



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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November 19, 2021

**What They Are Reading in the States:
President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Build Back Better Act
Will Change Lives**

On Monday, President Biden signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. On Friday, the House of Representatives passed the Build Back Better Act. Throughout the week, the President, Vice President, and Cabinet traveled across the country to talk about how this historic legislation delivers for the American people.

From the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law modernizing roads and bridges, expanding access to clean drinking water, and delivering high-speed internet, to the Build Back Better Act, which will lower costs, cut taxes, create jobs, and make the wealthy pay their fair share, the President's agenda represents a once-in-a-generation investment that will ensure America can compete in the 21st century.

As the Biden-Harris administration hit the road this week – and in the weeks to come – officials continue highlighting the real impact and results that these investments will have for working families across the country.

Here's what Americans are reading in the states:

President Biden in Woodstock, New Hampshire

RADIO SHOW
TAKES STAGE
"Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus." A&E, A5



IMPROVED
POTATOES
How to make better mashed spuds. FOOD, B8

CONCORD MONITOR

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023

concordmonitor.com

Concord, New Hampshire

\$1.50

A plan for 'ordinary people'

INFRASTRUCTURE: One day after signing \$1T deal, Biden visits Woodstock's 'red-list' bridge on first stop of US tour

President says bill improves everyday life

By COLLEEN LONG, HOLLY RABNER
and ALEXANDRA LARTE
Associated Press

Fighting sagging poll ratings, President Joe Biden set out Tuesday on a national tour to persuade everyday Americans of the benefits of his big, just-signed infrastructure plan. First stop, a snowy, newly rebuilt New Hampshire, a state that gave him no love in last year's presidential primaries.

Biden left the state in February of 2020 before polls had even closed on his 65th place primary finish. But he returned as president, eager to take up the billions in investments to upgrade America's roads, bridges and transit systems that he signed into law Monday.

Walking across the small New Hampshire bridge that's been tagged a priority for repairs since 2014, Biden framed the infrastructure law in direct and human terms. He said it would have a meaningful impact here, from efficient everyday transportation to keeping emergency routes open.

"This isn't esoteric, this isn't some ghostly bill — it's just what's about what happens to ordinary people," he said. "Conversations around these kitchen tables that are both profound as they are ordinary. How do I cross the bridge in a snowstorm?"

Biden is down in the polls but hopes to use the successful new law to shift the political winds in his direction and provide fresh momentum for his broader \$1.2 trillion social spending package now before Congress.

The president held a spudsy lip-purport bill signing ceremony Monday for hundreds on the White House South Lawn, where lawmakers and union workers cheered and clapped. "America is moving again, and your life is going to change for the better," Biden promised Americans. The president and members of his



SEE BIDEN A2

Sununu wants more for NH

By CASSIDY JENSEN
Monitor staff

With a handwritten birthday letter in hand, Gov. Chris Sununu waited for Air Force One to land at Manchester airport to greet President Joe Biden, who turns 78 on Friday.

Biden came to New Hampshire to sign his just-signed infrastructure spending bill from an old bridge in Woodstock that's needed repairs since 2014.

Earlier in the day, Sununu sent another letter to Biden, one that outlined the governor's problems with the bill and its implementation in New Hampshire.

In his letter, the governor wrote that New Hampshire had been given the lowest total funding of all 50 states for highway programs.

"Can New Hampshire count on you to work with Congress to ensure a more equitable funding formula for highway apportionment in future reauthorization packages?" he asked in the letter.

In addition, he urged Biden to address supply chain issues, workforce shortages and the rising cost of construction materials.

"Ensuring that roads get built, bridges get repaired, and drinking water gets improved will be even more challenging given the economic challenges Washington seems oblivious to," Sununu said.

New Hampshire is set to receive \$1.1 billion for highways the next five years as well as \$255 million for bridge replacement and repairs, according to estimates which don't include future grants for which the state can apply.

New Hampshire Department of Transportation Commissioner Victoria Shortman said at a press conference last week that the legislation would mean a 24% increase for core

ABOVE: President Joe Biden speaks during a visit to the NH 17B bridge over the Pennigonssett River to promote infrastructure spending in Woodstock, N.H., on Tuesday.

