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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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U.S. President Joe Biden delivers remarks on the U.S. debt ceiling

WASHINGTON, Oct 4 (Reuters) - President Joe Biden said on Monday the federal government could breach its \$28.4 trillion debt limit in a historic default unless Republicans join Democrats in voting to raise it in the two next weeks.

Senate Republicans, led by Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, have twice in recent weeks blocked action to raise the debt ceiling - saying they do want action but will not help. Republicans say Democrats can use a parliamentary maneuver known as budget reconciliation to act alone. Top Democrats have rejected that approach.

“Raising the debt limit comes down to paying what we already owe ... not anything new,” Biden told reporters at a White House news conference.

Asked if he could guarantee the United States won’t breach the debt limit, the president answered: “No I can’t. That’s up to Mitch McConnell.” He said he intended to speak with McConnell about the matter.

In a high-stakes standoff over parliamentary maneuvers, McConnell for months has been saying that Democrats should use a process called “budget reconciliation” to get around the Senate’s filibuster rule, which requires 60 of 100 members to agree to pass most legislation. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a Democrat, has rejected that approach and Biden on Monday pleaded not to use the filibuster to block action.

“Just get out of the way,” Biden told Republicans. “If you don’t want to help save the country, get out of the way so you don’t destroy it.”

Late last month the U.S. House of Representatives passed and sent to the Senate a bill to suspend the limit on Treasury borrowing through the end of 2022. Schumer was expected to hold a vote on that measure this week.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen last week warned lawmakers that the United States government was close to exhausting its federal borrowing capabilities by about Oct. 18.

Failure to act could have catastrophic economic consequences. Moody’s last month



warned that it could cause a nearly 4% decline in economic activity, the loss of almost 6 million jobs, an unemployment rate of close to 9%, a sell-off in stocks that could wipe out \$15 trillion in household wealth and a spike in interest rates on mortgages, consumer loans and business debts.

Democrats note that they voted to raise the debt limit during Republican Donald Trump’s administration even though they opposed deep tax cuts that added to the debt.

Biden blamed the “reckless tax and spending policies” of the previous Trump administration for the need to raise the debt limit, noting that the United States racked up nearly \$8 trillion in new debt over four years, more than one quarter of the entire debt outstanding.

“Republicans in Congress raised the debt three times” under Trump, he said, with Democratic support.

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tion. Enjoy free fast shipping with an account or on orders \$150+.

Concerns over the debt ceiling contributed to Monday’s drop in the stock market. Wall Street’s main indexes tumbled on Monday as investors shifted out of technology stocks in the face of rising Treasury yields, with concerns about U.S.-China trade, Taiwan and the debt ceiling in the forefront.

McConnell stuck to his guns in an open letter to Biden on Monday.

“Senate Democrats do not need Republican cooperation in any shape or form” to pass a debt limit increase bill, McConnell wrote. “Your lieutenants in Congress must understand that you do not want your unified Democratic government to sleepwalk toward an avoidable catastrophe when they have had nearly three months’ notice to do their job.”

McConnell is known for standing his ground once he takes a controversial position. For example, in 2016 he refused to allow a Senate hearing on then-President Barack Obama’s nomination of Merrick Garland to a seat on the Supreme Court - holding the seat open until after Trump assumed

U.S. President Joe Biden delivers remarks on the U.S. debt ceiling from the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, U.S. October 4, 2021. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst

office nearly a year later.

Schumer said the Senate will have to stay in session through the weekend and possibly into a planned recess next week if no progress is made on raising the debt limit.

Last week, the Senate’s parliamentarian ruled that Schumer could use the reconciliation process to bring a debt limit bill to the Senate floor, according to a source familiar with the ruling.

According to the parliamentarian, doing so would not jeopardize Democrats’ efforts to bring a second bill to the Senate floor under reconciliation. That is the multitrillion-dollar bill embracing Biden’s domestic agenda expanding social services and addressing climate change that Democrats are developing.

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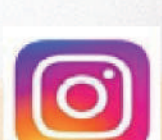
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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

10/04/2021



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We All Need To Live In Hope

We often call Autumn the season of the year between summer and winter when the temperature gradually decreases, the leaves fall from the trees and the temperature transitions between summer heat and winter cold.

I was walking through my backyard where many trees are changing their colors to red or brown and suddenly I felt a deep sadness as many tragedies passed through my mind.

