

Daly City Library & Recreation Services
Active Adult/Senior Services
presents



Current Events with Frank Damon

Doelger Senior Center has been fortunate to have Frank Damon leading both our Current Events and History discussion groups for the last 6 years. During this time of physical distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Frank is sharing his current events discussion topics online. Starting on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 1:30 pm Frank will offer Current Events discussion groups each Monday on ZOOM.

Daly City Active Adult/Senior Services invites you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Current Events with Frank Damon

Time: 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm every Monday

Join Zoom meeting with following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87222786510?pwd=d0VucFhGYzhMMXVhSUNJTmdFWDNwdz09>

Meeting ID: 872 2278 6510

Passcode: 724368

Frank received his BA degree from the University of San Francisco with a dual major in Political Science and American History. He also earned his MA in Political Science and teaching credentials at USF. Over the course of his career, Frank taught in the San Mateo Union High School District and at Marin Catholic High School, Terra Nova High School, Golden Gate University, College of San Mateo, Skyline College and Canada College.

If you are interested in joining *Current Events with Frank Damon*, please go to www.dalycityseniors.org/current-events or contact Frank directly at frankdamon@my.smccd.edu.

The Delta blues

As a new surge halts a return to normal, should vaccination be required?



Covid's return: Are the vaccinated entitled to be angry?

"Vaccinated America has had enough," said David Frum in *TheAtlantic.com*. If the U.S. had kept up the galloping vaccination pace of this spring, "this pandemic could've been over by now." Even with the super-infectious Delta variant, life could be returning to near normal if the petulant, selfish children of "pro-Trump America" hadn't decided to embrace vaccine refusal as their latest pathetic symbol of tribal membership. Vaccination rates are 30 percent lower in states that voted for Donald Trump than in states that voted for President Biden, and with the return of in-person school, office reopenings, and maskless indoor dining and entertainment now in jeopardy, all of us are "suffering the consequences of their bad decisions." By justifying and reinforcing skepticism about science and vaccines, Republicans and right-wing media are also giving the coronavirus "time and space to continue to mutate," said Eugene Robinson in *The Washington Post*. That raises the possibility of a new variant that defeats our vaccines and puts us all back in deadly risk. "It's not fair, and we have every right to be angry about it."

Those "emotions are not helpful" right now, said Peggy Drexler in *CNN.com*. If we shame and insult the unvaccinated, or "make them feel attacked and blamed for the pandemic continuing," they will only "dig in" and become more stubborn. It's more effective to ask questions and listen respectfully as they explain their misgivings about the vaccine—which may be more complex than we assume. Besides, it's a liberal canard that only Fox News-watching conservatives are wary of the vaccines, said Dan McLaughlin in *NationalReview.com*. The Black and Hispanic communities, both heavily Democratic, are lagging in vaccination rates, and fully 40 percent of employees of New York City's public schools and



Unvaccinated and hospitalized in Utah

hospitals are still unvaccinated—not a group that generally takes its "marching orders from Tucker Carlson."

Nonetheless, vaccinated Americans "are losing patience," said Roni Caryn Rabin in *The New York Times*. In June, "a sense of celebration was palpable," as case counts plummeted and we seemed on our way to a summer without restrictions or fears. "Now many of the vaccinated fear for their unvaccinated children and worry that they are at risk themselves for breakthrough infections." Many share the views of Elif Akcali, 49, an engineering professor at the University of Florida—a state where Gov. Ron DeSantis has banned vaccine and mask mandates and new infections are soaring. "If we're respecting the rights and liberties of the unvaccinated," Akcali said, "what's happening to the rights and liberties of the vaccinated?"

That is the now the central question of this pandemic, said Colin Dickey in *TheAtlantic.com*. "Vaccines offer us the freedom to participate, the freedom to circulate back in the world, the freedom to be human again." Yet the very same vaccine holdouts who frame their actions in terms of freedom and personal choice insist that private businesses and employers do *not* have the freedom to require them to wear a face mask, or to mandate that their workers or customers be vaccinated. It's time to "call their bluff," said Andrew Sullivan in *AndrewSullivan.Substack.com*. If the unvaccinated want to be "free" from our efforts to protect them from this virus, let's just "let it rip." Perhaps "a sharp rise" in red-state hospitalizations and deaths can bring the holdouts to their senses. Sooner or later, they will "experience what everyone in denial eventually experiences: reality. And reality is the most tenacious influencer I know."

CDC Suggests a Booster Shot for Some

By FELICIA SCHWARTZ

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended administering additional messenger RNA vaccine doses to certain immunocompromised people.

The CDC took the step after its vaccination advisory panel voted to recommend the additional doses at a meeting Friday after reviewing clinical trial data and other relevant information. The vote by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, or ACIP, was 11-0.

The CDC recommends giving an additional dose of a Covid-19 vaccine from Pfizer Inc. and its partner BioNTech SE in moderately or severely immunocompromised people who are 12 years and older, or the vaccine from Moderna Inc. in the immunocompromised 18 years and older.

CDC Director Rochelle Walensky signed the advisory panel's recommendation on Friday several hours after the vote, making it official policy.

"At a time when the Delta variant is surging, an additional vaccine dose for some people with weakened immune systems could help prevent serious and possibly life-threatening Covid-19 cases within this population," she said.

The eligible people wouldn't require any documentation or prescriptions for a third shot and would be able to declare their eligibility at any site where vaccines are adminis-



A healthcare worker administered a Covid-19 vaccine shot in Miami earlier this month.

tered, CDC officials said.

Patients can also consult with their doctor about whether it is appropriate, and they can get the extra dose at their doctor's if it is available there or any vaccination site, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said.

The endorsement follows the FDA's authorization late Thursday of a third dose of an mRNA vaccine to immunocompromised people who have received a solid organ transplant or individuals who have been diagnosed with conditions that are considered to have an equivalent level of compromised immune systems.

The ACIP panel, which ad-

vises the CDC, develops recommendations for use of vaccines generally in the U.S. The committee is composed of experts in infectious diseases, immunology and public health.

New details emerged during the meeting about who among the immunocompromised should get the extra dose, when and how.

Those who should get the third dose, Dr. Neela Goswami of the CDC told the panel, are people who have moderately or severely weakened immune systems due to the drugs they are taking for organ transplants, certain cancers, autoimmune diseases, or because they have HIV or other conditions that di-

minish their immune defenses.

The CDC is expected to issue further guidance to states, health centers, pharmacies and vaccine providers.

Dr. Kathleen Dooling, another CDC official, said it recommends that people receiving a third dose try to get the same vaccine as their first two shots, at least 28 days after receiving the first two doses.

If someone who is immunocompromised is unable to obtain the same shot as their first two, they can mix and match messenger RNA vaccines, Dr. Dooling told the panel.

Immunocompromised people who received a Johnson & Johnson shot aren't currently

eligible for an additional mRNA dose because there isn't enough data to support such a recommendation, CDC and FDA officials told the panel.

They said they are working on a solution for such individuals, which they estimated to be a very small number.

J&J said it is working on studies investigating the impact of an extra dose of its vaccine among immunocompromised people.

Peter Marks, director of the FDA's vaccines division, said third doses are only "moderately effective" at increasing antibody levels in immunocompromised people and therefore they should maintain physical precautions such as mask wearing, social distancing and avoiding crowds to help prevent Covid-19.

The FDA also advises relatives of immunocompromised people to get vaccinated.

About 2.7% of American adults are immunocompromised, which studies have indicated puts them at higher risk of developing severe cases of Covid-19 and transmitting the virus to others.

The FDA said other fully vaccinated individuals are sufficiently protected and don't need an additional dose of a Covid-19 vaccine currently but the agency is studying whether the general public will need additional doses in the future.

The ACIP panel is also weighing whether to support booster shots for the wider public.

School districts defy GOP governors on masks

What happened

Florida and Texas became battlegrounds over school masking this week, as the highly infectious Delta variant drove soaring Covid case counts that are straining the states' hospitals and filling pediatric wards with unprecedented numbers of sick children. Republican Govs. Ron DeSantis of Florida and Greg Abbott of Texas refused to lift their bans on school mask mandates, triggering a rebellion by several local school districts who want children to wear masks as they return to school amid the Delta surge. In Florida, which had more than 100,000 new cases in a week and accounts for more than 20 percent of the nation's new cases, DeSantis threatened to withhold the salaries of school officials who enact mask mandates, after districts in Orlando, Tallahassee, Tampa, and Broward County defied his executive order. "We can either have a free society, or we can have a biomedical security state," DeSantis said. In Texas, school districts in Dallas, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio announced mask requirements in defiance of a state ban. An Abbott spokeswoman said the governor's "resolve to protect the rights and freedoms of all Texans has not wavered."

Democratic governors in Kentucky, New Jersey, and Illinois reinstated school mask mandates, joining eight other states that require them. "There is no other option," said Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, citing "absolutely alarming" case rates driven by Delta. In Arkansas, Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson said he regretted signing the state's ban on mask mandates, as an outbreak forced 1,000 students and staff into quarantine and health officials counted only eight intensive-care beds available statewide. Nationally, the seven-day average of U.S. daily cases topped 110,000—the highest since last winter's peak.

What the editorials said

As presidential hopefuls DeSantis and Abbott compete to "out-Neanderthal" each other in a bid "for the affections of Trump loyalists," their constituents are paying a steep price, said the *Houston Chronicle*. While desperate school officials and responsible local officials and business leaders try to enact urgently needed Covid protocols, Abbott "can only spew campaign rhetoric about 'personal responsibility.'" It's as though the greatest threat facing his constitu-



Masked kids returning to school in Orlando

ents "is a cloth mask rather than a deadly disease" that has hospitals reeling under more than 10,000 Covid patients.

DeSantis' grandstanding "may thrill his base," but it's hard to see what his endgame is, said the *Miami Herald*. He's obviously auditioning to be the GOP's Trump-like 2024 nominee, but fighting school masking even as Florida leads the nation in pediatric hospitalizations doesn't seem like smart strategy. "Does he really want to be cast as the governor" who recklessly "risked children's lives" to further "his own political aspirations"?

What the columnists said

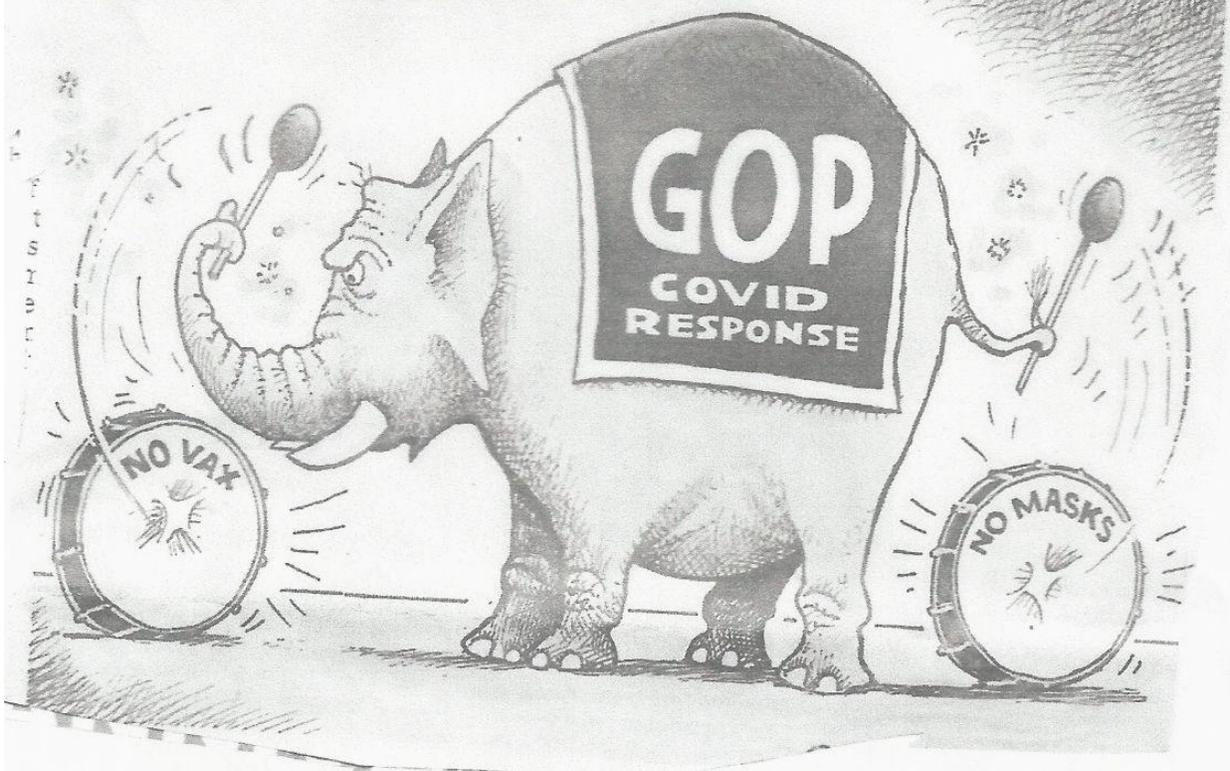
Forcing schoolkids to wear masks is "abusive," said Marty Makary and H. Cody Meissner in *The Wall Street Journal*. Those advocating mask mandates call them harmless, but as doctors, we know they can impede breathing, increase anxiety, and mute nonverbal communication that's "integral to human connection." That can result in "robotic" interactions, stress, and depression. Children transmit Covid "far less often than adults do" and rarely die, and the evidence that masks reduce transmission is "inconclusive."

