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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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U.S. companies to keep prices high as supply chain headaches persist

NEW YORK, Oct 27 (Reuters) - The largest U.S. manufacturers including General Motors, General Electric, 3M and Boeing face logistics headaches and higher costs due to global supply bottlenecks that are likely to persist into next year but agreed the hit to profits can be mitigated by charging higher prices for their goods.

Companies across the globe sounded the alarm on supply issues months ago that have pushed prices higher on raw materials from chemicals to steel.

In earnings reports this week investors got a closer look at how companies are managing.

"It starts with really strong price," said GM Chief Executive Officer Mary Barra in a call with reporters. "We were able to do very well (with) full-size trucks and full-size SUVs. We just can't build enough of those vehicles."

GM (GM.N) is also looking to wring efficiencies from its supply chain and she said the chip shortage is likely to improve in the second half of 2022.

Larry Culp, the chief executive of General Electric Co (GE.N), a maker of jet engines and wind turbines, told investors keeping up with fits and starts in the global supply chain was akin to playing a carnival game that aims to keep players on their toes.

"I'm not sure we're yet at a place where we would say that things are stable," Culp told investors on an earnings call on Tuesday. "It really is akin to playing a whack-a-mole."

General Electric also expects supply constraints to persist through the rest of the year and in 2022, hurting profit in its healthcare business. Boeing Co (BA.N) also complained of a "severely weakened supply chain."

The pandemic has crippled many companies' ability to send and receive the parts and supplies needed to make a wide range of products, creating shortages, reducing inventories and hammering profits.

On Wednesday, Harley-Davidson (HOG.N) said it increased surcharge pricing in the United States to offset higher raw material costs. The motorcycle maker expects these costs to remain high and is exploring higher surcharge costs globally.

Harley-Davidson said the inventory



The congested Port of Los Angeles is shown in San Pedro, California, U.S., September 29, 2021. REUTERS/Mike Blake/File Photo

shortage is also squeezing its international market share.

McDonald's Corp (MCD.N) also said it had to raise prices in the United States.

Industrial giant 3M Co (MMM.N) cut its full-year earnings outlook on Tuesday and said it would increase product prices to combat inflationary and supply chain pressures.

The company, which makes a long list of building and construction products, said it was facing higher costs related to polypropylene, ethylene, resins and labor. It added that the global semiconductor crunch would continue to weigh on its automotive and electronics end-markets.

On Tuesday, Lockheed Martin Corp (LMT.N) dramatically lowered its sales expectations for this year, saying the pandemic has hobbled the top U.S. defense contractor's supply chain. Its shares fell more than 11% on Tuesday.

Lockheed's chief financial officer said the problem worsened for them over the last two months, as the maker of the F-35 fighter jet lowered its 2021 revenue expectations by 2.5% to \$67 billion and said next year's revenue could fall to \$66 billion.

Harvard's modern-day Darwin warns against humanity's downward slope

BOSTON, Oct 27 (Reuters) - The Harvard University scientist who has called for setting aside half the planet as a nature preserve says the slope of human history will always be downward unless there is global cooperation to save existing species.

Edward O. Wilson, a 92-year old naturalist hailed as the Darwin of the 21st century, said humankind is not too polarized to save the planet, even as some of the world's biggest polluters drag their feet on cutting carbon emissions and arresting global warming.

He sees preventing catastrophic climate change -- the aim of U.N. climate talks starting in Scotland on Sunday -- and saving biodiversity, or the variety of plant and animal species in the world, as two initiatives that must happen together.

"This is the most communal endeavor with a clear definable goal that humanity has ever had and we need to get the kind of cooperation and ethical harmony and planning in order to make it work," Wilson told Reuters in an interview outside

Boston on Oct. 21. "Otherwise, the slope of human history will always be downward."

Today, species are going extinct at a rate not seen in 10 million years, with around 1 million currently on the brink. To limit the loss, the United Nations has urged countries to commit to conserving 30% of their land and water -- almost double the area currently under some form of protection - by 2030.

