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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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California Governor Newsom defeats Republican recall effort

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Sept 15 (Reuters) - California Governor Gavin Newsom on Tuesday handily beat back a Republican campaign to oust him from office, sending a decisive message that voters in the deeply Democratic state supported his policies for tackling COVID-19, immigration and crime.

Newsom, who won his first term in 2018 by a landslide, again claimed a resounding victory in the special recall election. That means he will remain in office through his term ending in January 2023 and see his chances significantly bolstered in next year's regularly scheduled election.

With 100% of precincts reporting late Tuesday and some mail-in ballots yet to be counted, Newsom was ahead by 28 percentage points, with 64% of voters saying he should stay in office and 36% saying he should be removed.

"I'm humbled and grateful to the millions and millions of Californians that exercised their fundamental right to vote," Newsom said in a victory speech Tuesday night in the state capital of Sacramento. His win and the high turnout in Tuesday's election came as a relief to national Democrats, who already were bracing for a tough fight in the 2022 elections that will decide control of Congress. A loss in one of the party's stronghold states would have set off alarms across the country, particularly given the leading Republican challenger was a supporter of former President Donald Trump with a track record of controversial statements about women and minorities.

Newsom and Democratic leaders including President Joe Biden characterized the recall effort, heavily supported by state and national Republican groups, as part of a broader Republican agenda to oust Democrats from power and expand conservative restrictions on voting, civil rights and abortion. "Economic justice, social justice, racial justice, environmental justice, our values where California has made so much progress, all of those things were on the ballot this evening," Newsom said in his speech. His decisive win holds lessons for national Democrats, who will be fighting next year to keep majorities in Congress and seats in governor's mansions, said Democratic strategist Steven Maviglio. Newsom mounted a massive get-out-the-vote effort that mobilized Democrats who typically are not engaged in off-year elections.



EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT REFLECTS THE PAST

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT REFLECTS THE PAST

A special family in Houston has two most remarkable people. The mother, a PhD, who spent her early years in the Peace Corp, was teaching in Hawaii and working on her graduate degrees. She was inspired to adopt a child from China. No easy task, the obstacles were overwhelming. Nothing deterred Dr. Suzanne Acord. Originally from Chicago, but raised in Alief with an academic inclined family, she had a vision to do good things in the world.

This she did when Suzanne flew to Jinan near Zibo in the Shandong Province in eastern China. Her soon to be son, then named Dang Jianxiao was ten years old and living in a foster home in Zibo. Now his name is Anderson Acord. Anderson had spent many of his early years in a Chinese orphanage. Not much is known about his early years, needless to say, he lived with a loving foster family until his adoption, only six years ago. Chinese adoption regulations require all the legal proceedings to be conducted in Guangzhou in southern China, where the U. S. Consulate will handle the legalities and the transfer of custody. Suzanne remarked that a number of American families were in Guangzhou in the process of adopting a child or children from a family. Anderson only spoke Mandarin. His new mother was able to communicate with him despite the obvious language barrier. When Suzanne was able to finalize the adoption process and bring Anderson to her then home in Hawaii, her mother, a retired public school teacher came to Hawaii from Houston and began English immersion one on one. It worked so remarkably, that today, Anderson not only speaks English

without an accent, but writes far beyond his years. He was first enrolled in the Mandarin Immersion Magnet School and recently was accepted into the DeBakey High School for Health Professions. It is one of the most competitive and one of the top rated high schools in the country. Why are we writing about Anderson Acord and his remarkable mother, Dr. Suzanne Acord? Anderson at his young age has set a number of goals in life. When in Hawaii,



he had reconstructive surgery on his hand at the Shriners Hospital for Children in Honolulu. He observed so many children receiving medical treatment at no cost from the Shriners. He further observed the medical professionals at work and saw how much the children benefited from their care. This early experience inspired Anderson to possibly seek a career in medicine as a physician, to be able to give back to those who care and to those in need. This ambitious young man was influenced by classmates at the Mandarin School to join Boy Scouts. He missed the Cub Scout years, but joined Troop 549 in the Sharpstown neighborhood under the supervision of longtime Scoutmaster Bill Folts. He found his niche. With the mentors and the high ethics of the Scouting movement, Anderson achieved many successes. He is a camper and a student athlete. He and his mom have been on the long hikes at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Now a Life Scout and having earned over 76 Merit Badges, Anderson is now starting his EAGLE PROJECT. He far exceeded the minimum 21 Merit Badges required for EAGLE, he is now focusing

on his EAGLE PROJECT.