In the last twenty months the world has really turned upside down because of the

Covid-19. We lost many of our dear friends, brothers and sisters. They lost the battle with the coronavirus and many families lost their loved ones or their businesses which they had built up over their lifetime.

Dear brothers and sisters, we still need to live in hope. Hope can erode when we perceive a threat to our way of life and these days all of us face plenty of uncertainty out there.

All of us need to have hope even when there is no hope. People can't picture a desired end to their struggles and they lose their motivation



to endure.

According to research at

Harvard, they found that those with more hope throughout their lives had better physical health, better health behaviors, better social support and longer lives.

Today we live in a very chaotic world. Many things are uncertain.

We need to make our minds stronger every day and always look for more hope to help each other fight for a better future.



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Mechelle Meyer, dressed in a Handmaid's Tale costume, takes part in a pro-abortion rights protest outside of the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, October 4, 2021. REUTERS/Leah Millis



Supporters of reproductive choice take part in the nationwide Women's March, held after Texas rolled out a near-total ban on abortion procedures and access to abortion-inducing medications, in New York City, New York, October 2, 2021. REUTERS/Caitlin...MORE



Brita Filter and supporters of reproductive choice take part in the nationwide Women's March, held after Texas rolled out a near-total ban on abortion procedures and access to abortion-inducing medications, in Manhattan, New York, October 2, 2021. REUTERS/Caitlin Ochs



Elena Berriolo sews photos of uteri as supporters of reproductive choice take part in the nationwide Women's March, held after Texas rolled out a near-total ban on abortion procedures and access to abortion-inducing medications, at Washington square park in New York City, New York, October 2, 2021. REUTERS/Jeenah Moon



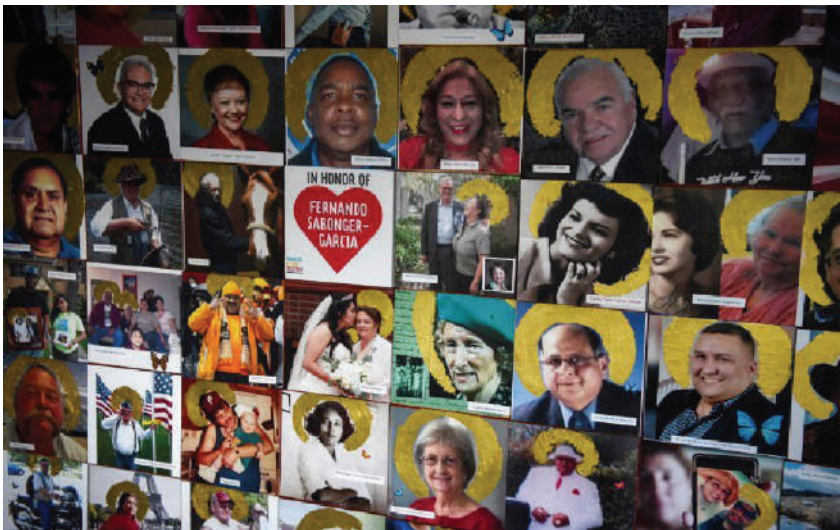
A woman dressed as late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg looks on as supporters of reproductive choice take part in the nationwide Women's March, held after Texas rolled out a near-total ban on abortion procedures and access to abortion-inducing medications, outside the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., October 2, 2021. REUTERS/Tom Brenner



A member of Pussy Riot performs in the nationwide Women's March, held after Texas rolled out a near-total ban on abortion procedures and access to abortion-inducing medications, in Austin, Texas, October 2, 2021. REUTERS/Evelyn Hockstein

Hispanics Are Dying At The Highest Rate

United States COVID-19 Deaths Now At 701,000



A portion of a mural, which displays images of people who have died of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), is seen in Joni Zavitsanos' art studio in Houston, Texas, as the country reaches 600,000 deaths . (Photo credit/REUTERS/Callaghan O'Hare.)

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

Jerry Ramos spent his final days in a California hospital, hooked to an oxygen machine with blood clots in his lungs from COVID-19, his 3-year-old daughter in his thoughts.

"I have to be here to watch my princess grow up," the Mexican American restaurant worker wrote on Facebook. "My heart feels broken into pieces." Ramos didn't live to see it. He died Feb. 15 at age 32, becoming not just one of the nearly 701,000 Americans who have now perished in the coronavirus outbreak but another example of the outbreak's strikingly uneven and ever-shifting toll on the nation's racial and ethnic groups.

