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WEEKLY DIGEST
JULY 31, 2020



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IT'S BREDEFELD VS. VALLEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ON SCHOOL REOPENINGS

July 30, 2020 | David Taub

Fresno City Councilman Garry Bredefeld says schools should reopen based on the data. Valley Children's Hospital says schools should remain closed, based on the data. In fact, "data" was uttered at least 34 times

"We do not have an environment in the Valley right now that we have case volume declining at a rate that means it's safe for kids to be in school in person."
— Todd Suntrapak, president and CEO, Valley Children's Healthcare

by the speakers at an hour-plus City Hall news conference organized Thursday morning by Bredefeld.

Bredefeld said the consequences of children staying home outweighed the dangers of schooling during a pandemic. He urged Gov. Gavin Newsom to allow local districts to decide and urged the districts to take appropriate safety measures. "That is why the current policy by the governor closing every school, taking away local control from school boards, subjecting our children to failed online learning again in the fall semester, and removing choice from parents and teachers who want to return to school is destructive and harmful to our children," Bredefeld said at City Hall. Fresno Unified, Clovis Unified, and Central Unified previously announced plans to offer both in-school and online learning, but those became moot when Newsom ordered schools to close in counties that have high COVID-19 rates.

CDC Report

Bredefeld repeatedly referred to a CDC report, released last week, about the importance of in-school learning. "School closure disrupts the delivery of in-person instruction and critical services to children and families, which has negative individual and societal ramifications. The best available evidence from countries that have opened schools indicates that COVID-19 poses low risks to school-aged children, at least in areas with low community transmission, and suggests that children are unlikely to be major drivers of the spread of the virus," the report said. Fresno

County has had a high rate of COVID-19. As of today, the state reports 14,312 positive cases for the county. County public health reports that 11% of those tested have been positive. The state average is 6% positive cases of those tested. Children between 0-17 have made up 13% of the positive cases in the county. There have been no reported deaths in the 0-17 age bracket among the county's 120 deaths. Bredefeld also cited a study from the American Academy of Pediatrics about the importance of in-person learning vs. online instruction. "What we're talking about is, what is the risk for returning to school versus the costs of staying home? And the costs of staying home are dramatic," Bredefeld said. Manuel Bonilla, president of the Fresno Teachers Association union, would like in-school education as well, but when it is safe to do so. "We, too, said that if schools could (reopen), if we could do so safely according to the CDC guidelines, that we would like to be able to," Bonilla told GV WireSM. "However, we obviously have to defer to the health experts and whatever state laws we have to adhere to."

Valley Children's CEO: Schools Not Safe to Reopen

Speaking Wednesday on "The Christopher Gabriel Program" on ESPN 940 radio, Valley Children's CEO Todd Suntrapak said his hospital is taking pediatric COVID cases from other area hospitals. "We are, as a community at large, definitely seeing the spike in cases and our healthcare infrastructure is definitely pressed in meeting those needs," Suntrapak said. Suntrapak reported that 20% of child COVID-19 patients required a stay in the ICU. Kids present in school is best, Suntrapak said, "when it is safe." He cited CDC and AAP recommendations for masks and social distancing. "Once the case growth is in decline, it is then safe to have the discussion about when to take children back to school in person," Suntrapak said. "And until that time..."

Dr. Rais Vohra, interim health officer for Fresno County, said that schools can reopen only after the community spread of coronavirus is controlled.

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AS HOSPITALS NEAR CAPACITY, COUNTY TAKES STEPS TO OPEN CONVENTION CENTER

Facebook/San Joaquin Memorial HS

July 29, 2020 | Nancy Price

Students attending parochial schools in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno will start their school year next week just like their public school counterparts — online. All schools in Valley counties that are on the state’s COVID-19 watchlist must remain closed as a result of a state mandate issued this month. The state is monitoring counties in which coronavirus infection and hospitalization rates are continuing to soar. For schools to reopen, counties must be off the watchlist for 14 consecutive days. However, the state mandate does allow elementary schools to seek waivers from county and state public health officials that would let them reopen sooner.

