

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.

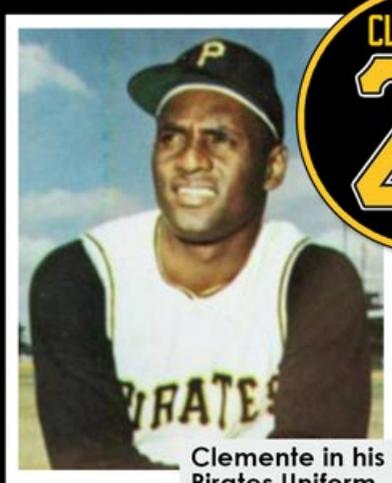
This Week in History

_____ 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

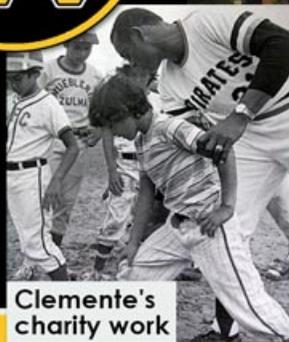
August 18, 1934:

Roberto Clemente was born



Clemente in his Pirates Uniform

CLEMENTE
21



Clemente's charity work



Statue outside PNC Park in Pittsburgh

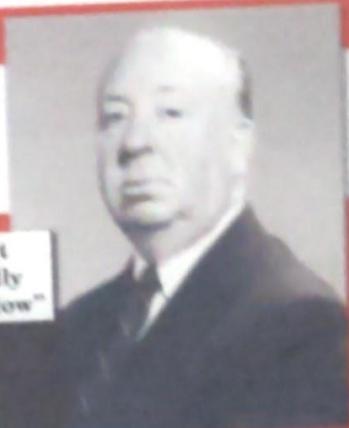
Remembering When...

On August 13, 1899, a boy was born in the town of Leytonstone in east London, England. His name was Alfred Hitchcock. No one knew it at the time, because the first movie camera was only about ten years old, but this boy would grow up to be one of the greatest film directors in history. As a boy, Hitchcock was terrified of doing anything wrong. According to one famous story, this fear started at age five, when he misbehaved and his father sent him to the local police station with a note. The policeman locked young Alfred in jail for a few minutes, saying "This is what we do to naughty boys." Do you believe this story? If it is true, how might this incident have affected his view of the world?

As a young man, he worked for a newspaper, but he spent much of his time obsessed with movies. He got a job drawing title cards for several films, then moved on to writing and producing movies. In 1925, at the age of 26, he directed his first movie, "The Pleasure Garden." Two years later, he had a huge hit with his first thriller, "The Lodger." This creepy silent feature was the first one with a Hitchcock cameo role. Why do you think he put himself in all his movies after that? After a series of hit thrillers in the 1930s, Hitchcock was invited to Hollywood. His first production there, "Rebecca," won the Academy Award for best picture in 1940. As time went on, a "Hitchcock movie" came to take on a special meaning: films that were scary and had unexpected plot twists. For example, in his 1943 movie "Shadow of a Doubt," a young woman, played by Teresa Wright, begins to suspect that her favorite uncle, played by Joseph Cotten, could be a serial killer. Have you ever seen this movie, which was Hitchcock's personal favorite?

Remember When...

Alfred Hitchcock (1899-1980)



James Stewart
and Grace Kelly
in "Rear Window"



"Always make
the audience
suffer as much
as possible."



Cary Grant in
"North by Northwest"

With Hitchcock's growing fame, his films got larger and more exciting. During this time period, he was known as one of the world's greatest directors. Movies such as "Strangers on a Train" and "The Birds" struck fear in audiences all over the world. And he broke new ground in the terrifying movie known as "Psycho," which made some of us never want to take a shower again. Which is your favorite Alfred Hitchcock movie?

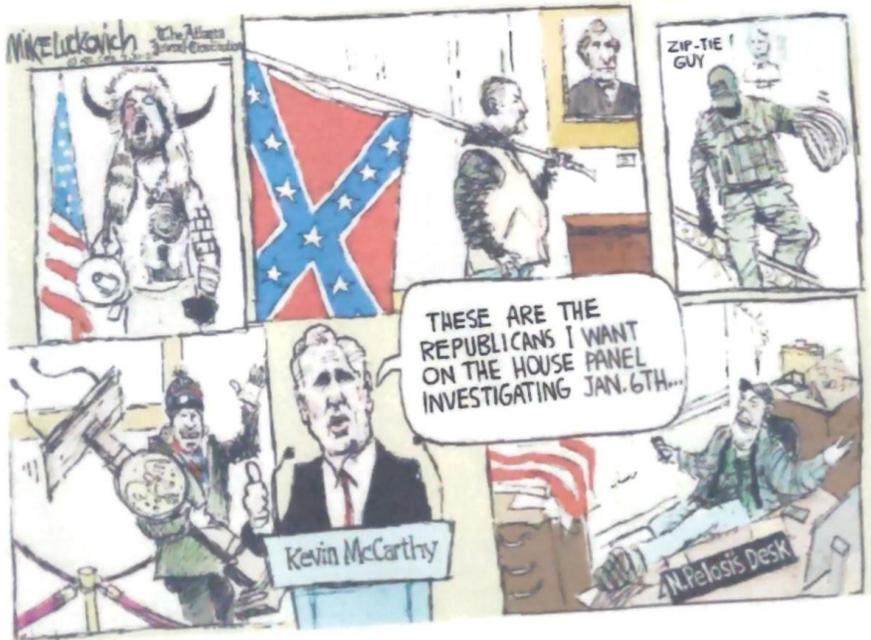
Hitchcock worked with some of the greatest actors in Hollywood. Cary Grant as both a hero and as a (possible) villain. Do you remember the scene shown above from "North by Northwest"? He also worked with James Stewart many times, including two of his best: "Vertigo" and "Rear Window." In the latter movie, Stewart played a photographer with a broken leg who becomes a little too interested in the lives of his neighbors... ultimately uncovering a murder. Grace Kelly, one of Hitchcock's favorites, played Stewart's plucky girlfriend in "Rear Window." Hitchcock was upset when Kelly retired from acting. Why did she retire? (She became a princess by marrying Prince Rainier of Monaco.)

