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Mr. Lee's Commentary and Dairy



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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## Dozens of former Bush officials leave Republican Party, calling it 'Trump cult'



(Reuters) - Dozens of Republicans in former President George W. Bush's administration are leaving the party, dismayed by a failure of many elected Republicans to disown Donald Trump after his false claims of election fraud sparked a deadly storming of the U.S. Capitol last month.

FILE PHOTO: U.S. President Donald Trump addresses a campaign rally in Dalton, Georgia, U.S., on the eve of the run-off election to decide both of Georgia's Senate seats January 4, 2021. REUTERS/Leah Millis/File Photo  
These officials, some who served in the highest echelons of the Bush administration, said they had hoped that a Trump defeat would lead party leaders to move on from the former president and denounce his baseless claims that the November presidential election was stolen.

But with most Republican lawmakers sticking to Trump, these officials say they no longer recognize the party they served. Some have ended their membership, others are letting it lapse while a few are newly registered as independents, according to a dozen former Bush officials who spoke with Reuters.

"The Republican Party as I knew it no longer exists. I'd call it the cult of Trump," said Jimmy Gurulé, who was Undersecretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence in the Bush administration.

Kristopher Purcell, who worked in the Bush White

House's communications office for six years, said roughly 60 to 70 former Bush officials have decided to leave the party or are cutting ties with it, from conversations he has been having. "The number is growing every day," Purcell said.

Their defection from the Republican Party after a lifetime of service for many is another clear sign of how a growing intra-party conflict over Trump and his legacy is fracturing it.

The party is currently caught between disaffected moderate Republicans and independents disgusted by the hold Trump still has over elected officials, and Trump's fervently loyal base. Without the enthusiastic support of both groups, the party will struggle to win national elections, according to polling, Republican officials and strategists.

The Republican National Committee referred Reuters to a recent interview its chair Ronna McDaniel gave to the Fox Business channel. "We're having a little bit of a spat right now. But we are going to come together. We have to," McDaniel said, predicting the party will unite against the agenda of President Joe Biden, a Democrat. Representatives for Trump did not respond to a request for comment.

A representative of former President Bush did not respond to a request for comment. During the Trump presidency Bush made clear he had "retired from politics."

'IT'S APPALLING'

More than half of the Republicans in Congress - eight senators and 139 House representatives - voted to block certification of the election just hours after the Capitol siege.

Most Republican Senators have also indicated they would not support the impeachment of Trump, making it almost certain that the former president won't be convicted in his Senate trial. Trump was impeached on Jan. 13 by the Democratic-led House of Representatives on charges of "incitement of insurrection," the only president to be impeached twice.

The unwillingness by party leaders to disavow Trump was the final straw for some former Republican officials.

"If it continues to be the party of Trump, many of us are not going back," Rosario Marin, a former Treasurer of the U.S. under Bush, told Reuters. "Unless the Senate convicts him, and rids themselves of the Trump cancer, many of us will not be going back to vote for Republican leaders." Two former Bush officials who spoke to Reuters said they believe it is important to stay in the party to rid it of Trump's influence.

One of those, Suzy DeFrancis, a veteran of the Republican Party who served in administrations including those of former presidents Richard Nixon and George W. Bush, said she voted for Biden in November but that breaking the party apart now will only benefit Democrats.

# 美南實事通

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02/01/2021

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

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President Biden's letter

I received a letter from President Biden last week saying that, “We just wanted to say thanks for all you’ve done. Even though Inauguration Day was different in a lot of ways this year, we had millions of folks across the country show up to celebrate and honor a new beginning in America.”

The President said, “This is the start of a new era in American history. We have an administration dedicated to unity, hope and peace and we’re glad you’re here to join us in it.”

Today on this January day, my whole soul is in this hope: Bringing America back together into greatness by uniting our people and our nation, and I ask every American to join me in this cause.

I was so deeply moved when I received this letter from the President, even though it may have just been one of millions he sent out to his supporters.

In this very critical time for our nation, we are facing so many challenges with the pandemic, the economy and international relations. We believe the new Biden



administration will be fully prepared to fight for our future.

the new government in many areas because this is our responsibility and this is our country.