Plans to Ask for Waivers

According to a news release from the diocese, Schools Superintendent Mona Faulkner will seek waivers from each of the

counties where Diocese of Fresno schools are located. Faulkner did not respond to phone or email requests for comment from GV Wire™ this week. The diocese reports that Bishop Joseph Brennan is requiring the schools reopening plan to have higher standards for safety than required by the state or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But the diocese provided no other information on the “Diocesan Reopening Guidelines for Catholic Schools and Preschools.”

Big Creek Wants to Reopen

Other schools in Fresno County, including Big Creek Elementary School District, have indicated they may try for a waiver. The Big Creek trustees held a special meeting Tuesday evening to discuss the issue but are awaiting information from state and county health officials, board president Ramiro...

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Decreasing pediatric mental health emergencies

July 31, 2020 | Sponsored by Community Medical Centers



The mental health crisis was growing. Three Clovis West High School boys took their own lives during the first few months of the 2016-2017 school year. Within a few months another Clovis Unified School District teen committed suicide. And the number of students being transported from CUSD schools to mental health facilities for observation had jumped nearly 350% from the previous...

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ER Holds
29%
DECREASE

Crisis
Transports
53%
DECREASE

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CAMARENA HEALTH STARTS CONSTRUCTION IN MADERA ON LARGEST-EVER EXPANSION

July 29, 2020 | Jim Jakobs

Approximately 30,000 square feet of buildings are going up in Madera as part of Camarena Health’s largest expansion project ever. The facilities, dubbed The Almond Campus because they’re on Almond Avenue, will cost nearly \$17 million and transform the urgent-care facility there into a full-service, five-building campus. Plans call for a 10,000 square-foot building and four 5,000 square-foot buildings with ample parking. COVID-19 is not expected to delay getting everything completed by late spring or early summer of 2021, Camarena officials say.

One-Stop Healthcare Services

Services at the Almond campus will include family care, urgent care, women’s health, dentistry, behavioral health, and health education among many more. “This is definitely the direction that I think healthcare is going,” Camarena Health CEO Paul Soares told GV Wire™ by Zoom on Wednesday. Soares is talking about integrated healthcare. His vision is that...

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Camarenahealth.org



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STATE

HOW TO MAKE SURE YOUR MASK IS ON RIGHT

July 29, 2020 | *The Conversation*

Whether or not you agree with a mandate to wear a mask, many of us will do so during our daily business. I am a professor of nursing at Purdue University, where a colleague and I teach a class detailing the history of health care over the centuries. Among other things, students discover the original reason for a cloth mask, dating back to the late 19th century, is the same as today:

Among other things, students discover the original reason for a cloth mask, dating back to the late 19th century, is the same as today: to protect others from the germs of those wearing them.

to protect others from the germs of those wearing them. Understanding these past practices, say the students, makes them better caregivers. With that in mind, here are five ways for you to make the most of wearing a mask in public.

1. Not All Masks Are Created Equal

Cloth masks are considered appropriate for general use in public. The Mayo Clinic recommends a mask that is two-layered. This means the cute reversible one your neighbor sewed for you is approved. Not recommended: a mask with a valve. Although the wearer breathes in filtered air, the unfiltered air is pushed out upon exhalation. This negates the protection for others.

2. Wash, Wash, Wash Your hands

Before putting your mask on, wash your hands. This is a basic infection control principle. Anytime you come in contact with your face, do it with clean hands. This includes rubbing your eyes, wiping your lips, or scratching your nose. Likewise, after removing your mask, wash your hands again. Don't mess with the mask while it's in place. This is not the time to take a sip of your latte or snack on your beef jerky. Eat and drink in an environment where you can socially distance from others by at least six feet. If you have to adjust your mask when it's on, clean your hands afterwards. For convenience, carry a hand sanitizer with you.

3. Does This Mask Make Me Look Smart?

The mask should fit comfortably snug, always covering your nose and mouth, and secure under the chin. Covering only the mouth is useless. Humans breathe in and out of both nose and mouth. And the purpose of the mask is to block germ transmission through the air, which can occur when one exhales (spreads germs) or inhales (takes in germs) through either nose or mouth.