In his next few movies, Hitchcock cast many beautiful blonde actresses who resembled Kelly; among them were Doris Day, Kim Novak, Janet Leigh, Tippi Hedren, and Eva Marie Saint. Some of us were too young, or too scared, to see his movies in theaters. Instead, we watched him on TV. "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" ran from 1955 to 1965. It featured creepy stories, hosted (and sometimes directed) by Hitchcock. Alfred Hitchcock's last movie was "Family Plot," which came out in 1976. He died in 1980, at the age of 80. But we will always remember the scary fun we had watching his movies and TV show.

PROTECT YOURSELF BY SOCIAL DISTANCING







ABC

S. averages 100K new infections a day

cases bottomed out in June, rising about 11,000 per day

By Spencer
and Kennedy
Associated Press

AUTUMNSIDE, Fla. — A COVID-19 outbreak in the United States crossed 10 million new confirmed infections Saturday, the highest since the winter surge and by the highly transmissible delta variant and vaccination rates in the

South officials fear that hospitalizations and deaths will continue to soar

if more Americans don't embrace the vaccine. Nationwide, 50% of residents are fully vaccinated and more than 70% of adults have received at least one dose.

"Our models show that if we don't vaccinate people, we could be up to several hundred thousand cases a day, similar to our surge in early January," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Rochelle Walensky said on CNN last week.

It took the U.S. about nine months to cross 100,000 average daily cases in November before peaking at about 260,000 in early January. Cases bottomed out in June, averaging about 11,000 per day, but six weeks later the number is 107,143.

Hospitalizations and deaths also are increasing, though all are still below peaks seen early this year before vaccines became widely available. More than 44,000 Americans are currently hospitalized with COVID-19, according to the CDC, up 30% in a week and nearly four times the number in June. More than 120,000 were hospitalized in January.

The seven-day average for deaths rose from about 270

deaths per day two weeks ago to nearly 500 a day as of Friday, according to Johns Hopkins University. Deaths peaked at 3,500 per day in January. Deaths usually lag behind hospitalizations as the disease normally takes a few weeks to kill.

The situation is particularly dire in the South, which has some of the lowest vaccination rates in the U.S. and has seen smaller hospitals overrun with patients.

In the Southeast, the number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients jumped 50% to a daily average of 17,600 over the last week, from 11,600 the previous week, the CDC said. Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi,

North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky represent 48% of the nation's new hospitalizations, the CDC said, twice their overall share of the population.

Alabama and Mississippi have the lowest vaccination rates in the country; less than 35% of residents are fully inoculated, according to the Mayo Clinic. Georgia, Tennessee and the Carolinas all are in the lowest 15 states. Alabama had more than 65,000 doses wasted because health providers couldn't find people to take them before they expired, according to State Health Officer Scott Harris. That represents less than 1.5%

of the more than 5 million coronavirus vaccines doses that Alabama has received.

"Sixty-five thousand doses have been wasted. That's extremely unfortunate when we have such a low vaccination rate and of course, there are so many people in the world that still don't have access to vaccine," Harris said.

Florida has been especially hard hit. It makes up more than 20% of the nation's new cases and hospitalizations, triple its share of the population. Many rural counties have vaccination rates below 40%, with the state at 46%. The state again set a record Saturday, reporting 23,903 new cases.

Vaccination mandates gathering momentum

What happened

The nation finally hit President Biden's July 4 target of at least partially vaccinating 70 percent of American adults this week, but the milestone arrived without celebration as the highly transmissible Delta variant surge pushed daily cases to numbers not seen since February and red-state hospitals were deluged with the seriously ill. New U.S. cases reached a seven-day average above 92,000—a seven-fold increase over the past month—and hospitalizations topped 50,000 for the first time since February. The epicenter remained Florida, which hit record highs for both infections and hospitalizations, and accounted for 1 in 5 of the nation's new cases. Hospital officials in the state reported unprecedented numbers of young people, including an average of 35 new pediatric hospitalizations daily. "It is a much younger population," said Mary Mayhew of the Florida Hospital Association, who said 96 percent of patients are unvaccinated. "We have 25-year-olds on ventilators." Still, Gov. Ron DeSantis doubled down on his vow to prohibit local mask mandates and business restrictions, and threatened to cut funding from school districts that require masks. "These interventions have failed time and time again," he said.

Throughout the country, a growing number of employers and local governments were responding to Delta by imposing vaccine and mask mandates. In Louisiana, where Covid hospitalizations hit a pandemic high, Gov. John Bel Edwards reinstated a mask mandate in schools and indoor public spaces. San Francisco did likewise, while Denver and San Diego announced vaccine requirements for public workers. New York City announced a plan to require proof of vaccination to enter restaurants, gyms, and entertainment venues, beginning Aug. 16. Tyson Foods and Microsoft became the latest major employers to adopt vaccine mandates for workers, following Google, Facebook, Disney, Walmart, and Morgan Stanley.