As members of the Asian-American community, we are all here to support



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BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

PANDEMIC HEADLINES



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Pandemic Postcards



Yet another new coronavirus variant has been identified -- this one in a **Bavarian German ski town**. (*Politico*)  
Even when an **Italian virologist** identifies the United Kingdom COVID-19 variation early, national governments in Europe and the U.S. do not conduct enough genomic surveillance to address such mutations. (*Washington Post*)  
The **unofficial U.S. COVID-19 toll** increased to 24,079,204 cases and 399,003 deaths of 8:00 a.m. ET Tuesday -- representing an average daily toll of about 209,000 and 3,250, respectively, over the past 7 days.  
**Another House member tests positive after a COVID shot**: Rep. Lou Correa (D-Calif.), who said he was not experiencing symptoms; he had not yet received his second dose. (*LA Times*)



Schoolrooms are closing all over the world.

The *Washington Post* identified **five well-known anti-vaccine** groups that have spread misinformation about the coronavirus and have now received Paycheck Protection Program loans.  
**European nations are closing schools** as case numbers rise and the U.K. variant spreads amidst lockdowns. (*Wall Street Journal*)  
California providers have been told to **halt administering one lot of Moderna's vaccine** -- about 330,000 doses -- after more people than expected developed allergic reactions. (*KTLA*)  
*Rebekah Jones, the Florida data scientist* who said she was fired after refusing to manipulate COVID data, turned herself in to police to face charges she hacked into a state computer system. (*CBS*)  
Independent reviewer said the **World Health Organization should have declared an international emergency before Jan. 30** and Chinese officials could have been more forceful early on to address the initial COVID-19 outbreak. (*Courtesy Reuters*)

**Pfizer: Coronavirus Vaccine Proves Effective Against Virus Mutations**  
*Preliminary results show the mutations had only a small impact on the effectiveness of the antibodies generated by the vaccine.*



**Pfizer said the “findings do not indicate the need for a new vaccine to address the emerging variants.”** (Photo/T. Kienzle/APF via Getty Images)  
The coronavirus vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech is effective against the new strains of the virus first found in the United Kingdom and South Africa, Pfizer says. (Photo/T. Kienzle/APF via Getty Images)  
A laboratory study by the pharmaceutical company, which has been published online but not peer reviewed yet, shows that the new variants of COVID-19 had only a small impact on the effectiveness of the antibodies generated by the Pfizer and BioNTech vaccine, making the antibodies only slightly less effective.  
The COVID-19 variants, which seem to be more transmissible and are now in countries across the globe, have worried officials and the public. While Pfizer's findings appear promising, they are preliminary.

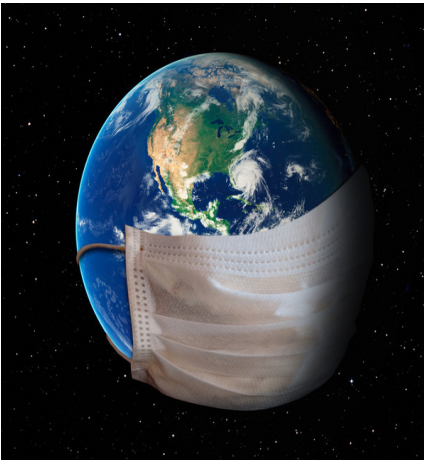


Running on empty?

The laboratory study tested only a subset of mutations sound in the variants of the coronavirus, not the variants themselves, and the researchers did not assess whether their results were statistically significant.  
The results show that antibodies generated by the vaccine were slightly better at

responding to the virus that had some of the mutations found in the U.K. strain. Further research testing antibodies on the variants themselves is ongoing.  
Pfizer said the “findings do not indicate the need for a new vaccine to address the emerging variants,” adding that it and BioNTech are prepared to respond to a vaccine-resistant mutation of the coronavirus.  
Moderna, which developed the other COVID-19 vaccine authorized for use in the U.S., announced this week that its vaccine protects against the variants, also with fewer antibodies, and the company is looking into a booster shot. (Courtesy usnews.com)

Countries Across The World Spent Over \$13 Trillion To Combat COVID-19 Pandemic – Report



Global leaders have committed trillions of dollars to battle the coronavirus pandemic and support the global economy, Japanese business newspaper Nikkei reported on Wednesday, citing its experts.  
According to estimates, the total amount has now exceeded \$13 trillion across the world. It includes the \$900 billion stimulus package, which has been passed by the US Congress this week.  
The adoption of additional programs to stimulate the global economy has sent public debt skyrocketing in the world's leading countries, said the report. Experts project it will reach 125 percent of their total GDP in 2021. (Courtesy rt.com)  
**Covid Pandemic Could Push More Than One Billion People Worldwide Into Extreme Poverty, UN Warns**



Woman carries firewood for cooking near her shelter in Dollow, Somalia. (Photo/Zohra Bensemra/Reuters)