The so-called "30 by 30" target is in part inspired by Wilson's Half-Earth Project. First outlined in 2016, it calls for protecting half the planet's land and sea so there are enough diverse and well-connected ecosystems to reverse the course of species extinction. "The point is that human nature has not changed enough. Our strongest propensities of a social nature tend to disfavor the lives of most other species," Wilson said.

Humanity continues to solve problems by burning materials - coal and oil - left behind by ancient organisms, Wilson said, decrying the continued exploration and burning of fossil fuels, which amplifies the destruction of biodiversity.

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

CORONAVIRUS DIARY 10/27/2021

The Final Dance For Zhou Jie



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A Celebration of Life in loving memory of Zhou Jie was held last week in Houston, Texas. She passed away after many years of fighting with sickness.

It was eight years ago when we visited Shanghai, China, with Congressman Al Green. Ms. Zhou was the one who arranged a chartered boat for our group to tour the river and with a big hot pot dinner, we were able to see the beautiful

night scenario of Shanghai. For many of us it was the first time to visit this great city and enjoy such delicious Chinese food. Ms. Zhou gave us the best reception and always with a big smile.

Almost twenty years ago Zhou Jie came to Houston, Texas, founded her dancing school with the help from another dancer, Xiao Hui. They taught so many young kids how to not just dance, but also to learn more about Chinese culture. The school became very famous and the students always performed in local community activities, especially each year when we celebrated the Lunar New Year. They are the ones who organized all the programs for us.

Ms. Zhou always traveled between Shanghai and Houston promoting her music camp and brought so many young students to Houston to learn about American culture.

For the last two years we have faced a very difficult time because of the pandemic. Many of our dear friends, including Chairman DT Wang, artist Willy Wang, Professor Ben Ho and his wife, Chairman Zhang. We pray they all will

Rest In Peace now.
Last week when we attended the party at the Asian Chamber of Commerce, we were reunited again with so many old friends. We are so glad most of us have survived.
We want to bless everybody. All of us need to look to our future and try to help each other and build a better community.



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Medical specialists treat a patient suffering from the coronavirus at the intensive care unit (ICU) of the City Clinical Hospital named after S.Botkin in Oryol, Russia. REUTERS/Maxim Shemetov



A migrant bathes in a river before continuing the journey walking in a caravan of migrants from Central America and Haiti heading Mexico City to apply for asylum and refugee status, in Huixtla, Mexico. REUTERS/Daniel Becerril



A woman stands behind a car with shattered glass near the scene of a shooting at the Boise Towne Square shopping mall in Boise, Idaho. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton



A child touches the face of Pope Francis after the weekly general audience at the Vatican. REUTERS/Yara Nardi



A girl wearing a costume of Netflix series 'Squid Game' poses for photographs in front of a giant doll named 'Younghee' from the series on display at a park in Seoul, South Korea. REUTERS/Kim Hong-Ji



A child plays during a fumigation drive conducted by the municipal corporation as dengue cases surge in New Delhi, India. REUTERS/Anushree Fadnavis

FDA Panel Recommends Authorizing Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine For Kids 5-11



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

A key Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expert advisory panel on Tuesday recommended the agency authorize Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for use in children between the ages of 5 and 11, bringing those children one step closer to getting a shot. The Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) found that the benefits of the vaccine outweighed its risks and voted nearly unanimously 17-0, with one abstention, to recommend the agency authorize the shot. The FDA is not bound to follow the panel's recommendation, though it often does. Extending vaccine eligibility to children younger than 12 has been a major goal of public health officials and eagerly awaited by many pediatricians and families. The FDA has been under pressure for months to move quickly to authorize vaccines for younger children, one of the final barriers to overcome in the country's historic vaccination campaign. Pfizer submitted data to the FDA in late September, and formally asked for emergency use authorization earlier this month. An agency review of the data published late Friday found that the benefits of the vaccine "clearly outweigh the risks," indicating that FDA scientists have a favorable view of the evidence. Some members of the panel said they felt the recommendation was too broad. Not all children will need the vaccine, they argued, or some may only need a single dose because they've been previously infected with COVID-19.