In one bright spot, new vaccinations rose in numerous red states as holdouts apparently reacted to surging cases. In Louisiana, the seven-day average of new vaccinations quadrupled compared with three weeks ago; it more than tripled in Mississippi, Alabama, and Arkansas. "We have had to bring in more vaccine," said Robert Ator, coordinator of Arkansas' vaccination program. "People are scared." Despite reports of thousands of breakthrough infections, new CDC figures showed that just 0.004 percent of 163 million fully vaccinated Americans had gotten an infection requiring hospitalization.

What the editorials said

As the highly infectious Delta variant rips through America's unvaccinated, "mandates are more essential than ever," said *Bloomberg.com*. Appeals to reason and civic duty have hit a wall. Republican officials who oppose



A Covid testing site in Florida: New cases exploding

vaccination mandates by local governments and private employers claim to be protecting holdouts' essential freedoms, but that's "absurd"—nobody has the right to put their fellow citizens at risk of serious illness and death.

"Time and again in this pandemic, the CDC has been a source of confusion or ineptitude," said *The Wall Street Journal*. The latest "fiasco" is their recommendation that even the vaccinated mask up indoors in public places. Why? "The vast majority of people who are hospitalized are unvaccinated," and the latest data shows the vaccinated continue to have 88 percent protection against symptomatic illness, even against Delta. It's little wonder "Americans have lost confidence in Covid experts."

What the columnists said

We may be "reaching a tipping point with vaccine mandates," said Max Boot in *WashingtonPost.com*. "Reckless people will not listen to reason"—but mandates may give them an excuse to give in. A recent Kaiser Family Foundation survey found that 40 percent of those "taking a 'wait and see' attitude" would roll up their sleeves if it was needed to fly, shop, or work, and even some ardent anti-vaxxers "might grudgingly comply." And polls show most Americans support mandates.

Tell that to labor unions, said Jim Geraghty in *NationalReview.com*. Mandates are being fought by some unions representing health-care workers, nursing-home workers, and teachers. Why should office workers or restaurant servers and patrons be required to get vaccinated but not people who work with unvaccinated children, sick patients, and vulnerable elders?

Unfortunately, the CDC is delivering "a narrative that no one understands," said Sonny Bunch in *TheBulwark.com*. Much hoopla was made over a study the CDC released last week documenting 900 cases among mostly vaccinated July 4 parties in Provincetown, Mass.—but all but seven were mild. Rather than "vacillating back and forth on mask mandates" that many will ignore, the CDC's message should be simple: "If you get vaccinated you have a roughly zero percent chance of dying."

The Delta variant's rapid spread and "ever-changing pandemic messaging" by federal, state, and local officials have left Americans with "pandemic whiplash," said Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Michael Shear in *The New York Times*. The crisis the White House thought it had "under control is changing shape faster than the country can adapt." A few months ago, President Biden promised a "summer of joy," but "the nation is instead caught in a summer of confusion."

What next?

This fourth wave "will get worse before it gets better," said Ben Guarino and Dan Diamond in *The Washington Post*. The closely watched model at the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation predicts "a rise through mid-August, leveling off at about 300,000 cases daily," followed by a September peak of 1,500 daily deaths. With infections now hitting younger people, experts don't expect "hospitalizations and deaths to rise to the levels experienced in the winter." Britain's and the Netherlands' experience with Delta suggests the U.S. surge may rapidly fall off in September, said David Wallace-Wells in *NYMag.com*. In both countries—which have "roughly comparable vaccination rates" to the U.S.—new infections have plunged dramatically, for reasons epidemiologists can't entirely explain, "suggesting that such a turn here is possible—or even quite likely—within a few weeks." It's a reminder that Covid is "driven by a much wider and more mysterious range of factors" than "we tend to acknowledge."

AIRPORTS BUSTLING, BUT NUMBERS REMAIN LOW



Travelers collect baggage after a flight at Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport in San Jose on June 25. PHOTOS BY ANDA CHU — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Leisure flights up in June, but amount of travelers roughly half of 2019 traffic

By Rachel Oh
roh@bayareanewsgroup.com

Middle seats are mostly filled again, TSA security checkpoints lines are longer and Alaska Airlines flight attendant Cassie Dole no longer has reading time on her flights in and out of the Bay Area.

"Everyone's wearing masks, but other than that, it seems like it's two summers ago," Dole said. "You see people going to Disney World, families on the planes, grandparents visiting families for the first time in two years." It may seem like flying is back to its busy, annoying pre-pandemic peak. But literally, that's not the half of it.



There has been an uptick in travelers using Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport, but traffic is down 40% from June 2019.

Biden approach to governing America works

By David Brooks

If Joe Biden stands for one idea, it is that our system can work. We live in a big, diverse country, but good leaders can bring people together across difference to do big things. In essence, Biden is defending liberal democracy and the notion that you can't govern a nation based on the premise that the other half of the country is irredeemably awful.

The progressive wing of the Democratic Party is skeptical: The Republican Party has gone authoritarian. Mitch McConnell is obstructionist. Big money pulls the strings. The system is broken. The only way to bring change is to mobilize the Democratic base and push partisan transformation.

If all you knew about politics is what goes on in the media circus, you'd have to say the progressives have the better argument. Donald Trump, Tucker Carlson, Marjorie Taylor Greene: healthy bipartisan compromise seems completely hopeless with this crew.

