



BNC finally ready to start delayed basketball season

SPORTS, B1

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Biden, Yellen to talk with Senate Dems on virus aid

Lisa Mascaro, Josh Boak and Jonathan Lemire
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden will join Senate Democrats for a virtual lunch Tuesday to discuss his \$1.9 trillion coronavirus rescue plan as Congress sets up votes to fast-track the sweeping aid package toward eventual approval with or without Republican support.

Biden and Treasury Secretary Janet

Yellen will meet with the senators during the private session, both having urged lawmakers to act big in confronting the pandemic and economic crisis.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer announced the meeting as he, too, said Congress must take bold action toward “America’s long-awaited come back.” He set up a procedural vote for later Tuesday in the Senate, launching a lengthy budget procedure that would allow Democrats who have a slim majority to pass Biden’s proposal

on their own if Republicans object.

The swift action on next steps comes after Biden told Republican senators during a lengthy two-hour meeting he’s unwilling to settle on an insufficient coronavirus aid package after they pitched their slimmed down \$618 billion proposal.

No compromise was reached night during the Monday night meeting, Biden’s first with lawmakers at the White House. The president made it clear that he won’t delay aid in hopes of

winning GOP support.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said that while there were areas of agreement, “the president also reiterated his view that Congress must respond boldly and urgently, and noted many areas which the Republican senators’ proposal does not address.”

She said, “He will not slow down work on this urgent crisis response, and will not settle for a package that fails to

See AID, A4

A gloomy Groundhog Day



Groundhog Club President Jeff Lundy interacts with Punxsutawney Phil, the weather prognosticating groundhog, Tuesday during the 135th celebration of Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney, Pa. Phil’s handlers said that the groundhog has forecast six more weeks of winter weather during this year’s event that was held without anyone in attendance due to potential COVID-19 risks. [BARRY REEGER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

Punxsutawney Phil says more winter

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. — There will be six more weeks of winter, Punxsutawney Phil predicted as he emerged from his burrow on a snowy Tuesday morning to perform his Groundhog Day duties.

Members of Phil’s “inner circle” woke up the furry critter at 7:25 a.m. at Gobbler’s Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, to see whether he would see his shadow or not.

Shortly after this year’s prediction was revealed, one of the members of the inner circle shared a message he

said Phil had told him earlier in the day: “After winter, you’re looking forward to one of the most beautiful and brightest springs you’ve ever seen.”

Another member of the “inner circle” noted the uniqueness of the past year. “People have been referencing Groundhog Day. It has felt like at times we’re all living the same day over and over again,” one of the members said. “Groundhog Day also shows us that the monotony ends. The cycle will be broken.”

“Today actually is Groundhog Day, there’s only one,” he added. “There is quite literally a new day coming over

the horizon.”

The spectacle that is Groundhog Day still went on, but because of the coronavirus pandemic, revelers weren’t able to see Phil and celebrate in person: This year, it was all virtual and included cardboard cutouts to represent spectators.

A livestream, which had more than 15,000 viewers at one point, played footage from previous Groundhog Days ahead of the big reveal.

Then of course, the prognosticator of prognosticators emerged at dawn.

See WINTER, A4

Man had ‘no connection’ to woman he’s accused of killing

Chris Green
Rockford Register Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

MACHESNEY PARK — A man accused of killing a 74-year-old woman was hiding from police on an unrelated domestic battery call when he spotted the woman and forced his way into her home and killed her, according to court documents filed in the case.

Shane Bouma, who is charged with first-degree murder, was denied bond Tuesday by Judge Francis Martinez.

Bouma, 41, of Machesney Park was booked early Monday into the Winnebago County Jail on charges of murder and home invasion.

The charges stem from the death of Ellen Marsh, 74, of the 300 block of Old Harlem Road. Initial information provided to the media said the woman was 72.

An autopsy was performed Monday but the coroner’s office determined the cause of death would require further study. Police, however, said in court documents that the woman appeared to have been strangled.

The events leading up to the wom-

See HOMICIDE, A4

Daily COVID-19 update

WINNEBAGO COUNTY

Cases: 27,357 (+66)

Deaths: 401 (+0)

ILLINOIS

Cases: 1,130,917 (+2,304)

Deaths: 19,306 (+47)

U.S.

Cases: 26,160,210 (+125,735)

Deaths: 441,831 (+1,876)

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<p>CLOSE 2 U R ♥</p> <p>Reach for the Stars Necklace \$42.50</p> 	<p>Love Knot Bracelet and Chocolate \$52.50 <small>set</small></p> 	<p>offspring jewelry co. Love to Mom Necklace \$32.50</p> 	<p>Love You to the Moon Necklace \$22.50</p> 	<p>Crimson Ridge OPEN DAILY 8-6 735 N. Perryville Rd • 815-399-9000</p>
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Local & State

Another local restaurant gets Barstool funding, **A3**.

Sports

Looks like MLB is headed for a work stoppage, **B1**.

Weather

High 30 | Low 25
Clouds, Forecast, **A2**

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