That's absolutely not true, said Kanecia Zimmerman and Danny Benjamin Jr. in *The New York Times*. We've studied transmission rates in schools and summer camps that require masks and in those that don't, and found clear evidence that universal masking is "one of the most effective and efficient strategies" for reducing viral spread. If we send kids to school maskless, their risk of infection and serious illness is significantly higher. And if outbreaks force school closures, "millions of children will suffer learning loss" and possible "lifelong effects on their physical and mental health."

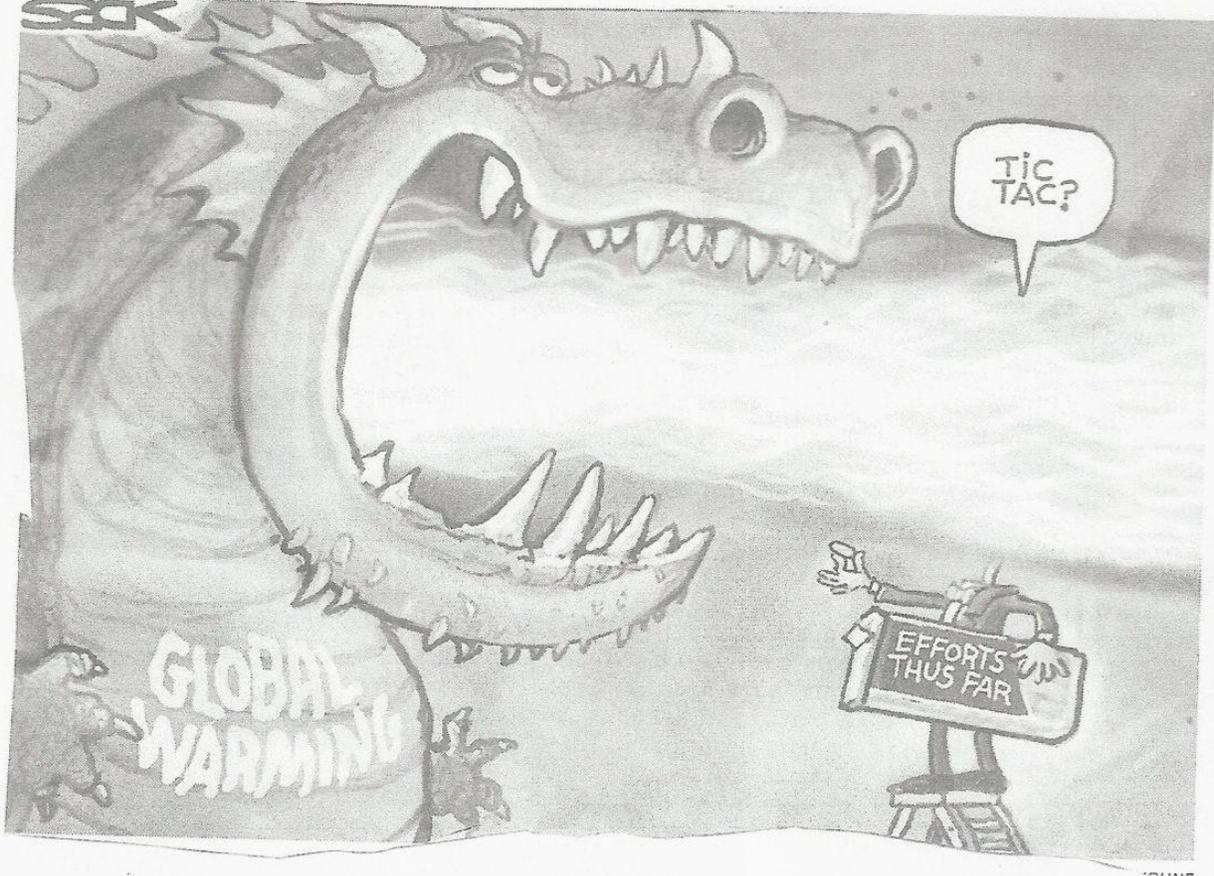
"Welcome to sophomore year for Covid-19," said Dan Goldberg in *Politico.com*. Anxious school officials are caught in year two of the pandemic between fearful parents, vulnerable children, rabid anti-maskers, and grandstanding politicians. Meanwhile, rising infection rates, especially in red states, threaten "another year of lost learning." Educators thought "we'd be back in business again" this fall, said Dan Domenech of the American Association of School Administrators. "That optimism is gone."

Constant drumbeat...

extreme and... of people recorded over the



STAR TRIBUNE
SIX



Taliban offensive gains speed as U.S. exits Afghanistan

What happened

The Taliban were routing government forces across Afghanistan this week, seizing at least nine provincial capitals in a matter of days as U.S. and coalition forces continue to exit the country. U.S.-trained Afghan soldiers surrendered to Taliban fighters in the northern commercial hub of Kunduz; videos posted online from the city's airport show militants parading in American-donated Humvees and pickup trucks. In the western city of Farah, Taliban fighters dragged the dead body of an Afghan security force member through the streets while shouting "Allahu akbar!" In captured Zaranj, soldiers and civil servants were ordered to come forward and collect "immunity cards"—and were warned by the Taliban, one resident said, that "they will be killed right away" if they work again for the central government in Kabul.

The U.S. is doing little to aid Afghan government troops, providing air support to soldiers in only two besieged southern cities. President Biden said he does not "regret" his decision to withdraw all U.S. forces by Aug. 31. "Look, we spent over a trillion dollars [on Afghanistan] over 20 years," he said. "They've got to fight for themselves." Still, U.S. officials are surprised at the speed and success of the Taliban offensive. The group now controls more than two-thirds of Afghanistan, and U.S. intelligence officials believe it could capture Kabul within 90 days.

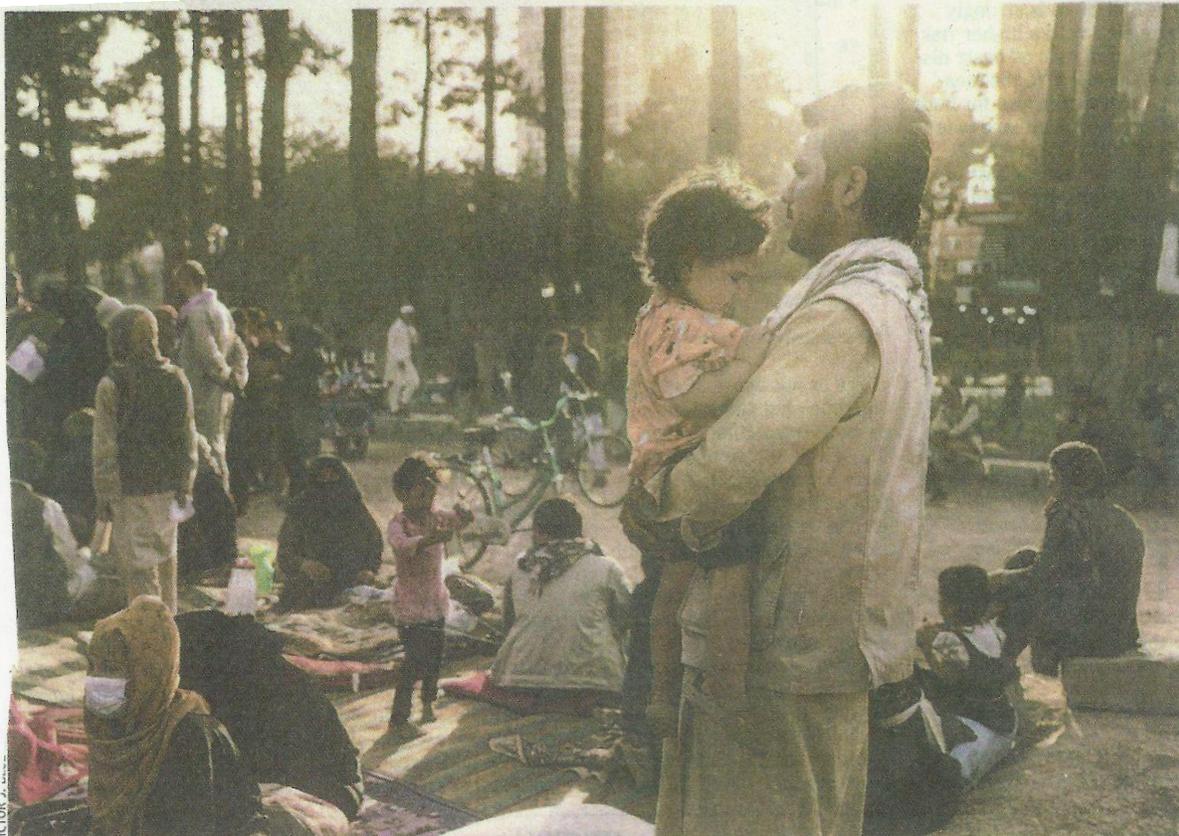
What the columnists said

The U.S. has abandoned the Afghan women and children it

"promised to protect," said Ruth Pollard in *Bloomberg.com*. In some areas, the Taliban are "going door-to-door" and compiling lists of women and girls ages 12 to 45 "for their fighters to forcibly marry." Schools and colleges are being shuttered, and women are being told they cannot "work, study, or dress as they please." How can Biden simply stand aside and watch as the Taliban take Afghanistan "back to the dark ages"?

What's happening to the Afghan people is "cruel and unjust," said Matthew Hoh in *Newsweek.com*, but it's not Biden's fault. The Afghan military is collapsing because of "motivational mismatch." While the Taliban "fight for national liberation," Afghan soldiers "primarily fight for pay"—pay that the kleptocratic government in Kabul is unable to consistently deliver. Meanwhile, the ethnic warlords who once sided with the U.S.—many of whom are drug lords and war criminals—are safeguarding their power by striking new deals with the Taliban.

This crisis could have been avoided if Biden had sought "a satisfactory resolution to the war" rather than rushing for the exits, said Eric Edelman in *TheBulwark.com*. Now hundreds of thousands of refugees are fleeing Afghanistan, an exodus that could destabilize neighboring Pakistan—a nuclear power—and potentially Europe if enough head west for safety. The administration claims the drawdown will free the U.S. to "confront an aggressive China." But who in the world will want to work with the U.S. in that struggle if we abandon our Afghan partners to be "slaughtered like sheep?"



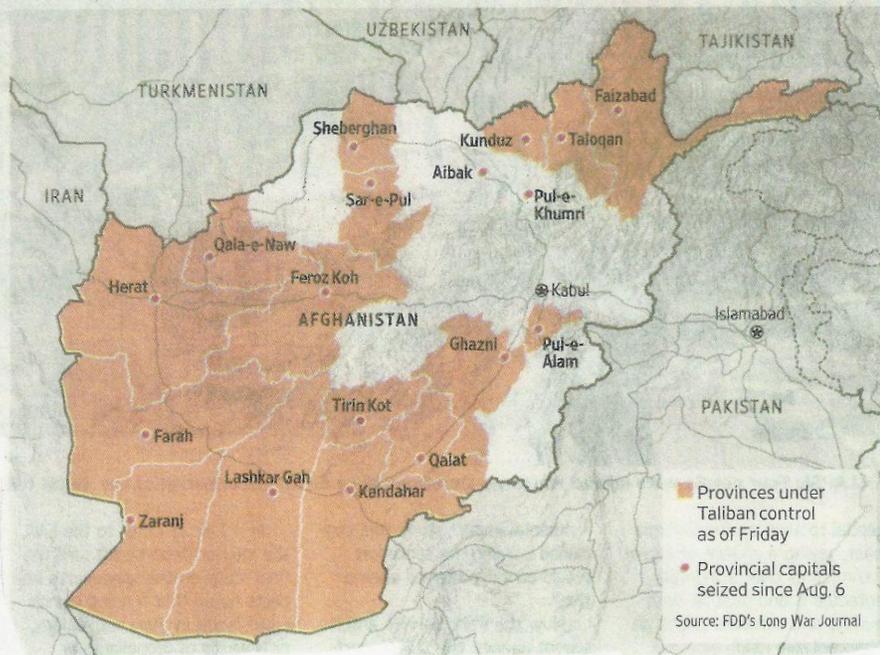
Aminuddin Amini, 28, holding his daughter, waits in a makeshift camp in Kabul on Friday after fleeing fighting in Kunduz.

