



Crunching numbers: Reviewing Tom Brady's top achievements

SPORTS, 1B

The Baxter Bulletin

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BRMC vaccinates 1,300 at fairgrounds



Connie Parker of Mountain Home receives the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine from Arkansas State University-Mountain Home nursing student Heidi Templon on Tuesday at the Baxter County Fairgrounds.

SCOTT LILES/THE BAXTER BULLETIN

Scott Liles
Baxter Bulletin
USA TODAY NETWORK

More than a thousand Twin Lakes Area residents received their first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine Tuesday at the Baxter County Fairgrounds.

Tuesday's vaccination clinic, which was organized by Baxter Regional Medical Center, was open to area residents ages 70 and up. Patients registered online in advance of the event and were assigned a set time to be at the fairgrounds to receive the vaccine.

Baxter Regional is not accepting additional COVID-19 vaccination registrations at this time, but plans to hold more vaccination events in the future, hospital officials said Tuesday. Information about how and when to register for those events will appear on the hospital's website, social media, in the newspaper and on the radio.

On Jan. 18, Arkansas entered what health officials have called the "Phase 1B" portion of the state's vaccination plan, offering the vaccine to anyone 70 and older, school employees and child care workers. The vaccine was previ-

ously only available to healthcare workers and first-responders under the "Phase 1A" portion of the plan.

The hospital expected to administer up to 1,300 vaccines by the end of the day Tuesday.

"Talking about that volume of shots, it sounds like it's a lot, and it is a lot," said Baxter Regional occupational health coordinator Jonny Harvey.

The Arkansas Department of Health has designated certain pharmacies in each county to administer

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Veterans program set for Feb. 4

Jennifer Seaman
Mountain Home Public Schools

Mountain Home High School will hold the 12th annual "Freedom is Not Free" veterans program at 9 a.m. on Thursday.

This year's program, which was originally scheduled for November but had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be held at Dunbar Auditorium. All those in attendance will be required to wear masks and maintain social distance.

Several adjustments had to be made to this year's program in response to the pandemic, ROTC instructor and event coordinator Bud Zorman said.

"This is an important event for our veterans and our students, but their health and safety is also a top priority," he said. "For that reason, we have decided to cut down on attendees by having students watch a livestream of the program from their classrooms rather than in person. The only students who will be in the auditorium are those participating in the program."

During the program, veterans will be recognized and honored for their military service. State Rep. Nelda Speaks of Mountain Home will serve as the program's guest speaker, and Lt. Gov. Tim Griffin will also be in attendance and offer his thoughts. The high school brass ensemble will perform the National Anthem, and the ROTC Honor Guard will demonstrate the proper way to fold an American flag while also explaining what each fold represents. The American Legion Honor Guard will close out the event with a traditional rifle volley.

On Thursday morning, parking spaces around the Bomber plane and in the parking lot next to Dunbar Auditorium will be reserved for veterans.

Those who cannot attend the event in person will have the opportunity to view it on XL7 TV thanks to station owner Gil Reynolds.

Hate groups migrate online, making tracking more difficult

People can more easily interact, make connections without becoming members, report says

Aaron Morrison
ASSOCIATED PRESS

During one of the most politically divisive years in recent memory, the number of active hate groups in the U.S. actually declined as far-right extremists migrated further to online networks, a move that has made it harder to track adherents of white nationalist and neo-Nazi ideologies.

In its annual report released Monday, the Southern Poverty Law Center said it identified 838 active hate groups operating across the U.S. in 2020. That's a decrease from the 940 documented in 2019 and the record-high of 1,020 in 2018, said the law center, which tracks racism, xenophobia and anti-government militias.

"It is important to understand that



Supporters of former President Donald Trump try to break through a police barrier at the Capitol in Washington on Jan. 6. JOHN MINCHILLO/AP FILE

the number of hate groups is merely one metric for measuring the level of hate and racism in America, and that the decline in groups should not be interpreted

as a reduction in bigoted beliefs and actions motivated by hate," said the report, first shared exclusively with The Associated Press.

The Montgomery, Alabama-based law center said many hate groups have moved to social media platforms and use of encrypted apps, while others have been banned altogether from mainstream social media networks.

Still, the law center said, online platforms allow individuals to interact with hate and anti-government groups without becoming members, maintain connections with like-minded people, and take part in real-world actions, such as last month's siege on the U.S. Capitol.

White nationalist organizations, a subset of the hate groups listed in the report, declined last year from 155 to 128. Those groups had seen huge growth the previous two years after being energized by Donald Trump's campaign and presidency, the report said.

The number of anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim and anti-LGBTQ hate groups remained largely stable, while their in-person organizing was hampered by the coronavirus pandemic.

Bottom line, the levels of hate and

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USA TODAY

Impeachment: Democrats make case for Trump conviction. 4B

Lake levels

• **NORFOLK:** 554.63
• **BULL SHOALS:** 659.80

Weather

High 54° || Low 40° Sunny.

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