He remembered when as a young child in China, he moved from his foster family to his forever home with Suzanne. He was given a small backpack, loaded with goodies that are necessary for every day survival. This backpack with these small things became very dear to him and he has cherished that memory. He still has that backpack to this day. Today, his EAGLE PROJECT is a return to that past memory. He has proposed and Scouting has agreed that he will donate a number of backpacks to the DePelchin Children's Center. These will be new and quality backpacks, suitable for middle and high school aged students, that due to unfortunate family situations, they must live in the DePelchin Center where they receive proper care, education and attention for their needs. Anderson wants to fill these backpacks with the necessities of life, like he received back in China six years ago. He is asking the public for donations, like the needed new backpacks, young adult books, new water bottles, PPE masks and needed school supplies. In addition, small bottles



of laundry detergent, mouth wash and gift cards for the purchase of additional necessities.

You can make a donation of these items by contacting his mother, Dr. Suzanne Acord at Suzanne.Acord@gmail.com. You can also text her at 808-783-6034. Dr. Acord is a local educator in Houston at HISD. Ask her how to make cash donations so

they can purchase the quality backpacks to fulfil this most rewarding EAGLE PROJECT. You can also contact Dr. Acord for access to the AMAZON Wish List. This project has just begun, and should be completed by late October.

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

09/15/2021



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Democrats Fight To Finalize Deal



House and Senate Democrats are fighting to unite their party to pass a massive economic package to implement much of President Biden's domestic agenda. But because they are facing internal disagreement, it could threaten to derail the deal.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi promised to bring a bipartisan bill to the floor on September

27th, but some of the progressives say they won't vote for it without the larger economic package. Senator Joe Manchin has poured cold water on the timeline.

Democrats are also working on adding a debt limit increase to a stop-gap spending measure to keep the government open past September 30th. They also want to include billions of

dollars for natural disaster recovery in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida.

The clock is ticking for a series of key deadlines for the nation. Pelosi wants to see the party's massive bill to expand the social safety net by the end of this week.

This is so important for Democrats to show their ability to pass all the bills in order to keep their power in Congress.

We are so glad to see that two leaders from the United States and China had conversations last week. We all know the world is in chaos today. We need the world leaders to seek common ground to make peace for the world.

We also feel very sad about the conflicts in so many parts of the world that could bring disaster to the entire globe.



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Fellow Marines who served in Bahrain with Marine Corps Sgt. Johnny Rosario Pichardo, who was among 13 U.S. service members killed in the airport suicide bombing in Afghanistan's capital Kabul, pay their respects in her hometown in Lawrence, Massachusetts. REUTERS/Faith Ninivaggi



Fireworks thrown by anti-government protesters explode in front of a line of riot police officers during an anti-government protest in Bangkok, Thailand. REUTERS/Krit Phromsakla Na Sakolnakorn



California Governor Gavin Newsom, who faces a recall election, attends his campaign rally at Long Beach City College Liberal Arts Campus in Long Beach, California. REUTERS/Leah Millis



Brianna Werbil, 18, fishes in flood waters surrounding a neighborhood in the aftermath of Hurricane Nicholas in League City, Texas. REUTERS/Adrees Latif



Teachers welcome students with roses as schools reopen after the government withdrew restrictions on educational institutions following a decrease in the number of cases of coronavirus in Dhaka, Bangladesh. REUTERS/Mohammad Ponir Hossain



People wait for Pope Francis ahead of his meeting with members of the Roma Community in Kosice, Slovakia. REUTERS/Remo Casilli



UN Chief: World Is At ‘Pivotal Moment’ And Must Avert Crises



United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres addresses journalists during an EU summit at the European Council building in Brussels. Guterres has issued a dire warning, Saturday, Sept. 11, that the world is moving in the wrong direction and faces “a pivotal moment.” (John Thys, Pool Photo via AP, File)

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

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres issued a dire warning that the world is moving in the wrong direction and faces “a pivotal moment” where continuing business as usual could lead to a breakdown of global order and a future of perpetual crisis. Changing course could signal a breakthrough to a greener and safer future, he said. The U.N. chief said the world’s nations and people must reverse today’s dangerous trends and choose “the breakthrough scenario.” The world is under “enormous stress” on almost every front, he said, and the COVID-19 pandemic was a wake-up call demonstrating the failure of nations to

come together and take joint decisions to help all people in the face of a global life-threatening emergency. Guterres said this “paralysis” extends far beyond COVID-19 to the failures to tackle the climate crisis and “our suicidal war on nature and the collapse of biodiversity,” the “unchecked inequality” undermining the cohesion of societies, and technology’s advances “without guard rails to protect us from its unforeseen consequences.” In other signs of a more chaotic and insecure world, he pointed to rising poverty, hunger and gender inequality after decades of decline, the extreme risk to human life and the planet from nuclear

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war and a climate breakdown, and the inequality, discrimination and injustice bringing people into the streets to protest “while conspiracy theories and lies fuel deep divisions within societies.”