Taliban Press Swift Advance As U.S. Mobilizes to Evacuate

Insurgents threaten Kabul, after seizure of Kandahar, prompting urgent Western exit

By Yaroslav Trofimov

KABUL—The Taliban pressed their rapid advance across Afghanistan with the capture of Kandahar, the nation's second-largest city and the Islamist movement's birthplace, and next threatened Kabul, prompting the U.S. to send thousands of troops for a diplomatic evacuation.



AFGHANISTAN

Rush of troops to Kabul tests Biden's withdrawal deadline

Mission is to assist airlift of embassy personnel and Afghan allies

By Robert Burns and Ellen Knickmeyer

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » The last-minute decision to send 3,000 U.S. troops to Afghanistan to help partially evacuate the U.S. Embassy is calling into question whether President Joe Biden will meet his Aug. 31 deadline for fully withdrawing combat forces. The vanguard of a Marine contingent arrived in Kabul on Friday and most of the rest of the 3,000 are due by Sunday.

Officials have stressed that the newly arriving troops' mission is limited to assisting the airlift of embassy personnel and Afghan allies, and they expect to complete it by month's end. But they might have to stay longer if the embassy is threatened by a Taliban takeover of Kabul by then. On Friday the Taliban seemed nearly within reach of contesting the capital.

"Clearly from their actions, it appears as if they are trying to get Kabul isolated," Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said, referring to the Taliban's speedy and efficient takedown of major provincial capitals across the country in recent days.

Biden had given the Pentagon until Aug. 31 to complete the withdrawal of the



GULABUDDIN AMIRI—THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taliban fighters stand guard inside the city of Ghazni, southwest of Kabul, Afghanistan, on Friday.

2,500 to 3,000 troops that were in Afghanistan when he announced in April that he was ending U.S. involvement in the war. That number has dropped to just under 1,000, and all but about 650 are scheduled to be gone by the end of the month; the 650 are to remain to help protect the U.S. diplomatic presence, including with aircraft and defensive weapons at Kabul airport.

But Thursday's decision to dispatch 3,000 fresh troops to the airport adds a new twist to the U.S. withdrawal. There is no discussion of rejoining the war, but the number of troops needed for security will depend on decisions about

keeping the embassy open and the extent of a Taliban threat to the capital in coming days.

Having the Aug. 31 deadline pass with thousands of U.S. troops in the country would be awkward for Biden given his insistence on ending the 20-year U.S. war by that date. Republicans have already criticized the withdrawal as a mistake and ill-planned, though there's little political appetite by either party to send fresh troops to fight the Taliban.

Kirby declined to discuss any assessment of whether the Taliban are likely soon to converge on Kabul, but the urgent movement of extra U.S. troops into Afghan-

istan to assist the embassy drawdown is clear evidence of Washington's worry that after the rapid fall of major cities this week with relatively little Afghan government resistance, Kabul is endangered.

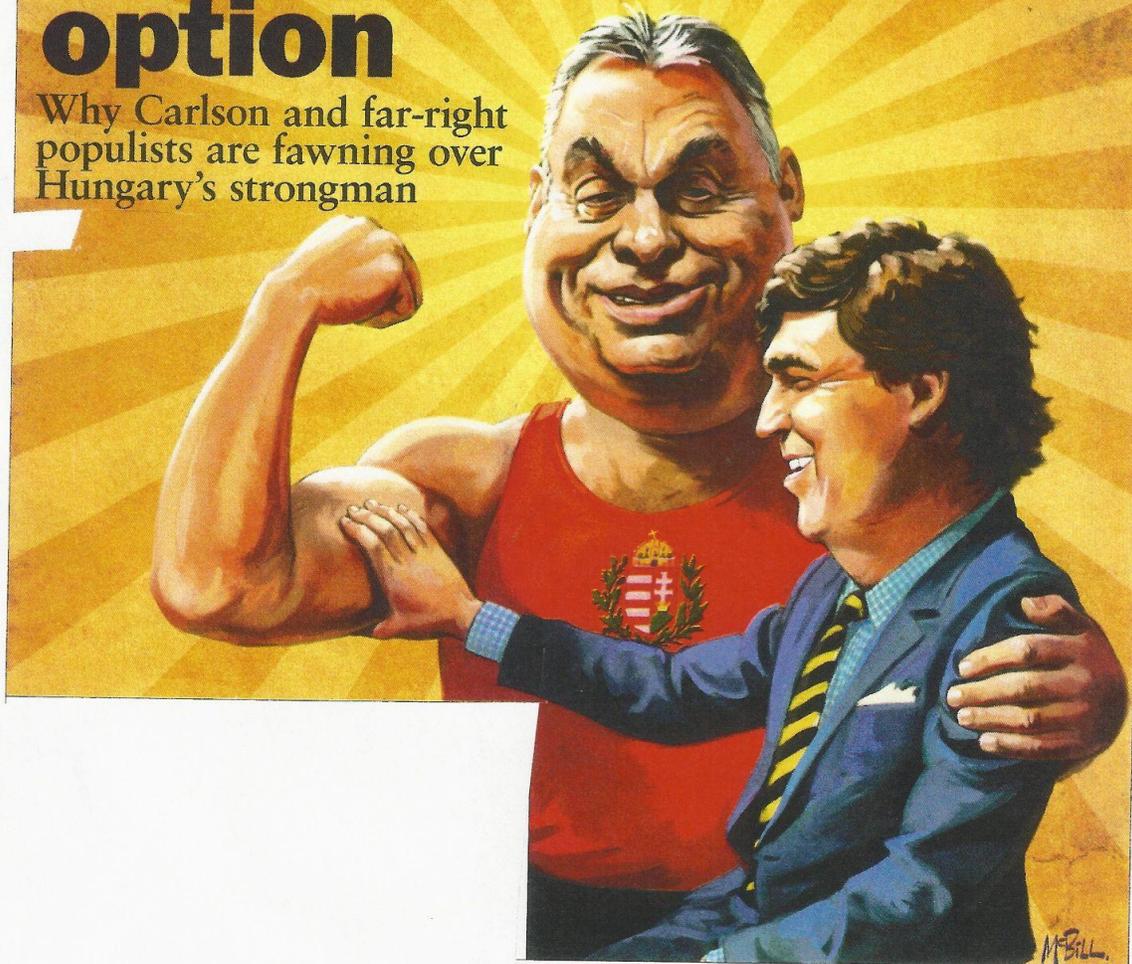
Kirby reiterated the Biden administration's assertion that Afghan security forces have tangible advantages over the insurgents, including a viable air force and superior numbers. The statement serves to highlight the fact that what the Afghan forces lack is motivation to fight in a circumstance where the Taliban seem to have decisive momentum.

Stephen Biddle, a professor of international and public affairs at Columbia University, said in an interview the announcement that 3,000 U.S. troops are heading to Kabul to help pull out American diplomats and embassy staff likely made Afghan morale even worse.

"The message that sent to Afghans is: 'The city of Kabul is going to fall so fast that we can't organize an orderly withdrawal from the embassy,'" Biddle said. This suggests to Afghans that the Americans see little future for the government and that "this place could be toast within hours."

The Orban option

Why Carlson and far-right populists are fawning over Hungary's strongman



Hungarian rhapsody: Carlson's embrace of the Orban model

Tucker Carlson has just shown America “a frightening picture of what the ascendant far right wants for this country,” said Paul Thornton in the *Los Angeles Times*. Fox News’ most-watched cable host spoke to viewers from Hungary last week, where he did a fawning interview with its autocratic president, Viktor Orban. Carlson presented Orban as an ironfisted defender of traditional values who’s showing U.S. conservatives how to crush the cultural Left. “If you care about Western civilization and democracy and families,” Carlson claimed, “you should know what is happening here.” The influential Carlson’s embrace of Orban, said Jonathan Chait in *NYMag.com*, “is an important milestone in the Republican Party’s long evolution into authoritarianism.” Orban’s 11 years in power offer a blueprint for transforming a democracy into a dictatorship, including extreme gerrymandering, installing loyalists in the judiciary, and seizing control of the media. Carlson and fellow right-wing nationalists such as J.D. Vance and Steve Bannon are openly calling Orban a model for the next American president. “What they seem to want is a leader who shares Donald Trump’s contempt for democracy but possesses a subtler touch.”

It’s not Orban’s perceived overreaches that have the American establishment so worried, said Rod Dreher in *TheAmericanConservative.com*. It’s his idea that a country can be what he calls an “illiberal democracy”—with elections, yes, but with a government based on Christian faith and traditional Western values. Orban correctly perceives that “Western liberalism has surrendered to a civilizational death wish,” with its contempt for religion, traditional families, and patriotism. Orban has used government to push back, offering generous subsidies to families with children and celebrating national



Carlson with Orban: What America needs?

pride. American conservatives need leaders like Orban who will stand up to the “cultural imperialism” of “our new Woke overlords.”

Unfortunately, many post-Trump Republicans share that “siege mentality,” said Zack Beauchamp in *Vox.com*. They believe the specter of an all-powerful Left justifies seizing control of local election boards, extreme gerrymandering, packing courts with far-right partisans, and creating “a media propaganda network” that encloses its viewers in a bubble of fear and alternative facts. Actually, conservative fear of the cultural Left’s power is not a delusion, said Ross

Douthat in *The New York Times*. It really has become dangerous to one’s career and reputation in American corporations, universities, and media to share political opinions that “conflict with progressive orthodoxy.” But a “long-distance Hungarian romance” with a corrupt, dishonest leader is not the answer.

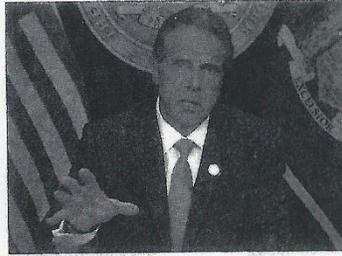
As a conservative, I find it “honestly weird” that the American Right would look to the example of Hungary, said David French in *TheDispatch.com*. It’s “one of Europe’s poorest” nations, with a government that distributes European Union funds to Orban cronies and a population that is far less religious than that of the U.S. So many of Hungary’s own citizens are emigrating to escape its corrupt, weak economy that Orban has quietly welcomed more immigrants to address its worker shortage. Carlson is too smart to really fall “for the Orban con,” said Anne Applebaum in *TheAtlantic.com*. But his cynicism has become “so profound,” he is portraying Hungary as a “nirvana” without America’s “racial diversity, its modern culture, its free press.” As Carlson well knows, his faux-patriot fans love America only in theory; they hate it as it really is.

Cuomo resigns in wake of harassment report

What happened

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo this week announced plans to step down, after losing the support of nearly all allies and facing certain impeachment over allegations that he sexually harassed 11 women, including nine state employees. In a 20-minute-plus speech, Cuomo said that Attorney General Letitia James' report—which detailed incidents of Cuomo touching a subordinate's breast and buttocks—contained “serious issues and flaws” and maintained that his accusers misinterpreted his motivations. But he also claimed he wanted to spare the state a long, costly investigation that would “consume government.” After the release of James' report last week, many prominent Democrats—including longtime allies—called on him to resign, and when his top aide, Melissa DeRosa, quit, he reportedly realized he had no chance to survive.

Cuomo said he will leave office within 14 days of his announcement, and it remains unclear whether the New York State Assembly will continue its impeachment inquiry. At least five district attorneys have launched inquiries into the alleged sexual harassment, including a claim that Cuomo groped an assistant's breast. Federal investigators are also looking into Cuomo's handling of nursing-home Covid deaths in 2020; hours before Cuomo's announcement, *The New Yorker* published an article detailing Cuomo's efforts to quash state and federal ethics probes in 2014. Cuomo's term, which continues through 2022, will be served out by Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul, a moderate Democrat who will be the first female governor in the state's history.