4. When You're Done

When it's time to take it off, clean your hands and grab the ties or ear loops to pull the mask away from your face. Fold the mask in on itself so the outside corners are together. Do not put the mask on your forehead like a headband, or around your neck like a scarf. Place the mask in a receptacle to be laundered. And then wash your hands.

5. Clean It Up

Wash the mask with other laundry using your regular detergent. If you're using a washing machine, use the warmest possible water that's safe for the type of cloth used to make the mask. For drying, it's the same: Use the highest temperature possible for the fabric. Then allow to dry completely before wearing again.

If hand-washing the mask, use a disinfecting bleach. Follow the directions on the product to create the appropriate dilution, then soak the mask five minutes. Rinse with cool water and lay flat to dry or hang in direct sunlight. Be careful not to stretch the fabric; that could damage the mask. As a former operating room...

As a former operating room nurse, I know that masks are uncomfortable. Unless it's Halloween, they're no fun to wear. But we're not trying to have fun. We're trying to keep ourselves, our families and our communities safe. So Google search for the perfect mask to showcase your personality, and wear it correctly with pride!

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CALIFORNIA INDIAN TRIBE GETS BACK BIG SUR ANCESTRAL LANDS

Doug Stockley/Western Rivers Conservancy via AP

July 29, 2020 | AP News

BIG SUR — A Native American tribe has reclaimed a small part of ancestral lands on California’s scenic Big Sur coast that were lost to Spanish colonial settlement nearly 250 years ago.

The Esselen Tribe of Monterey County closed escrow on 1,199 acres about 5 miles inland from the ocean that was part of a \$4.5 million deal involving the state and the Western Rivers Conservancy, The Mercury News reported Monday. It marks the first restoration of any lands to the tribe, which lost 90% of its approximately 1,000 members to disease and other causes by the early 1800s.

“It is beyond words for us, the highest honor,” said Tom Little Bear Nason, chairman of the tribe. “The land is the most important thing to us. It is our homeland, the creation story of our lives. We are so elated and grateful.” The land lies on the north side of the Little Sur River, where endangered steel-head fish spawn, and encompasses old-growth redwoods, oak woodlands and meadows.

“The property is spectacular, and on top of that it repatriates land to a tribe that has had a really hard go of it over the years,” said Sue Doroff, president of the conservancy. Known as Rancho Aguila, the property was put up for sale by the...

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AP File

CA MINIMUM-WAGE JUMP TO HIT VIRUS-BATTERED COMPANIES

July 30, 2020 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Wednesday the state would keep in place a planned jump in the state’s minimum wage to \$14 an hour next year for larger businesses, saying it would help hard hit lower-income workers even as many companies struggle to survive amid the coronavirus crisis.

The Democratic governor had the authority to suspend the scheduled increase given the state’s troubled economy. Since mid-March, California has processed nearly 6.8 million claims for unemployment as many businesses, especially restaurants and retailers, have been idled or forced to cut back operations while contending with government rules intended to limit the spread of the virus. For hourly workers, Newsom said the increase represents “the raise they deserve.” He said many of those workers “are on the front lines of the pandemic, providing child care, working in our hospitals and nursing facilities and making sure there’s food on grocery...

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CALIFORNIA SUES OVER TRUMP ORDER ON CONGRESSIONAL MAPS

July 29, 2020 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — California on Tuesday became the latest state to sue President Donald Trump over his executive order excluding people in the U.S. illegally from being counted when congressional districts are redrawn after this year’s census. The nation’s most populous state stands to lose a congressional seat if the president’s order stands, according to an analysis by the Pew Research Center.

Seats representing districts in the U.S. House of Representatives are redistributed every 10 years based on changes in population found in the census. The president signed a memorandum last week seeking to block immigrants in the country illegally from being tallied in the population count, arguing that including them “would create perverse incentives and undermine our system of government.” An estimated 2.2 million of California’s nearly 40 million residents are in the country illegally, the most of any state, according to the Pew Research Center. “There’s no state ... hit harder, hit faster by this than...

