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Oil in the age of coronavirus: a U.S. shale bust like no other



Inside C2

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

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Musk's SpaceX set for debut astronaut mission, renewing NASA's crewed launch program



CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (Reuters) - Entrepreneur Elon Musk's SpaceX is set to launch two American astronauts to the International Space Station on Wednesday from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, ending the U.S. space agency's nine-year hiatus in human spaceflight.

California-based SpaceX's Crew Dragon capsule carrying astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken and its Falcon 9 rocket is due to lift off at 4:33 p.m. EDT (2033 GMT) on Wednesday from the same launch pad used by NASA's last space shuttle mission in 2011.

President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence will view the launch in person, a White House spokesman said.

For Musk, SpaceX and NASA, a safe flight would mark a milestone in the quest to produce reusable spacecraft that can make space travel more affordable. Musk is the founder and CEO of SpaceX and CEO of Tesla Inc.

"Bob and I have been working on this program for five years, day in and day out," Hurley, 53, said as he and Behnken, 49, arrived at the Kennedy Space Center from Houston last week. "It's been a marathon in many ways, and that's what you'd expect to develop a human-rated space vehicle that can go to and from the International Space Station."

NASA, hoping to stimulate a commercial space marketplace, awarded \$3.1 billion to SpaceX and \$4.5 billion to Boeing Co to develop dueling space capsules, experimenting with a contract model that allows the space agency to buy astronaut seats from the two companies.

Boeing's CST-100 Starliner capsule is not expected to launch its first crew until 2021.

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine declared the mission a "go" last week at Kennedy Space Center after space agency and SpaceX officials convened for final engineering checks.

SpaceX successfully tested Crew Dragon without astronauts last year in its first orbital mission to the space station. That vehicle was destroyed the following month during a ground test when one of the valves for its abort system burst, causing an explosion that triggered a nine-month engineering investigation that ended in January.

A pelican takes flight as the SpaceX Crew Dragon sits atop a Falcon 9 booster rocket on Pad 39A at Kennedy Space Center



The crew access arm is swung into position to a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with the company's Crew Dragon spacecraft onboard

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5/26/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

Music And Sorrow

According to a recent medical survey, more than one-third of the population in America suffers from melancholia, an emotional illness with symptoms of depression. Just in the last couple of months, prescriptions for anxiety and depression have increased more than thirty percent. This is one of the biggest problems facing American families today.

The total number of deaths from the coronavirus in America is now close to 100,000. According to a recent survey, the highest death rates are on an Indian reservation near the state of Arizona

because most of the people who live there have no running water or electricity. What a shame for this to be happening in the richest country in the world!

Today, the New York Stock Exchange opened their door. Again, all the nations of the world have also partially opened for business. But when we saw the crowded beaches and bars over the holiday, we were very worried about how are we really going to control the pandemic? President Trump said no matter if we have a vaccine or not, the



Nation will open for business.

We are so happy to see the music capital of Nashville, Tennessee, opening back up. Their music is ringing loud again. So many happy audiences and musicians playing guitars and singing beautiful songs. And our queen of country music, Dolly Parton and super star Jennifer Lopez singing their

beautiful songs to comfort our sorrows and sad hearts. We really also appreciate so many Chinese and Asian artists and musicians performing on our TV shows.

We really believe music is the medicine to cure our anxiety.



Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

C5

Stay Safe!

BUSINESS

Mask Up!

At Least 30 Grocery Workers Have Died From COVID-19

Thousands Of Grocery Workers Have Become Sick During The COVID-19 Pandemic, Union Says



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Grocery store workers are among those most vulnerable to coronavirus infections, due to the essential nature of their work and the fact that they come into contact with many strangers each day. And according to the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, that situation has taken a tragic toll, leading to 30 deaths and at least 3,000 cases where a grocery store employee has called off work due to illness. The union, which represents 900,000 grocery workers, surveyed its members and found other disturbing facts. According to its results, 85% of grocery store customers aren't practicing social distancing, and 28% do not limit the number of customers that can be in the store at a time. The union's total death and case numbers are also incomplete, since major chains like Whole Foods and Trader Joe's are not unionized.