The approaching 701,000 mark, as tracked by Johns Hopkins University, is greater than the population of Baltimore or Milwaukee. It is about equal to the number of Americans who died of cancer in 2019. And as bad as that is, the true toll is believed to be significantly higher. Last summer, during a second surge, Hispanics were hit the hardest, suffering an outsized share of deaths, driven by infections in Texas and Florida. By winter, during the third and most lethal stage, the virus had gripped the entire nation, and racial gaps in weekly death rates had

narrowed so much that whites were the worst off, followed closely by Hispanics. Whites were the worst off, followed closely by Hispanics.



FILE - In this July 11, 2020, file photo, mourners carry out the remains of loved ones following the blessing of the ashes of Mexicans who died from COVID-19 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. Government health officials say Native Americans, Latinos and Black people are two to three times more likely than whites to die of COVID-19. (AP Photo/Eduardo Munoz Alvarez, File)

President Joe Biden acknowledged the milestone Monday during his visit to Europe, saying that while

new cases and deaths are dropping dramatically in the U.S., "there's still too many lives being lost," and "now is not the time to let our guard down."

On the way to the latest round-number milestone, the virus has proved adept at exploiting inequalities in the U.S., according to an Associated Press data analysis.

In the first wave of fatalities, in April 2020, Black people were slammed, dying at rates higher than those of other ethnic or racial groups as the virus rampaged through the urban Northeast and heavily African American cities like Detroit and New Orleans.

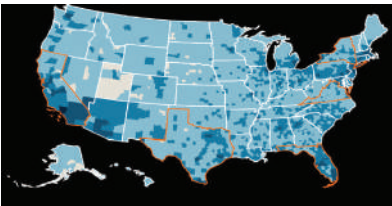
Now, even as the outbreak ebbs and more people get vaccinated, a racial gap appears to be emerging again, with Black Americans dying at higher rates than other groups.

Overall, Black and Hispanic Americans have less access to medical care and are in poorer health, with higher rates of conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure. They are also more likely to have jobs deemed essential, less able to work from home and more likely to live in crowded, multigenerational households, where working family members are apt to expose others to the virus.

Milestones Crossed In U.S.

COVID-19 Deaths

Cumulative deaths in the U.S. through the week ending:
June 13, 2021
100,000200,000300,000400,000500,000



NOTE: Weekly counts end on Sunday. The count for the most recent week will not be complete until Sunday. In Utah only the larger-population counties are reporting confirmed deaths; Smaller counties are banded together into county groups; Those counties are not shown in this map. Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE (AP Photo Credit: NICKY FORSTER AND PHIL HOLM)

Black people account for 15% of all COVID-19 deaths where race is known, while Hispanics represent 19%, whites 61% and Asian Americans 4%. Those figures are close to the groups' share of the U.S. population — Black people at 12%, Hispanics 18%, whites 60% and Asians 6% — but adjusting for age yields a clearer picture of the unequal burden.

Because Blacks and Hispanics are younger on average than whites, it would stand to reason that they would be less likely to die from a disease that has been brutal to the elderly.



In this April 22, 2020, file photo, pallbearers, who were among only 10 allowed mourners, walk the casket for interment at the funeral for Larry Hammond, who died from the coronavirus, at Mount Olivet Cemetery in New Orleans. Government health officials say Native Americans, Latinos and Black people are two to three times more likely than whites to die of COVID-19. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert, File)

But that's not what is happening. Instead, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, adjusting for population age differences, estimates that Native Americans, Latinos and Blacks are two to three times more likely than white people to die of COVID-19. Also, the AP analysis found that Latinos are dying at much younger ages than other groups. Thirty-seven percent of Hispanic deaths were of those under 65, versus 12% for white Americans and 30% for Black people. Hispanic people between 30 and 39 — like Ramos — have died at five times the rate of white people in the same age group. Public health experts see these disparities as a loud message that the nation needs to address deep-rooted inequities.

"If we want to respect the dear price that 600,000 people have paid, don't return to normal. Return to something that is better than what was," said Dr. Clyde Yancy, vice dean for diversity and inclusion at Northwestern University's medical school in Chicago.

He added: "It will be an epic fail if we simply go back to whatever we call normal."



