

THE EPOCH TIMES SPECIAL REPORT

EPOCH INSIGHTS

A deep dive
into the fallout
from the
COVID-19
vaccines.

SPECIAL REPORT

Investigating the Vaccine

Exploring vaccine efficacy,
adverse effects, and making
sense of mandates

'Investigating the Vaccine'

THE PANDEMIC YEARS HAVE BEEN unusual for many reasons.

The nation saw mask mandates as well as lockdown policies that forced small businesses to shut their doors. People were forced into isolation and children out of school.

Perhaps the most consequential action was the imposition of vaccine mandates on employees as a condition of retaining their jobs.

While many Americans felt comfortable taking a COVID-19 vaccine, others had objections, including those based on religious convictions, the safety or efficacy of the vaccines, or government overreach.

While previously, vaccine exemptions for religious, philosophical, or medical reasons had been honored, now employees faced isolation, bullying, or even termination for refusing the COVID-19 shots.

Americans were told that taking them would bring about a quick end to the pandemic, in part because they prevented infection and transmission.

While credible concerns existed at the time, it has now become clear that the vaccines do not prevent infection or transmission.

And a growing body of research is raising concerns about side effects related to the vaccines, which were produced at an unprecedented speed.

In this special report by Epoch Insight, we explore a wide range of issues, from the known data about the vaccines and their efficacy to possible side effects, as well as the ethical questions surrounding mandates.

JASPER FAKKERT
Editor-in-chief




ON THE COVER

Over the past, two years many questions have been raised about the COVID-19 vaccines. This special report investigates some of the key issues.

MICHAEL CIAGLO/GETTY IMAGES

EPOCH INSIGHT

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EPOCH INSIGHT

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Data show more COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths among the vaccinated.



A medical worker administers tests at a COVID-19 testing site in Brooklyn, N.Y., on April 18. | Spencer Platt/Getty Images

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A first responder loads a COVID-19 patient into an ambulance outside a nursing home in Chelsea, Mass., on April 17, 2020.

PHOTO BY SCOTT EISEN/GETTY IMAGES



Medical staff members treat a COVID-19 patient in the intensive care unit at the United Memorial Medical Center in Houston on Nov. 10, 2020.

EXCLUSIVE

HIGHER RATES OF ILLNESS IN VACCINATED

Vaccinated people make up higher proportions of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in US, data show

By Zachary Stieber & Meiling Lee

PHOTO BY DO NAKAMURA/GETTY IMAGES



Houston Fire Department paramedics prepare to transport a COVID-19 patient to a hospital on Sept. 15, 2021.

VACCINATED PEOPLE ARE more likely to represent a COVID-19 case, hospitalization, or death in 25 states, according to an Epoch Insight investigation.

In 14 of the states, a higher percentage of vaccinated people have tested positive, been hospitalized, or died with COVID-19 as compared with the percentage of the population that was vaccinated.

Epoch Insight compiled the data from publicly available sources and records requests. Some have never been made public.

Eleven states recorded vaccinated persons as making up a majority of at least one metric in recent months. The other eight with sufficient data—figures for at least one metric, broken down by month or since the start of 2022, and separated by vaccination status—reported the unvaccinated as making up a majority of each metric.

The remaining 17 states stopped reporting such COVID-19 data, never reported it at all, or insufficiently reported statistics.

Data Reporting

Most states report at least one metric by vaccination status. As vaccines have proven increasingly unable to prevent COVID-19 infection in the Omicron era, many states have followed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in separating the boosted from the fully vaccinated.

Key terms:

- Unvaccinated: people who have gotten zero shots
- Partially vaccinated: people who have received one dose of the Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines and people who have not seen 14 days elapse since their final dose of a primary series
- Fully vaccinated: people who have completed a primary series of a vaccine

- Boosted: people who have received at least one extra shot on top of the primary series

Fully vaccinated will be used in this article to refer to anybody who has received a primary series, regardless of whether they've received a booster. Vaccinated, meanwhile, will refer to anybody who has received at least one dose of a vaccine.