extremely rare but serious condition called myocarditis, or heart inflammation. Cases of myocarditis are generally more common in teenagers between the ages of 16 and 19. It's less common in adolescents, and even more rare in young children. The problem did not turn up in the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric clinical trial, though experts said it was too small to detect such a rare complication. Patrick Moore, a professor at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, said the potential risks of myocarditis are important, but theoretical. The risks of COVID-19 to children are much more real, he said. Moore noted that 94 children in the 5-11 year old age group have died of COVID. "All of them had names. All of them had mothers," he said. "It's very hard for me to believe the risk for a severe outcome is going to come close to the risk, known risk, that we've seen for this virus in this age group." A decision by agency regulators is expected in the coming days, and a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) panel is scheduled to meet Nov. 2 and 3 to recommend how the vaccines should be used. If the panel gives favorable recommendations and CDC Director Rochelle Walensky accepts them, the vaccination campaign would begin.



A study from Pfizer released as part of its panel briefing document last week showed that smaller

doses of its COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 to 11 appear safe, and are nearly 91 percent effective at preventing symptomatic disease. Pfizer said vaccinating children in that age group "could prevent harms" including interruption of education, hospitalization, severe illness, long-term consequences, and death. The Biden administration last week said it's purchased enough vaccine to inoculate all 28 million 5- to 11-year-olds in the U.S., and will distribute it through a network that will rely on more than 25,000 pediatrician's offices, as well as community health centers, schools and pharmacies. Children ages 5 to 11 account for about 9 percent of all reported COVID cases in the U.S., according to FDA data presented to the panel on Tuesday. While it has been declining in recent weeks, the number of new COVID-19 cases in kids remains exceptionally high. This past week almost 118,000 child COVID cases were added, with more than one million over the past six weeks, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. (Courtesy thehill.com)

Related Texas Pre-Ordered 1.3M Doses Of The Pediatric COVID Vaccine For Kids Ahead Of Federal Approval



The Texas Department of State Health Services announced on Monday that the Lone Star State will be receiving about 1.3 million doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 to 11 ahead of its anticipated authorization from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) which was granted on Tuesday. The pediatric vaccine, like its adult companion, requires two shots for full immunization, though it contains just a fraction of the dosage. The agency's director Imelda Garcia said that the yet to be recommended vaccines were ordered as part of the federal government's process called "pre-order prior to launch," according to The Dallas Morning News. "This enables the state to place vaccine orders before the FDA authorization, and before the CDC recommendation process is complete," Garcia explained. The Morning News noted that there are roughly 3 million children between the ages of 5 and 11 in Texas. According to Garcia, the orders for the pediatric vaccines were placed in three waves, with the first two submitted on Thursday and Saturday. The order for the third wave was expected to be placed on Monday evening.



The first wave of orders, consisting of more than 404,000 doses, will be shipped out within one to five days after the FDA grants emergency use authorization to Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for children, which is expected to happen sometime this week.

The second wave of more than 303,000 vaccines will be shipped within three to seven days while another wave of more than 303,000 doses will go out in five to nine days, according to the Morning News. Garcia said that more than 800 health care providers across 120 counties in Texas will be receiving doses of the vaccine once it's granted emergency authorization. Around 130 counties will not be receiving vaccines because they have not placed orders.

According to Johns Hopkins University's COVID-19 tracker, around 54 percent of Texas's total population is fully vaccinated.



Camora Taylor, 12, receives a COVID vaccine Aug. 4 in Ferguson, Missouri. (Photo/Spencer Platt/TNS)

The state has started pre-ordering the shots, and will start to ship as soon as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration initiates the process. An FDA advisory panel met Tuesday and recommended authorization of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children from ages 5-11. Advisers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which makes additional recommendations on who should get the vaccine, are scheduled to meet Nov. 2 and 3. "This new age group is a big factor just in helping us reduce the viral load across the state," said Imelda Garcia, the head of the state's Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel. The emergency use authorization would add about 2.9 million Texans to the vaccine eligibility pool and comes as children's COVID cases and hos-

pitalizations have surged during the delta wave. The pediatric vaccine, like its adult companion, requires two shots for full immunization, though it contains just a fraction of the dosage. Pfizer said last week that its shots are more than 90 percent effective in children ages 5 to 11.