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AP File



FORMER GOP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HERMAN CAIN DIES AT 74

July 30, 2020 | AP News

ATLANTA — Herman Cain, former Republican presidential candidate and former CEO of a major pizza chain who went on to become an ardent supporter of President Donald Trump, has died of complications from the coronavirus. He was 74. A post on Cain's Twitter account Thursday announced the death. Cain had been ill with the virus for several weeks. It's not clear when or where he was infected, but he was hospitalized less than two weeks after attending Trump's campaign rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in June. Cain had been co-chair of Black Voices for Trump.

"We knew when he was first hospitalized with COVID-19 that this was going to be a rough fight," read an article posted on the Twitter account. White House spokeswoman Kayleigh McEnany tweeted on Thursday that Cain "embodied the American Dream and represented the very best of the American spirit." "We will never forget his legacy of grace, patriotism, and faith,"

A post on Cain's Twitter account Thursday announced the death. Cain had been ill with the virus for several weeks. It's not clear when or where he was infected, but he was hospitalized less than two weeks after attending Trump's campaign rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in June. Cain had been co-chair of Black Voices for Trump.

McEnany added. Cain, who had hoped to become the first Black politician to win the GOP nomination, was initially considered a long-shot candidate. His bid was propelled forward in September 2011 when he won a straw poll vote in Florida, instantly becoming an alternative candidate for Republican voters concerned that former Massachusetts

Gov. Mitt Romney was not conservative enough.

But Cain struggled to respond to accusations that he had sexually harassed several women and — in a video that went viral on the internet — rambled uncomfortably when asked whether he supported or opposed President Barack Obama's policies in Libya. There were

also gaffes on abortion and torture that led Cain's critics to question whether he was ready for the White House. Just as Cain started surging in the polls, Politico reported that the National Restaurant Association paid settlements to two former employees who claimed Cain sexually harassed them while he was CEO and president of the lobbying group from 1996 to 1999. Another woman, Sharon Bialek, said that Cain, an acquaintance, groped her in a car in July 1997 after they'd had dinner in Washington. Bialek, who was then unemployed, said she had contacted Cain seeking job advice.

The centerpiece of Cain's presidential campaign was his 9-9-9 plan, which would have replaced the current tax code with a 9% tax on personal and corporate income and a 9% national sales tax. Cain said the plan's simplicity would stimulate the economy by giving investors certainty.

Cain Honed His Speaking Skills in the Corporate World, Then Hosted a Radio Talk Show in Atlanta

Cain said he could not remember Bialek and denied sexually harassing anyone, but polls conducted in the weeks afterward showed his popularity slipping considerably. Cain honed his speaking skills in the corporate world, then hosted a radio talk show in Atlanta that introduced his political views and up-by-the-bootstraps life story to many tea party supporters and other conservatives.

He first ventured into national politics in 1994 when he publicly challenged President Bill Clinton, a Democrat, on his proposal to force employers to buy health insurance for their employees. "For many, many businesses like mine, the cost of your plan is simply a cost that will cause us to eliminate jobs," Cain told Clinton. "What will I tell those people whose jobs I will have to eliminate?" Afterward, the restaurant industry used Cain as a spokesman as it campaigned against Clinton's plan...