In a horizon-scanning report presented to the General Assembly and at a press conference Friday, Guterres said his vision for the “breakthrough scenario” to a greener and safer world is driven by “the principle of working together, recognizing that we are bound to each other and that no community or country, however powerful, can solve its challenges alone.” The report -- “Our Common Agenda” -- is a response to last year’s declaration by world leaders on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and the request from the assembly’s 193 member nations for the U.N. chief to make recommendations to address the challenges for global governance. In today’s world, Guterres said, “Global decision-making is fixed on immediate gain, ignoring the long-term consequences of decisions -- or indecision.” He said multilateral institutions have proven to be “too weak and fragmented for today’s global challenges and risks.” What’s needed, Guterres said, is not new multilateral bureaucracies but more effective multilateral institutions including a United Nations “2.0” more relevant to the 21st century. “And we need multilateralism with teeth,” he said. In the report outlining his vision “to fix” the world, Guterres said immediate action is needed to protect the planet’s “most precious” assets from oceans to outer space, to ensure it is livable, and to deliver on the aspirations of people everywhere for peace and good health. He called for an immediate global vaccination plan implemented by an emergency task force, saying “investing \$50 billion in vaccinations now could add an estimated \$9 trillion to the global economy in the next four years.”

The report proposes that a global Summit of the Future take place in 2023 that would not only look at all these issues but go beyond traditional security threats “to strengthen global governance of digital

technology and outer space, and to manage future risks and crises,” he said.



It would also consider a New Agenda for Peace including measures to reduce strategic risks from nuclear weapons, cyber warfare and lethal autonomous weapons, which Guterres called one of humanity’s most destabilizing inventions. The secretary-general said a new United Nations Futures Lab will publish regular reports “on megatrends and risks.” He said the COVID-19 pandemic also exposed deficiencies in the global financial system. To tackle these weaknesses and integrate the global financial system with other global priorities, Guterres proposed holding summits every two years of the 20 leading economies in the G20, the U.N.’s Economic and Social Council, the heads of international financial institutions including the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, and the U.N. secretary-general. He also called for the correction of “a major blind spot in how we measure progress and prosperity,” saying Gross Domestic Product or GDP fails to account for “the incalculable social and environmental damage that may be caused by the pursuit of profit.” “My report calls for new metrics that value the life and well-being of the many over short-term profit for the few,” Guterres said.

It also calls for a new Emergency Platform that would be triggered automatically in large-scale crises comprising governments, the U.N. system, international financial institutions, civil society, the private sector and others, he said.



Guterres also proposed “repurposing” the U.N. Trusteeship Council, whose work is largely completed, “to create an intergovernmental body for intergenerational issues” that would be a platform to consider the interests of the entire human family, present and future. As part of a new focus on the world’s young people and future generations, Guterres said he intends to appoint a special envoy for future generations to ensure the interests of those born in the 21st century and establish a new United Nations Youth Office.

Saying much of the world’s unease is rooted in poverty and growing inequality, Guterres noted that the 10 richest men saw their combined wealth increase by half a trillion dollars since the COVID-19 pandemic began while 55% of the world’s population, or 4 billion people, “are one step away from destitution, with no social protection whatsoever.” To address the threats to social stability, the U.N. chief recommended a series of measures “to provide universal health coverage, education, housing, decent work and income protection for everyone, everywhere.” Guterres proposed holding a World Social Summit in 2025 on global efforts to address these issues and repair the social fabric.