In a media call on Monday, the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, or UFCW, told journalists that over 30 of its members had died from the coronavirus. UFCW, which represents about 1.3 million grocery

store workers and food processing workers, is pushing for increased protection from the government for its members. The union is asking the CDC to classify grocery workers as first responders, and to give them priority for testing and protective equipment.



A cashier works at a register as he covers his face with a bandana at a Jewel Osco grocery store in Mount Prospect, Ill., on April 4. (Nam Y. Huh/AP)

Corporations and the government alike have failed to protect workers, said Perrone. He pointed to Instacart as an example, where employees are required to obtain a COVID-19 diagnosis before they can receive sick leave. However, COVID-19 tests are in such high demand that it's nearly impossible to get a test, even if a patient shows moderate or even

severe symptoms.

Dr. Eric Cioe-Peña, the director of global health at Northwell Health and an assistant professor at Hofstra University's Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine, told Business Insider that doctors are frequently forced to turn away patients for testing that they are certain have COVID-19. Hospitals reserve tests for only the most severe, life-threatening cases, meaning that the vast majority of cases go uncounted.

Most companies that have implemented the two-week COVID-19 sick leave policy required by the federal government also require employees to provide positive COVID-19 diagnoses before they can receive sick pay. That policy could potentially led stores to dismiss COVID-19 cases and be contributing to further spread of the illness and even worker death.

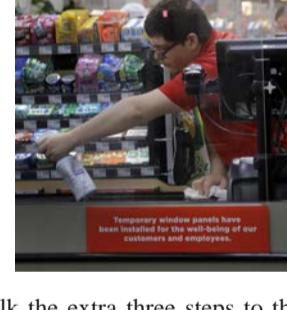


Grocery store workers plead for shoppers to wear masks and respect social distancing.

UFCW is also calling on consumers to change their behavior. As grocery stores attempt to implement safety measures like one-way aisles and distancing guidelines, workers say that many shoppers aren't taking those precautions seriously. In a survey conducted by the UFCW of 5000 grocery store workers, 85% of respondents said they had seen customers violating social distancing guidelines. Michigan Kroger employee Aaron Squeo told reporters during the call that one of his coworkers had recently died from COVID-19. Now, he still frequently sees customers flouting safety guidelines: ignoring one-way aisles, crowding workers to reach certain items, and coming into the store multiple times a day, often without any protective gear. He encourages shoppers to spend as little time in the store as possible so as to minimize

exposure for themselves and others.

"Make a grocery list," said Squeo. Customers also frequently leave used protective equipment in carts or on the ground, putting the grocery store workers who have to properly dispose of it at risk.



"Walk the extra three steps to the trash receptacle to throw away used masks and gloves instead of tossing them in your cart or on the ground," Gregg Finch, a longtime Stop-and-Shop employee in New York City, told reporters.

UFCW emphasized that the health of grocery store workers impacts the health of shoppers. If grocery store workers remain highly exposed to the coronavirus, so does the general public. (Courtesy https://www.businessinsider.com/)

Related

Grocery Workers Should Be Designated First Responders, Supermarkets And Union Agree

Kroger, the largest U.S. grocery chain, has teamed up with the largest U.S. retail and food workers union in urging national and state officials to designate grocery employees as "extended first responders" or "emergency personnel."

The goal is for grocery workers to get a higher priority for COVID-19 testing and access to safety gear like masks and gloves and other protections. Stores have struggled particularly to access a steady supply of masks, which are in shortage. Health workers and other first responders are also desperate to get them.

With supermarkets declared "essential" businesses during the coronavirus pandemic, grocery workers have been fearing for their health and safety as they continue to work and interact with thousands of shoppers while most of the

country is asked to self-quarantine.

Kroger's push with the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union follows a similar joint call last week by the union and Albertsons, the second-largest supermarket chain that also runs Safeway, Acme, Vons and other stores. The union says it represents the majority of grocery workers at both companies.