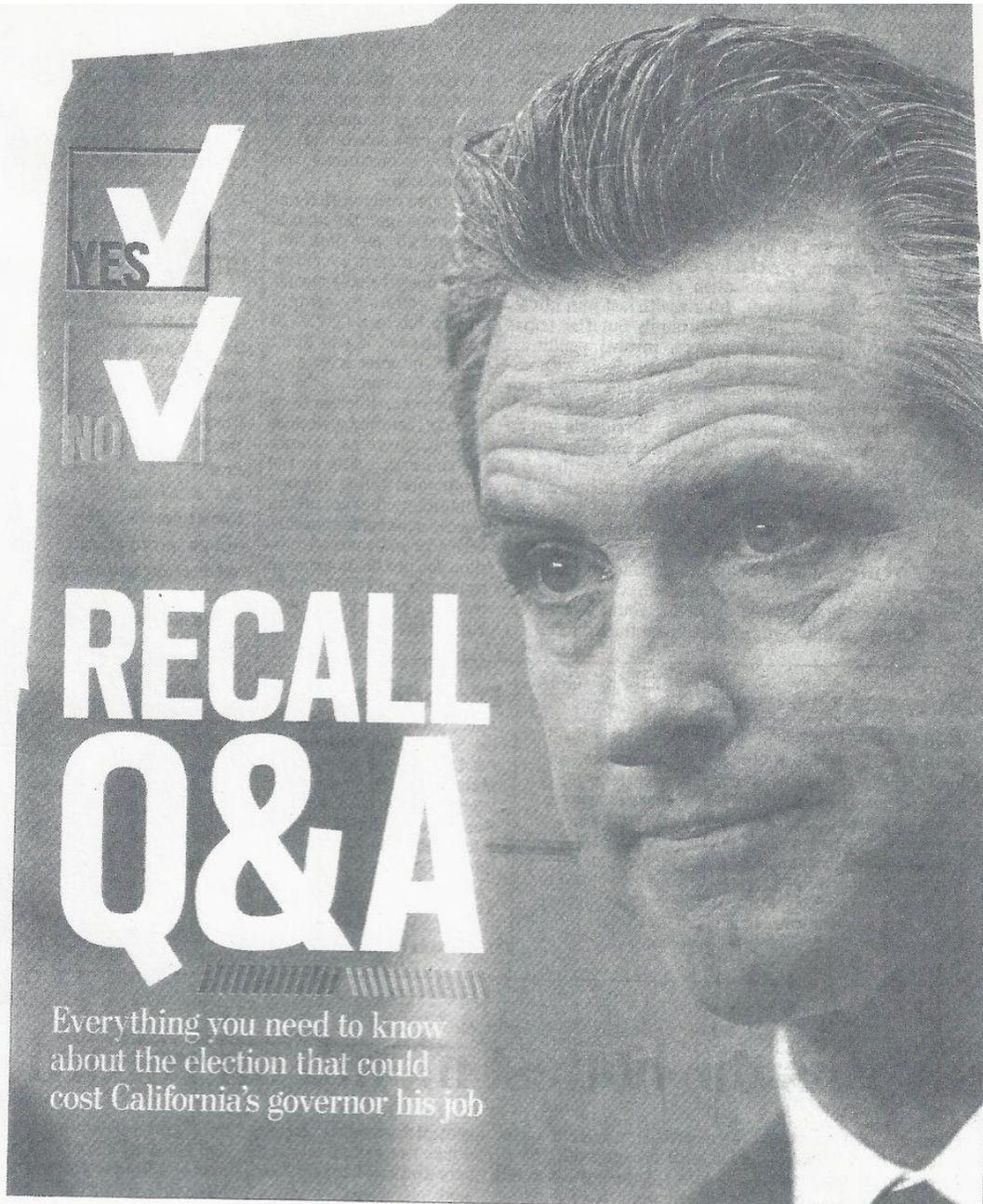
Leaving in disgrace

What the columnists said

“This is a good day for New York but a better one for the country, and for women in workplaces across the United States,” said Ruth Marcus in *The Washington Post*. Not that Cuomo is truly contrite: In his speech, he “quasi-apologized in one breath, and took it back the next.” Nonetheless, “the system worked.” Women came forward, an investigation corroborated their claims, and a “once fearsome” leader faced consequences. Future Cuomos “will feel less emboldened that they can escape unscathed.”

For better and for worse, Cuomo was “New York's most consequential governor in generations,” said Kyle Smith in *National Review.com*. He pushed through “useful, lasting projects,” such as the first new Manhattan subway line in 25 years. But the egotistical governor also made many enemies, and his March 2020 mandate that nursing homes re-admit Covid patients proved “catastrophic.” Between that and the sexual harassment scandal, “his egregious arrogance did him in.”

So, to its credit, did the Democratic establishment, said Benjamin Parker in *TheBulwark.com*. While the Republican Party has lately “delighted in elevating serial abusers to prominence,” including its still enormously influential last president, Democrats abandoned Cuomo to his fate much like they cast out Sen. Al Franken in 2017. They remain “capable of policing actual bad actors” within their ranks. That's because, right now, “the Democrats are a political party, while the Republicans are a personality cult.”



ASSOCIATED PRESS ARCHIVES

By Emily DeRuy
ederuy@bayareanewsgroup.com

Californians were supposed to be enjoying a carefree, vaccinated summer season before it was marred by the delta variant and catastrophic wildfires. And now there is one more really important thing you need to start focusing on: a consequential election.

What once seemed like a distant bid by Republicans to unseat Gov. Gavin Newsom is now a real possibility, and every registered voter in California will have the opportunity to help decide whether the sitting governor stays or goes in the coming weeks.

But in a recall election, it could end up that just a tiny fraction of the state's roughly 40 million residents pick the next governor of the most populous state in the country, unless voters show up. In 2003, when California booted Gov. Gray Davis, only around 9 million of the state's 15 million voters participated, and just 4.2 million picked his replacement — and this time, no world-famous actors like Arnold Schwarzenegger are on the ballot.

Q When is the election?

A Sept. 14, but ballots should be mailed to registered voters by next week.

Q What's on the ballot?

A The ballot will have two questions:

1) The first is a yes-or-no answer: "Shall GAVIN NEWSOM be recalled (removed) from the office of Governor?"

Voting "Yes" on the first question means you want to get rid of Newsom and replace him with someone else. Voting "No" means you want to keep Newsom as governor.

2) The second question: Who should replace him?

Even voters who vote "No" on the first question are allowed to choose someone for the second question, al-

say "no" to the first question. If that happens, the responses to the second question don't matter.

But if more than half the voters say "yes" to question 1, then Newsom will be removed as governor and the candidate who wins the most votes — it doesn't have to be a majority — on the second question will become leader of the Golden State.

Q How many choices are there on the second question?

A Voters will see the names of 46 replacement candidates. One name you won't see? Newsom's. The list of contenders this year is much smaller than the 135 names, including Schwarzenegger, that appeared on the 2003 recall ballot, the only time in the state's

history a governor was recalled. It does not include a well-known Democrat and the state GOP has chosen not to rally behind a single Republican candidate.

Q How can I vote?

A Every registered voter will receive a ballot in the mail. Counties must begin mailing ballots by Aug. 16, although some Bay Area counties and Los Angeles County have already started. Ballots can be returned by mail — no postage required. They must be postmarked no later than Sept. 14 and received by the county elections office by Sept. 21. Ballots can also be returned to your county elections office, a ballot drop box or any polling place in your county before 8 p.m. Sept. 14.

Q What if I want to vote in person?

A You can do that. Some counties are offering early voting before Election Day, and all counties will offer in-person voting on Sept. 14 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Check with your county elections office for local information.

Q What if I'm not sure if I'm registered?

A You can check your voter registration status online at voterstatus.sos.ca.gov. The deadline to register is Aug. 30. You can register online at registerto-vote.ca.gov. If you miss the deadline, you can still register conditionally at your county elections office or a vote center up through the election, which means your ballot will be processed and counted once elections officials verify your registration.

Q When will we know the results?

A It's possible we will know whether the governor has been recalled very soon after polls close. But county elections officials have 30 days to officially finish counting the votes.

Q If Newsom loses, when would the new governor take over?

A The winning candidate would take over as governor on the 38th day after the election, which would be in late October. The governor would serve the remainder of the term, which ends on Jan. 2, 2023.

Q What if Newsom wins?

A If Newsom keeps his job, his term would also run through Jan. 2, 2023. Regardless of what happens, voters will pick a new governor in the November 2022 election. Newsom is already planning to seek a second term

in that election.

Q Does this recall actually stand a chance?

A Yes. Recent polling of registered voters suggests Newsom's job is likely secure. But polling of likely voters, who are identified by pollsters using everything from voting history to how closely a person has been following the race, presents a different picture, with proponents and opponents almost evenly split. Most Republicans support the recall, while most Democrats oppose the recall. But while there are about twice as many registered Democrats as Republicans are more fired up to vote than Democrats. If registered Democrats turn out en masse, Newsom is likely safe. But if they don't and Republicans do, well, he could be toast. As of July, 24.1% of the state's 22.08 million registered voters

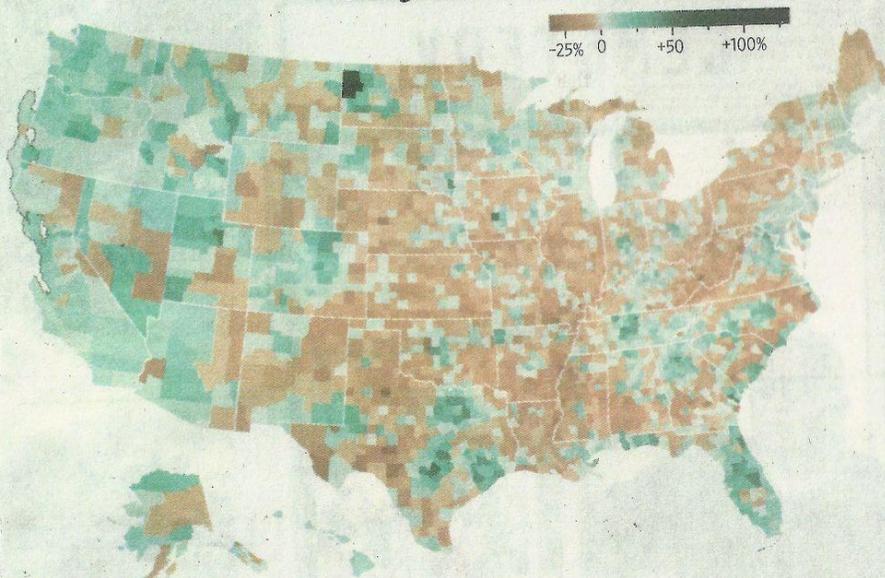
were Republican, while 46.5% were Democratic and 23.3% stated no party preference.

Q If Newsom does lose, who is likely to replace him?

A Many voters remain undecided on the second question. But some recent polling puts conservative talk radio host Larry Elder at the front of the field of contenders. One poll suggested Democrat Kevin Paffrath, a Ventura real estate investor with a massive YouTube following and no major political experience, could be a frontrunner. Former San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer is also in the running, as is businessman John Cox, who ran and lost against Newsom in 2018. Not polling particularly well despite some name recognition? Reality star Caitlyn Jenner.

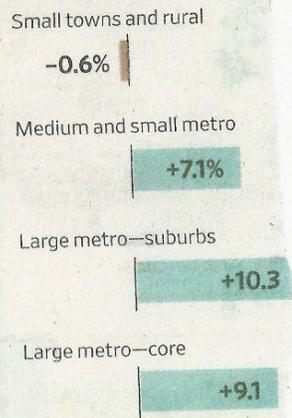
The nation's population grew just 7.4% during the decade. U.S. cities and suburbs saw increases as rural depopulation continued. The country diversified with the total white population shrinking for the first time.

Change in U.S. population from 2010-2020

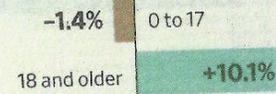


-25% 0 +50 +100%

2010-20 change By county type



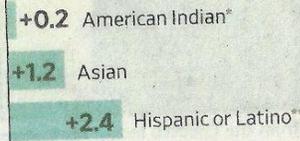
2010-20 change By age



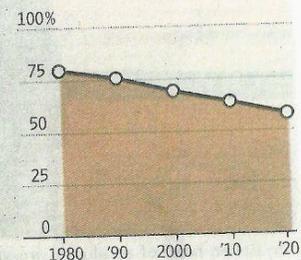
-5.9 Non-Hispanic white

Black -0.2

2010-20 change, pct. pts. By race/ethnicity



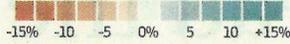
Share of population Non-Hispanic white



*Includes Alaska Native **Any race Note: Population share for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander was unchanged.
Source: U.S. Census

2020 California census

County population change from 2010 to 2020



Regions are based on state-defined boundaries, which include Monterey and Santa Cruz counties as part of the Bay Area.