LEFT: Gov. Chris Sununu speaks to the media about a hand written birthday card for President Joe Biden as he awaited Biden's arrival on Air Force One in Manchester, N.H., on Tuesday.

SEE INFRASTRUCTURE A2

UTILITIES

NH energy efficiency decision sends a chill

By AMANDA GORKE
New Hampshire Business

Energy efficiency programs in New Hampshire are in for a big change if a decision issued by the Public Utilities Commission late Friday is enacted.

In that decision, the commission rejected an energy efficiency plan to increase

spending and then took it a step further, slashing funding for energy efficiency over the next two years to return to 2017 funding levels. The commission order may face legal challenges. Consumer Advocate Don Rove has already announced that he may ask for a rehearing, which would

SEE ENERGY A2

CONCORD

More housing may be coming to city's east side

Planning board to review proposal to build units at Pembroke Road crossing the city limits.

By CASSIDY JENSEN
Monitor staff

New multi-family housing could be coming to East Concord near the intersection of Pembroke and Sheep Falls roads.

A proposal to build 122 two-bedroom units near the offices of the Community Action Program of Merrimack and Building Industries will go before the Concord Planning Board in the coming months.

If the planning board determines the developer's application is complete during its Nov. 17 meeting, the board will set a public hearing for Dec. 15 to approve a major site plan. Brookline Opportunities LLC is developing the land located near Target and Baker's Cafe and Bakery, which is owned by the Perry William II Family Trust & Perry Barbara M. Trust.

The same developers brought a lawsuit against the town of Brookline in September, accusing the town of violating the Fair Housing Act by blocking a proposed 80-unit complex for low-income families on racially discriminatory grounds.

SEE HOUSING A4

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INSIDE

LOCAL & STATE
LANTERNFLY
SPOTTED IN
TWIN STATES

Spotted lanternflies are invasive and can be spread long distances by people who move infested material or items containing egg masses.

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GOI, 10

Genesee, Kalamazoo, Kent, Ottawa to
make move: Wayne, Oakland won't



"He's a veritable magician," Vassar said. "He's come through, and we have seen unprecedented increases in student applications after his wins. He has rejuvenated us, our alumni and donors. He brought us back from COVID and united us.

"We want to keep the momentum going."

Please see Tucker, Page B4

President Joe Biden takes a ride in the new Hummer pickup EV while visiting GM's Factory Zero EV plant in Detroit. "This vehicle's something else," he remarked.

BY RILEY BEIGIN AND KALEA HALL
The Detroit News

Detroit — On the assembly plant floor General Motors Co.'s newly renovated Factory Zero electric vehicle plant, President Joe Rizzo on Wednesday took a victory lap on passage of the bipartisan infrastructure bill and pitched the importance of further spending to accelerate EV adoption.

He painted a picture of a nation on the precipice of resurgence thanks to industrial innovation in green technology and argued it could all be done without increasing inflation or veering into significant debt.

"We're going to make sure that the jobs

the future end up here in Michigan, not half-way around the world," he said. "Here in Detroit, we're going to set a new pace for electric vehicles. This is not hyperbole. It's a fact."

Biden was joined by GM CEO Mary Barra, United Auto Workers President Ray Curry, Labor Secretary Mary Walsh, members of Michi-

gan's congressional delegation and more at the event, which launched the new Factory Zero Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly Center. It is GM's second EV plant so far within its North American footprint and is central to the com-

Please see Biden, Page 2A

Martha / The Desert News
Dorothy Zehnder, matriarch of the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth, will turn 100 on Dec. 1.

BY MELODY BAETENS
The Detroit News

Frankenmuth—One of the first things Dorothy Zehnder does when she comes into work in the morning is check to see how many customers are expected to eat at her Bavarian inn restaurant that day.

It's the nearly 300-year-old restaurant's connection with people that make her such a successful restaurateur. Not only is the industry that she's been in part of since she was 16 years old, but statewide

meets with Frankenmuth, diners and German-American style cooking.

