



AP / J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE / POOL

In this photo taken at the Capitol in Washington last Wednesday, Vice President Mike Pence and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., talk before a joint session of the House and Senate to confirm the Electoral College votes cast in November's election. As they move ahead with plans to impeach President Donald Trump this week, Democrats have also called on Pence and Trump's Cabinet members to invoke their constitutional authority under the 25th Amendment to remove Trump from office.

'A threat to national security'

House speeding to impeach Trump for riot at Capitol

By LISA MASCARO, BILL BARROW and MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Poised to impeach, the House sped ahead Monday with plans to oust President Donald Trump from office, warning he is a threat to democracy and pushing the vice president and Cabinet to act even more quickly in an extraordinary effort to remove Trump in the final days of his presidency.

Trump faces a single charge — “incitement of insurrection” — after the deadly Capitol riot in an impeachment resolution that the House will begin debating Wednesday.



Trump

At the same time, the FBI warned ominously Monday of potential armed protests in Washington and many states by Trump loyalists ahead of President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration on Jan. 20. In a dark foreshadowing, the Washington Monument was closed to the public amid the threats of disruption. Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf abruptly resigned.

It all added up to stunning final moments for Trump's presidency as Democrats and a growing number of Republicans declare he is unfit for office and could do more damage after inciting a mob that violently ransacked the U.S. Capitol last Wednesday.

“President Trump gravely endangered the security of the United States and its institutions of Government,” reads the four-page impeachment bill. “He will remain a threat to national security, democracy, and the Constitution if allowed to remain in office.”

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is summoning lawmakers back to Washington for votes, and Democrats aren't the only ones who say Trump needs to go.

Republican Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania joined GOP Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska over the weekend in calling for Trump to “go away as soon as possible.”

Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., encouraged House GOP colleagues late Monday to “vote your conscience,” according to a person granted anonymity to discuss the private call. She has spoken critically of Trump's actions, but has not said publicly how she will vote.

Pending impeachment, Democrats called on Vice President Mike Pence and the Cabinet to invoke their constitutional authority under the 25th Amendment to remove Trump from office before Inauguration Day.

Their Democrats' House resolution was blocked by Republicans. However, the full House is to hold a roll call vote on it Tuesday, and it is expected to pass. After that, Pelosi said, Pence will have 24 hours to respond. Next would be the impeachment proceedings.

See **IMPEACHMENT**, Page A2

Model City names interim police chief

From staff reports

KINGSPORT — Deputy Chief Dale Phipps has been named interim police chief of the Kingsport Police Department as the city begins the formal hiring process to replace David Quillin, who retired last month after 35 years of service to the department.

Phipps has nearly 33 years of service himself with almost half that time as deputy chief overseeing administration and operations.

He is a graduate of East Tennessee State University (A.S. Law Enforcement / B.S. Criminal Justice) and the FBI National Academy. Prior to entering the law enforcement profession, he served four years in the United States Air Force Security Police.



Phipps

Throughout the years he has served in several specialized roles, including S.W.A.T. team operator, Community Relations and Crime Prevention officer, and Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) instructor.

Phipps is married, with three children and six grandchildren and is

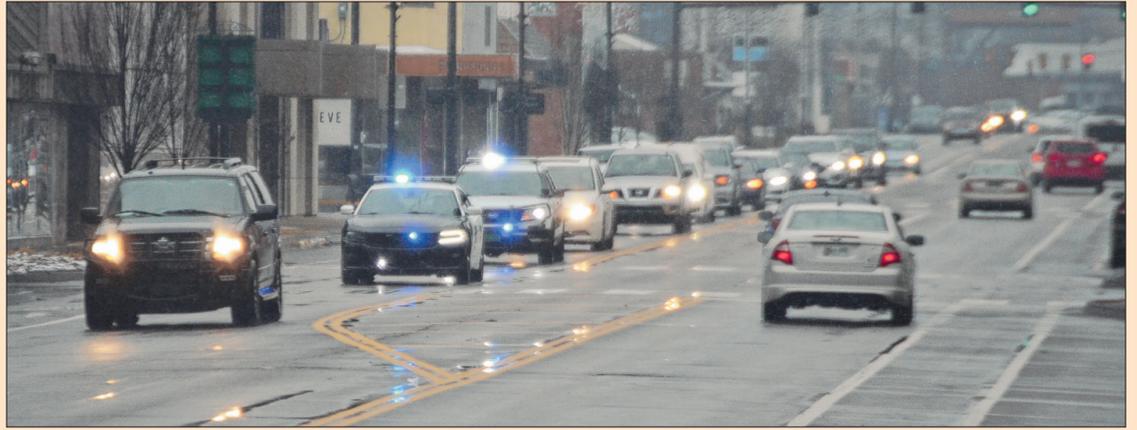
active in the community.