The 1.3 million doses likely headed to Texas are not differentiated by first and second doses. Depending on demand, providers can request additional doses in the weeks after the emergency use authorization is granted. Just more than 1 million of those doses will be allocated directly to the state's providers, including hospitals and pediatricians' offices. Roughly 260,000 more will head to pharmacies, which have independent relationships with the federal government.

More than 800 COVID vaccine providers in 120 counties will receive the doses in three shipment waves. The first includes about 440,000 doses that will ship within one to five days after the emergency use authorization is issued; the other orders will follow close behind. Garcia said the vaccine's authorization will be another critical development in the fight to stop the spread of COVID-19. She plans to vaccinate her daughter.



"It's not only for my daughter's health and safety, but vaccinating her also protects our extended loved ones," she said. The vaccine currently is available to Texans ages 12 and over. The Pfizer vaccine is the only one authorized for use in children ages 12 to 15; Moderna shots are available for 16- and 17-year-olds. As of Monday, more than 15.3 million Texans have been vaccinated fully — nearly 64 percent of the state's 12-and-over population. (Courtesy https://www.expressnews.com/)

Decades After Polio, An Iron Lung Is Still Relied On To Breathe By Patient

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



Martha Lillard needed a large respirator called an iron lung to recover from polio, which she caught in 1953. She still uses a form of the device at nights. (Photo courtesy of Martha Lillard)

On June 8, 1953, Martha Lillard celebrated her fifth birthday with a party at an amusement park in Oklahoma. A little over a week later, she woke up with a sore throat and a pain in her neck. Her family took her to the hospital, where she was diagnosed with polio. She spent six months in the hospital, where she was put in a giant metal tank — a ventilator informally called an iron lung — to help her breathe. To this day, Lillard is one of the last people in the U.S. who still depends on an iron lung to survive. Polio is a potentially life-threatening disease, once among the world's most feared. In the late 1940s, polio disabled an average of 35,000 people in the U.S. every year. A polio vaccine became widely available in 1955, and millions of Americans got vaccinated. Since 1979, no cases of polio have originated in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The disease has been nearly eradicated — the World Health Organization documented only 175 cases of wild polio in 2019. It remains endemic in only Pakistan and Afghanistan. Although most people who contract polio will not have visible symptoms, a severe case can infect the brain and spinal cord and cause paralysis. Lillard's breathing muscles were weakened by the disease, and she survived thanks to the iron lung.



Iron lung respirators are prepared in an emergency polio ward at a Boston hospital in August 1955. (Photo/AP) The machines are giant ventilators about 7 feet long. Patients lie inside with just their heads resting outside; a seal around the patient's neck creates a vacuum. Bellows at the base of the device do the work of a human diaphragm — they create negative pressure so the user's lungs fill with air, and positive pressure allowing the person to exhale. Sixty-eight years later, an iron lung is still keeping Lillard alive — she sleeps in it every night. While many people who had polio or post-polio syndrome either weaned themselves off the machines or switched to another form of ventilator, Lillard never did. "I've tried all the forms of ventilation, and the iron lung is the most efficient and the best and the most comfortable way," she told Radio Diaries. The antiquated machines are now more likely to be found in a museum than in someone's home. In the 1990s, when her iron lung was breaking down, she called hospitals and museums that might have had old ones in storage. But they'd either thrown them away or didn't want to part with their collection. She eventually bought one from a man in Utah — the machine she still uses today. The machines were once serviced by Philips Resperonic, but Lillard says the assistance she received from the company was minimal. Once, she says a technician was sent to service her machine and prepared to leave before putting the machine back together. Lillard has gotten stuck in the iron lung. She lost power when an ice storm came through Oklahoma and her emergency generator didn't kick on, leaving her trapped in the device without heat.

"It's like being buried alive almost, you know — it's so scary," Lillard says. She tried to call 911, but the cell towers weren't working. "I was having trouble breathing. And I remember saying out loud to myself, 'I'm not going to die.'" Lillard was eventually able to get a signal, but she remembers the emergency responders had no idea what an iron lung was. Luckily, they were able to get the generator going for her.