GREATER BAY AREA

8.3%

2010: 7,828,178 ▶ 2020: 8,475,536

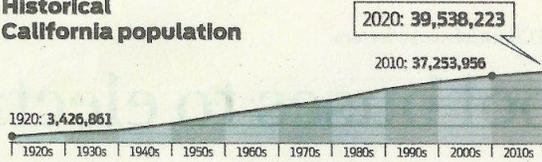
1,682,353
Alameda Co.
1,936,259
Santa Clara Co.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

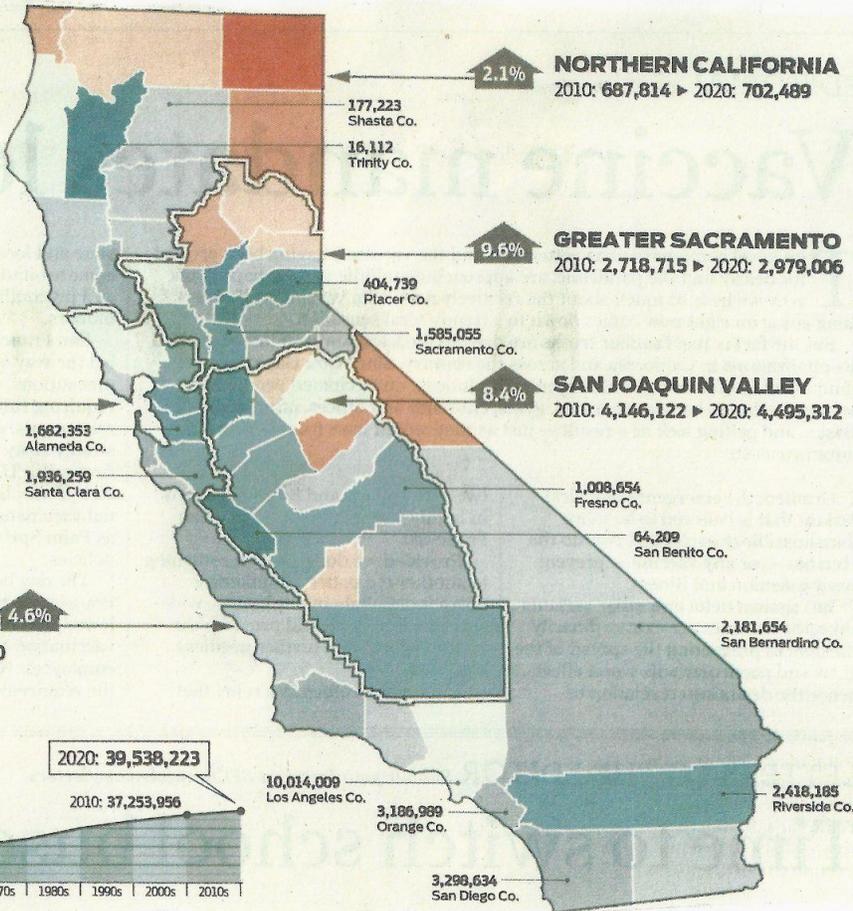
4.6%

2010: 21,873,127 ▶ 2020: 22,885,880

Historical California population



Source: U.S. Census Bureau



County by county

ALAMEDA

	2010	2020
Population	1,510,271	1,682,353
Pct. age 18+	77.4%	79.6%
Ethnicity		
White	34.1%	28.1%
Hispanic	22.5%	23.4%
Black	12.2%	9.5%
Asian	25.9%	32.1%
Other	5.3%	6.9%

CONTRA COSTA

	2010	2020
Population	1,049,025	1,165,927
Pct. age 18+	75.2%	77.4%
Ethnicity		
White	47.8%	39.1%
Hispanic	24.4%	27%
Black	8.9%	8.4%
Asian	14.2%	18.4%
Other	4.7%	7.1%

MARIN

	2010	2020
Population	252,409	262,321
Pct. age 18+	79.3%	79.8%
Ethnicity		
White	72.8%	66%
Hispanic	15.5%	18.8%
Black	2.6%	2.3%
Asian	5.4%	6.2%
Other	3.7%	6.7%

NAPA

	2010	2020
Population	136,484	138,019
Pct. age 18+	76.9%	80%
Ethnicity		
White	56.4%	49.9%
Hispanic	32.2%	35.4%
Black	1.8%	1.7%
Asian	6.6%	7.6%
Other	3%	5.4%

SAN FRANCISCO

	2010	2020
Population	805,235	873,965
Pct. age 18+	86.6%	87%
Ethnicity		
White	41.9%	39.1%
Hispanic	15.1%	15.6%
Black	5.8%	5.2%
Asian	33%	33.7%
Other	4.2%	6.5%

SAN MATEO

	2010	2020
Population	718,451	764,442
Pct. age 18+	77.8%	79.8%
Ethnicity		
White	42.3%	36.1%
Hispanic	25.4%	25%
Black	2.6%	1.9%
Asian	24.5%	29.8%
Other	5.2%	7.2%

SANTA CLARA

	2010	2020
Population	1,781,642	1,936,259
Pct. age 18+	75.9%	79%
Ethnicity		
White	35.2%	28.7%
Hispanic	26.9%	25.2%
Black	2.4%	2.2%
Asian	31.7%	38.9%
Other	3.8%	5%

SOLANO

	2010	2020
Population	413,344	453,491
Pct. age 18+	75.4%	78.2%
Ethnicity		
White	40.8%	34.2%
Hispanic	24%	28.3%
Black	14.2%	13.2%
Asian	14.3%	15.6%
Other	6.7%	8.6%

SONOMA

	2010	2020
Population	483,878	488,863
Pct. age 18+	78%	80.4%
Ethnicity		
White	66.1%	58.5%
Hispanic	24.9%	28.9%
Black	1.4%	1.5%
Asian	3.7%	4.5%
Other	3.9%	6.6%

Note: Race and Hispanic origin were asked in separate questions on the 2020 census. The largest resulting diversity groups are: Hispanic of any race; white alone, non-Hispanic; Black alone, non-Hispanic; and Asian alone, non-Hispanic. Other includes all other non-Hispanic races alone and multiracial, non-Hispanic.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Dems, GOP unite on \$1 trillion plan

By Lisa Mascaro

WASHINGTON — With a robust vote after weeks of fits and starts, the Senate approved a \$1 trillion infrastructure plan for states coast to coast on Tuesday, as a rare coalition of Democrats and Republicans came together to overcome skeptics and deliver a cornerstone of President Biden's agenda.

"Today, we proved that democracy can still work," Biden declared at the White House, taking note of the 69-30 vote that included even Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell.

The approval provides momentum for the first phase of Biden's "Build Back Better" priorities, now heading to the House. It also sets the stage for a much more contentious fight over his bigger \$3.5 trillion package that is next up in the Senate — a more liberal undertaking of child care, elder care and other programs that is much more partisan and expected to draw only Democratic support. That debate is expected to extend into the fall.

A sizable number of lawmakers showed they were willing to set aside partisan pressures for now, eager to send billions to their states for



Andrew Harnik / Associated Press

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of N.Y. pumps his fists after the Senate approved a \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure plan for states coast to coast.

rebuilding roads, broadband internet, water pipes and the public works systems that underpin much of American life.

Infrastructure was once a mainstay of lawmaking, but the weeks-long slog to strike a compromise showed how hard it has become for Congress to tackle routine legislating, even on shared priorities.

"We can still come together to do big things, important things, for the American people," Biden said.

There was Republican praise, too, though less exuberant.

"This infrastructure bill is not the perfect bill," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, one of the negotiators. She said the senators kept at it, believing, "It's better to get some of what our constituents want rather than none of it."

Tuesday's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act started with a group of 10 senators who seized on Biden's campaign promise to draft a scaled-down version of his initial \$2.3 trillion proposal, one that could more broadly appeal to both parties in the narrowly divided Congress, especially the 50-50 Senate.

It swelled to a 2,700-page bill backed by the president and also business, labor and farm interests. It drew an expansive alliance of senators and a bipartisan group in the House.

In all, 19 Republicans joined all Democrats in voting for Senate passage.

Ohio Sen. Rob Portman, the lead Republican negotiator, said the work "demonstrates to the American people that we can get our act together on a bipartisan basis to get something done."

AMERICAN ICON



JOSEPH PREZIOSO — AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Tony Bennett performs in a 2019 concert. "How fortunate I have been to have another 'hometown' in my life," Bennett once said about San Francisco.

Tony Bennett, 95, a Bay Area favorite, retires

Beloved, legendary singer, diagnosed
with Alzheimer's, ends 7-decade career

By Jim Harrington

jharrington@bayareanewsgroup.com

Singer Tony Bennett, an American icon who forged deep ties to the Bay Area thanks largely to a hit song that almost never saw the light of day, has decided to retire from performing, his son has disclosed.

The 95-year-old performer, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2016, has canceled a series of fall and winter concert dates on doctor's orders, according to his son Danny Bennett, who added to *Variety*, "There won't be any additional concerts."

The news comes on the heels of the singer's two sold-out "One Last Time" performances with Lady Gaga at Radio City Music Hall in New York last week. The concerts were reportedly filmed for later broadcast.

The news means the clas talented singer

TOWNS RAZED

Haiti hit by 7.2 quake; 304 die

Thousands injured in Caribbean nation

By Evens Sanon and Tammy Webber
The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI — A powerful magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck southwestern Haiti on Saturday, killing at least 304 people and injuring at least 1,300 others as buildings tumbled into rubble. Prime Minister Ariel Henry said he was rushing aid to areas where towns were destroyed and hospitals overwhelmed with incoming patients.

The epicenter of the quake was about 78 miles west of the capital of Port-au-Prince, the U.S. Geological Survey said, and widespread damage was reported in the hemisphere's poorest nation as a tropical storm also bore down.

Rescue workers and bystanders were able to pull many people to safety from the rubble. The agency said injured people were still be-

ing delivered to hospitals.

Henry declared a one-month state of emergency for the country and said he would not ask for international help until the extent of the damages was known. He said some towns were almost completely razed and the government had people in the coastal town of Les Cayes to help plan and coordinate the response.

"The most important thing is to recover as many survivors as possible under the rubble," Henry said. "We have learned that the local hospitals, in particular that of Les Cayes, are overwhelmed with wounded, fractured people."

He said the International Red Cross and hospitals in unaffected areas were helping to care for the injured, and appealed to Haitians for unity.

"The needs are enormous. We must take care of the injured and fractured, but also provide food, aid, temporary shelter and psychological support," he said.

As he boarded a plane bound for Les Cayes, Henry said he wanted "structured solidarity" to ensure the re-



DUPLES PLYMOUTH — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
A woman stands in front of a destroyed home in the aftermath of a 7.2 magnitude earthquake in Les Cayes, Haiti, on Saturday.

sponse was coordinated to avoid the confusion that followed the devastating 2010 earthquake when aid was slow to reach residents after as many as 300,000 were killed.

President Joe Biden authorized an immediate response and named USAID Administrator Samantha Power as the senior official coordinating the U.S. effort to help Haiti. USAID will help to assess damage and assist in rebuilding, said Biden, who

called the United States a "close and enduring friend to the people of Haiti."

A growing number of countries offered help, including Argentina and Chile, which said it was preparing to send humanitarian aid.

"Once again, Haiti has been hit by adversity," Chilean President Sebastian Piñera said.

Among those killed in the earthquake was Gabriel Fortuné, a longtime law-

maker and former mayor of Les Cayes. He died along with several others when his hotel, Le Manguier, collapsed, the Haitian newspaper Le Nouvelliste reported.

Philippe Boutin, 37, who lives in Puerto Rico but visits his family annually in Les Cayes, said his mother was saying morning prayers when the shaking began, but was able to leave the house.

The earthquake, he said, coincided with the festivities to celebrate the town's

patron saint, adding that the hotel likely was full and the small town had more people than usual.

"We still don't know how many people are under the rubble," he said.

On the tiny island of Ile-a-Vache, about 6.5 miles from Les Cayes, the quake damaged a seaside resort popular with Haitian officials, business leaders, diplomats and humanitarian workers. Fernand Sajous, owner of the Abaka Bay Resort, said by telephone that nine of the hotel's 30 rooms collapsed, but he said they were vacant at the time and no one was injured.

"They disappeared — just like that," Sajous said.

The reports of overwhelmed hospitals come as Haiti struggles with the pandemic and a lack of resources to deal with it. Last month, the country of 11 million people received its first batch of U.S.-donated coronavirus vaccines, via a United Nations program for low-income countries.