Zehnder, a great-granddaughter who celebrates her milestone 50th birthday this week, says, "I see the food in the restaurant, assuring the good chickens and pies are all up to recite the recipe for the amount of dressing made with amounts of bread made with 16 pounds of bread." She then squashes each year's



Dorothy Zahedler, manager

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ON GUARD FOR 190 YEARS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021 | FREE.COM

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MSU fear means big payday for Tucker

School wanted to make sure it didn't lose football coach

Once upon a time, as a young graduate assistant, Matt Tucker used to drive Nick Saban around. Now Tucker would send a private jet, and he and Saban use company airplanes.

Tucker, who has been at Michigan State football since 2008, is set to become the second-highest paid college football coach in the nation, behind only Saban at Alabama, despite the fact that Saban leads his former

prerogative in national championships, 7-0, in conference titles, 9-0, and in various national coach of the year awards, 16-0.

Sometimes, here's the headline: "MSU to Offer Tucker \$9-year, \$95 Million Extension." To say Michigan State likes this guy is to say Willie the Fresh likes honey. Remember, last year, they doubled his salary to lure him from Colorado. Now they're almost doubling his salary again — and doubling the years as well.

Deja vu? Not quite. The first time was out of

See ALBOM, Page 1A

Bonuses soar for Michigan state workers

One-time payouts quadruple in 2021 amid better outlook

LANING — Performance bonuses paid to mostly higher-ranking state of Michigan employees quadrupled in 2020, amounts show, amid a vastly improved state budget outlook from a year earlier.

The state paid 1,546 employees just over \$5.6 million in one-time, lump-sum bonuses during the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, according to records the Free Press obtained under Michigan's Freedom of Information Act.

That is up sharply from the 2015 state employees who received just under \$1.4 million in one-time bonuses in 2010, the records show.

From a budget perspective the revenue picture improved greatly from FY (fiscal year) '20 to FY '21," said Kurt Wilson, a spokesman for the Department of Technology.

See STATE BONUSES, Page 13A

President 'Car Guy' takes a spin in EV

At Factory ZERO, he touts union and climate agenda

Todd Spangler and Jamie L. LaRue
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

As if anyone needed any convincing, President Joe Biden is indeed "a car guy." Fresh off pedaling out on a test track to a new all-electric Hummer being built at General Motors' Factory ZERO in Detroit-Hamtramck, Biden was again on his spin Wednesday, saying, "Dad, it's good to be

back in Detroit and that Hummer is one hell of a vehicle, man."

Going from spin to spin in three seconds? He requested he might trade his prized '87 Corvette "title for title" for it.

Biden, whose dad managed car dealerships, didn't come to GM's newest plant — a centerpiece in its aspirations to electrify its fleet of new vehicles by 2030 — just to drive the new Hummer (which starts at a

See BIDEN VISIT, Page 7A

WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

2021 GMC SIERRA CREW CAB ELEVATION 4X4

ULTRA-LOW MILEAGE LEASE FOR WELL-QUALIFIED GM EMPLOYEES WITH A CURRENT ELEGIE BUICK OR GMC LEASE. **\$289** PER MONTH FOR 36 MONTHS. \$1,237 DUE AT LEASE SIGNING. AFTER ALL OFFERS.

See KIDS CORONAVIRUS, Page 1A

INFECTION TOTALS
Michigan: 23,104 deaths, 1,224,773 cases
U.S.: 197,330 deaths, 47,414,651 cases
World: 5,122,686 deaths, 254,910,151 cases
as of Nov. 17, 2021.
Source: Johns Hopkins University and state of Michigan.

MLIVE: [In Detroit, Biden says Build Back Better bill won't add to inflation, is 'fully paid for' by taxing corporations](#)

[Malachi Barrett, 11/17/21]

“President Joe Biden argued America will lose a global race for economic dominance without large investments in its workforce, pitching his Build Back Better proposal as key to the country’s future. The president promoted the impact of his domestic policy agenda Wednesday while visiting General Motors’ Factory ZERO, the company’s first all-electric vehicle assembly plant. Biden toured the facility and got behind the wheel of a new electric Hummer while taking a symbolic victory lap for the passage of bipartisan infrastructure legislation this week.”

