano hymn sets, as our mother dedicated hours to practice for years and years.

As her name implies, she was a sharer of songs. One friend aptly put it this way: “She leaves a little sparkle wherever she goes!”

Carol completed medical assistant training after high school and worked for Bank of Astoria for many years. After retirement, she volunteered at Columbia Memorial Hospital, where her second daughter, Cathy Jo, had been born in 1978, and where Carol laid in a diabetic coma later that same year.

After a miraculous recovery, Carol frequented Columbia Memorial many times over the years as a favorite patient. Precious baby hats and bright, cozy blankets made by Carol embraced many little ones during her volunteer service.

Carol had a special way of meeting each challenge and rising to the occasion; quietly, subtly and yet compellingly, so that others were encouraged. Imagine a woman who smiles and laughs at kidney dialysis year after year after year, caring

for those who attend with her and bringing a sassy, sweet aspect to something that brings most people dread.

Doctors would comment on how well she accepted bad news, and she would laugh and say, “well, what else I am supposed to do?”

“She is an excellent example of grit and grace and perseverance. A true anomaly in the medical world, due to her faith and attitude towards life,” shared her daughter, Cathy, who attended many, many appointments with Carol.

Then the time came for her to let go and rest. Mom had fought and won numerous health issues, till it seemed she was indestructible. If her body was a land, it took multiple, sustained assaults to bring her down. She fought the good fight, finishing faithfully. And she gently ebbed away from this world, still exuding a song of her own that will be heard for all eternity.

We are proud to be the daughters of this courageous and humble woman who modeled what it is to “carry on” with no excuses. We will hear the sound of her determinedly saying, “I can DO it! I can!” along with the exultation from our dad, Glenn Wood (December 1925 — April 1996), “Others have done this ahead of you, and you can, too!”

We are her thrivers: Cathy Jo, along with her husband, Kraig Kirkpatrick, and their son, Ryker, brought Mom to live with them for her last six years; watched over and carefully tended, picked up, perked up and faithfully mended. Her scent and sounds fill their home, creating a refuge of peace. Cathy longs to hear the sound of Mom playing the piano again.

And Cheri Lynn, along with her husband, Rob Lawler, and their seven children, Autumn, Caitlyn, Elise, Brie, Ryan, Keith and Meadow, live in another home full of grace and song.

In her private autobiography, Mom wrote that her eight grandchildren are the “jewels of my life.” These jewels will sparkle on, lighting the way for others.

Services will be held at Greenwood Cemetery in Astoria when fresh flowers will be declaring victory over death, and when the weather smiles brighter on celebrators of one amazing life.

To sign the online guest book, or to send a condolence to the family, go to tualatinvalleyfa.com



Carol Wood



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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
46 39	46 37	45 33	42 33	46 35	48 37	48 39
Chilly with some sun	Periods of rain	A morning shower	Rain in the afternoon	Chilly with rain	A chance of rain	Rain

ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday

Temperatures

High/low	 49/42
Normal high/low	 50/38
Record high	 61 in 1981
Record low	 14 in 1962
Precipitation	
Thursday	 Trace
Month to date	 12.77"
Normal month to date	 7.21"
Year to date	 12.77"
Normal year to date	 7.21"

Forecasts and graphics provided by
AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight’s Sky: After sunset, Mercury is at greatest elongation east (15 degrees).

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 7:48 a.m.
Sunset tonight 5:08 p.m.
Moonrise today 12:52 p.m.
Moonset today 3:28 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Jan 28	Feb 4	Feb 11	Feb 19

TODAY’S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
8:33 a.m.	7.9	2:22 a.m.	3.8	
10:28 p.m.	6.0	4:07 p.m.	1.2	
Cape Disappointment				
8:17 a.m.	7.8	1:44 a.m.	4.2	
10:26 p.m.	5.8	3:26 p.m.	1.4	
Hammond				
8:25 a.m.	8.1	2:00 a.m.	4.0	
10:25 p.m.	6.0	3:42 p.m.	1.2	
Warrenton				
8:28 a.m.	8.3	2:06 a.m.	3.9	
10:23 p.m.	6.4	3:51 p.m.	1.3	
Knappa				
9:10 a.m.	8.1	3:23 a.m.	3.3	
11:05 p.m.	6.3	5:08 p.m.	1.0	
Depoe Bay				
7:31 a.m.	8.1	1:04 a.m.	4.4	
9:44 p.m.	6.0	2:58 p.m.	1.5	

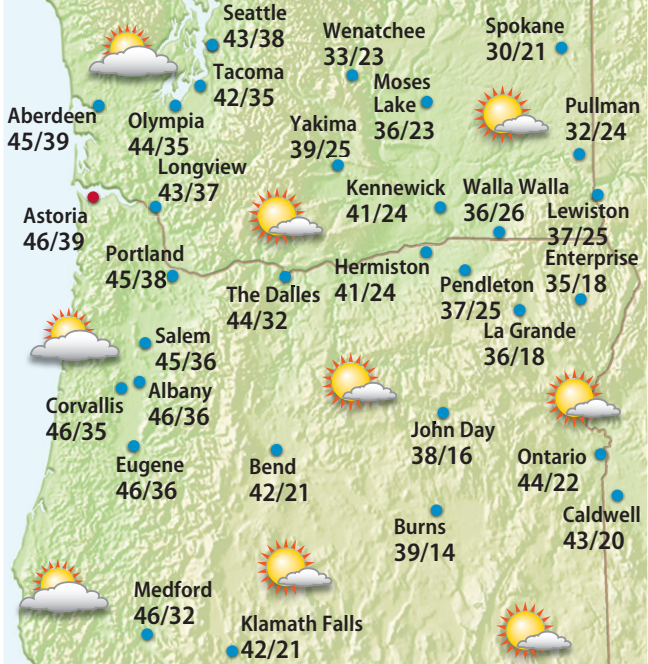
NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Sun.
Atlanta	58/41/s	52/48/pc
Boston	29/18/s	33/21/s
Chicago	28/25/s	33/30/sn
Dallas	58/56/sh	68/57/t
Denver	47/23/c	37/20/c
Honolulu	81/72/pc	82/72/c
Houston	69/61/c	76/67/t
Los Angeles	58/45/sh	60/48/c
Miami	78/67/s	79/70/pc
New York City	32/22/s	34/25/s
Phoenix	60/51/c	54/46/r
San Francisco	56/45/s	52/45/r
Wash., DC	38/26/s	41/33/pc
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.		

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REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today’s weather. Temperatures are today’s highs and tonight’s lows.



City	Today	Sun.	City	Today	Sun.
Baker City	39/16/s	34/23/c	North Bend	50/39/pc	48/38/r
Brookings	52/39/pc	47/38/r	Roseburg	49/36/pc	43/34/r
Ilwaco	46/39/pc	47/35/r	Seaside	46/38/pc	46/34/r
Newberg	45/37/pc	44/35/r	Springfield	47/37/pc	43/34/r
Newport	46/39/pc	46/36/r	Vancouver	44/36/pc	44/36/r