

TODAY

It's Saturday, Jan. 30, the 30th day of 2021. There are 335 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

In **1948**, Indian political and spiritual leader Mohandas K. Gandhi, 78, was shot and killed in New Delhi by Nathuram Godse, a Hindu extremist. Godse and a co-conspirator were later executed.

In **1649**, England's King Charles I was executed for high treason.

In **1862**, the ironclad USS Monitor was launched from the Continental Iron Works in Greenpoint, New York, during the Civil War.

In **1933**, Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany.

In **1945**, during World War II, a Soviet submarine torpedoed the German ship MV Wilhelm Gustloff in the Baltic Sea with the loss of more than 9,000 lives, most of them war refugees; roughly 1,000 people survived. Adolf Hitler marked the 12th anniversary of his appointment as Germany's chancellor with his last public speech in which he called on Germans to keep resisting until victory.

In **1948**, aviation pioneer Orville Wright, 76, died in Dayton, Ohio.

In **1968**, the Tet Offensive began during the Vietnam War as Communist forces launched surprise attacks against South Vietnamese towns and cities; although the Communists were beaten back, the offensive was seen as a major setback for the U.S. and its allies.

In **1972**, 13 Roman Catholic civil rights marchers were shot to death by British soldiers in Northern Ireland on what became known as "Bloody Sunday."

In **1974**, President Richard Nixon delivered what would be his last State of the Union address; Nixon pledged to rein in rising prices without the "harsh medicine of recession" and establish a national health care plan that every American could afford.

In **1981**, an estimated 2 million New Yorkers turned out for a ticker-tape parade honoring the American hostages freed from Iran.

In **2005**, Iraqis voted in their country's first free election in a half-century; President George W. Bush called the balloting a resounding success.

In **2006**, Coretta Scott King, widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., died in Rosarito Beach, Mexico, at 78.

Ten years ago: Egypt's most prominent democracy advocate, Mohamed ElBaradei, called for President Hosni Mubarak to resign during an address to thousands of protesters in Cairo who were defying a curfew for a third night. Rachid Ghanouchi, leader of the long-outlawed Tunisian Islamist party, returned home after two decades in exile. Novak Djokovic won his second Australian Open title, breezing past Andy Murray 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.

Five years ago: A boat carrying Syrians attempting the short sea journey from Turkey to Greece capsized, causing at least 37 people to drown, among them several babies and young children. Germany's Angelique Kerber won her first major title, upsetting Serena Williams 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 to win the Australian Open.

One year ago: Health officials reported the first known case in which the new coronavirus was spread from one person to another in the United States. The World Health Organization declared the virus outbreak, which had reached more than a dozen countries, to be a global emergency. Russia ordered the closure of its 2,600-mile-long land border with China in an effort to limit the spread of the virus. President Donald Trump described the handful of U.S. cases of the virus as a "very little problem" and said those people were "recuperating successfully."

Today's Birthdays: Actor Gene Hackman is 91. Actor Vanessa Redgrave is 84. Chess grandmaster Boris Spassky is 84. Country singer Norma Jean is 83. Former Vice President Dick Cheney is 80. Singer Phil Collins is 70. Actor Charles S. Dutton is 70. World Golf Hall of Famer Curtis Strange is 66. Actor Ann Dowd is 65. Actor-comedian Brett Butler is 63. Singer Jody Watley is 62. Actor-filmmaker Dexter Scott King is 60. The King of Jordan, Abdullah II, is 59. The King of Spain, Felipe VI, is 53. Actor Christian Bale is 47. Rock musician Carl Broemel (My Morning Jacket) is 47. Actor Olivia Colman is 47. Actor-singer Lena Hall is 41. Pop-country singer-songwriter Josh Kelley is 41. Actor Wilmer Valderrama is 41. Actor Jake Thomas is 31. Actor Danielle Campbell is 26.