Yolanda Ogbolu, a nurse researcher at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, who advocated for two relatives during their COVID-19 hospital stays, looks out a window at the university's nursing school on Friday, June 11, 2021, in Baltimore. (AP Photo/Steve Ruark)

Yolanda Ogbolu, who is Black, made herself an advocate for two relatives during their COVID-19 hospital

stays: her 50-year-old police officer brother — she persuaded his doctors to treat him with the drug remdesivir — and her 59-year-old repairman uncle. She called the hospital daily during his 100-day stay. Both survived. But Ogbolu wonders whether they would have lived if they hadn't had a nurse in the family. "What happens when people don't have that person to push for them? What happens when you don't even speak the language?" Ogbolu said. "What happens when they don't know how to navigate the health system or what questions to ask?"

Ramos had asthma and diabetes and had quit his job as a chef at Red Lobster before the pandemic because of diabetes-related trouble with his feet.

He died during the devastating winter surge that hit Latinos hard, and the rest of his household of seven in Watsonville, an agricultural city of around 54,000 people about 90 miles south of San Francisco, also got sick.



Laura Ramos holds a photo of her brother Jerry Ramos at her home in Watsonville, Calif., Sunday, June 6, 2021. He died Feb. 15 at age 32, becoming not just one of the roughly 600,000 Americans who have now perished in the outbreak but another example of the virus's strikingly uneven and ever-shifting toll on the nation's racial and ethnic groups. (AP Photo/Nic Coury)

That included his toddler daughter; the family matriarch, 70-year-old Mercedes Ramos; and his girlfriend, who was the only one in the household working and the first to get infected,

bringing home the virus from her job managing a marijuana dispensary, according to family members. Mother and son were admitted to the same hospital, their rooms nearby. They would video chat or call each other every day.

"He would tell me he loved me very much and that he wanted me to get better and that he was doing fine, but he was telling me that so I wouldn't worry," Mercedes Ramos said in Spanish, her voice breaking. She has since returned to her job picking strawberries.

Gaps in vaccination rates in the U.S. also persist, with Blacks and Hispanics lagging behind, said Samantha Artiga of the Kaiser Family Foundation, a nonpartisan health-policy research organization.

(Continued On Page C7-2)

Continued from page C7-1

Hispanics Are Dying At The Highest Rate

United States COVID-19 Deaths Now At 701,000



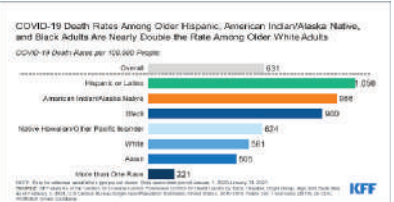
A memorial for Jerry Ramos sits at his home in Watsonville, Calif., Sunday, June 6, 2021. (AP Photo/Nic Coury)

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

Experts say several factors could be at work, including deep distrust of the medical establishment among Black Americans because of a history of discriminatory treatment, and fears of deportation among Latinos, as well as a language barrier in many cases.

The U.S. was averaging about 870,000 injections per day in early June, down sharply from a high of about 3.3 million a day on average in mid-April, according to the CDC. Initial vaccine eligibility policies, set by states, favored older Americans, a group more likely to be white. Now, everyone over 12 is eligible, but obstacles remain, such as concerns about missing work because of side effects from the shot. "Eligibility certainly does not equal access," Artiga said. "Losing a day or two of wages can have real consequences for your family. People are facing tough decisions like that." The AP's analysis of the outbreak's racial and ethnic patterns was based on National Center for Health Statistics data on COVID-19 deaths and 2019 Census Bu-

reau population estimates.



It's less clear who is dying now, but the still-incomplete data suggests a gap has emerged again. In Michigan, Black people are 14% of the population but accounted for 25% of the 1,064 deaths reported in the past four weeks, according to the most recent available state data. Similar gaps were seen in Florida and Pennsylvania.

"For people of color like myself, we've had deep personal experiences during the pandemic" of caring for loved ones and sometimes losing them, said Yolanda Ogbolu, a nurse researcher at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. (Courtesy <https://apnews.com/>)

Related
600,000 Painful U.S. COVID-19 deaths Leave a Swath Of Misery

Across The Country

The United States has now lost over 600,000 mothers, fathers, children, siblings and friends to COVID-19, a painful reminder that death, sickness and grief continue even as the country begins to return to something resembling pre-pandemic normal.

A bride forced by the pandemic to have a Zoom wedding is planning a lavish in-person anniversary celebration this summer, but all of the guests must attest they are vaccinated.

