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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

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Biden kicks off effort to reshape U.S. economy with infrastructure package

(Reuters) -President Joe Biden on Wednesday will call for a dramatic and permanent shift in the direction of the U.S. economy with a roughly \$2 trillion package to invest in traditional projects like roads and bridges alongside tackling climate change and boosting human services like elder care.

FILE PHOTO: U.S. President Joe Biden holds a meeting on infrastructure with members of Congress in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, U.S., March 4, 2021. REUTERS/Tom Brenner/File Photo He also aims to put corporate America on the hook for the tab, which is expected to grow to a combined \$4 trillion once he rolls out the second part of his economic plan in April.

Coupled with his recently enacted \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package, Biden's infrastructure initiative would give the federal government a bigger role in the U.S. economy than it has had in generations, accounting for 20% or more of annual output.

The effort, to be announced on Wednesday at an event in Pittsburgh, sets the stage for the next partisan clash in Congress where members largely agree that capital investments are needed but are divided on the total size and inclusion of programs traditionally seen as social services. How to pay for them will be a fractious issue in its own right.

Biden is ignoring a campaign promise to raise taxes on wealthy individuals, at least for now, with none of the expected increases in the top marginal rate or capital gains tax. The plan would instead increase the corporate tax rate to 28% from 21% and change the tax code to close loopholes that allow companies to move profits overseas, according to a 25-page briefing paper released by the White House.

The plan would spread the cost for projects over an eight-year period and aims to pay for it all over 15 years, a senior administration official said.

Neil Bradley, executive vice president and chief policy officer at the nation's largest trade group, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said while the organization shares Biden's sense of urgency

on infrastructure, his plan is "dangerously misguided."

"We strongly oppose the general tax increases proposed by the administration which will slow the economic recovery and make the U.S. less competitive globally – the exact opposite of the goals of the infrastructure plan," Bradley said. Global aviation industry seeks share of U.S. infrastructure package The hard part: Biden infrastructure-linked tax hikes face hurdles in Congress

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The plan includes \$621 billion to rebuild infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, highways and ports, and a historic \$174 billion investment in the electric vehicle market that sets a goal of a nationwide charging network by 2030.

In many cases, the White House cast those goals in the language of addressing economic inequities born of historic racial discrimination, such as spending on interstate highway developments that

split communities of color or air pollution that affects Black and Hispanic communities near ports or power plants.

Congress will also be asked to put \$400 billion toward expanding access to affordable home or community-based care for aging Americans and people with disabilities. It's aimed at "underpaid and undervalued" workers in that industry, who are disproportionately women of color.

There is \$213 billion provided to build and retrofit affordable and sustainable homes along with hundreds of billions to support U.S. manufacturing, bolster the nation's electric grid, enact nationwide high-speed broadband and revamp the nation's water systems to ensure clean drinking water.

SECOND LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE COMING

Biden is moving forward with the massive job and infrastructure effort as he navigates an ambitious timeline to provide enough COVID vaccines for all adults by the end of May and the deployment of pandemic relief.

The White House is also dealing with a rise in the number of migrants at the southern border, the fallout from back-to-back mass shootings and a looming showdown over the Senate filibuster.

The plan forms one part of the "Build Back

Better" agenda that the administration aims to introduce. The White House has said a second legislative package is due within weeks.

That package is expected to include an expansion in health insurance coverage, an extension of the expanded child tax benefit, and paid family and medical leave, among other efforts aimed at families.

House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi has signaled that she hopes to pass the infrastructure plan by July 4, though that timeline could easily slip as Democrats race to write the legislation and agree on details.

The jockeying has already begun, as allies push for inclusion of their priorities and Republicans signal early concerns about the package's size and scope.

Moderate Democrats have said the package should be more targeted to traditional infrastructure projects to attract Republican votes, seeking a return to bipartisan policymaking

Liberal lawmakers want to use the party's slim majorities in Congress to tackle some of the nation's biggest problems, such as climate change and economic inequality, with resources that reflect the size of those challenges.

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

03/31/2021



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Disgusting Hate Crime In New York



New York police are investigating a hate crime assault against a 65-year-old Asian woman who was punched and kicked in midtown Manhattan.