—The Associated Press

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

COVID-19 | Vaccinations

Panel cannot consider race when recommending who gets a shot

BY FEDOR ZARKHIN
The Oregonian

Oregon's plan to fight "systemic racism" through fair coronavirus vaccine distribution struck multiple walls Thursday when the state's vaccine equity group learned its recommendations were too broad and that race can't be a factor when deciding who gets a shot next.

The 27-member Vaccine Advisory Committee, which suggests who should be vaccinated after Gov. Kate Brown's priority groups, is now suggesting that people with underlying conditions, front-line workers, people in custody and people living in low-income and group senior housing should get vaccinated next.

That amounts to about 1.2 million people, according to the estimates the group used, and would follow about 1.5 million already slated to get the vaccine, including health care



Gillian Flaccus/AP file

Members of Oregon's 27-member vaccine advisory committee are seen meeting by teleconference in this photo taken Tuesday in Portland. The committee advises Democratic Gov. Kate Brown and the Oregon Health Authority on the phases of vaccine distribution.

workers, senior care residents and staff, educators and people 65 and older.

The scope of the recommendations remained the Achilles' Heel of the group's mission, with multiple members pointing out

that with current vaccine supplies, the recommended categories were simply too broad.

In fact, the recommendations are so broad that state and local officials will likely have the final say in which

precise subgroups will get vaccinated when, state Public Health Director Rachael Banks told the committee.

"I just want to be really, really transparent," Banks said, adding that the agency "will continue to be thinking about health inequities."

One week ago, the group recommended that people of color and Black and Indigenous communities get shots, as well as people with underlying conditions. But Banks indicated the health authority couldn't directly implement the people of color and Black and Indigenous communities portion of the recommendations.

"We're not able to prioritize services or make decisions based on services solely on somebody's race or ethnicity," Banks said, adding that race and ethnicity are social constructs meant to examine how people experience racism.

Vale High School closes after virus cases found

BY ANDREW SELSKY
AND SARA CLINE
The Associated Press

SALEM — A high school in a remote Oregon town ordered a halt to in-person classes Friday after eight people there tested positive for COVID-19, and Republican lawmakers accused the Democratic governor of prioritizing urban over rural residents for vaccine distribution.

The development in the high school in Vale, a town of 2,000

residents in Eastern Oregon, comes as Gov. Kate Brown has faced criticism over prioritizing educators over senior citizens for vaccine eligibility in her effort to get schools across the state to reopen. All teachers became eligible to receive scarce vaccines Monday, even though eligible health care workers, who were prioritized first, haven't all been vaccinated yet.

Alisha McBride, superintendent of the Vale School Dis-

trict, said all in-person instruction and activities at Vale High School would be paused from Monday through Feb. 11. The eight individuals who had been in the building tested positive for COVID-19 this week. McBride would not say if the eight were students or teachers, but that they apparently became infected outside the school.

"It appears that the positive individuals had contact outside of the school building," Mc-

Bride said in an email.

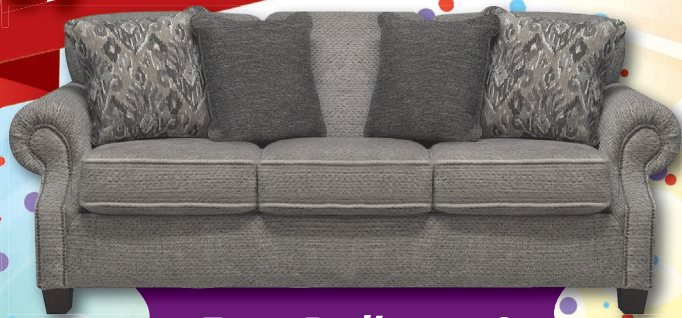
She said she did not know how many teachers have been vaccinated in the school district, located in sprawling Malheur County, because staff members are not required to say if they've been vaccinated.

A spokesperson with the Malheur County Health Department did not respond to a reporter's question on whether the county has received enough vaccines.

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