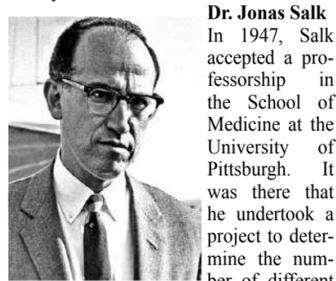
Martha Lillard says she worries about running out of replacement parts to make her iron lung respirator function properly. (Photo courtesy of Martha Lillard) Wear on parts is her main issue now. The belts need to be replaced every few weeks, the cot inside every six months, the motor every 12 years or so. Her most immediate need is collars. The collars create the critical airtight seal around the neck. Each one lasts only for a few months. And she has bought all the back stock of collars from places that don't produce them anymore. "That's the main thing I'm having a hard time with, because I try to stretch out, make these collars last longer," Lillard says. "And when they start deteriorating, it gets harder and harder to breathe as they leak more." She has only a handful of collars left. "I really am desperate," she says. "That's the most scary thing in my life right now — is not finding anybody that can make those collars." Today, Lillard spends much of her time alone. She paints, watches old Hollywood movies and takes care of her beagles. She has been mostly isolating throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, seeing her sister, Cindy, and her brother-in-law, Daryl, in the evenings.



Dr. Jonas Salk administers vaccine to young patient.

Being affected by polio at such a young age has meant Lillard hasn't been able to have all the experiences others have had. She attended school from home for much of her childhood and couldn't participate in most extracurricular activities — she still remembers longing to go camping with her siblings. She was not able to have children or hold a steady job because of her physical limitations. Although some of her life experiences were limited, Lillard thanks a childhood friend named Karen Rapp for teaching her to appreciate small things. Together, they observed ants and built little villages of grass huts. "There's much more to see if you really look for it," she says. And she's grateful for the iron lung. "It's what sustains me. It's what heals me. It's what allows me to breathe the next day," Lillard says. "I look at it as a friend, as a very dear friend." (Courtesy npr.org)

Related Jonas Salk Creator Of The Salk Vaccine Jonas Edward Salk (Born Jonas Salk; October 28, 1914 – June 23, 1995) was an American virologist and medical researcher who developed one of the first successful polio vaccines. He was born in New York City and attended the City College of New York and New York University School of Medicine.



Dr. Jonas Salk In 1947, Salk accepted a professorship in the School of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. It was there that he undertook a project to determine the number of different types of poliovirus, starting in 1948. For the next seven years, Salk devoted himself towards developing a vaccine against polio. Salk was immediately hailed as a "miracle worker" when the vaccine's success was first made public in April 1955, and chose to not patent the vaccine or seek any profit from it in order to maximize its global distribution. The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and the University of Pittsburgh looked into patenting the vaccine but, since Salk's techniques were not novel, their patent attorney said, "if there were any patentable novelty to be found in this phase it would lie within an extremely narrow scope and would be of doubtful value."



Jonas Salk wrote about the polio vaccine trial project, "the most elaborate program of its kind in history, involving 20,000 physicians and public health officers, 64,000 school personnel, and 220,000 volunteers," with over 1.8 million school children participating in the trial. A 1954 Gallup poll showed that more Americans knew about the polio field trials than could give the full name of the current U.S. president.

An immediate rush to vaccinate began in both the United States and around the world. Many countries began polio immunization campaigns using Salk's vaccine, including Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, West Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Belgium. By 1959, the Salk vaccine had reached about 90 countries. An attenuated live oral polio vaccine was developed by Albert Sabin, coming into commercial use in 1961. Less than 25 years after the release of Salk's vaccine, domestic transmission of polio had been completely eliminated in the United States.



Salk in 1955 at the University of Pittsburgh In 1963, Salk founded the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California, which is today a center for medical and scientific research. He continued to conduct research and publish books in his later years, focusing in his last years on the search for a vaccine against HIV. Salk also campaigned vigorously for mandatory vaccination throughout the rest of his life, calling the universal vaccination of children against disease a "moral commitment". Salk's personal papers are today stored in Geisel Library at the University of California, San Diego. (Courtesy Wikipedia)