The video showed onlookers not reacting to the attacker. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio called the brazen attack against the woman disgusting and outrageous and called on everyone with any information about the incident to reach out to the police.

The individual proceeded to kick the victim multiple times

in the head before fleeing the



location.

We are urging New York to try their best to catch the guy in order to bring justice.

Mr. Zhao Shaokang, a famous Taiwan politician and media person, wrote a letter to President Biden to express his great concern about the hate crimes in America. He said many of his friends

already are thinking about moving back to Asia. They do not feel safe and they are scared to join public meetings now.

It is very sad in this pandemic time that a lot of people are facing this difficulty. The crime rate is rising all over the nation. All of us as private citizens need to be united and help each other.



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Editor's Choice



Yoshia Uomoto, 98, reacts as her son Mark Uomoto and niece Gail Yamada surprise her with their first in-person visit in a year after indoor visitation restrictions due to the coronavirus were lifted at Nikkei Manor, an assisted living facility primarily serving Japanese-American seniors, in Seattle, Washington. Residents who have all been fully vaccinated can visit with family for an hour at a time. REUTERS/Lindsey Wasson



Youths, who covered themselves from head to toe in silver paint to become 'manusia silver' (silvermen), as part of their act to make a living, laugh as they ride on the back of a truck in Jakarta, Indonesia. REUTERS/Willy Kurniawan



A mother and her son, migrants from Honduras, walk after crossing the Rio Bravo river to turn themselves in to U.S Border Patrol agents to request for asylum in El Paso, Texas. REUTERS/Edgard Garrido



A wounded person who is fleeing the violence in Myanmar seeks medical treatment at the Thai border village of Mae Sam Laep, Mae Hong Son province, Thailand. REUTERS/Soe Zeya Tun



Cats are pictured at Ermes-to's sanctuary for cats in Idlib, Syria. REUTERS/Khalil Ashawi



A healthcare worker collects a coronavirus test swab sample from a man, at a temporary shelter for homeless people in New Delhi, India. REUTERS/Adnan Abidi

California Has Now Confirmed Two Cases Of The South African Strain

U.K. Scientist Says New COVID Variant Could ‘Sweep The World’



California Gov. Gavin Newsom watches as the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is prepared. (J. Hong/Agence France-Presse/Getty Images)

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

A senior U.K. scientist warned Thursday that the variant of the coronavirus-borne illness COVID-19 that first emerged there and is far more infectious than the original virus could “sweep the world” and complicate the effort to contain the pandemic. In an interview with the BBC’s Newscast podcast, Professor Sharon Peacock, head of the U.K.’s genetic surveillance program, said the new variant has already swept across the U.K. and will probably spread widely across the globe.

The news comes as California Gov. Gavin Newsom confirmed that the variant that first emerged in South Africa has now been detected in two cases in the Golden State. That variant worries experts as it is also highly contagious and appears more resistant to the vaccines that have been granted emergency use authorization in the U.S. and elsewhere.

Earlier this week, South Africa said it would stop using the vaccine developed by AstraZeneca PLC AZN, +3.19% AZN, -0.60% and Oxford University because it seemed less effective in dealing with the strain, and on Wednesday, officials said they would start giving front-line health care workers the John-

son & Johnson JNJ, +0.31% vaccine instead. That vaccine has not yet received emergency use authorization — an application for an EUA has been submitted to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration — but there are high hopes for it as it is a one-dose regimen, unlike the other authorized vaccines, which require two jabs, weeks apart.



The World Health Organization weighed in on the AstraZeneca vaccine on Thursday, and said it was “highly effective and safe” even if it less effective in dealing with the South Africa variant. “The AZD1222 vaccine against COVID-19 has an efficacy of 63.09% against symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection,” said the WHO’s Strate-

gic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) in a statement. “Longer dose intervals within the 8 to 12 weeks range are associated with greater vaccine efficacy.” AstraZeneca, which reported its full-year earnings on Thursday, said it was fixing problems with the manufacturing of its vaccine and expects to roughly double monthly production to 200 million doses by April, as it seeks to move past a rocky start to the shot’s rollout, as Dow Jones Newswires reported.