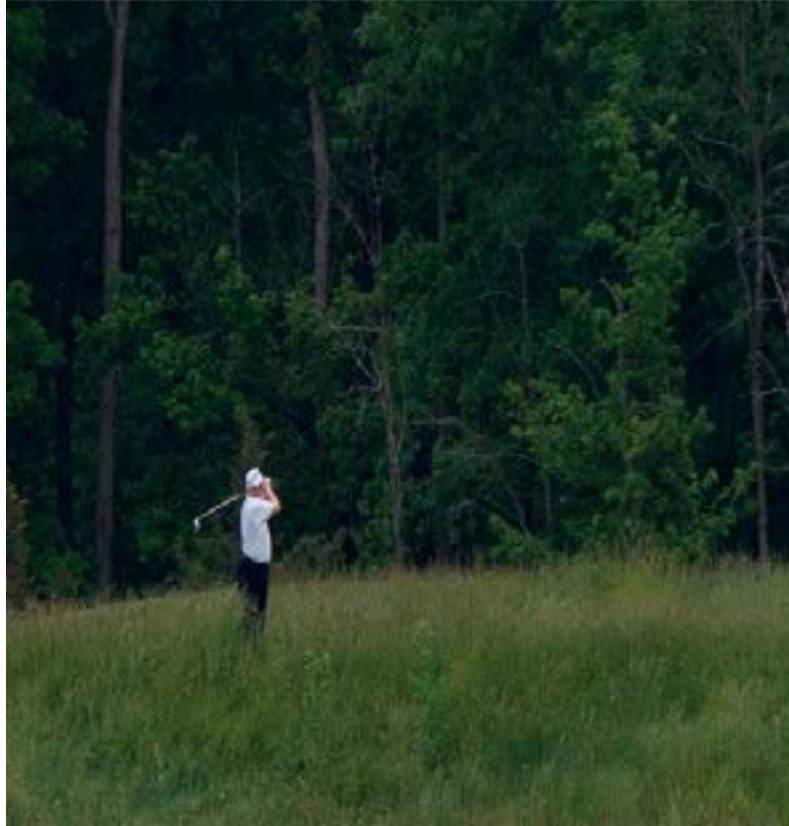
Kroger and the food workers union want grocery staff to be designated as first responders in the coronavirus pandemic. (Photo/AP)

"Given the significant daily risk these workers face ... we are requesting our nation's leaders to assign a temporary designation of first responder or emergency personnel status for all grocery workers," Kroger CEO Rodney McMullen and UFCW International President Marc Perrone said in a statement on Tuesday. The UFCW has pointed out that unlike traditional first responders, grocery workers "did not sign up to put their lives in danger and work on the front lines of a crisis like this."

Some 20 states have extended emergency child care benefits to grocery store workers, and eight states have strengthened consumer-safety standards like requiring shoppers to wear masks, according to the UFCW. New York and New Jersey have mandated personal protective gear for workers, while only Massachusetts offers free COVID-19 testing for grocery workers, the union said. Supermarket chains in recent weeks began stepping up their safety measures, installing plexiglass shields at cash registers, limiting the number of shoppers allowed inside and checking workers' temperatures. The number of grocery workers who have contracted coronavirus or died of its complications has been climbing. (Courtesy https://www.npr.org/)

Wednesday, May 27 2020

Editor's Choice



U.S. President Donald Trump participates in a round of golf in Sterling, Virginia. REUTERS/Tom Brenner



Maria Velez of Orlando, Florida, hugs the tombstone of her son Stephen at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery on Memorial Day in Seville, Ohio. REUTERS/Aaron Josefczyk



Attendants wearing face masks are seen before the second plenary session of the National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China. REUTERS/Thomas Peter



Children return to campus for the first day of New South Wales public schools fully re-opening for all students and staff at Homebush West Public School in Sydney, Australia. REUTERS/Loren Elliott



Democratic U.S. presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden is seen at War Memorial Plaza during Memorial Day in New Castle, Delaware. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



Giraffes cross under the bridge of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) line inside the Nairobi National Park in Nairobi, Kenya. REUTERS/Baz Ratner



