

## Mickey Mouse Clubhouse Now Covid Vaccination Site

BY RYAN SKILLE

**O**N WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13TH, 2021, representatives from Disneyland amusement park announced that they will be opening parts of the park as a mass Covid-19 vaccination site for Orange County, California. Andrew Do, chairman of Orange County's board of supervisors, said in a news conference that they will soon be able to begin inoculating up to 7,000 individuals per day. Do also stated that over 10,000 people already signed up online for a vaccination the first day it was available. Do says that, "There's no better place to have our first Super Point of Dispensing (POD) than right here at Disneyland, a travel destination for people around the world."

The site, which is currently only accepting frontline health workers, paramedics, and pharmacists, is technically run by the county. However, Disneyland is offering not only its property, but its employees as well. "Disneyland Resort is proud to help support Orange County and the City of Anaheim with the use of our parking lot," Dr. Pamela Hymel, Disney Parks' chief medical officer, told the New York Times. "After a year in which so many in our community have faced unprecedented hardships and uncertainty, there is now reason for optimism."

Following in the footsteps of its sister location, Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida, is also considering opening up its property and employees for a similar mass vaccination site. "Like hospitals across the state, Disney World has the capacity to store the vaccine with an ultracold freezer," said state emergency director Jared Moskowitz during a virtual town hall meeting. "We have no ultracold freezer storage problems here in the state. There are plenty of hospitals with them. County health departments have them. Some universities have them. Disney World has one."

While all of this news is very heartwarming, the success or failure of the vaccination sites are entirely dependent on one stipulation: whether or not individuals actually sign up to receive the vaccine. "Coronavirus has brought both a public health crisis and economic devastation," Anaheim Mayor Harry Sidhu told CBS. "With this super site, we will begin to overcome both. Every vaccination done in Anaheim will help to save lives and speed the reopening and recovery of our city." Orange County Supervisor Donald P. Wagner shares a similar outlook: "It's important to vaccinate as many willing people as possible for Covid-19, and we need the space to do it. I thank Disneyland Resort and the City of Anaheim for stepping up in the shared effort to give OC residents protection against the virus."

## Reactions/Aftermath of the US Capitol Riots, FBI Arrests

BY DAVINA BELLINGER

**O**N JANUARY 6TH, the U.S. Capitol began its formal proceedings and electoral vote count for President-elect Biden as he would be sworn into office on January 20th as the 46th president of the United States. Outside of the Capitol, thousands of President Trump supporters were protesting over this meeting when they then broke into the building. There were videos from officials within the building that showed Trump protesters broke the windows and doors and many photos of people taking things. Photos that were taken showing them stealing and vandalizing property from The Capitol. One person even took the lectern of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Following this disturbance, FBI officials arrested 69 people from the riots so far, and five people have died as a result of these riots. Among the dead include Brian Sicknick, 42, a Capitol Police officer, who succumbed to injuries sustained in the line of duty.

In response, the U.S. House of Representatives made history by impeaching former President Trump because they believed that he encouraged the riots on the Capitol to occur. The Democrats argued Trump should be removed from the presidency because of false claims of a stolen election from the January 6th rally. Other reasons include Trump claiming President Biden is a head of an organized crime family and corrupt politician without evidence.

Twitter also responded by deleting the last three tweets that Trump posted leading up to the events at the Capitol. Later, Trump's Twitter account was permanently suspended in case he said anything else that would spark another riot anywhere else.

A lot of workers in the Capitol expressed fear for themselves and for the upcoming inauguration of President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris.

## Ex-Michigan Governor Among Those Charged in Flint Water Crisis

BY REBECCA BEASLEY

**M**UCH LIKE OTHER CITIES in Michigan, Flint used to be known for car production. Now, it is known solely for the water crisis that began in 2014. This crisis can be attributed to some politicians who cut corners, conspired, perjured, and more. Already, 15 people have had criminal charges brought against them in relation to the water crisis. It was not until January 14th of this year that the now ex-Governor Rick Snyder was charged.

The Flint water crisis began as a result of government officials choosing to switch Flint's water source from Lake Huron to the Flint River. A new pipeline from the river to the city would hopefully save the city money. In April of 2014, the water source switch was made. An outbreak of Legionnaires disease (caused by bacteria found in freshwater) started in June. By October, the General Motors factory had stopped using the city's water, as it was corroding the engines of their products.

Researchers studying the crisis found elevated levels of lead in the tap water that were seven times greater than the federal limit. The reason for this is the aged lead pipes that were not properly treated with corrosion inhibitors, allowing the lead to contaminate the water. This pattern would continue as other researchers connected the outbreak of Legionnaires disease to the water and found that the city's fertility rates dropped while infant mortality rates rose since the switch.

After social media helped raise awareness of the water crisis, the city did receive help. A Federal state of emergency was declared to give more funds to Flint to replace the harmful lead pipes and improve the water quality. Additionally, Flint's city government was ordered to switch back to Lake Huron as its water source.

Even after all these years, with all of these precautions and indictments, some of Flint still does not have clean water. This long-lasting effect of the government's blunder is the reason Rick Snyder's charges are so important. He, along with eight others, have recently been charged with misconduct, involuntary manslaughter (in relation to the deaths connected to the Legionnaires disease outbreak), and willful neglect of duty. Snyder pleaded not guilty and has told the Detroit Free Press that the charges brought against him were "a politically motivated smear campaign." However, these charges do not mean serious jail time. At most, they will be fined and given a year of jail or a couple hundred hours of community service, just like Corrine Miller, who was convicted in relation to the water crisis in 2017.

Whether or not Snyder is convicted, Americans can only hope that this sets a precedent that will be able to prevent such events from occurring again. It should send a message that cutting corners costs lives, and officials will be held accountable for their actions.