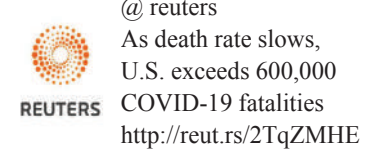
A Houston artist, still deep in grief, is working on a collage of images of people who died in her community. Others crowd theaters and bars, saying it is time to move on.

"There will be no tears - not even happy tears," said Ali Whitman, who will celebrate her first wedding anniversary in August by donning her gown and partying with 240 vaccinated friends and family members in New Hampshire.

COVID-19 nearly killed her mother. She spent her wedding day last year with 13 people in person while an aunt conducted the ceremony via Zoom.

"I would be remiss not to address how awful and how terrible the past year has been, but also the gratitude that I can be in a singular place with all the people in my life who mean so much to me," said Whitman, 30.

The United States passed 600,000 COVID-19 deaths on Monday, about 15% of the world's total coronavirus fatalities of around 4 million, a Reuters tally shows.



The rate of severe illness and death has dropped dramatically as more Americans have become vaccinated, creating something of a psychological whiplash that

plagues the millions whose lives have been touched by the disease. Many are eager to emerge from more than a year of sickness and lockdown, yet they still suffer - from grief, lingering symptoms, economic trauma or the isolation of lockdown.

"We've all lived through this awful time, and all of us have been affected one way or another," said Erika Stein, who has suffered from migraines, fatigue and cognitive issues since contracting COVID-19 last fall. "My world flipped upside down in the last year and a half - and that's been hard."

Stein, 34, was active and fit, working as a marketing executive and fitness instructor in Virginia outside Washington, D.C., before the initial illness and related syndrome known as long-COVID ravaged her life.

Like many, she has mixed feelings about how quickly cities and states have moved to lift pandemic restrictions and re-open.



'FOR MY FAMILY, THERE IS NO NORMAL'

In New York, social worker Shyvonne Noboa still cries talking about the disease that ravaged her family, infecting 14 out of 17 relatives and killing her beloved grandfather.

She breaks down when she goes to Target and sees the well-stocked aisles, recalling the pandemic's depths, when she could not find hand sanitizer to protect her family.

"New York City is going back to quote-unquote 'normal' and opening up, but I can assure you that for my family there is no normal," said Noboa, who lives in Queens, an early epicenter of the U.S. outbreak. She is vaccinated but still wears a mask when she is out, and plans to continue doing so in the near future. In Houston, artist Joni Zavitsanos started looking up obituaries of people in Southeast Texas who had died in the pandem-

ic's early days, reading their stories and creating mixed-media memorials displaying their names and photographs. Around each person she painted a halo using gold leaf, an homage to the Byzantine art of the Greek Orthodox church she attends.

Zavitsanos has now created about 575 images, and plans to keep going, making as many as she can, each portrait on an eight-by-eight-inch piece of wood to be mounted together to form an installation. Her brother and three adult children contracted COVID-19 and recovered. A very close friend nearly died and is still struggling with rehabilitation.



Chris Kocher, who founded the support and advocacy group COVID Survivors for Change, urged sympathy and support for people who are still grieving.

"We're being given this false choice where you can open up and celebrate, or you need to be locked down in grief," he said. "Let's be thankful that people are getting vaccinated, but let's also acknowledge that going back to normal is not an option for millions of Americans." One way to acknowledge the toll that COVID-19 has taken is to incorporate the color yellow into celebrations and gatherings, or display a yellow heart, which for some has become a symbol of those lost to the disease, he said.

The bittersweet mix of grief at the pandemic's toll with relief brought by its ebb was clear at Chicago's O'Hare airport on Thursday, where Stephanie Aviles and her family waited for a cousin to arrive from Puerto Rico.

Aviles, 23, lost two close friends to the virus, and her father nearly died. And yet, here she was, greeting family she had not been able to see for 15 months as the pandemic raged.