New York Governor Andrew Cuomo wearing a protective mask participates during the Memorial day ceremony at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in New York. REUTERS/Jeenah Moon



People wearing protective masks make their way during rush hour at Shinagawa station on the first day after the Japanese government lifted the state of emergency in Tokyo, Japan. REUTERS/Kim Kyung-Hoon

Takeoff Is Scheduled For 4:33PM ET Today Wednesday, May 27th

NASA And SpaceX Are “Go” For Historic Launch Today



NASA astronauts Doug Hurley, left, and Bob Behnken, with the Crew Dragon spacecraft launchpad in the background.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

At 4:33PM ET today, Wednesday, May 27th, NASA and SpaceX are slated to launch their very first passengers together into space, potentially heralding a new era of human spaceflight for the United States. It'll be the first time in nearly a decade that people have launched to orbit from American soil, and it'll be the first time that a private vehicle takes them there.

NASA announced Friday that an exhaustive “flight readiness review” of Wednesday’s scheduled launch of a SpaceX rocket with two NASA astronauts aboard had determined that the mission could proceed.

This historic flight is really a test. It's the last big milestone for SpaceX as part of NASA's Commercial Crew Program. The experimental initiative tasked private companies with creating new spacecraft for NASA that are capable of transporting astronauts to and from the International Space Station. SpaceX's contribution to the program is a sleek, gumdrop-shaped capsule called the Crew Dragon. While it's flown a few times before, the capsule has yet to carry people to space.

SpaceX spent the last six years getting to this point. Last year, the company did a full dress rehearsal, successfully launching the Crew Dragon to the station without a crew on board. The company also tested the capsule's

emergency escape system, confirming that the Crew Dragon can carry people to safety if something goes wrong during the launch. But there have been setbacks to overcome, too, including rocket failures and the explosion of a Crew Dragon capsule during a ground test last year. SpaceX has since recovered, referring to the failures as “gifts” that helped the company create a safer vehicle.

NASA astronauts Doug Hurley, left, and Bob Behnken, monitor the Crew Dragon spacecraft static fire engine test. (Photo/AP)

Now, it's time for the Crew Dragon to have a crew. The vehicle's first two passengers are veteran NASA astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley, who were assigned to this mission in 2018. After two years of training for this flight with both NASA and SpaceX, they're ready to don SpaceX's custom space suits and take their seats inside the capsule. Here's why this flight is so important, what to expect from the mission, and what it means for

NASA and SpaceX moving forward. July 8th, 2011, marked the final flight of NASA's Space Shuttle and the last time astronauts launched to orbit from the United States. Ever since, NASA has flown all of its astronauts and international partners to the space station on Russia's Soyuz capsule. The arrangement costs NASA about \$80 million per seat — and it has been the agency's only option for getting people to the station.

To end its reliance on another country, NASA worked with private industry to bring human spaceflight back to the United States. With the Commercial Crew Program, NASA awarded two companies — SpaceX and Boeing — contracts to develop their own vehicles that could ferry NASA's astronauts to the space station and back. NASA paid SpaceX \$3.14 billion to develop and fly the Crew Dragon, while Boeing received \$4.8 billion to develop and fly the CST-100 Starliner.



Artistic renderings of SpaceX's Crew Dragon (L) and Boeing's CST-100 Starliner (R).
Image: Alex Parkin / Space X / Boeing

An intense rivalry formed between the two companies over the years. Both experienced numerous technical delays and setbacks along the way, but ultimately, SpaceX pulled ahead. When it flies, SpaceX will become the first private company ever to fly humans to orbit.

The Launch

SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket will take off from the company's launch site at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. Known as Launch Complex 39A, it's seen launches of the Space Shuttle as well as Saturn V rockets that sent humans to the Moon.

SpaceX started leasing the complex from NASA in 2014 and transformed the launchpad to support flights of the company's Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy rockets.