But underneath that circus, there has always been another layer of politics, led by people who are not as ratings-driven, but are more governance-driven. So over the past 30 years or so, while the circus has been at full roar, Congress has continued to

pass bipartisan legislation: the Every Student Succeeds rewrite of federal K-12 education policy, the Obama budget, an compromise of 2013, the Trump original justice reform law of 2018, the FAST infrastructure act, the Anti Money Laundering Act of 2020, the Trump creation on surprise billing in health care. In June, the Senate passed 88-32 the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act of 2021, which would devote roughly \$50 billion to scientific projects.

Matthew Goldstas and Simon Baronett call this the "Secret Congress" — the everyday business of governing that works precisely because it isn't on cable TV.

When COVID-19 hit, the same two-track pattern prevailed. The circus gave us the mask and vaccination wars. But Congress was productive and bipartisan. The Senate passed a COVID-19-relief measure 96-4 in early March 2020, another 90-8 in mid-March 2020, another 96-0 in late March 2020 and another 99-0 in December. The House votes also were landslides. If you had told me two years ago that Congress would respond in a pandemic in some ways better than the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, I would have been surprised, but that's what happened.

After Biden was elected, the two-track pattern was still going strong. The circus realm gave us



SUSAN WALSH — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Biden administration has moved to separate government from the culture wars.

the horror of Jan. 6. But the dull, governing part of America carried on. For example, the Senate confirmed Biden's Cabinet picks in largely bipartisan fashion.

Republicans and Democrats have been involved in a complex set of negotiations about infrastructure spending. It has been messy and complicated, the way politics always is, but the two sides have worked together productively.

"You can tell the difference between an adversarial negotiation and a collaborative one," Mitt Romney told *The Washington Post*. "In this case, when one side had a problem, the other side tried to solve the problem, rather than to walk away from the table." When the Senate ad-

vanced the roughly \$1 trillion measure by a vote of 67-32, that was a sign that experienced politicians can, as Biden suggested, make the system work.

The Biden administration has moved to separate government from the culture wars. It has shifted power away from the Green New Deal and Freedom Caucus show horses and lodged it with the congressional workhorses — people such as Republican Rob Portman and Democrat Mark Warner, who are in no danger of becoming social media stars.

The moderates are suddenly in strong shape. The progressives say they won't support this Biden infrastructure bill unless it is passed simultaneously with

a larger spending bill. But if the Democrats can't agree on that larger bill, will progressives really sink their president's infrastructure initiative? In the negotiations over the larger bill, the moderates have most of the power because they are the ones whose seats are at risk.

We have come a long way since the AOC glory days of 2018. Biden won the presidential nomination, not Bernie Sanders. Progressive excesses such as "defund the police" cost Democrats dearly down-ballot. Over the past months, there have been primary contests between regular Democrats and progressives, including House races in Louisiana, New Mexico and Ohio, a governor's race in Virginia and a mayoral race in New York. The party regulars have won all of them.

As former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel notes, the problem with the progressive base mobilization strategy is that progressives think they're the base. But a faction that keeps losing primaries can't be the base. Joe Biden is the base. And Biden and the 97% of Democrats who view him favorably want to make the system work. American politics is in god-awful shape, but we're seeing a reasonably successful attempt to build it back better.

David Brooks is a *New York Times* columnist.

Will Harris ever be president?

Matthew Yglesias
SlowBoring.com

It's "the worst-kept secret in Washington," said Matthew Yglesias: Many Democrats "are terrified of the prospect of Kamala Harris becoming the Democratic Party presidential nominee." Whether President Biden decides to leave office in 2024 or 2028, the vice president seems "overwhelmingly likely" to win a Democratic primary. But Harris' approval ratings lag far behind his, and Democrats fear "she'd lose a general election." That fear is well-founded. As a California Democrat, Harris appeals to hard-core progressives, but to win the presidency, "she needs to be popular with swing voters." Unlike Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, Joe Biden, Tammy Baldwin, Amy Klobuchar, and other nationally popular Democrats, she doesn't even try. The median voter in the U.S. is still a 50-something white person who didn't go to college. To win over some of them, Harris could embrace the same "hokey patriotism" that Biden does so effectively. As a child of immigrants who became vice president, Harris is perfectly positioned to say, "This is the greatest country on Earth." She can talk about her experience as a prosecutor in San Francisco, and what it taught her about "the excesses of big-city liberalism." Pandering? Sure. But without it, Harris may never be president.

Scathing harassment report spurs Cuomo criminal probes

What happened

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo faced four criminal investigations and widespread calls for his resignation after a bombshell report released this week by State Attorney General Letitia James detailed allegations that he subjected at least 11 women, including nine state workers, to unwanted touching, suggestive comments, and intimidation. The result of a five-months-long probe that began after the first accusers came forward, the report unearthed an allegation from a female state trooper in her 20s on Cuomo's security detail who said the governor repeatedly groped her neck and midsection and made "creepy" comments, leaving her feeling "completely violated." It also offered evidence for earlier accusations, including that Cuomo grabbed the breast of one staffer and made another, who was wearing a skirt, bend over in front of him.

Political leaders lined up to condemn the three-term governor, with President Biden, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, both New York senators, and every member of the state's congressional delegation demanding he resign. Cuomo responded with a pre-recorded video in which he denied any impropriety and claimed that any physical gestures were "meant to convey warmth, nothing more," with images of him kissing and embracing constituents and colleagues. Having dominated New York politics for a decade, Cuomo is now battling for political survival amid the investigations launched by prosecutors in four counties, an impeachment inquiry, and a separate FBI probe into his handling of nursing-home deaths during the pandemic.