Coronavirus Cases on Rise Due to Delta Variant

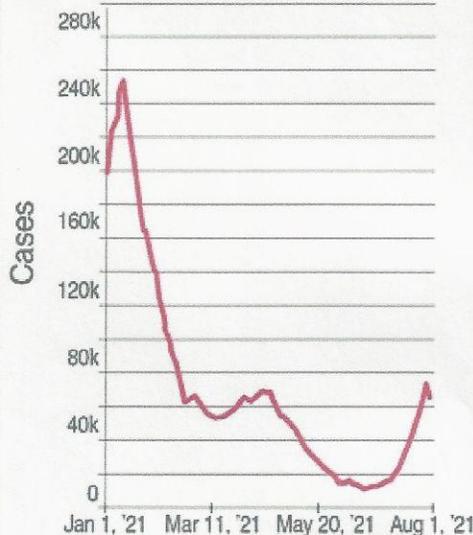
Earlier this year, most Americans were hopeful that the COVID-19 pandemic was winding down. Vaccinations were widely available, and governments were easing mask restrictions. Since June, however, the number of cases has started to rise again in all 50 states. Do you see this rise on the graph below?

Some public officials are reinstating mask mandates, and several school districts may continue remote learning when school starts again in the fall. The main cause for the increase in COVID-19 cases is a new strain of the virus called the Delta variant. The Delta variant is more than twice as infectious as the original virus. The Delta variant was first discovered in India. By that time, however, it was already moving around the world. Researchers think it is responsible for about 83 percent of new COVID cases in the U.S. Although scientists are still divided about whether or not the Delta variant is more dangerous than the original virus, some patients are reporting long term symptoms including hearing loss, digestive problems, and blood clots.

The Delta variant is so contagious that even some vaccinated people have gotten infected. However, vaccinated people who get it are very unlikely to get severely ill. The vast majority of new cases involve people who have never been vaccinated. For this reason, new efforts are underway to try to convince unvaccinated people to get their shot. As of last week, just under half of the U.S. population has been fully vaccinated, and about 58 percent have gotten at least one dose of the vaccine. Brett Giroir, who was the COVID vaccination "czar" for the Trump administration, recently went on Fox News to discuss the virus.

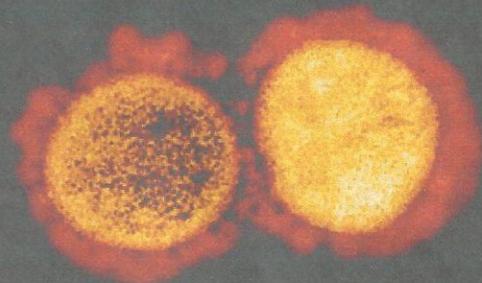
Coronavirus cases on rise due to Delta variant

Daily Trends in Number of COVID-19 Cases in the United States Reported to CDC



Source: CDC

Credit: NIH Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases



Imaging of the Delta variant

"Let me tell you. If you have not been vaccinated and you have not had COVID before, you will get the Delta variant."

—Brett Giroir,
former U.S. COVID testing "czar"

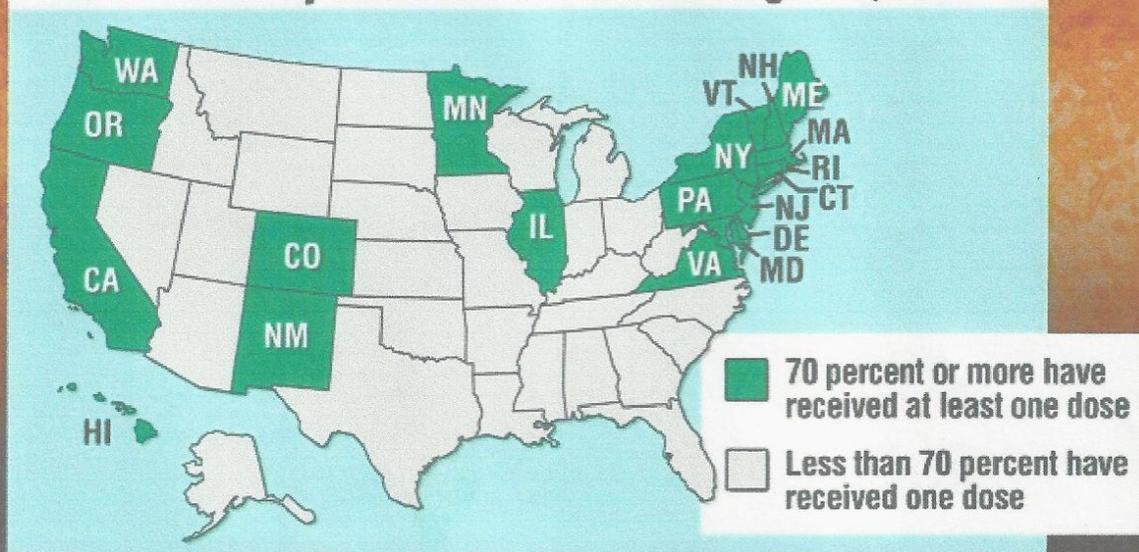
After his inauguration, President Biden announced an ambitious target. He said he wanted 70 percent of American adults to have gotten at least one vaccination dose by July 4th. But despite a large increase in the number and availability of vaccines, this target was not met at the time. But out of the 50 states, twenty can claim a 70 percent rate or higher of adults who have gotten at least one dose. These states are shown and labeled here on this map. In 30 other states, fewer than 70 percent of adults are at least partially vaccinated. The lowest percentage can be found in Mississippi, where just 39 percent have gotten one dose. Idaho is not far behind, with a 40 percent rate. Do the less-vaccinated states share anything else in common?

There seem to be three main reasons for non-vaccination. One of these is misinformation spread about the vaccine. For example, some people have claimed that the vaccines contain a microchip so that the government can monitor their every movement. Others have said that the vaccines are not important, because COVID-19 is no more dangerous than the average flu bug. Another reason for non-vaccination has to do with lack of access to proper medical care, especially in rural or low-income areas. This is still a factor, despite public health efforts and the widespread availability of vaccines. A third reason is that there are many people who are afraid of the vaccine's potential side effects.

What are the barriers to vaccination?

- Misinformation
- Lack of access
- Fear of side effects

U.S. states by vaccination rate as of August 1, 2021



Person in the News

She is an 18-year-old environmental activist from Stockholm, Sweden. She has gained worldwide fame for her environmental activism. In 2018, she started a weekly “school strike” for the environment. She stood outside the Swedish parliament building every Friday, demanding that politicians do something to combat climate change. After she addressed the U.N. Climate Change Conference in 2018, her weekly protests grew into a worldwide movement, with students staging their own strikes every Friday. She has since received many honors and awards and has been named one of Time Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People. She was recently featured on the cover of “Vogue” Magazine’s very first Scandinavian edition. Inside the magazine, however, she called out fashion companies for their poor environmental records. She told the interviewer that many clothing companies are engaging in “greenwashing” — pretending to care about climate change without changing any of their harmful practices.



Who am I? (*Greta Thunberg.*)

Finally, an end to malaria?

BioNTech is a company based in the German city of Mainz. This company became world-famous last year during the race to develop a vaccine against COVID-19. BioNTech specializes in immunotherapies, or medicines that work with a person's immune system to stop diseases. Last year, this company partnered with a company in the U.S. to develop the first successful vaccine. Do you know which vaccine this was? (Pfizer.) Now, BioNTech is setting its sights on a different problem: malaria. What is malaria? (An infectious disease that is spread by a certain type of mosquito.) This disease sickens millions of people every year, mostly in Africa. But despite the efforts of many scientists around the world, no medicine or vaccine has ever been able to fully stop it. The key to stopping malaria, according to BioNTech, lies in messenger RNA. The mRNA molecule is what tells our bodies to make certain proteins. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines contain synthetic mRNA molecules. These molecules instruct our bodies to create proteins that fight the coronavirus. According to BioNTech, we could develop mRNA to fight other viruses and bacteria, as well as the parasite that causes malaria. What other diseases do you think can be stopped with this technology? The company expects to have an early sample of the malaria vaccine ready by the end of 2022. BioNTech has also announced that it will start building vaccine plants in South Africa. These factories would make it a lot easier to distribute a malaria vaccine inside Africa, where this deadly disease hits the hardest.

Finally, an end to malaria?

German drugmaker using new technology to develop a vaccine.



Nurse checks a suspected case in Angola



Photo: USAID/Alison Bird, public domain

"Eradicating malaria is now a realistic goal and now we know that it can be achieved already in this generation."

—Ursula von der Leyen,
European Commission

Malaria is spread by a certain kind of mosquito. From the words here, what kind of mosquito? (Anopheles.) But it is caused by a parasite carried by the mosquito called a plasmodium. This parasite is injected into humans and other animals through a bite from these mosquitoes. Why do these insects bite us? (Female mosquitoes use our blood to help produce their eggs.) When the plasmodium enters the body, it attacks a person's liver and red blood cells, causing malaria. Anopheles mosquitoes only live in tropical areas such as the ones shown on the map. But there are enough of them to infect more than 200 million people annually. Ninety percent of these cases occur in sub-Saharan Africa. What does "sub-Saharan" mean? (Below the Sahara Desert.) These infections cause about 400,000 deaths every year. Children five years old and under make up about two thirds of the annual death toll because their immune systems are less strong than those of adults. Malaria is most common in poverty stricken nations. People in many of the areas shown on the map here have little or no access to medical care or health information. They are also less likely to have access to healthy diets, which can strengthen the immune system. People have tried many things to stop malaria from spreading, from interfering with the ability of Anopheles mosquitoes to reproduce to providing nets to protect people when they are sleeping. These nets are often treated with insecticides or insect repellents. While these efforts have helped save countless lives, they are not enough. Experts believe the only way to stop this disease is to develop a reliable vaccine.

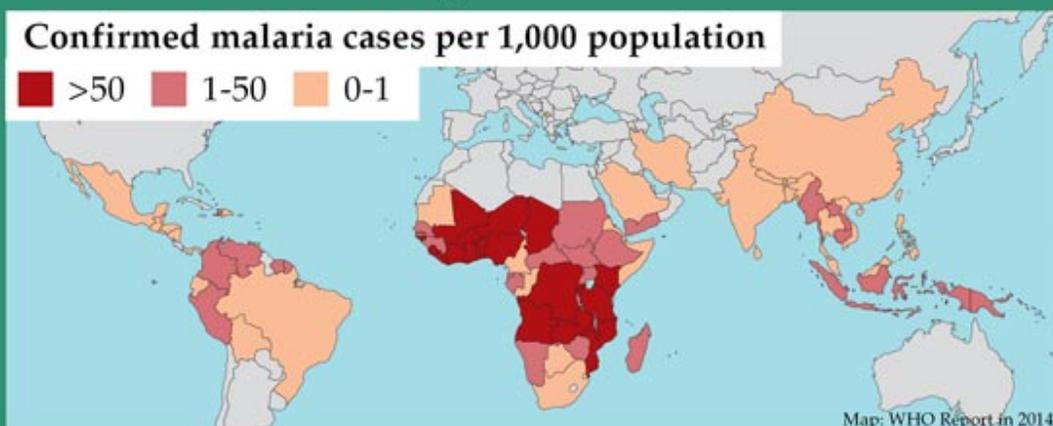
The malaria parasite:

- is transmitted by Anopheles mosquitoes
- infects more than 200 million people every year, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa
- is responsible for more than 400,000 deaths annually