Suited up in SpaceX's custom pressure suits, astronauts Behnken and Hurley will start making their way to the launchpad at around 1PM ET. To really make this an Elon Musk affair, the two astronauts will ride to the site in

a white Tesla Model X, adorned with various NASA logos for absolute synergy. Once at the pad, the duo will take an elevator up near the top of the Falcon 9 rocket and walk across a suspended hallway known as the “crew access arm” to the entrance of the Crew Dragon.



Hurley (R) and Behnken (L) outside of the Tesla that will take them to the launchpad. (Photo/ NASA)

The Astronauts Will Ride To The Launch Site In A White Tesla Model X

Behnken and Hurley will climb inside the capsule and shut the hatch, which will mean it's time to start fueling the vehicle. This part of the process has been fairly controversial for some in the aerospace community. Back when the Space Shuttle was flying, fueling occurred before astronauts boarded since loading combustible materials into a spacecraft is considered risky. However, SpaceX opts to do fueling about half an hour before launch, after the crew is already on board. The company uses incredibly cold propellants to fly its Falcon 9, which boost the vehicle's performance. The sooner SpaceX pumps in that propellant before launch, the less time there is for the liquids to warm up and boil away.

After years of debate over this procedure — called “load and go” — NASA finally signed off when SpaceX demonstrated it could be safely done on numerous flights.

Once all the propellant is loaded in the rocket, things will happen quickly. SpaceX will give the go-ahead to launch, with liftoff scheduled for 4:33PM ET. The company must launch at that exact time or be forced to delay to the backup launch date, which is currently set for Saturday, May 30th.

The Unthinkable

SpaceX has spent years doing tests and inspections to ensure that this launch performs safely. But this launch is a test, and the specter of failure weighs heavily on many minds. If something goes awry, a built-in emergency escape system will provide an extra layer of protection for the astronauts.



The crew access arm leading to the Crew Dragon, perched atop the Falcon 9. Image: SpaceX

Embedded inside the outer walls of the Crew Dragon are tiny thrusters called SuperDraco engines. These thrusters are designed to ignite during flight in case something goes catastrophically wrong. The SuperDracos can carry the Crew Dragon up and away from a malfunctioning rocket, and once far enough away, the capsule's parachutes can deploy, lowering the vehicle down into the Atlantic Ocean.

It's a maneuver that's only needed in the case of an emergency, but SpaceX claims this option is available during every point in the flight until the Crew Dragon is deployed into orbit. And that actually means NASA and SpaceX are fairly limited about when this mission can launch. An abort could bring the Crew Dragon down in an extremely wide area of ocean in the Atlantic, and NASA wants to make sure that the weather is good in every possible location the capsule could touch down.

SpaceX Will Be Looking At The Weather In More Than 50 Locations

“We’re actually looking at waves — we’re looking at wave velocity and wave height — because we need to make sure that if the crew has to come down in a launch escape scenario, that they would come down in a sea state that would keep them safe and the rescue forces would be able to come and get them,” Benji Reed, director of crew mission management at SpaceX, said during a press conference. SpaceX will be considering the weather in more than 50 locations all the way up the East Coast to Canada and even across the Atlantic to Northern Ireland. That means weather delays are more likely than not.

The weather has been looking spotty for launch on May 27th so far, but today, the 45th Space Wing in Florida predicted a 60 percent chance that conditions will be favorable for launch. (Courtesy thevrege.com)

休城社區 Daily News

新冠疫情追蹤報導：疫情下，豐建偉醫師的一線人員經驗談，籲長者多曬太陽



【美南新聞記者蕭永群報導】自疫情以來，各大醫院的一線人員都在持續與病情作戰，本台獨家訪問休斯頓當地心臟科權威醫師豐建偉，來談談作為一線人員，在疫情之下最切身的所見所聞。

華人防疫觀念好，防護措施不馬虎

豐建偉講述了他在休斯頓赫曼西南紀念醫院的狀況，該院區華人病患多，他也從中觀察到了華裔在面對疫情的態度較為謹慎，不僅能保護自身、也可以對社區起到影響力。

如今餐館、診所等生意都開始開放，然而對於醫院而言，還是有不少的冠狀病毒感染患者，他指出以西南醫院為例，每日住院的病患大約有4至6成是新冠患者，上週光是一週內就增加了40多位患者，因此還是比較嚴峻。