Last year, AstraZeneca stumbled in communicating clinical-trial results and more recently, suffered a shortfall in doses pledged to the European Union. Chief Executive Pascal Soriot and other executives said they were working out production kinks and would meet targets to deliver more than 400 million doses to rich and poor countries in coming months. That follows green lights in the U.K., Europe and beyond for the vaccine’s use, which isn’t approved yet for U.S. use. The company also said it would take six to nine months to create modified version of the vaccine to target new variants.

In the meantime, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention vaccine tracker is now showing that as of 6.00 a.m. Wednesday, 44.8 million vaccines jabs had been administered and about 66 million doses delivered to states. The tracker shows that 33.8 million people have received one or more doses, equal to about 10% of the population. The U.S. added another 94,855 new COVID cases on Wednesday, according to a New York Times tracker, and at least 3,252 people died. Cases are continue to fall and have averaged 104,554 new cases a day in the past week, down 36% from the average two weeks ago.

There was bad news for California, which on Wednesday surpassed New York as the state with the most COVID deaths, according to the Times. Los Angeles is temporarily closing five vaccination sites, because of a shortage of vaccines, the paper reported.



Related

U.S. COVID Record • The U.S. could have avoided 40% of the deaths it has suffered from COVID-19 if rates were in line with other

high-income members of the G-7 nations, a Lancet commission reported Thursday, after examining the track record of former President Donald Trump. Trump “brought misfortune to the USA and the planet” during his four years in office, the commission concluded, but it also noted that U.S. public health infrastructure was in bad shape as the country entered the pandemic. “Although his effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act failed, he weakened its coverage and increased the number of uninsured people by 2.3 million, even before the mass dislocation of the COVID-19 pandemic, and has accelerated the privatization of government health programs,” said the report. The U.S. leads the world by case numbers, at 27.4 million, according to data aggregated by Johns Hopkins University, or about a quarter of the global tally. It has by far the most fatalities, at 471,765, or about a fifth of the global total. The second highest case tally is India, with 10.9 million, or less than half the U.S. total. Brazil has the second highest death toll at 234,850, also less than half the U.S. number.

Wear Masks • Federal health officials again reminded Americans to continue to wear masks even as the number of new cases and hospitalizations is on the decline since a peak in early January, MarketWatch’s Jaimy Lee reported. A report published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday found that wearing two masks (such as a surgical mask and a cloth masks together) and ensuring a medical mask fits tightly against the face helped prevent exposure to particles in one experiment. The CDC recommends that masks “have two or more layers, completely cover your nose and mouth, and fit snugly against your walls and the side of your face.”



New Task Force On Health Equity • President Joe Biden created a new task force focused on health equity and COVID-19. He tapped 12 experts, who are expected to issue a number of recommendations about the nation’s COVID-19 response and recovery. Back in December, MarketWatch spoke with Dr. James Hildreth, CEO of Meharry College, one of four historically black medical schools in the U.S., and a member of Biden’s new COVID-19 Health Eq-

uity Task Force. Read the full interview.

Employers Can Require Workers To Take Vaccine • Employers in the U.S. may be allowed to require workers to take a COVID-19 vaccine, but a new survey suggests most aren’t going the mandatory route just yet, MarketWatch’s Meera Jagannathan reported. Just 0.5% of companies currently mandate coronavirus vaccination for all employees, and only 6% plan to mandate it for all workers once vaccines are readily available and/or fully approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, according to the survey of 1,802 C-suite executives, HR professionals and in-house lawyers from a range of industries conducted by the employment-law firm Littler. Another 3% said they plan to mandate vaccination only for certain workers, such as those in customer-facing roles.