Michigan Advance: [Biden toasts new infrastructure law at GM electric vehicle plant opening in Detroit](#)

[Julia Forrest, 11/17/21]

“President Joe Biden traveled to Detroit Wednesday to tout the new \$1.2 trillion

infrastructure package he signed into law on Monday while helping to celebrate the opening of General Motors new electric vehicle assembly plant ... ‘Folks, when you see these projects starting in your home towns, I want you to feel the way I feel,’ Biden said. “Pride in what we can do when we are together as the United States of America and it starts here in Detroit. In the auto industry, Detroit’s leading the world in electric vehicles.’ Biden said his plans will accelerate production of electric vehicles, saying ‘we’re going to make sure that the jobs of the future end up here in Michigan, not halfway around the world.’”

Detroit Free Press: Op-ed: [With the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, America is Back in the Competition](#)

[Brian Deese, Director of the National Economic Council, and Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor, 11/17/21]

“This law is the most significant step in more than a generation to bolster America’s global economic competitiveness. It is an unambiguous signal to the world that the United States is ready win the competition for the 21st century economy ... We are not behind because of happenstance. It is the result of decades of decision-making that has prioritized short-term efficiencies over long-term resilience, security, and sustainability. But, with the Infrastructure Law, the United States will begin to pivot. While China may currently outspend the U.S. on infrastructure as a share of GDP by threefold, the growth rate of U.S. infrastructure spending is poised to overtake China, with the passage of this law.”

Vice President Harris in Columbus, Ohio

The Columbus Dispatch: [Vice President Kamala Harris arrives in Columbus today to talk infrastructure](#)

[Haley BeMiller, 11/19/21]

“Vice President Kamala Harris arrived in Columbus today as White House officials take a victory lap over the passage of a \$1.2 trillion bill to improve roads, bridges and broadband. ... Under the new law, Ohio is projected to receive \$9.2 billion for federal-aid highway apportioned programs and \$483 million to repair and replace bridges over a five-year period. It will get an estimated \$100 million to expand broadband access, \$253 million for airports, \$1.2 billion for public transportation and \$1.4 billion dedicated to water infrastructure projects.”

EPA Administrator in Jackson, Mississippi, New Orleans, Louisiana, and Houston, Texas

Mississippi Free Press: [EPA Chief Visits Jackson to Address Water Crisis, Discuss Help in Biden Infrastructure Deal](#)

[Nick Judin and Ashton Pittman, 11/15/21]

“Michael S. Regan, the head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is touring Jackson today and addressing topics on the environment with an emphasis on the city’s longstanding water infrastructure woes ... The EPA said in a press release this morning that

the administrator will also ‘discuss the benefits of President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal and the Build Back Better agenda, and the Administration’s commitment to delivering environmental justice.’ Both houses of Congress have passed Biden’s \$1.2-trillion infrastructure bill, and the president plans to sign it later this week; his more ambitious ‘Build Back Better’ agenda is still under negotiation.”

The Advocate: [‘Startling’: EPA head pledges action for vanishing Black community of Mossville](#)

[Mike Smith, 11/18/21]

“The nation’s top environmental official visited this vanishing Black community Thursday and pledged to dig deeper into the ‘startling’ impact of surrounding petrochemical plants and the alleged injustice residents say they’ve faced. Michael Regan, the first Black man to lead the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, visited the community outside Lake Charles, which was founded by freed slaves in the 1790s, as part of a wider tour intended to shine a light on environmental justice issues. He also held discussions with residents and activists, and said he intended to speak with the companies located in the area and state officials.”

Texas Tribune: [Top U.S. Environmental Regulator to Visit Houston Neighborhoods Where Black and Latino Residents Bear Brunt of Pollution](#)

[Erin Douglas, 11/16/21]

“Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan will visit Houston on Friday as part of a weeklong tour of neighborhoods across the South where pollution has impacted people’s health — predominantly for Black and Latino residents ... The tour is centered on environmental justice — the idea that a central aim of protecting the environment is to prioritize and protect human health, not simply preserve wild areas for aesthetic reasons.”