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2ND US VIRUS SURGE HITS PLATEAU, BUT FEW EXPERTS CELEBRATE

July 30, 2020 | AP News

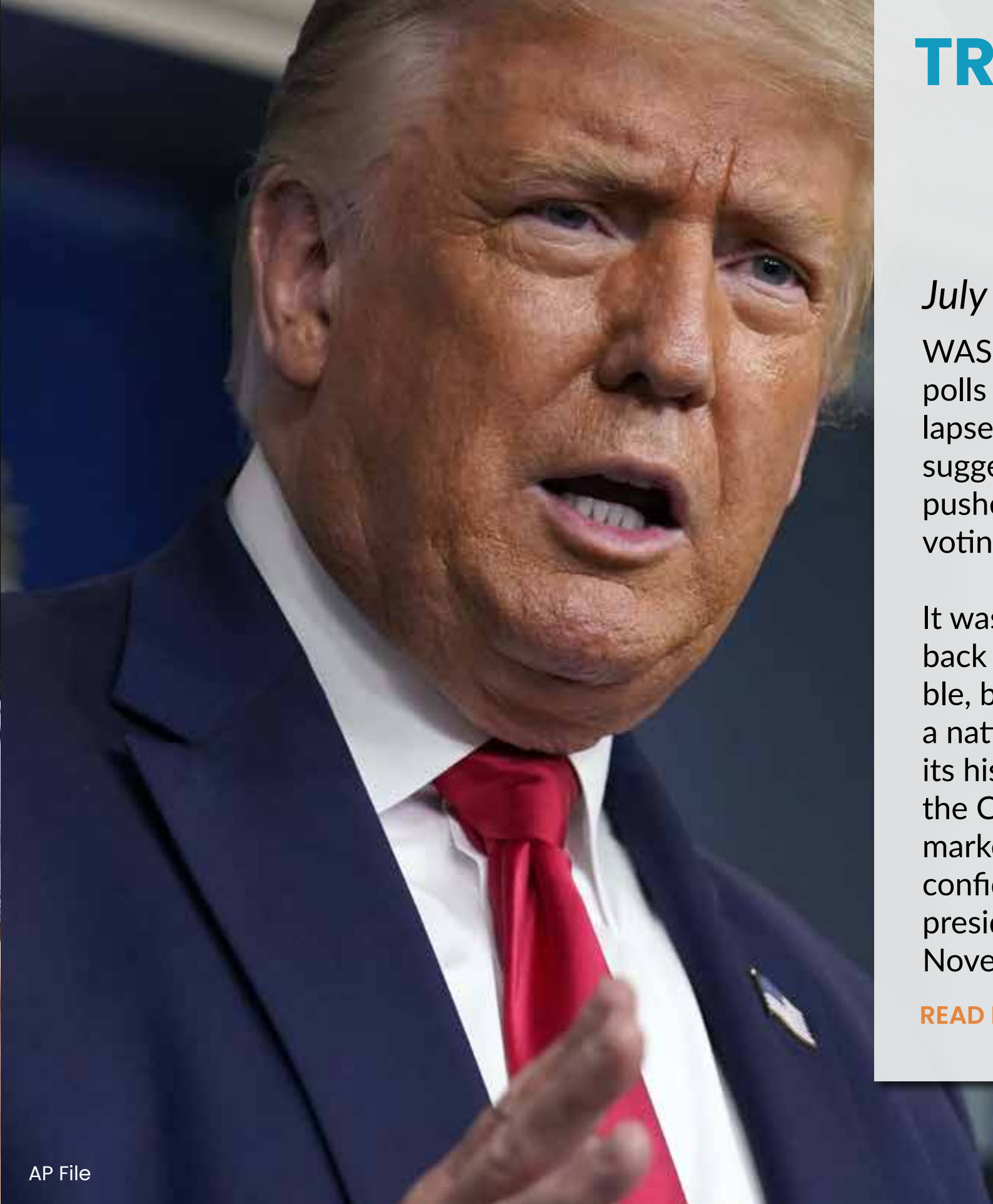
NEW YORK — While deaths from the coronavirus in the U.S. are mounting rapidly, public health experts are seeing a flicker of good news: The second surge of confirmed cases appears to be leveling off.

Scientists aren't celebrating by any means, warning that the trend is driven by four big, hard-hit places — Arizona, California, Florida and Texas — and that cases are rising in close to 30 states in all, with the outbreak's center of gravity seemingly shifting from the Sun Belt toward the Midwest. Some experts wonder whether the apparent caseload improve-

ments will endure. Nor is it clear when deaths start coming down. COVID-19 deaths do not move in perfect lockstep with the infection curve, for the simple reason that it can take weeks to get sick and die from the virus. The future? "I think it's very difficult to predict," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's foremost infectious-disease expert.

The virus has claimed over 150,000 lives in the U.S., by far the highest death toll in the world, plus more than a half-million others around the globe. Over the past week, the average number of deaths per day in the U.S. has climbed more...