What the columnists said

"The report is packed with alarming and previously unreported details," said Eric Lach in *NewYorker.com*. One of Cuomo's first accusers, Lindsey Boylan, said that he invited her to play strip poker and kissed her on the lips. The state trooper, who was not named, detailed Cuomo's comments about her love life. Perhaps "the most telling and dismaying" revelation was about witnesses' fears of retribution, and how well-founded those fears were. After Boylan came forward, she was allegedly targeted by a leak of confidential personnel documents from the governor's office.

Cuomo's videotaped defense revealed a man in the grip of an "all-encompassing narcissism," said John Podhoretz in *Commentary.org*. He wants us to believe that his actions have been woefully misunderstood, and that his asking a 25-year-old assistant who'd survived a sexual assault about whether she'd consider dating an older man stemmed from a concern for her well-being. With leading members of his own party and 63 percent of New York voters wanting him out, how much longer will it be until "the Mad King of New York" is dragged from his throne?

"We do not expect Cuomo to resign from office; he is clearly beyond shame," said the Albany, N.Y., *Times Union* in an editorial. Instead, we urge the state legislature to wrap up its investigation and vote to impeach as quickly as possible. "New Yorkers deserve a governor who can devote himself to the job instead of to his own appetites."

Cuomo urged to resign after probe finds he harassed 11 women

By Michael E. Sisk and
Marina Villanueva
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo faced mounting pressure Tuesday to resign, including from President Joe Biden and other onetime Democratic allies, after an investigation found he sexually harassed nearly a dozen women and sought to retaliate against one of his accusers.

"I think he should resign," Biden told reporters Tuesday, echoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and New York's U.S. Sens. Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, all Democrats.

The leader of the state Assembly, which has the power to bring impeachment charges, said it was clear Cuomo could no longer remain in office. Speaker

Carl Heastie, a Democrat, said he would move to complete an impeachment inquiry "as quickly as possible."

Cuomo remained defiant, saying in a taped response to the findings that "the facts are much different than what has been portrayed" and that he "never touched anyone inappropriately or made inappropriate sexual advances."

In a telephone conversation with Heastie, Cuomo insisted he wouldn't leave office and told the speaker he needed to work fellow Democrats and garner enough votes to stop an impeachment, according to a person familiar with the conversation.

But Heastie said he couldn't do that, said the person, who could not publicly discuss details of the private conversation and spoke to The Associated Press on condition

of anonymity.

The nearly five-month, non-criminal investigation, overseen by New York's attorney general and led by two outside lawyers, concluded that 11 women from within and outside state government were telling the truth when they said Cuomo had touched them inappropriately, commented on their appearance or made suggestive comments about their sex lives.

Those accusers included an aide who said Cuomo groped her breast at the governor's mansion, and a state trooper on his security detail who said he ran his hand or fingers across her stomach and her back.



Cuomo

Anne Clark, who led the probe with former U.S. Attorney Joon Kim, said the allegations had varying degrees of corroboration, including other witnesses and contemporaneous text messages. Investigators interviewed 179 people, including the governor himself.

"These interviews and pieces of evidence revealed a deeply disturbing yet clear picture: Gov. Cuomo sexually harassed current and former state employees in violation of federal and state laws," New York Attorney General Letitia James said at a press conference on Tuesday.

Many of the women said they feared retaliation if they reported Cuomo's behavior, investigators said, describing his administration as a hostile workplace "rife with fear and intimidation."

The investigation's findings,

detailed in a 165-page public report, turn up the pressure on the 63-year-old governor, who just a year ago was widely hailed for his steady leadership during the darkest days of the COVID-19 crisis, even writing a book about it.

Since then, he's seen his standing crumble with a drumbeat of harassment allegations, questions in a separate, ongoing inquiry into whether state resources went into writing the book, and the discovery that his administration concealed the true number of nursing home deaths during the pandemic.

Schumer and Gillibrand said Tuesday's report only reinforces the calls they and other New York Democrats made for Cuomo to resign after the bulk of the allegations were made public last winter.

BY ELIZABETH SPIERS
A Democratic digital strategist and the former editor in chief of The New York Observer

Insults against an accusation of sexual harassment: A chorus of defenders inevitably rushes to assure that the accused is actually a nice guy, historically respectful of women, and whose applicable, his daughters who don't appear to bother him. Some of Cuomo's defenders point out that the accused kissed them well and never harassed them personally, as if that detracts from the credibility of the allegations.

When two former members of his staff accused New York's governor, Andrew Cuomo, of sexual harassment in February, this ritual chorus of defenders was nowhere to be found. Few people raced to his side — in part because the usual lines of defense just don't apply. Mr. Cuomo is not a nice guy, and he has mistreated so many people that the sexual harassment accusations seem like predictable transgressions in a litany of abuses stretching back years. (He does, however, have daughters, and they don't appear to bother him.)

The 165-page report issued Tuesday by the office of State Attorney General Letitia James cites a pattern of abuse that contributed to a toxic work environment in the governor's office. Mr. Cuomo's team has claimed that a perni-

For years, he played the tough guy. And people bought his act.

cious work environment is just a feature of working in politics, a profession that is not particularly polite. But plenty of government employees will attest that no boss or colleague has ever in a professional setting invited them to play strip poker on a work trip, groped them or asked whether they have ever had sex with older men. Mr. Cuomo stands accused of doing all three. (He denies making inappropriate sexual advances.)