Another 207 million people could be driven into extreme poverty by the severe long-term impact of the coronavirus pandemic, bringing the total number to more than one billion by 2030, warns the UN.  
According to a new study from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) released this week, a “*high-damage*” scenario would mean a protracted recovery from the pandemic. The report anticipates that 80 percent of the pandemic-induced economic crisis would persist for over a decade, stalling the pre-pandemic growth trajectory.  
A “baseline Covid” scenario, based on current mortality rates and the most recent growth projections by the International Monetary Fund, would result in 44 million more people living in extreme poverty by 2030, compared to the development trajectory the world was on before the pandemic. (Courtesy rt.com)





Editor's Choice



A visitor walks around the Washington Monument while holding an umbrella during a snow storm in Washington. REUTERS/Tom Brenner



A participant shows a peace sign as he is detained by Law enforcement officers during a rally in support of jailed Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny in Moscow, Russia. REUTERS/Maxim Shemetov



Migrants walk across the Paso del Norte international border bridge after being deported from the United States, in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. REUTERS/Jose Luis Gonzalez



A man pulls a bin with Usman Khan, 29, dressed up as Charlie Chaplin during a street performance in Peshawar, Pakistan. REUTERS/Fayaz Aziz



A demonstrator takes part in a protest against Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro and his handling of the coronavirus crisis, in Brasilia, Brazil. REUTERS/Ueslei Marcelino



A pedestrian walks past snow-covered taxis during a snow storm, amid the coronavirus pandemic, in the Brooklyn borough of New York City. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid



Myanmar protesters residing in Japan hold photos of Aung San Suu Kyi as they rally against Myanmar's military after seizing power from a democratically elected civilian government and arresting its leader Aung San Suu Kyi, at United Nations University in Tokyo, Japan. REUTERS/Issei Kato



Serena Williams of the U.S. in action during her match against Australia's Daria Gavrilova in Melbourne, Australia. REUTERS/Loren Elliott



Vaccinations Will Prevent Millions Of Deaths Worldwide Study Reports



In this undated photo issued by the University of Oxford, a researcher in a laboratory at the Jenner Institute in Oxford, England, works on the coronavirus vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University. (University of Oxford/John Cairns via AP)

KEY POINT

*The study published in The Lancet that shows the nearly 70 million lives saved in low- and middle-income countries especially benefits young children*

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Vaccines against 10 major pathogens including measles, rotavirus and hepatitis B are expected to prevent 69 million deaths in low- and middle-income countries between 2000 and 2030, according to a new study published in medical journal The Lancet. The study estimates the impact of vaccinations against hepatitis B, Haemophilus influenzae type b, human papillomavirus, Japanese encephalitis, measles, Neisseria meningitidis serogroup A, Streptococcus pneumoniae, rotavirus, rubella and yellow fever across 98 low- and middle-income countries. Out of the nearly 70 million deaths it's estimated these vaccines will prevent in the participating countries over 30 years, 37 million were prevented between 2000 and 2019. Inoculations against measles had the single biggest impact, as researchers estimate they will prevent some 56 million deaths in participating countries through 2030. The study also indicates that children under 5 years old comprise a majority of prevented deaths, especially due to measles vaccines. The study's findings come as skepticism to vaccines in general – and especially to those against the novel coronavirus – encumber several nations' plans to get their populations vaccinated. In the U.S., some 26 million doses – corresponding to

almost 8% of the overall population – of the coronavirus vaccine have been administered as of Jan. 28, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A nationwide poll released in early December, as COVID-19 vaccines neared government approval, showed only half of Americans surveyed said they were sure they would get vaccinated. In France, where the public has generally been more skeptical of vaccines than residents in other countries, a recent Ipsos poll found that only 40% of French respondents said they would get vaccinated against the coronavirus. As of Jan. 26, the French health ministry reported that just over 1 million primary doses – slightly more than 1.4% of France's 67 million residents – of the vaccine had been administered. (Courtesy <https://www.usnews.com/>)

**Moderna Launches Trial For Covid-19 Vaccine Booster To Tackle South African Strain**

Moderna will launch a trial for a booster Covid-19 vaccine shot, it said Monday, after tests showed that its vaccine — deemed 95% effective against the most prevalent strains — may produce less robust immunity against the newly discovered, more infectious South African variant of the coronavirus.