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AP File

TRUMP FLOATS NOVEMBER ELECTION DELAY, BUT IT WON'T HAPPEN

July 30, 2020 | AP News

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump, lagging in the polls and confronted by fresh evidence of an economic collapse and an escalating public health crisis, on Thursday suggested delaying the Nov. 3 presidential election as he pushed unsubstantiated allegations that increased mail-in voting due to the coronavirus pandemic will result in fraud.

It was the first time Trump publicly raised the idea of pushing back the balloting. Shifting the election is virtually impossible, but the mere suggestion of delay was extraordinary in a nation that has held itself up as a beacon to the world for its history of peaceful transfer of power, including during the Civil War, the Great Depression and World War II and marked another bracing attempt by Trump to undermine confidence in the American political system. The date of the presidential election — the Tuesday after the first Monday in November in every fourth year — is enshrined in federal...

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AT LEWIS FUNERAL, OBAMA CALLS FOR RENEWING VOTING RIGHTS ACT

July 31, 2020 | AP News

ATLANTA — Former President Barack Obama used Rep. John Lewis' funeral on Thursday to issue a stark warning that the voting rights and equal opportunity the late civil rights icon championed are threatened heading into the 2020 election. Speaking from the pulpit of the church that Martin Luther King Jr. once led, Obama did not mention President Donald Trump. But the first Black president drew unmistakable contrasts with his successor, and he implicitly lambasted how Trump has handled voting procedures and ongoing civil unrest amid a national reckoning over systemic racism.

Obama called on Congress to renew the Voting Rights Act, which Trump and Republican congressional leaders have left unchanged since the Supreme Court diminished the landmark law in 2012. "You want to honor John? Let's honor him by revitalizing the law that he was willing to die for," Obama said, arguing that the bipartisan praise for the Georgia...

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AP Pool



PILGRIMS PRAY ON PEAK DAY OF HAJJ IN SHADOW OF CORONAVIRUS

July 30, 2020 | AP News

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Masked pilgrims arrived Thursday at Mount Arafat, a desert hill near Islam's holiest site, to pray and repent on the most important day of the hajj, the annual pilgrimage in Mecca in Saudi Arabia. The global coronavirus pandemic has cast a shadow over every aspect of this year's pilgrimage, which last year drew 2.5 million Muslims from across the world to Mount Arafat, where the Prophet Muhammad delivered his final sermon nearly 1,400 years ago.

The global coronavirus pandemic has cast a shadow over every aspect of this year's pilgrimage, which last year drew 2.5 million Muslims from across the world to Mount Arafat, where the Prophet Muhammad delivered his final sermon nearly 1,400 years ago.

Only a very limited number of pilgrims were allowed to take part in the hajj amid numerous restrictions to limit the potential spread of the coronavirus. The Saudi government has not released a final figure on the number of hajj pilgrims this year, but has said anywhere from 1,000 to 10,000 would be taking part. All of this year's pilgrims are either residents or citizens of Saudi Arabia. In past years, a sea of pilgrims dressed in white terrycloth garments would start to gather at Mount Arafat, or hill of mercy as it's known, before dawn and remain there until nightfall, spending the day in deep contemplation and worship. It is common to see pilgrims with tears streaming down their faces, their hands raised in worship on the slopes of the rocky hill where the Prophet Muhammad called for equality and unity among Muslims.

The sliver of pilgrims performing the hajj this year arrived at Mount Arafat before noon by bus on Thursday. They are traveling in small groups of 20, following strict guidelines around social distancing, have undergone tests for the COVID-19 disease and were in quarantine before the hajj. Kehinde Qasim Yusuf, an Australian biomedical engineer who teaches at a university in

Medina, was among the few selected to take part in the hajj after submitting an application online. He normally travels during the summer back to Australia to see his children, but due to travel restrictions he remained in the kingdom and decided to make the most of his time by applying for the hajj. "Honestly, I just applied and stayed optimistic. I feel so fortunate to be selected since there's no guarantee," Yusuf said as he arrived in the Arafat area.