The governor has also been known to retaliate ghostly against people who get in his way, as he did against one of his secretaries, Lindsey Boylan, a former aide, trying to discredit her testimony and damage her professional reputation. His bottomless stamina for prosecuting his critics in this way creates an environment where other employees are afraid to hold him accountable, lest they find themselves on the receiving end of

All of those things have given people around Mr. Cuomo — and often, the general public — a sense that he operates like a macho Machiavelli who views other people as instruments for accumulating power, and that he believes he is entitled to that power regardless of what the public thinks or wants. It is his political birthright, and public service appears to be a secondary consideration.

It's unsurprising, then, that this sense of entitlement would extend to Mr. Cuomo's treatment of women. Men who unapologetically harass women believe on some level that they are entitled to sexual attention from the women they harass. They offer meanly-smoothed statements that technically include the words "I'm sorry" but that end in some variation of "that your feelings were hurt."

"I never touched anyone inappropriately or made inappropriate sexual advances," Mr. Cuomo still maintains.

Perversely, his abrasiveness may have given him a sort of immunity to consequences until now, at least when it comes to his public image. Any time he exhibits terrible interpersonal behavior, it can be regarded as an intrinsic part of his personality. He's established a reputation as a jerk who treats people badly, so people shrug when he proves, yet again, that he is a jerk who treats people badly. His behavior is normalized because it seems normal for Andrew Cuomo.

Mr. Cuomo himself reinforces this perception. When accused of bestowing an unwanted kiss upon a woman at a wedding in 2019, he said, "You can find hundreds of pictures of me kissing people." And "It is my way of greeting people," as though the fact that he has always behaved this way excuses his actions. He will even point out that his father, one of his predecessors as governor, Mario Cuomo, did the same.

There's a bit of grudging admiration in some circles for his tactics. Over his 10 years as governor, he has employed these tactics to get what he wants, from reportedly working to help Republicans maintain power in the State Senate to allegedly undermining an anticorruption commission his own office created once it became apparent that it was also scrutinizing groups with ties to him. There are people who have benefited from those victories. But being good at consolidating and buttressing power is not synonymous with good governance, and



THESEY A. GARDNER/PHOTO FOCUS — GETTY IMAGES

Mr. Cuomo's strategic belligerence often masks his failures.

It's worth noting that some New Yorkers like the idea of a tough guy with sharp elbows in office because they confuse toughness with resiliency and sometimes fail to notice that what appears to be toughness may just be a lack of empathy. If the stereotype of New Yorkers is that they are all rude, brash, in-your-face personalities with New York City-size egos, Mr. Cuomo fits the

bill.

Whether he'll resign or risk impeachment remains to be seen. But for now, he remains defiant. Resigning would mean admitting that the power he has accumulated can be taken away as a consequence of his inappropriate behavior, a reality the governor appears to find inconceivable. It would also force him to acknowledge wrongdoing and possibly issue a real apology. And this tough guy may be too weak to own up to his failings.

FIREARMS

Stock of bullets runs low as U.S. gun sales soar

Martha Bellisle

EATTLE — The COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with record sales of firearms, has fueled a shortage of ammunition in the United States that's impacting enforcement agencies, while seeking personal protection, recreational shooters and hunters — and could deny gun owners the practice they need to handle their weapons safely.

Manufacturers say they're using as much ammunition as they can, but many gun shelves are empty and prices keep rising. All as the pandemic, social unrest and a violent crime wave have urged millions to buy guns for protection or to take up hunting for sport.

"We have had a number of instructors cancel

their registration to our courses because their agency was short on ammo or they were unable to find ammo to purchase," said Jason Westenberg, executive director of the National Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors Association.

Doug Tangen, firearms instructor at the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission, the police academy for the state, said the academy also has had trouble obtaining ammo.

"A few months ago, we were at a point where our shelves were nearly empty of ammunition," he said. In response, instructors took conservation steps like reducing the number of shots fired per drill, which got them through several months until fresh supplies arrived, Tangen said.



Ted S. Warren / Associated Press, 2019

An officer passes a box of ammunition in 2019 at the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission in Burien. Record sales of guns have created a shortage of ammunition.

Officer Larry Hadfield, a spokesman for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, said his department also has been affected by the shortage. "We have made efforts to conserve ammunition when possible," he said.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation, an industry trade group, says more than 50 million people participate in shooting sports in the U.S. and

estimates that 20 million guns were sold last year, with 8 million of those sales made by first-time buyers.

"When you talk about all these people buying guns, it really has an impact on people buying ammunition," spokesman Mark Oliva said. "If you look at 8.4 million gun buyers and they all want to buy one box with 50 rounds, that's going to be 420 million

rounds."

As supplies dwindled, some gun owners began stockpiling ammo, said Ari Freilich of the Gifford Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

"Early on in the pandemic, we saw people hoarding toilet paper, disinfectant, and now it's ammo," he said.

Martha Bellisle is an Associated Press writer.