Moderna CEO, Stephane Bancel has said that the company has “zero concerns” about the vaccine’s (Photo) GETTY IMAGES

Tests on blood samples from eight people who had received two doses of the vaccine, as well as immunized monkeys, showed that Moderna's vaccine was just as effective against the more transmissible U.K. variant, but there was a six-fold reduction in the neutralizing antibody produced against the South African strain which has also been found to be more transmissible. In a press release, Moderna CEO Stéphane said that the studies reinforce the company's confidence that Moderna's vaccine “should be protective against these newly detected variants” but they are working on the booster shot against the South African variant out of “an abundance of caution.”

**New J&J COVID-19 Vaccine Is 72% Effective In The U.S., And 66% Overall In Large Trial**

Jan 29 (Reuters) - Johnson & Johnson on Friday said its single-dose vaccine was 72% effective in preventing COVID-19 in the United States but a lower rate of 66% was observed globally in the large trial conducted across three continents and against multiple variants. In the trial of nearly 44,000 volunteers, the level of protection against moderate and severe COVID-19 was 66% in Latin America and just 57% in South Africa, where a particularly worrying variant of the novel coronavirus is circulating. J&J's main study goal was the prevention of moderate to severe COVID-19, and the vaccine was 85% effective in stopping severe disease and preventing hospitalization across all geographies and against multiple variants 28 days after immunization. That level of prevention “will potentially protect hundreds of millions of people from serious and fatal outcomes of COVID-19,” Dr. Paul Stoffels, J&J's chief scientific officer, said in a statement.



In this undated photo issued by the University of Oxford, a researcher in a laboratory at the Jenner

Institute in Oxford, England, works on the coronavirus vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University. (University of Oxford/John Cairns via AP)

The company plans to seek emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration next week. Public health officials have been counting on the J&J vaccine to increase much-needed supply and simplify the U.S. immunization campaign. Unlike the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines, J&J's does not require a second shot weeks after the first or need to be kept frozen, making it a strong candidate for use in parts of the world with weak transportation infrastructure and insufficient cold storage facilities.

**SOUTH AFRICA** Several studies have emerged this month showing that a South African variant of the coronavirus has mutated in areas of the virus that are key targets of vaccines, reducing their efficacy. “What we are learning is there is different efficacy in different parts of the world,” Stoffels said in a telephone interview. Importantly, though, in a sub-study of 6,000 volunteers in South Africa, Stoffels said, the J&J vaccine was 89% effective at preventing severe disease. Ninety-five percent of cases in the South Africa portion of the trial were infections with the South African variant. A mid-stage trial of a Novovax Inc coronavirus vaccine in South Africa also showed lower efficacy in the country. It proved to be 60% effective among volunteers who didn't have HIV. In a separate, late-stage trial in the UK, the vaccine was 89.3% effective. In the J&J trial, which was conducted in eight countries, 44% of participants were from the United States, 41% were from Central and South America and 15% were from South Africa. Slightly more than a third of the volunteers were over age 60.



In this undated photo issued by the University of Oxford, a researcher in a laboratory at the Jenner Institute in Oxford, England, works on the coronavirus vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University. (University of Oxford/John Cairns via AP)

**VACCINE TARGETS** The news of another safe and effective vaccine comes as the United States has sur-

passed 430,000 COVID-19 deaths and with hospitals in many states still struggling to keep up with patients despite recent declines in new infections. Concerns about fresh surges in the United States have also grown due to the presence of a more contagious coronavirus variant first discovered in the UK and news of the arrival of the South African variant on Thursday in South Carolina. The U.S. vaccination program got off to a slow start in December and has accelerated to around 1 million shots per day nationwide. U.S. President Joe Biden has promised that at least 100 million shots will be administered in his first 100 days in office, but concerns about supply disruptions have added uncertainty to that target. The United States has an agreement to buy 100 million doses of J&J's vaccine for \$1 billion. The company said in a statement the vaccine would be ready immediately upon emergency approval but Stoffels declined to specify how many doses. The government also has the option of purchasing an additional 200 million doses. J&J has said it plans to deliver 1 billion doses in 2021 and will produce the vaccine in the United States, Europe, South Africa and India. U.S. trial results for the vaccine from AstraZeneca Plc and Oxford University are expected in early February, opening up the possibility of a fourth vaccine option. It has already been approved in the UK, Europe and many countries based on results of a separate trial. AstraZeneca said Monday Nov. 23, 2020, that late-stage trials showed its coronavirus vaccine was up to 90% effective, giving public health officials hope they may soon have access to a vaccine that is cheaper and easier to distribute than some of its rivals. J&J is studying the effects of its vaccine given in two doses at two months apart, but results of that trial won't be available until this summer, Stoffels said. (Courtesy reuters.com)





# Why

## is my MRI normal and I still hurt?

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