Also: Target, Tractor Supply join list of companies paying workers to get COVID-19 vaccine

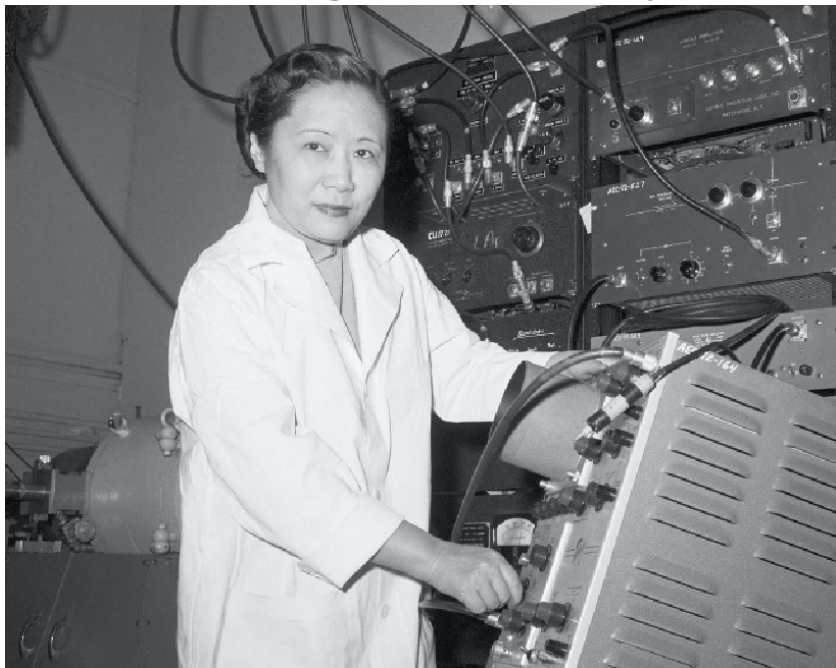
Texas Doctor Charged • A Texas doctor who inoculated 10 people with doses of vaccine that were about to expire rather than let them go to waste has been fired and charged with theft, the New York Times reported. Dr. Hasan Gokal made house calls and directed people to his house, including strangers, in an effort to make the doses matter. His final patient was his own wife, who suffers from a pulmonary disease. The doses in each vial of the Moderna Inc. mRNA, +0.16% vaccine are only viable for six hours after the seal is broken, making it urgent that they are administered before expiring.



Latest Tallies

The global tally for confirmed cases of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 climbed above 107.4 million on Thursday, while the death toll rose above 2.35 million. **Brazil** has the second highest death toll at 234,850 and is third by cases at 9.7 million. **India** is second worldwide in cases with 10.9 million, and now fourth in deaths at 155,360. **Mexico** has the third highest death toll at 169,670 and 13th highest case tally at 1.9 million. **The U.K.** has 3.9 million cases and 115,070 deaths, the highest in Europe and fifth highest in the world. **China**, where the virus was first discovered late last year, has had 100,515 confirmed cases and 4,827 deaths, according to its official numbers. (Courtesy <https://www.marketwatch.com/>)

New U.S. Postage Stamp Honors Chien-Shiung Wu, Trailblazing Nuclear Physicist



Chien-Shiung Wu, one of the most influential nuclear physicists of the 20th century.

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

On Feb. 11, 2021, the sixth International Day of Women and Girls in Science, the U.S. Postal Service will issue a new Forever stamp to honor Chien-Shiung Wu, one of the most influential nuclear physicists of the 20th century.

A Chinese American woman, Wu performed experiments that tested the fundamental laws of physics. In a male-dominated field, she won many honors and awards, including the National Medal of Science (1975), the inaugural Wolf Prize in Physics (1978) and honorary degrees from universities around the world.

“In China, where I grew up,” explained Xuejian Wu, Assistant Professor of Physics, Rutgers University – Newark, NJ,” Wu is an icon who is sometimes called the “Chinese Marie Curie.”

“I first read about Wu’s extraordinary story in my physics textbook, when I was a teenager in high school. Chien-Shiung Wu

became a scientific role model for me, inspiring me to pursue an academic career in physics and follow her path to the U.S.”

From China to the US, to pursue physics

In 1912, Wu was born in Liuhe in Jiangsu province, a town about 40 miles north of Shanghai. Although it was uncommon in China for girls to attend school at that time, her father founded a school for girls where she received her elementary education.

Analysis of the world, from experts

In 1930, Wu attended National Central University in Nanjing to study mathematics. But the revolutionary triumphs of late 19th-century modern physics – such as the discoveries of atomic structure and of X-rays – attracted Wu’s attention. She changed her major to physics and graduated at the top of her

class in 1934.



