

TO GIVE THE NEWS IMPARTIALLY, WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR

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US envoy called in reponse to claims of spying

Americans accused of running ‘covert’ actions in Greenland

BY JEFFREY GETTLEMAN AND MAYA TEKELI
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Denmark summoned the head of the U.S. Embassy on Wednesday after allegations emerged that three Americans with close ties to President Donald Trump were running “covert influence operations” in Greenland.

Trump has repeatedly said that he wants to “get” Greenland, a huge, strategically important island, mostly in the Arctic, that is a territory of Denmark.

Within hours of the allegations, published by Denmark’s main public broadcaster Wednesday morning, the Danish Foreign Ministry summoned the current head of the embassy, the chargé d’affaires, for a meeting.

“We are aware that foreign actors continue to show an interest in Greenland,” said Lars Lokke Rasmussen, Denmark’s foreign minister, in a statement Wednesday. “Any attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of the kingdom will of course be unacceptable.”

Rasmussen called the summons a “preventive conversation.”

The allegations followed reports this spring that U.S. intelligence agencies were stepping up spying operations in Greenland, news that had also created a stir in Denmark.

According to the report by the public broadcaster, three

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Pharmacist Phil Smith holds a dose of the measles vaccine March 25 at Access Family Pharmacy.

STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

VACCINATION RATES CONTINUE TO DECLINE

PERCENTAGE OF KINDERGARTEN IMMUNIZATIONS IN COUNTY AMONG LOWEST IN STATE

BY SHANNON COAN
STAFF WRITER

Kindergarten immunization rates in Tennessee fell for a fourth straight year to a record low 92.3%, with Hamilton County falling among the least vaccinated counties in the state, according to a statewide report.

Hamilton was one of 15 Tennessee counties that had fewer than 90% of its kindergarteners fully immunized during the 2024-25 school year. The Tennessee Department of Health cat-

HAMILTON COUNTY VACCINATION RATES (by school year)*

School year	Vax rate
2020-21	91.6%
2021-22	89.7%
2022-23	90.3%
2023-24	89.1%
2024-25	88.4%

*Data includes rates for kindergartners in public schools and in private schools that chose to report data to the state.

egorizes immunization rates that fall below that mark as “places the community at increased risk.”

Kindergartners in Hamilton County were 88.4% vaccinated, a decrease from 89.1% the year before. Nearby

Grundy County had the lowest immunization rate in the state at 78.7%.

The figures come from an annual report by the Tennessee Department of Health outlining the coverage and exemption rates of the six vaccines required by law for children to attend kindergarten. Students must be up-to-date on the vaccinations for measles, mumps, polio, tetanus, whooping cough and chickenpox.

The report includes both public and private schools. Statewide, the immunization rate of public schools is higher than that of private schools at 92.6% and 87.2%, respectively. The state report is compiled from data submitted by schools. The reports are voluntary for the private schools, and roughly half of private schools responded.

Stephen Miller, health officer for the Hamilton County Health Department,

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Commission members repay some travel funds

BY DAVID FLOYD
STAFF WRITER

Hamilton County Commissioner Gene-o Shipley, R-Soddy-Daisy, stood up from his seat on the dais Wednesday morning and handed auditor Chris McCollough a check for \$462.

“I was very disappointed in you that you could not contact me and tell me that I’ve done something wrong,” Shipley told McCollough during the board’s weekly meeting. “I do not feel I did anything wrong. I followed the guidelines of when I was sworn in here in 2022 about my travel.”

Shipley is one of five commissioners who have collectively received \$9,603 in reimbursements since Sept. 1, 2022, for trips from their homes to their



STAFF PHOTO BY ROBIN RUDD

On June 19, Hamilton County Commissioner Gene-O Shipley addresses fellow commissioners during a meeting. Shipley on Wednesday paid back to the county \$462 he had expensed in 2025 for trips from his home to the Courthouse.

regular Wednesday meetings at the Hamilton County Courthouse, 625 Georgia Ave. To date, one commissioner, Joe Graham, R-Lookout Valley, has returned the full amount expensed for those trips since Sept. 1, 2022.

All five commissioners — Shipley; Jeff Eversole, R-Ooltewah; Lee Hel-

ton, R-East Brainerd; Mike Chauncey, R-East Ridge; and Graham — were sworn in Sept. 1, 2022. The men said they were told the practice was permissible and the norm. They weren’t aware it didn’t comply with IRS rules that

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Trump tells states to take gender identity out of sex ed

Much of nation at risk of losing funds if mandate is ignored

BY KALYN BELSHA
CHALKBEAT

This story was originally published by Chalkbeat. Sign up for their newsletters at ckbe.at/newsletters.

The Trump administration is threatening to pull federal funding from 40 states for a sex education program aimed at vulnerable teens unless those states remove references in their curriculum to gender identity and transgender people.

In a Tuesday press release, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said the action reflected the Trump administration’s “ongoing commitment to protecting children from attempts to indoctrinate them with delusional ideology.”

The threat comes after California refused to change

its curriculum last week and Health and Human Services terminated the state’s nearly \$6 million-a-year grant.

The states that received notices to change their curriculum are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Withholding federal funds to punish states for teaching about gender identity is yet another way the Trump administration has sought to control what young people learn and advance the president’s view

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