Giving seniors alternatives to nursing homes

Michelle Cottle
The New York Times

"Nobody wants to live in a nursing home," said Michelle Cottle, but where will Americans spend their final years? The prospect of being warehoused in a nursing home has always created "existential dread" for most of us, and Covid's rapid spread through these institutions—at least 133,000 died—made that fate seem "all the more terrifying." Surveys show that most Americans hope to age at home, and 90 percent of those over 65 are doing just that. But when professional care is needed for seniors at home, it can put enormous financial and logistical strains on families. President Biden's "human infrastructure" bill would provide \$400 billion for home care—a big step forward. Still, with Boomers aging and the number of Americans 85 and over projected to top 19 million by 2050, there will be a continuing need for higher levels of care. That need is giving rise to a new model of "smaller, more self-contained, unconventional facilities" where up to 12 residents live in private rooms in houses clustered in communities, with aides in each home. For the sake of our loved ones and ourselves "innovation and reform" like this is urgently needed.

Athletes shine at Tokyo Olympics

What happened

The isolation bubble designed to prevent the spread of Covid-19 at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics appeared to be largely holding even as cases in Japan hit new highs this week, giving athletes from around the world a chance to shine at the pandemic-delayed Games. Despite fears that a lack of spectators would harm athletes' performance, a string of world records were broken in Tokyo. In the men's 400-meter hurdles, Norway's Karsten Warholm took gold with a 45.94-second run, slicing 0.76 seconds off the world record. In the women's 400-meter hurdles, American Sydney McLaughlin won gold and smashed her own world record by nearly half a second. Team USA notched other impressive wins. Gymnast Sunisa Lee claimed gold in the all-around after the withdrawal of Simone Biles (see Talking Points, p. 18). And swimmer Katie Ledecky cemented her status as an all-time great by winning gold in the 800-meter and 1,500-meter freestyle events.

In one of the most heartwarming displays of sportsmanship, high jumpers Gianmarco Tamberi of Italy and Mutaz Essa Barshim of Qatar opted to share a gold rather than engage in a tie-breaking "jump-off." "He is one of my best friends," explained Barshim. "We work together." In another display that caught attention, U.S. shot-putter Raven Saunders lifted her arms above her head in an X-shape while accepting her silver medal, defying an Olympic ban on podium protests. Saunders, who is Black and gay, said the symbol represents the "intersection of where all people who are oppressed meet." As *The Week* went to press, China was leading the medal table with 32 golds, with the U.S. in second place with 25.



Barshim and Tamberi: A golden friendship

What the columnists said

Female athletes are "asserting themselves" on the world's biggest stage, said Nicole Hemmer in *CNN.com*. The U.S. women's soccer team defiantly took a knee before games to protest racism, sparking a predictable backlash from American conservatives, who cheered when the squad lost to Canada in the semifinals. Germany's gymnastics team, meanwhile, wore leg-covering unitards rather than high-cut leotards in what they called a protest "against sexualization in gymnastics." We are witnessing "a movement coming of age."

Sunisa Lee's all-around gold was more than a personal triumph. Like me, Lee is a member of the Hmong people, an ethnic group from Southeast Asia that fought alongside the U.S. during the Vietnam War, only to be brutally persecuted when U.S. forces withdrew. Most people "have no idea the role we played in American history." Now that a daughter of Hmong refugees is a national icon, "things are hopefully changing."

"There are all sorts of reasons the Tokyo Olympics should have been canceled," said John Feinstein in *The Washington Post*. There's the fact that Covid cases are rocketing in Japan, and that the International Olympic Committee "insisted on holding the Games for one reason: money." Still, I'm glad these Olympics are taking place. Another delay would have deprived many athletes of the "once-in-a-lifetime experience" of becoming an Olympian, especially those in sports "that don't produce dozens of multimillionaires." For the archers, kayakers, and fencers, "this is the pinnacle."

STU HEDLEY 1921-2021

WWII survivor spoke to masses on Pearl Harbor

By John Wilkens

SAN DIEGO — Stu Hedley, a Pearl Harbor survivor who spent decades stoking the flames of remembrance about that pivotal moment in American history, died Wednesday from COVID-19. He was 99.

Short in stature but long on stamina, the San Diegan was a fixture at annual public events honoring military veterans and a frequent speaker at local schools and in front of service organizations.

Clad in a Hawaiian shirt, white slacks and a medallion-bedecked garrison cap, Hedley made hundreds of appearances, in San Diego and elsewhere, sometimes going to multiple functions on the same day. By his count, he spoke to more than 200,000 people over the years.

"He never wanted what happened at Pearl Harbor to be forgotten," said David Koontz, marketing director at the USS Midway Museum. "He was passionate about making sure we remembered the courage of those who were there that day."

Hedley considered it an honor and a duty to represent those who fought in World War II, especially those who were killed in the conflict. "They were the he-

roes," he often said whenever anyone tried to attach that label to him.

More than 100 of his shipmates aboard the battleship West Virginia died at Pearl Harbor during the Dec. 7, 1941, attack by the Japanese that shoved the United States into the war.

Hedley, a 20-year-old seaman apprentice, narrowly escaped death several times as the ship was hit by torpedoes and bombs.

One explosion tore through the gun turret where he was positioned, killing a dozen of his shipmates. Escaping to shore meant swimming around and under flaming oil, sucking in breaths of scorching air. Taken by ambulance to a dispensary, he dodged shattering glass and flying shrapnel during a second wave of Japanese strafing.

"I grew up in a hurry that day," he told *The San Diego Union-Tribune* in a 2016 interview. "We all did."

Born Oct. 29, 1921, in Florida, and raised near Buffalo, New York, Hedley was fascinated as a child by the military and warfare. He drew pictures of airplanes dropping bombs when he was a child.