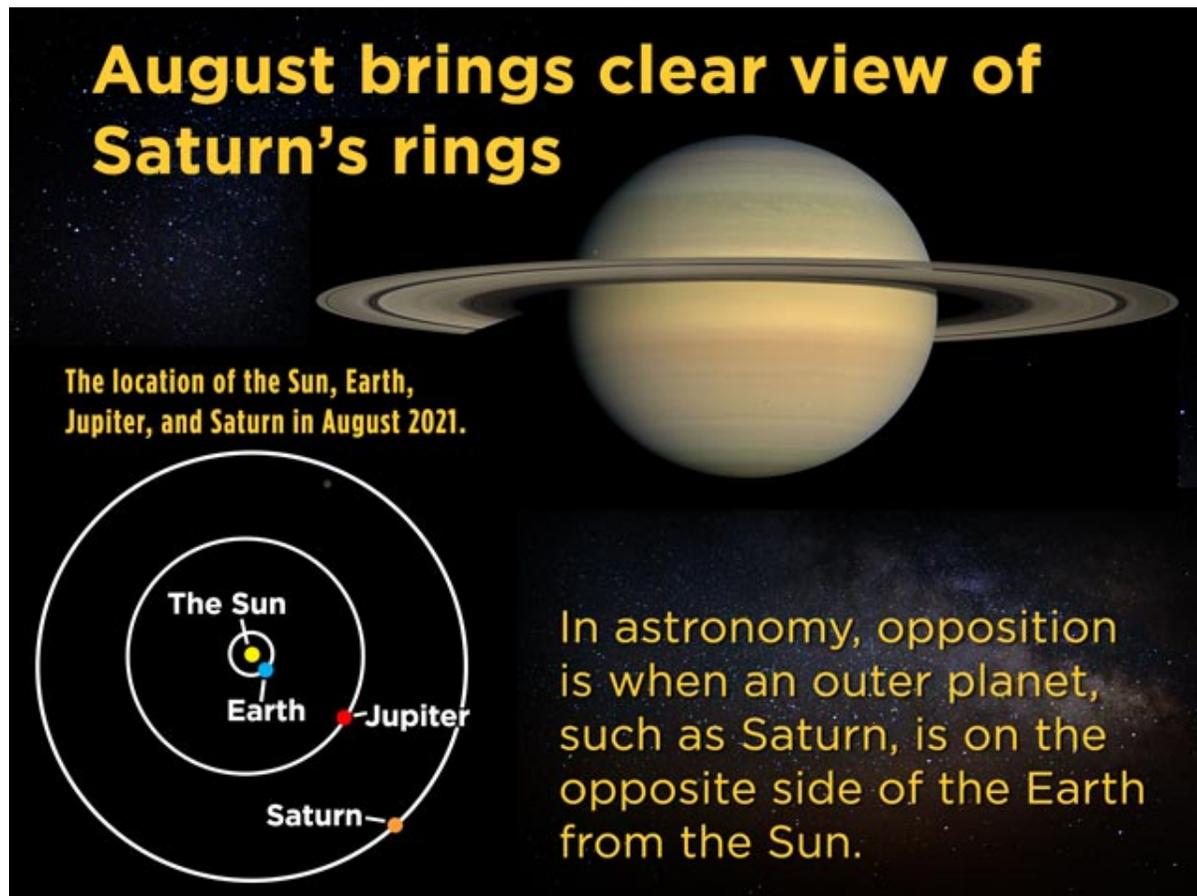
Female
Anopheles
stephensi

Photo: CDC Public Health
Image Library, public domain



August brings clear view of Saturn's rings

This August, star-gazers will have a great view of two of our solar system's most impressive planets. This month, both Saturn and Jupiter will be in opposition. From the words here, what is "opposition" in astronomy? (When an outer planet is on the opposite side of the Earth from the Sun.) Saturn is the sixth planet from the Sun and Jupiter is the fifth. The diagram here shows the general location of both planets this month. Outer planets are in opposition only once per year. What is the difference between inner and outer planets? (Inner planets are closer to the Sun and include Mercury, Earth, Venus, and Mars.) Astronomers say the best time to look at a planet in the night sky is during opposition. That's because the planets are nearer to Earth than any other time during the year. This August, Saturn and Jupiter will appear slightly brighter than normal when viewed with the naked eye. Experts suggest viewing the planets through binoculars or a telescope. Through a telescope, the rings of Saturn are clearly visible during this time, and it's even possible to see the planet's largest moon. Toward the end of the month, Jupiter will move into opposition, making it appear brighter in the sky as well. Both planets will remain viewable in the night sky through the end of 2021. But this isn't the only shining moment these planets have had in recent years. In December of 2020, the "great conjunction" took place. (When Saturn and Jupiter appeared incredibly close together in the sky.) The planets were so close together that they appeared as a single light in the sky. The great conjunction in 2020 was the first time the planets had passed so closely together since 1623.



Saturn is 886,700,00 miles from the Sun. The length of a year on Saturn is equal to more than 29 Earth years. It is the second largest planet in the solar system. What is the largest? (Jupiter.) Saturn's name comes from the Roman god of wealth and agriculture. It is one of the planets called "gas giants," because it is made almost entirely out of very dense gases. Saturn is mostly made of hydrogen, but also consists of helium and other gases. These gases are held together with the force of gravity. What other planets are considered to be "gas giants"? (Jupiter, Uranus, and Neptune.) People have been able to see Saturn in the sky for thousands of years. But the first person to see it through a telescope was the famous Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei — gal-ih-LAY-oh gal-ih-LAY-ee. This early telescope was not very powerful — Galileo thought Saturn was actually two or three planets together. Later, astronomers were able to see that Saturn was actually surrounded by a set of rings. It is only in this century that we have learned what these rings are. Scientists think the material in these rings might have come from a moon or asteroid that exploded long ago. The materials that make up these rings stay in place because of the gravity of Saturn and its moons. Saturn has more than 35 moons. But Saturn is not the only planet with rings. The other "gas giant" planets also have this unusual feature, although their rings are much less extensive than those of Saturn. Saturn is also the least dense planet in the solar system — in fact, if there were a bucket of water large enough to hold such a huge planet, Saturn would actually float.

Saturn facts:

- distance from the Sun:
886,700,000 miles
- length of year:
29.46 Earth years
- is made up almost
entirely of gases
- rings are made of
ice and rock
- more than 35 moons



Goose visits injured mate at animal hospital

Recently, employees at a New England animal hospital shared a heartwarming story about two geese. In July, staff members at the Cape Wildlife Center noticed that one of the geese that live in a nearby pond was limping and falling over. Looking at the map, where is the Cape Wildlife Center located? (In Barnstable, Massachusetts.) The goose— whose name is Arnold—is part of a mated pair with another goose named Amelia. Arnold and Amelia, shown here, are Canada geese. Canada geese are monogamous, which means they only have one mate. Most Canada geese stay with their mate their whole lives. Staff members were able to catch Arnold and bring him to the clinic for care. Veterinarians at the clinic discovered that Arnold had two broken bones in his foot. The vets decided that the best way to help Arnold was to operate on his broken foot. The next morning, while the staff was preparing Arnold for surgery, they heard a tapping sound on the clinic's door. They found Arnold's mate, Amelia, tapping her beak against the glass trying to get in. Can someone read the quote here? Amelia remained just outside the door throughout the entire surgery. Arnold's surgery went well, and during his recovery, clinic staff let him rest in the doorway near Amelia. Staff members said this helped calm Arnold down and both geese seemed more at ease together. Since then, Arnold has continued to recover from his surgery. In August, clinic staff removed his protective boot and bandages and found that he could move around well. Amelia has remained nearby throughout his recovery and the clinic hopes to return both to the wild soon.

Goose visits injured mate at animal hospital



Amelia and Arnold

Credit: Cape Wildlife Center



"Today, as we prepared to sedate Arnold and get him ready for surgery, we heard a faint tapping at the clinic door. We turned to see that his mate had waddled up onto the porch and was attempting to break into our clinic!"

—Cape Wildlife Center Staff

Geese are members of the waterfowl order. Waterfowls are a group of birds that have adapted to life in the water. Can you think of other waterfowls? (Swans and ducks.) And while they look similar, ducks and geese are different kinds of animals. Do you know how ducks and geese are different? (Geese are larger and have longer necks. Geese are herbivores, meaning they eat only plants, while ducks eat animals like snails and fish.) Like other waterfowls, geese have webbed feet and waterproof feathers. There are two major groups of geese in the world today. The Anser group includes all white and gray geese, like the greylag geese shown at bottom here. The Branta group includes black geese, like the Canada goose shown at top. What differences do you notice between the two groups? Geese are migratory birds. This means they travel long distances in the spring and fall. Many Canada geese spend their summers in Northern Canada and even in Alaska and the low Arctic. As temperatures start to drop in the fall, they travel to the southern U.S. to avoid the cold. They even return to the same spots each year. How do you think they are able to remember the locations? When they travel, geese fly in a special V formation. This formation allows geese to fly more efficiently. The method works so well that some military aircraft fly in a V formation to save fuel. This method of flight allows geese to travel long distances very quickly. Some geese can fly up to 1,500 miles in a single day! Like many other birds, geese have much better eyesight than humans. This helps them avoid predators and see things on the ground when they are flying high in the air. As soon as they hatch from their eggs, goslings can swim, walk, and find their own food. Mother geese are extremely protective of their goslings and will attack other animals, and humans, if they sense a threat.



Canada goose
in flight



A pair of graylag geese

Photo: DaniKauf, CC BY-SA 3.0



Geese in a V
formation

Geese Facts:

- Geese fly in a V formation when they migrate.
- Geese can fly up to 1,500 miles in a single day.
- Geese have much better eyesight than humans.
- Baby geese learn to swim within 24 hours of being born.

Allyson Felix now top U.S. track medalist ever

Allyson Felix is a 35-year-old track and field sprinter from the U.S. Felix made history in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. She won a bronze medal in the 200-meter dash, and a gold as part of the women's 4 by 400-meter relay. With her 10th and 11th medals, Felix moved past Carl Lewis to become the most decorated U.S. Olympic track and field athlete of all time. Her accomplishments on the track are even more impressive when you realize that this competition marked her fifth Olympic Games. After graduating from Los Angeles Baptist High School, Felix turned professional. In 2004, at the age of 18, she won Olympic silver in the 200-meter dash. Felix also medaled in the 2008, 2012, and 2016 Olympics, and dominated the field in many World Championship meets. She did all this while taking college classes at USC to earn a degree in education. Felix married Kenneth Ferguson, a former sprinter and hurdler, in 2018. At the end of that same year, Felix gave birth to their daughter Camryn prematurely via emergency C-section. This experience made her aware of two scary facts: one, that the U.S. has an extremely high rate of pregnancy-related death; and two, that Black women are up to four times more likely to die from pregnancy related complications than white women. Why do you think these numbers are so high in the U.S.? Felix became an activist for better health care for pregnant women, and even testified before Congress about this issue. She also called out her sponsor, Nike, for attempting to cut her pay by 70 percent after she gave birth, and left the company. Some thought Felix could never come back after her dangerous birth experience, but she never doubted herself. Not only did she work herself back into shape; she also started her own shoe company called Saysh.

Allyson Felix now top U.S. track medalist ever

Credit: Filip Bossuyt, CCA-SA-Lic. 2.0

Felix has earned 11 Olympic medals.

Speaking to Congress in 2019

Credit: Photo: U.S. House of Representatives, public domain

"Everyone sees the glory moments, but they don't see what happens behind the scenes."

Mel Brooks, 95, announces memoir

Mel Brooks has been a comedian, a writer, a film and theater director, and a successful producer. Now, at age 95, he has announced the publication of his first memoir, which will be out in November. It is titled, "All About Me! My Remarkable Life in Show Business." Born in Brooklyn in 1926, Melvin Kaminsky grew up under difficult circumstances. His father died when he was two years old, putting a huge burden on his mother and three older brothers. Moreover, Melvin was bullied for his height and for being shy. But after seeing one Broadway show as a child, he knew what he wanted to do with his life. Brooks began his career as a TV writer for comedian Sid Caesar, who was the star of one of the most popular TV shows in the 1950s. He played "The 2,000 Year Old Man" in a comedy team with writer Carl Reiner before moving to Hollywood. After helping to create the TV show "Get Smart" in the 1960s, Brooks started directing movies. His 1974 film "Blazing Saddles" was a parody of film westerns. What is a parody? (An artwork imitating and making fun of another work.) Brooks also parodied monster movies with his film "Young Frankenstein." He even got to star with his wife, Oscar-winning actress Anne Bancroft, in one movie called "To Be or Not to Be." In the late 1990s, Mel Brooks had the crazy idea of turning his first movie, "The Producers," into a Broadway musical. This project premiered on Broadway in 2001 and was a huge hit. The show ran for more than 2,500 performances and won a record 12 Tony Awards. The musical version of "The Producers" was also made into a film with its original stars, Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick. Have you ever seen this version of "The Producers"? Brooks also adapted his movie "Young Frankenstein" into a musical, with less success. He has promised that "All About Me!" will contain stories from his life that have never been told before.

Mel Brooks, 95, announces memoir



Mel Brooks
All About Me!
MY REMARKABLE LIFE IN SHOW BUSINESS

In "To Be or Not to Be" with Anne Bancroft

Brooklyn

Hollywood Walk of Fame ceremony, 2010

"I tell you this, and listen to me carefully: Your mind is never, ever old. It's eternally young."