"I'm grateful, but it's a lot," she said. "It's a strange feeling to be normal again." (Courtesy <https://www.reuters.com/world>)

老人醫療保險 晚加入 Medicare 會罰款嗎？ 政府規定 Part B 需要申請，該如何加入？



動加入的，B 部分(Part B)必須長者們自己去申請，而您要知道 Medicare 申請是有時間限制的，晚加入就會被罰款喔！

對於工作滿 10 年、並賺夠 40 個積分點的長者們來說，到達 65 歲時將自動加入 A 部分(Part A)，但是加入 B 部分(Part B)是需要自己申請加入。但這對於許多老一輩的華人來說很困擾，因為會畏懼申請時的溝通不良問題，另外有些也常因時間拖延最後竟被「罰款」。要知道，美國政府為了營運，鼓勵大家準時加入(Part B)，而特別規定晚加入要罰款。

有些人因為 65 歲仍在工作，且公司提供較好的醫療保險，B 部分並不是「必須」的，但對這些已經到達 65 歲且有公司保險的人來說，醫療完全可以走公司保險，而美國政府也對這些人有著特殊優待，在公司保險結束後 8 個月內申請 Part B 是沒有罰款的。

元鐘在此建議大家要無縫接軌，團體保險中止那天 Medicare 就生效，建議退休前一、二個月就辦參加 Part B 手續，請不要晚加入。

而您真的選對保險計劃了嗎？我們公司提供既便宜福利又好的計劃讓您選擇，而且將為您量身打造最適合您的



保障。

如何加入 Part B？

親愛的長輩們都知道沒有準時加入醫療保險 B 部分(Part B)將要被罰款，那麼該如何加入 Part B 呢？

申請加入 Part B 的途徑有三個：

一、通過電腦網路線上申請 (On-line Apply)

二、通過電話撥打免付費專線 800-772-1213

三、直接前往社安局辦公室申請 (Visit Local Social Security Office)

這些都是政府認可的辦理方式，每一種各有好處也各有弊端，以下就來一一分析：

第一個網路線上申請辦法，不用排

隊，更不用說英文，但網路並沒有「想像中」人性化，而從 1950 年代著手業務文件電腦化、並負責聯邦醫療保險業務的社會安全局，其舊式的電腦系統一代代的更新伺服器，亦造成新舊不一的地方與中央處理系統在跨平台資料的交換作業上總會狀況百出的問題。

第二是電話申辦，雖不用排隊，但卻有可能等待時間太長，另外對於大多數非以英文為母語的華裔長者，要他們用電話與老外一問一答，壓力將倍增；所以常有人請託他人冒充自己身分代答，但一旦當委託的人做出錯誤回答時，這將損害您的權益，不可不慎。

我們建議，最好還是選用第三種，直接前往社安局辦公室的辦法，美國人對我們華人的姓名常搞不清，拼法混亂，所以在填表時一定要多加留意喔！才可保障長輩們的福利。

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佛羅裏達州長德桑蒂斯的妻子凱西被診斷患有乳腺癌



【美南新聞泉深】佛羅裏達州州長羅恩·德桑蒂斯 (Ron DeSantis) 的妻子凱西·德桑蒂斯 (Casey DeSantis) 被診斷出患有乳腺癌。

第一任共和黨州長羅恩·德桑蒂斯週一在一份聲明中說：“我很難過地報告，佛羅裏達州

受人尊敬的第一夫人和我心愛的妻子被診斷出患有乳腺癌。”

州長強調說：“作為叁個年幼孩子的母親，凱西是我們家庭的核心人物。通過她作為第一夫人的倡議，對無數佛羅裏達人的生活產生

了影響。當她面臨一生中最艱難的考驗時，她將不僅有我堅定不移的支持，還有我們全家人的支持，還有我們全佛羅裏達州人的祈禱和祝福。凱西是一名真正的戰士，她永遠、永遠、永遠不會放棄。”

凱西·德桑蒂斯患乳腺癌的消息也在 10 月 4 日的新聞發布會上得到她本人的證實。

凱西·德桑蒂斯是美國職業高爾夫 (PGA) 巡迴賽的前製片人和艾美獎獲獎電視節目主持人。她還是叁屆馬術全國冠軍，以及 NCAA 冠

軍賽亞軍。凱西和羅恩·德桑蒂斯於 2010 年結婚，是麥迪遜 (4 歲)、梅森 (3 歲) 和瑪米 (18 個月大) 的父母，後者是半個多世紀以來在佛羅裏達州州長官邸出生的第一個嬰兒。

佛羅裏達州州長、第一夫人 Casey DeSantis 和他們的叁個孩子 (從左到右) 瑪米 (Mamie)、麥迪遜 (Madison) 和梅森 (Mason)。

在擔任佛羅裏達第一夫人期間，凱西·德桑蒂斯率先提出了四項重大舉措，包括“希望佛羅裏達是通往繁榮、經濟自給自足和希望的途徑”。

(圖片來自網絡，版權歸原作者)