The secretary-general also proposed global action to tackle disinformation and conspiracy theories and promote facts, science and “integrity” in public discourse. “We must make lying wrong again,” Guterres said. (Courtesy apnews.com)

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Health Officials Advise White House to Scale Back Booster Plan for Now

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



WASHINGTON — Top federal health officials have told the White House to scale back a plan to offer coronavirus booster shots to the general public this month, saying that regulators need more time to collect and review all the necessary data, according to people familiar with the discussion. Dr. Janet Woodcock, the acting commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, and Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky, who heads the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, warned the White House on Thursday that their agencies may be able to determine in the coming weeks whether to recommend boosters only for recipients of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine — and possibly just some of them to start. The two health leaders made their argument in a meeting with Jeffrey D. Zients, the White House pandemic coordinator. Several people who heard about the session said it was unclear how Mr. Zients responded. But he has insisted for months that the White House will always follow the advice of government scientists, wherever it leads. Asked about the meeting, a White House spokesman said on Friday, “We always said we would follow the science, and this is all part of a process that is now underway,” adding that the administration was awaiting a “full review and approval” of booster shots by the F.D.A. as well as a recommendation from the C.D.C. “When that approval and recommendation are made,” the spokesman, Chris Meagher, said, “we will be ready to implement the plan our nation’s top doctors developed so that we are staying ahead of this virus.” Less than three weeks ago, Mr. Biden said that contingent on F.D.A. approval, the government planned to start offering boosters the week of Sept. 20 to adults who had received their second shot of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine at least eight months ago. That would include many health care workers and nursing home residents, as well as some people older than 65, who were generally the first to be vaccinated. Administration officials have said that recipients of the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine would probably be offered an additional shot soon as well.

Mr. Biden cast the strategy as another tool that the nation needed to battle the highly contagious Delta variant, which has driven up infection rates, swamped hospitals with Covid-19 patients and led to an average of more than 1,500 deaths a day for the past week, according to a New York Times database. “The plan is for every adult to get a booster shot eight months after you got your second shot,” he said on Aug. 18, adding: “It will make you safer, and for longer. And it will help us end the pandemic faster.”



But the announcement of a late September target date for starting the booster campaign set off alarm bells inside the F.D.A. — apparently playing a role in decisions by two of its top vaccine regulators, announced this week, to leave the agency this fall. Both Dr. Woodcock and Dr. Walensky helped draft the plan and publicly endorsed it. Some public health experts have said that by doing so, they increased pressure on scientists weighing the evidence for boosters in their respective agencies to go along with the administration’s strategy. “Now those agencies are in a box,” said Dr. Steven Joffe, a professor of medical ethics and health policy at the University of Pennsylvania. “We want doctors and scientists and the public to trust in the recommendations and decisions that are made, to be able to point to the F.D.A. and C.D.C. doing their due diligence.” Privately, Dr. Woodcock had argued that it was risky to set a firm date for a booster rollout before regulators had a chance to thoroughly review the data, some of which had yet to be submitted by the vaccine manufacturers, and decide whether shots were safe and necessary, according to several people familiar with the discussions. And since the White House announced the booster plan in mid-August, they said, new hurdles appeared. Among the reasons for delaying is that regulators need more time to decide the proper dosage for a possible third Moderna shot. The company’s application asking the F.D.A. to authorize a booster shot contains insufficient data, one federal official familiar with the process said. Other data expected from Johnson & Johnson has not been delivered. Nor has the raw data that the F.D.A. has been

seeking from Israel, which is already giving boosters to everyone 12 and older. Israeli officials say their data shows that the potency of Pfizer’s vaccine wanes over time against severe disease and hospitalization, but that a third shot significantly bolsters protection. The F.D.A. wants to see the underlying data, to make sure it backs up summaries that the Israeli government has provided. Narrowing the booster plan could confuse the public and create a perception that federal vaccine policy is in some degree of disarray. But some public health experts will most likely welcome it.



They have been arguing strenuously that the administration lacks the data to justify a broad rollout of extra shots and should instead concentrate on vaccinating the roughly 25 percent of Americans who are eligible for shots but remain unprotected. And some have said that senior Biden officials, including the leaders of health agencies, wrongly cornered regulators by announcing a strategy before they could conduct a full review. Regulators are only beginning to review critical data that will help them determine if and how boosters should be given. Pfizer completed its booster application to the F.D.A. last week, and Moderna said on Friday that it had just completed its own. The two vaccine regulators who announced that they would be leaving the agency this fall — Dr. Marion Gruber, who directs the agency’s vaccines office, and her deputy, Dr. Philip Krause — have told people there was not nearly enough data to justify offering extra shots to the general population starting in just weeks. Dr. Gruber is set to depart in October, and Dr. Krause in November. More friction may lie ahead. On Sept. 17, the F.D.A.’s outside advisory committee is scheduled to publicly review Pfizer’s data supporting a booster shot. Even though Pfizer has asked the F.D.A. to approve booster doses for people 16 and up, the agency could decide to restrict who gets a booster. The C.D.C. and its outside advisory panel would also have to weigh in. One key member of the F.D.A.’s advisory panel, Dr. Paul A. Offit, the director of the Vaccine Education Center at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, argues boosters are premature. “There is no compelling reason to get a third dose” now, he said in an interview on Thursday. He said the administration had appeared to expect that the F.D.A. and the C.D.C. would rubber-stamp its booster timeline. “Bypassing and marginalizing those agencies led veterans who you need in this pandemic to leave the F.D.A.,” he said, referring to the departures of Dr. Gruber and Dr. Krause.