Photo: Angela George, CCA-SA-Lic. 3.0

Madrid building “green belt” to fight climate change

Madrid, the capital of Spain, is one of the largest and most-visited cities in Europe. It is also a well-known example of a “heat island.” This means that the city is much hotter than the areas around it. Why do you think this happens to cities? (Denser population, more vehicles and businesses, dry surfaces, and so on.) For years, this city has sought to change this by becoming as environmentally friendly as possible. It already has the highest number of trees and green spaces per person of any major city in the world. In fact, all city residents are just a 15-minute walk from a forest. Recently, the city announced an ambitious new plan to make itself even greener. The plan is called “El Bosque Metropolitano,” or “The Metropolitan Forest.” Under this plan, Madrid will start connecting its current green spaces to forests outside the city limits. This effort will form a 46-mile “green belt,” as shown on the map here. Approximately one million new trees will be planted in the Metropolitan Forest. By the time the project is finished, these trees are expected to absorb about 170,000 tons of carbon gases from the atmosphere every single year. How does this help the environment? (Carbon gases, also known as “greenhouse gases,” trap heat inside the atmosphere, contributing to global warming.) This will be one of the best-planned forests of all time. Design firms from all over the world have sent in their ideas for how different areas of the city should look. The government will select one design for each area of the city. Here, you see an illustration of the winning design for the “Southern River Parks” district, sent in by two professors at the Tulane School of Architecture.

Madrid building “green belt” to fight climate change



Spain
France
Portugal
Madrid
Atlantic Ocean
Morocco
Algeria

Botanical garden in Madrid's Atocha Station

Photo: Daderot, public domain.

Illustration for part of El Bosque Metropolitano

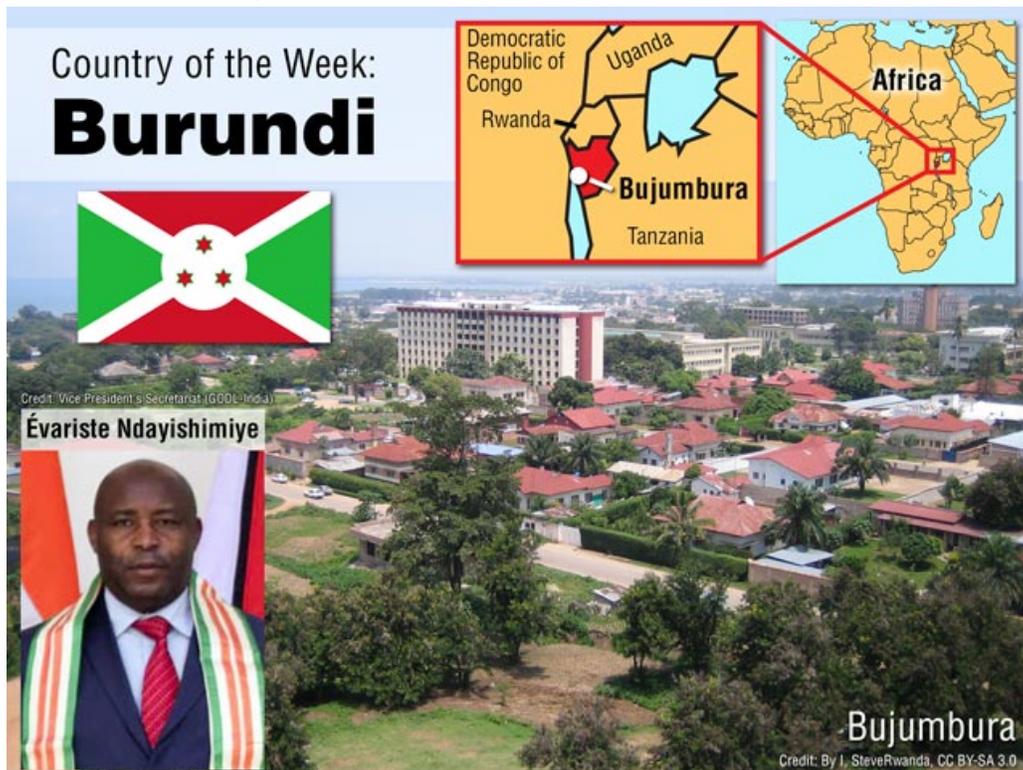
Credit: Tulane School of Architecture

"What we want to do is improve the air quality of the whole city."

—Mariano Fuentes,
counselor for environment
and urban development

Country of the Week: Burundi

Burundi is a tiny landlocked country in east central Africa. What does it mean to be landlocked? (It is almost entirely surrounded by land, with no coastline on the sea.) What countries border Burundi? (Tanzania, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.) Although it is very small in size, Burundi has more than 10 million people, making it the third most densely-populated country in Africa. The country is bordered on the southwest side by Lake Tanganyika, the second largest and second oldest freshwater lake in the world. Lake Tanganyika is home to animals such as crocodiles, cobras, and hundreds of species of fish, many of which are only found here. The capital and largest city, Bujumbura, is also located on Lake Tanganyika. Can you see the lake in the background of this picture of the city? Burundi has many natural resources, including copper, uranium, nickel, and platinum, but it has not been able to make money off these minerals. Instead, the economy is dominated by agriculture. Burundi's large population and its reliance on farming has led to major deforestation. Why do you think this happened? (People have cut down trees in order to create fields for crops and pastureland for animals.) Today, there are only about 230 square miles of forest left in the country. About 80 percent of the population lives in poverty, making Burundi one of the world's poorest countries. How do you think Burundi could use its natural resources to benefit the general population? In 2017, Burundi became the first country in the world to leave the International Criminal Court. The country took this action after the government was accused of torture and other human rights abuses. Burundi's president, Évariste Ndayishimiye—EH-vah-ree-stay en-dayee-SHE-me-yeh—has led the country since 2020. Before he became president, he had been a general in the military.



About 83 percent of the people of Burundi are Hutu, 16 percent are Tutsi, and one percent belong to the Twa people. Most people, like these women raising goats, live in rural areas. About 90 percent of the population relies on subsistence agriculture. What is this? (When farmers grow food to feed themselves and their families, but not to sell.) Burundi was once a monarchy, ruled by the Tutsi. Differences between groups had more to do with social class than ethnicity. Wealthier people became Tutsi, even if they had been Hutu. Germany briefly colonized the country, but after World War One, it was given to Belgium. Burundi gained its independence in 1962, but soon fell into decades of unrest, and civil war. Hutus and Tutsis both committed acts of violence. A rebellion in 1972 led to the first Burundian genocide, by the Tutsi army against Hutu rebels. What is genocide? (The mass killing of people from a specific ethnic group.) In 1993, Melchior Ndadaye—MEHLkee-ohr n-da-DYEH— became Burundi’s first democratically elected president. He was assassinated by Tutsi forces a few months later. In retaliation, Hutus killed Tutsis in a second genocide. In 2015, former President Pierre Nkurunziza—en-koo-roon-ZEE-za—ran for a third term. This sparked protests, because his opponents said this went against the constitution. As a result, more than 400,000 people fled the country as refugees. This crisis was mostly resolved after the constitution was reformed and Nkurunziza agreed to step down after his third term. Nkurunziza died suddenly at the end of his term in 2020 at age 55. Drums have symbolic meaning in Burundian culture. They were used to communicate and were so important that they were captured in battles. They are central to ceremonies such as births, weddings, and funerals. The drum these musicians are playing, called the karyenda, was made from a tree trunk, and it was a symbol of the king.



This Week in History

_____ Roberto Clemente was not only one of the greatest baseball players of all time, he was also one of the most beloved. Tragically, he died in a plane crash while trying to deliver humanitarian aid to Nicaragua after an earthquake had devastated the country in 1972. Roberto Clemente was born in Puerto Rico on August 18, 1934, the youngest of seven children. He started playing baseball as a boy and was recruited for a softball team in his first year in high school. He was so talented and hard-working that he was already playing professionally in the U.S. before he turned 21. What team did Roberto Clemente play for? (The Pittsburgh Pirates.) Clemente began playing with the Pirates in 1955, and he stayed with the team for his entire 18-season career. During his career, Clemente won an MVP award as well as two World Series championships. Clemente also had exactly 3,000 hits during his career, making him one of only 32 players in Major League Baseball history to have reached this impressive milestone. But perhaps Clemente's greatest legacy was his charity work. Clemente often returned to Puerto Rico and other parts of Latin America during the offseason, where he would host free baseball workshops for children and visit sick patients in hospitals. On December 23, 1972, a large earthquake rocked Central America. On December 31, 1972, Clemente himself went with a plane full of relief materials that was flying to Managua, Nicaragua. The plane crashed shortly after takeoff, and all five people on board died. Clemente was only 38 years old. In 1973, the year after his death, Clemente was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. That same year the MLB's sportsmanship award was renamed the Roberto Clemente Award in his honor. Many schools, community centers, and stadiums have also been named for Clemente, ensuring that his name will always be associated with the things he loved the most: baseball and helping others.

THIS WEEK IN
HISTORY

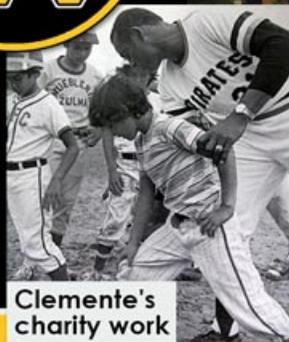
August 18, 1934:

Roberto Clemente was born



Clemente in his Pirates Uniform

CLEMENTE
21



Clemente's charity work



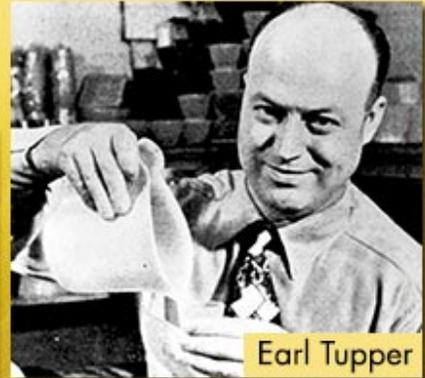
Statue outside PNC Park in Pittsburgh

Remembering When...

_____ Tupperware parties started around the end of World War Two. They gave women a great chance to socialize with each other, and to earn money, while remaining in the home. Because of these parties, Tupperware became part of American culture. Did you ever go to Tupperware parties like the one shown below? Tupperware was the brainchild of a New Hampshire man named Earl Silas Tupper. Formerly a landscaper, Tupper went to work for the DuPont Chemical Company during World War Two. He started to experiment with leftover plastic that DuPont gave him free of charge. Tupper discovered the material could be melted down and molded into different shapes. He also figured out a way to dye the plastic different colors. Soon, Tupper realized that his plastic could help people store leftover food. He experimented with different shapes to make this happen. But what really set this product apart was the famous Tupperware seal. What was this? (Pushing air out of the container with a slight “burping” sound.) Why did this help? (Less air inside a container means more protection for the food inside.) Did you ever “burp” Tupperware?

Remember When . . .

Tupperware parties



Earl Tupper



1970s container set



Brownie Wise

Photo: Gail Thomas, CCA 2.0

Mr. Tupper's hard work got Tupperware into retail stores. But the product's sales figures were very disappointing. One day, a woman called Brownie Wise called Tupper on the telephone. She told him about a new strategy she had come up with: the Tupperware party. She set up these get-togethers to let women talk, eat, and laugh — and then she would demonstrate the advantages of the product. Ms. Wise said that this low-pressure, fun approach was perfect for the modern woman. Earl Tupper was impressed. Not only did he put Ms. Wise in charge of marketing, he also took his products out of stores altogether. By 1951, the only way you could get Tupperware was to buy it directly at one of these parties, or from a door-to-door salesperson. Why would taking a product OUT of stores lead to bigger sales? Tupper was impressed with other ideas set up by Brownie Wise. For example, it was her idea to throw a huge "Jubilee" every year, where the best Tupperware sellers could get together and learn new ideas. Tupper was also impressed with Brownie Wise on a personal level; they were in a relationship for several years. Do you remember any of her appearances on TV in the 1950s? However, this partnership did not last forever. News stories implied that Brownie was the real brains behind the boom in Tupperware sales. Earl Tupper was reportedly jealous of her success. In 1958, Tupper fired Wise, giving her only \$30,000 — one year's salary — as a send-off. He also ordered that her name be taken off every piece of Tupperware literature and the company's corporate history. Does this sound fair to you? Just three years later, Tupper sold his stake in the company for \$16 million and retired to his own personal island off the coast of Mexico. Tupperware is still very much alive today, with an annual sales total of nearly \$2 billion in 2020. Interestingly, about 90 percent of Tupperware sales come from outside the United States. You can now buy these containers in stores and on the Internet — but salespeople still host Tupperware parties all over the world.