Pilgrims Are Not Allowed to Stand Shoulder to Shoulder

Like other pilgrims who've spoken with The Associated Press, Yusuf said the pilgrimage has been "well-planned and well-organized" by the Saudi government, which has covered all expenses for travel, accommodation, meals and health care for pilgrims on this hajj. Although he isn't facing massive crowds and traffic along hajj routes, Yusuf said this year's hajj isn't without its own challenges of being in self-isolation and separated from loved ones.

International media were not allowed to cover the hajj from Mecca as was customary in past years. Instead, state-run Saudi TV has carried a live broadcast of some parts of the hajj, including Thursday's arrival of pilgrims to Nami-ra Mosque in Arafat where a sermon will be delivered.

"This year's hajj also comes with huge sacrifice, as well, on the mental side," he said. Unlike in past years, pilgrims are not allowed to stand shoulder to shoulder with other Muslims from around the world, all considered equal in Islam before God, seeking mercy, blessings, good health, bounty and healing. Pilgrims are wearing wristbands provided by the Saudi Health Ministry that are connected to their phones and monitor their movements to ensure physical distancing. International media were not allowed to cover the hajj from Mecca as was customary in past years. Instead...

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IRAN LAUNCHES UNDERGROUND BALLISTIC MISSILES DURING EXERCISE

Sepdnews via AP

July 29, 2020 | AP News

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran’s paramilitary Revolutionary Guard launched underground ballistic missiles Wednesday as part of an exercise involving a mock-up American aircraft carrier in the Strait of Hormuz, highlighting its network of subterranean bases.

Although state television documentaries have focused on operations underground at the bases, all have avoided showing geographic details revealing their locations. Wednesday’s launch from what appears to be central Iran’s desert plateau changes that amid heightened tensions between Tehran and the U.S. over its tattered nuclear deal with world powers

and as economic pressures grow. “We have carried out the launch of ballistic missiles from the depths of the earth for the first time,” Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, commander of the Guard’s aerospace division, told state TV. “That means without utilizing conventional launchpads, the buried missiles suddenly rip out of the earth and hit their targets precisely.”

Drone footage captured by the Guard showed two missiles blasting out from covered positions in the desert early Wednesday morning, with debris flying up into the air in their wake. The Guard did not identify the location of the launch, nor the missiles involved. The launch, six...

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AP File

UNCERTAINTY PUSHES GOLD PRICE TO RECORD, OVER \$1,930 PER OZ

July 27, 2020 | AP News

BEIJING — The price of gold surged to a record above \$1,934 per ounce on Monday as investors moved money into an asset seen as a safe haven amid jitters about U.S.-Chinese tension and the recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

It added 2% percent after breaking its 2011 record high price on Friday, when it closed at \$1,897.50 on the New York Mercantile Exchange. As of 8:35 GMT on Monday, it was at \$1,934.60 per ounce and had traded as high as \$1,938 per ounce.

Prices of gold and silver have jumped as rising infection numbers and job losses in the United States and some other economies fuel concern the recovery from the virus and the worst global downturn since the 1930s might be faltering. Precious metals, along with bonds, often are seen as stores of value when financial markets decline. Forecasters...

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VIRUS VACCINE PUT TO FINAL TEST IN THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS

July 27, 2020 | AP News

The world’s biggest COVID-19 vaccine study got underway Monday with the first of 30,000 planned volunteers helping to test shots created by the U.S. government — one of several candidates in the final stretch of the global vaccine race. There’s still no guarantee that the experimental vaccine, developed by the National Institutes of Health and Moderna Inc., will really protect.

The needed proof: Volunteers won’t know if they’re getting the real shot or a dummy version. After two doses, scientists will closely track which group experiences more infections as they go about their daily routines, especially in areas where the virus still is spreading unchecked. “Unfortunately for the United States of America, we have plenty of infections right now” to get that answer, NIH’s Dr. Anthony Fauci recently told The Associated Press. Moderna said the vaccination was done in Savannah, Georgia, the first site to get underway...

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NASA via AP



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