"Little did I realize at the age of 10 that one day I wou-



Stu Hedley, a Pearl Harbor survivor, rides in a float during the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade through Honolulu in 2016.

going to be involved with all that," he told elementary schoolchildren in a classroom presentation in Hawaii five years ago.

He tried to join the Navy out of high school, but at 4 feet 11 was too short. Recruiters sent him to the Civilian Conservation Corps instead.

A couple of years later, he had reached 5 feet 2 and was allowed in. He went aboard the West Virginia on his 19th birthday.

After Pearl Harbor, Hedley was stationed on the cruiser San Francisco and the destroyer Massey and saw action in more than a dozen battles in the South Pacific, including at Guadalcanal and Okinawa. He often credited surviving the war to his Christian faith.

Trained as an electrician, Hedley spent 20 years in the Navy, retiring in 1960. He worked another 20 years in the La Mesa-Spring Valley school district. He and his wife Wanda raised five children in Clairemont.

In the mid-1970s, Hedley went back to Pearl Harbor for the first time, as a tourist, and had flashbacks from the war. He'd seen bodies blown into the air when the battleship Arizona exploded. He'd found one of his friends cut in half by a sheet of flying glass.

Like many World War II veterans, he hadn't talked much about his experiences with relatives or friends, not even his wife. But he began opening up and joined the San Diego chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.

Now defunct, but once 30,000-members strong, the association had a two-sentence motto — "Remember Pearl Harbor, Keep America Alert" — and Hedley took both to heart. He returned often for the annual remembrances in Hawaii.

"Pearl Harbor was not a defeat," he liked to say. "It was an eye-opener."

He gave talks to just about anyone who asked. Schools,

churches, military commands, Kiwanis clubs. He wanted people to know not just what happened, but why, and to understand the cost of war. It upset him when he looked in school history books and saw Pearl Harbor reduced to two paragraphs.

"I remember going to (the San Diego-area city of) Ramona with him once to talk to some Boy Scouts," said Kathy Hansen, a Navy vet and a longtime friend. "Kids are a tough crowd and he told them stories for two hours. They couldn't get enough."

Hedley served several terms as president of the local survivors chapter, the largest in the country. He was in charge when it disbanded two years ago because so few survivors were left.

"It's certainly the end of an era," he said at the time, "and it leaves me a little heartbroken."

In addition to his Pearl Harbor-related interests, Hedley was active with Shadow Mountain Community Church, and with community organizations feeding the homeless.

His decades of service prompted a local nonprofit, the Enlisted Leadership Foundation, to create the Clief Stuart Hedley Legacy Award, given annually to three chief petty officers for their leadership, mentorship and volunteerism.

Survivors include three daughters, Barbara, Patty and Nancy, and a son, Rip. He was predeceased by Wanda, his wife of 64 years, and another daughter, Pam.

John Wilkens is a San Diego Union-Tribune writer.

The Delta blues

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



Boosters on the way as Delta variant rages

What happened

With the Delta variant continuing to drive soaring case counts, hospitalizations, and outbreaks in newly reopened schools, the Biden administration this week recommended that Covid booster shots be made available to most fully vaccinated Americans from Sept. 20. Citing the threat from the highly contagious Delta strain and mounting evidence that vaccine efficacy against infection and mild disease wanes over time—although protection against serious disease and death remains strong—federal officials said recipients of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines should get a third dose eight months after their second shot. The boosters will help the U.S. stay ahead of the virus, said White House medical adviser Anthony Fauci. “You don’t want to find yourself behind, playing catch-up.” The FDA and CDC are expected to approve the booster plan in the coming weeks. Officials said a booster will also likely be needed for people who received the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

More than 900,000 new Covid cases were reported last week, the highest number since February, and more than 91,000 people are currently hospitalized with the disease, up 17 percent in a week. The surge is being driven by rocketing caseloads in the South: There are now no intensive-care beds available in Alabama, and more than 90 percent of ICU beds are occupied in Texas, Georgia, Mississippi, and Florida. A record 1,900 children are now in the hospital with Covid, and some 121,000 tested positive for the virus last week. “This is not last year’s Covid,” said Sally Goza, former president of the American Academy of Pediatrics.



Tending to a patient in a Houston hospital hallway

said René Graham in *The Boston Globe*. Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves last week dismissed the need for school mask mandates, saying Covid in kids rarely amounts to “anything but the sniffles.” The next day, 13-year-old Makayla Robinson became the fifth Mississippi child to die from Covid. For children—especially the under-12s, who are not yet eligible for vaccines—a mask can be a lifesaver. But that simple truth is lost on a political party with values “akin to a death cult.”

Public-health experts have offered “some spectacularly mixed messages” on boosters, said Jim Gexaghy in *NationalReview.com*. As the Delta variant spread in Israel in early July, the country’s health ministry announced that Pfizer’s vaccine was now only 64 percent effective in preventing infection, down from about 95 percent in May. The next day, the CDC and the FDA declared that Americans wouldn’t need a booster, and—even as more studies showed the shots’ waning effectiveness—kept to that message until this week. Small wonder, then, that at least 1 million Americans have already gone rogue

Abbott and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis are playing to their bases by barring mask mandates in schools, said *The Wall Street Journal*. But President Biden has also tried to score points by bashing the two Republicans. These “mask wars are a political distraction.” What we really need is for our leaders to work together on getting more shots in arms—only 51 percent of the population is fully vaccinated—and delivering boosters to the immunocompromised. “Vaccines are the only way through the pandemic.”

What the columnists said

Republicans are failing America’s children,

a dose.

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."

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."