Various studies have shown that the potency of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines ebbs against infection over time, but suggest that the vaccines continue to offer robust protection against severe illness and hospitalization.



But Dr. Vivek Murthy, the surgeon general, said in an interview on Thursday that a few studies have suggested a dip in protection against severe disease over time. “Our feeling was that if we waited several more months, we would see protection against hospitalizations and deaths break down,” he said. In an interview published Thursday on WebMD.com, Dr. Woodcock echoed that view, saying that the trend of breakthrough infections had led health officials to believe at some point, “we are going to see hospitalizations and more serious disease” among fully vaccinated people. When that happens, she said, “we want to be ready” with the booster plan. Some Americans are already getting booster shots before F.D.A. approval: More than a million fully vaccinated people have received an additional dose since mid-August. The agency authorized vaccines for some people with weakened immune systems on Aug. 12; it is unknown how many of the people who have gotten extra doses are in that group. (Courtesy https://dnyuz.com/2) **Related**

International Group Advises Against Boosters

An international group of vaccine experts, including officials from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and World Health Organization (WHO), said that there is no evidence to suggest that the general population needs COVID-19 vaccine booster shots. The authors warned that if booster shots are introduced too soon, they may cause more side effects in the general population, including myocarditis or Guillain-Barre syndrome. Should that occur, the researchers said, it would create even more problems with vaccine acceptance in the general population. The paper was published Monday in The Lancet medical journal and was co-authored by Marion Gruber and Phil Krause, two top FDA officials in charge of regulating and approving vaccines. Both Gruber and Krause are slated to depart the FDA in the coming weeks, the agency confirmed about two weeks ago. The Lancet paper’s authors said that available COVID-19 vaccines are able to offer strong protection against severe COVID-19 cases and symptoms. They noted that protection against symptomatic infection from the Delta variant has dropped.



But, they added that “current evidence does not ... appear to show a need for boosting in the general population, in which efficacy against severe disease remains high.” “Even if boosting were eventually shown to decrease the medium-term risk of serious disease, current vaccine supplies could save more lives if used in previously unvaccinated populations,” the authors added. Booster shots could lead to more harmful side effects in the general population, which is a poorly understood phenomenon, they cautioned. “There could be risks if boosters are widely introduced too soon, or too frequently, especially with vaccines that can have immune-mediated side-effects (such as myocarditis, which is more common after the second dose of some mRNA vaccines, or Guillain-Barre syndrome, which has been associated with adenovirus-vectored COVID-19 vaccines),” the study said. If “unnecessary boosting causes significant adverse reactions,” such as the aforementioned side-effects, the authors said, “there could be implications for vaccine acceptance that go beyond COVID-19 vaccines.” In recent days, the WHO has urged wealthier nations not to embark on producing, distributing, or mandating booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus last week urged these countries, including the United States, to halt developing booster shots until the end of 2021.



WHO chief, General Adhanom Ghebreyesus: no boosters. “I will not stay silent when companies and countries that control the global supply of vaccines think the world’s poor should be satisfied with leftovers,” he told a news conference on Sept. 8. “Because manufacturers have prioritized or been legally obliged to fulfill bilateral deals with rich countries willing to pay top dollar, low-income countries have been deprived of the tools to protect their people.” Meanwhile, both Gruber, the head of the Office of Vaccines Research and Review, and Krause have not issued statements why they are departing the FDA. According to a memo that was sent by FDA Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research head Peter Marks in August, Gruber is leaving on Oct. 31. Krause is leaving sometime in November, the memo said. In the meantime, Marks will serve as the head of the Office of Vaccines Research and Review. (Courtesy epochtimes.com)

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