The Times-Picayune: [EPA chief travels south Louisiana to learn more about pollution, environmental justice](#)

[Halle Parker, 11/16/21]

“Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan kicked off his visit Tuesday in New Orleans East, listening to concerns raised by more than a dozen researchers, environment advocates, lawyers and business leaders, among others. A day earlier, President Joe Biden signed a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill that includes about \$240 billion for environmental justice projects. Since taking office, Regan said, he has asked his staff to detail how the agency can incorporate environmental justice and equity into all of its functions, making it ‘part of the DNA.’”

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg in Phoenix, Arizona

KPNX (NBC Phoenix): [Buttigieg visiting Phoenix to promote new infrastructure law. Here are 3 things to know about its potential impact on Arizona](#)

[Brahm Resnik, 11/16/21]

“U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg will promote the new \$1 trillion infrastructure act during a trip to Phoenix Friday. Buttigieg will appear at an event announcing full federal funding for Valley Metro's northwest extension for light rail to at the old Metrocenter Mall. As transportation secretary, Buttigieg will oversee billions of dollars in new spending on planes, trains and automobiles - for airports, mass transit and highways. But the new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will make its biggest initial impact in Arizona with urgently needed cash, not concrete.”

Arizona Republic: [Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg to visit Phoenix light rail site, Sky Harbor airport Friday](#)

[Jen Fifield, 11/19/21]

“Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and the future location of the northwest Phoenix light rail line are on the agenda Friday as U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg visits Arizona to promote the signing of the \$1.2 trillion federal infrastructure bill. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, negotiated in large by U.S. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema and signed into law by President Joe Biden earlier this week, will infuse funding into public works projects nationally. Arizona will be eligible for billions, for highways, roads, bridges, public transit, airports, broadband internet, wildfire protection and cybersecurity.”

Education Secretary Miguel Cardona in Burlington, Vermont

WCAX (CBS Burlington, Vermont): [US secretary of education visits Burlington schools](#)

[11/19/21]

“‘This is what it’s about, this is what it’s about -- protecting families, having them smile and being safe and going back to school,’ Cardona said at his stop at Champlain Elementary School. As COVID cases continue to rise, so has the push to get kids vaccinated. ‘This is a model of what it should look like across the country. They’re getting it right, they’re communicating well, and as a result, they’re going to be safe,’ Cardona said.”

VT Digger: [Biden’s education secretary offers praise for Burlington schools](#)

[Shaun Robinson, 11/19/21]

“The secretary gave chocolate coins from the U.S. Department of Education to several children who had just been vaccinated. He said it was great to see volunteers and first responders from around the community at the clinic, helping kids get their shots. ‘We’re thankful that, as schools reopen, we reclaim that role of being the hub of communities where our students feel safe, our parents feel safe,’ Cardona said.”

Secretary of the Interior Haaland on Tribal Summit & Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Tribal Investments

KOIN6 (CBS Portland, Oregon): [Infrastructure deal invests \\$466M in tribal communities](#)

[Joelle Jones, 11/17/21]

“According to Haaland, the Biden Administration has appointed over 50 Native Americans to serve in political positions. She says their commitment to including tribal voices in these matters will be crucial for the success of the nation’s climate goals. ‘Tribes need to be at the decision making table,’ said Haaland. ‘So we are going to rely on them to tell us the best way to move forward. Tribal indigenous knowledge with respect to the environment is going to play a very large role in how we move forward with climate change.’”

Public Radio Tulsa: [U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland speaks with KWGS about the Biden administration's commitments to Indian Country](#)

[Chris Polansky, 11/17/21]

“... it includes a \$466 million investment for the Bureau of Indian Affairs; \$250 million for construction, repair, improvement and maintenance of irrigation and power systems, safety of dams, water sanitation; \$216 million for climate resilience, adaptation and community relocation planning — a lot of Tribes that live on the coast, for example, are in danger of sea level rise, and so in some of these areas they will need to pick up and move inland. So those are all issues we're going to address. There's an historic investment of \$2.5 billion dollars to help the department fulfill settlements of Indian water rights claims. That is, that is incredibly important. So, um, the bipartisan infrastructure deal, um, it is, it is historic in the amount of investment that it makes in Indian Country. And we are excited about getting that Tribal consultation on how, um, we are going to ensure that we get this out and, and get it to working for those families there.”

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