The new U.S. postage stamp featuring Wu. (U.S. Postal Service)

Encouraged by her college advisor and financially supported by her uncle, Wu booked the month-long steamship trip to the United States in 1936 to pursue her doctoral education. She arrived in San Francisco, where she met her future husband, Luke Chia-Liu Yuan, another physicist, when he showed her around the Radiation Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley. Scientists at the lab had only recently invented the cyclotron, the most advanced instrument for accelerating charged particles in a spiral trajectory.

Enticed by the atomic nuclei research being done in the lab, Wu abandoned her original plan to attend the University of Michigan and successfully enrolled in the physics doctoral program at Berkeley.

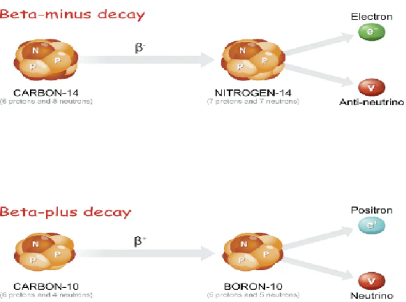
In her graduate research, Wu worked closely with nuclear scientist Ernest Lawrence, who had won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1939, and Emilio Segrè, who went on to win the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1959. She studied the electromagnetic radiation produced when charged particles decelerate, as well as radioactive isotopes of xenon generated by splitting uranium atoms via nuclear fission. In June 1940, Wu completed her Ph.D. with honors.

After a short period of postdoctoral research still at the Radiation Laboratory,

Wu moved to the East Coast, where she taught at Smith College and then Princeton University.

Experimental work in radioactive decay

In 1944, Wu became a research scientist at Columbia University, where she joined the Manhattan Project, the top-secret U.S. effort to turn basic research in physics into a new kind of weapon, the atomic bomb. As a team member, Wu helped develop the process for separating uranium atoms into the charged uranium-235 and uranium-238 isotopes using gaseous diffusion. This work eventually led to enriched uranium, a critical component for nuclear reactions.



After World War II, Wu remained at Columbia and focused her research on the radioactive process of beta decay.. She investigated beta particles: fast-moving electrons or positrons emitted from an atomic nucleus in the radioactive decay process.

In the mid-1950s, Wu performed a famous experiment to test the law of parity conservation. This was a widely accepted but unproven principle implying that a physical process and its mirror reflection are identical. As proposed by theoretical physicists Chen Ning Yang and Tsung-Dao Lee, Wu designed an experiment to see if reality matched the theory. Observing the beta decay of cobalt-60 atoms, Wu measured the radiation intensity as a function of the radiation direction. To increase the accuracy of her experimental measurements, Wu figured out techniques to get her cobalt-60 atoms all spinning in the same direction. She observed that more particles flew off in the direction opposite to the direction the nuclei were spinning. The law of parity

conservation predicted that the atoms would emit beta particles in symmetrical ways. But Wu’s observations meant the “law” did not hold and she had discovered parity nonconservation.

This breakthrough achievement helped Wu’s theoretical colleagues win the 1957 Nobel Prize in Physics, but unfortunately, the Nobel Committee overlooked Wu’s experimental contribution.



Wu received many accolades, including an honorary doctorate at Harvard in 1974. (Bettmann via Getty Images)

In addition to her famous parity law research, Wu carried out a series of important experiments in nuclear physics and quantum physics. In 1949, she experimentally verified Enrico Fermi’s theory of beta decay, correcting the discrepancies between the theory and previous inaccurate experimental results and developing a universal version of his theory. She also proved the quantum phenomenon relevant to a pair of entangled photons.

In 1958, Wu was the first Chinese-American elected to the National Academy of Sciences. In 1967, she served as the first female president of the American Physical Society.

After her retirement in 1981, Wu dedicated herself to public educational programs in both the United States and China, giving numerous lectures and working to inspire younger generations to pursue science, technology, engineering and math education. She died in 1997.

Wu’s legacy continues today, with the issuing of her postage stamp. She joins a short list of physicists featured on U.S. stamps, including Albert Einstein, Richard Feynman and Maria Goeppert-Mayer. (Courtesy <https://theconversation.com/>)