休斯頓疫情是否有效控制？哪個族裔染病最高？

豐建偉醫師表示，自從德州復工以來，目前休斯頓地區的疫情屬於控制穩定的階段，並有往下走的趨勢。可以從院內需要插管、陽性確診率的狀況略知一二。

然而他指出，從確診人數看，目前感染人數最多為西裔，因為西裔往往更喜歡群

聚、喝酒，其次為非裔、白人，反而華裔族群少。他特別強調，這次的冠狀病毒對於青壯年、有肥胖問題也有危險因素，因此也呼籲民眾，應該趁著這段期間，重新審慎自己的生活模式，調整到最健康的狀態。



院內親身見聞：新冠病毒四伏，隨時可能染上

作為心臟科權威醫師，他也指出當新冠疫情引發肺部問題，如呼吸困難等，將容易使得肺部缺氧，進而導致如心房顫動、心肌炎、心力衰竭等心血管問題。這些也是他會接觸到的新冠患者。

豐建偉分享自身案例，一名因為心臟問題住院的患者，上周六突然出現呼吸困難的狀況，因此被轉移到加護病房。該患者事前進行過新冠篩檢，並確認為陰

性，因此按照非冠狀病毒的方式進行治療。

但病情卻在24小時內發生大轉變，出現



呼吸緊迫問題，看了X光片後出現典型冠狀病毒感染的特色，因此重新做了檢測後，又確診陽性。

因此，他提醒到新冠病毒隨時都有感染的可能，此外，新冠病毒對年長者、心臟病、心力衰竭者、腎臟病、糖尿病都極度危險，而此次的案例就是屬於這些高危族群，因為必須做好防護措施，比如戴口罩、社交隔離、以及洗手時間長達20秒。長者勿驚慌，多「曬太陽」讓身體合成維生素



豐建偉也指出，許多安分守己的長輩近來都待在家看電視，看了電視上的資訊後感到心慌、甚至胸疼。他呼籲長者盡量少看電視，不要因死亡數、染病數等資訊感到恐慌，畢竟看了也無法解決問題。他提出，與其待在家中看電視，務必要多出去走走、曬曬太陽。他指出養老院之所以成為疫情熱點的原因，也可能是因

為入了養老院後出去走動、曬太陽的時間減少，如此一來身體無法自行合成維生素D與鈣質，即使有口服藥錠，還是不如出去走動來得有效。

豐建偉指出，新冠病毒只要曝曬在太陽下40分鐘就會被殺死，長者只要做好防護措施，多出去走動是一件好事。

新冠兩種檢測法：RNA檢測、血漿檢測

豐建偉指出，目前主流的兩種新冠檢測為RNA與血漿檢測。前者用來檢查病毒是否存在，後者則能檢測出身體是否有抗體，因此他認為，未來若是這兩種檢測能雙軌並進，才能達到最完整的定論，民眾也才能真正安心。

醫學博士朱全勝指出，這類抗體通常分為免疫球蛋白M(IgM)和/or免疫球蛋白G(IgG)。IgM作為新冠病毒感染的早期指標，IgG是目前或曾經感染(和潛在的感染後免疫)的指標。若出現IgG，就意味着檢測者已經沒有感染性、可以放心了。

Moderna有效疫苗受質疑，公布資訊不完整

為了有效對抗新冠疫情，疫苗仍是眾所期盼的救星。上週美國生物科技公司Moderna公布了疫苗受試者出現抗體的好消息，引起各界歡騰，但沒過兩天，對它的爭議卻紛沓而至。

朱全勝指出，Moderna招募了45名健康成人志願者，年紀在18-55歲範圍內，但Moderna只檢測了8個人的中和抗體，他們是中、低劑量組的前4名受試者，因此只有8個人，被認為樣本量小。此外，Moderna沒有將成果寫成論文，供同行審議，僅有一紙聲明，也被外界質疑有自吹自擂之嫌。