“Police chief is one of the most important selections a city must make,” said City Manager Chris McCartt. “We will use a thorough and competitive process comprised of both internal and external candidates, but until then the department is in Phipps' very capable hands.”

McCartt said the search for a new police chief will officially begin later this month.

The Kingsport Police Department has been internationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) for 29 years — an achievement earned by only 1,148 of the more than 17,000 state and local law enforcement agencies in the United States.

Police escort



Law enforcement escorted Richard Watterson's funeral procession through downtown Kingsport Monday afternoon to honor his life and 24 years of service to the Model City. Watterson, 94, passed away last week due to COVID-19 complications. He was Kingsport's first African-American member of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, serving 24 years on the board — with 14 as the city's vice mayor. The procession began at Dobyns-Bennett High School, then went through downtown and by City Hall, and eventually made its way to Johnson City (where Watterson lived) with a graveside service held at the Veterans Administration Mountain Home National Cemetery.



Photos by Matthew Lane

NET reports three more COVID-19 deaths

By J.H. OSBORNE
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The latest COVID-19 numbers from the Tennessee Department of Health's daily report, for Monday, Jan. 11:

STATEWIDE

- 80 new deaths and 3,527 new cases.
- Pandemic totals are 7,865 deaths and 657,396 cases.
- 87% of total cases were listed as “inactive/recovered.”
- New deaths by age: 38 in the 81-plus group; 23 in the 71-80 group; 10 in the 61-70 group; three in the 51-60 group; three in the 41-50 group; one in the 31-40 group; one in the 21-30 group; and one in the 11-20 group.

See **TENNESSEE**, Page A2

Daily cases fall below 25 in Southwest Virginia

By MIKE STILL
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The LENOWISCO district's daily COVID-19 cases dropped below 25 with no deaths, according to Monday's state data report.

The Virginia Department of Health (www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus) said the LENOWISCO district reported 23 COVID-19-related cases for totals of 5,695 and 138 deaths during the pandemic.

Wise County saw 15 cases for totals of 2,383 and 66 deaths. Lee County had five cases for 1,763 and 32 deaths.

Scott County had three cases for 1,342 and 39 deaths. Norton remained at 207 cases and one death.

Going big

The U.S. is entering the second month of the biggest vaccination drive in history with a major expansion of the campaign, opening football stadiums, major league ballparks, fairgrounds and convention centers to inoculate a larger and more diverse pool of people. **A3**

The VDH reported 4,530 new cases and 10 deaths statewide in the prior 24 hours, pushing the state past the 400,000-case mark in the pandemic: 403,386 cases and 5,393 deaths.

The statewide testing rate for people with nasal swab and antigen tests in Monday's VDH report was 5,594,913 of 8.63 million residents, or

See **COVID-19**, Page A2

INSIDE

- Business A6
- Classifieds B7-B8
- Comics B6
- Crossword B5
- Dear Abby B5
- Deaths A4-A5
- Editorial B4

- F.Y.I. A6
- Horoscope B5
- Jumble B5
- Metro A5, A8
- Sports B1-B3
- Sudoku B5
- Television A7

WEATHER

High Low
48 25
Partly cloudy today



Hawkins shelter offering adoption discount

Thor is a very loving dog, but he isn't perfect. Some people he falls in love with automatically, and some people have to work hard to earn his trust. That's probably why Thor has been at the Hawkins County Humane Society for the past 1.5 years, longer than any other dog or cat at the shelter. **A8**