“The vaccines ... are still keeping people out of the hospital.”

Dr. Leisha Nolen, Utah's state epidemiologist

JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES

Exceeded Expectations

In 14 states, the percentage of one or more so-called breakthrough metrics—post-vaccination cases, hospitalizations, or deaths—in recent months exceeded the percentage of the population that was vaccinated.

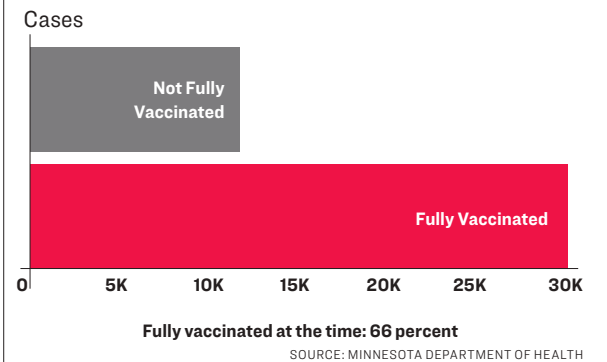
In most cases, that was a single metric. But in several, it was multiple, and in one, it was all three.

All data are from 2022. Only percentages were available for some states. Data for June were preferred. Data for July were preferred where June data were unavailable.

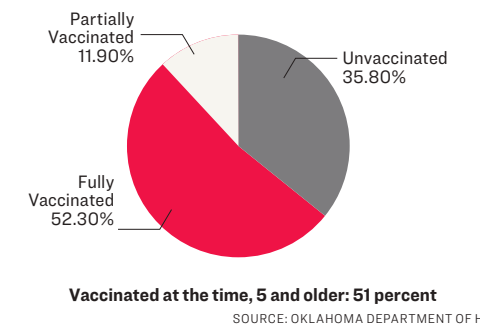
1. Alaska* (March): 3,995 breakthrough cases (64.5 percent of cases) **Vaccinated at the time: 59.1 percent of those aged 5 and older**
2. Idaho+ (June 5 to July 2): 89 breakthrough hospitalizations (53 percent) **Fully vaccinated at the time: 52 percent**
3. Kentucky* (June): 55 breakthrough deaths (67 percent) **Vaccinated at the time: 66 percent**
4. Louisiana- (Aug. 7): 61 percent breakthrough deaths **Vaccinated at the time: 52 percent full, 6 percent partial**
5. Minnesota+ (June 5 to July 3): 29,660 breakthrough cases (71 percent); 107 breakthrough deaths (80 percent) **Fully vaccinated at the time: 66 percent**
6. Mississippi* (April 1 to Aug. 1): 54 percent of breakthrough deaths **Vaccinated at the time: 51.7 percent**
7. Oklahoma* (June 5 to July 5): 277 breakthrough hospitalizations (64 percent) **Vaccinated at the time: 51 percent of those aged 5 and older**
8. Rhode Island+ (June): 22 breakthrough deaths (76 percent) **Fully vaccinated at the time: 75.6 percent**
9. South Dakota* (June): 141 breakthrough hospitalizations (74 percent); 8 breakthrough deaths (66.6 percent) **Vaccinated at the time: 58 percent**
10. Utah+ (June 5 to June 26): 17,856 breakthrough cases (67 percent); 623 hospitalizations (67 percent) **Fully vaccinated as of Aug. 8: 62 percent**
11. Vermont+ (June): 32 breakthrough hospitalizations (84 percent); 10 breakthrough deaths (91 percent) **Fully vaccinated at the time: 78.6 percent**
12. West Virginia+ (July 31): 175 breakthrough hospitalizations (55 percent) **Fully vaccinated at the time: 53.5 percent**
13. Wisconsin+** (June): 31,702 breakthrough cases (65 percent); 634 breakthrough hospitalizations (64 percent); 69 breakthrough deaths (66 percent) **Fully vaccinated at the time: 61.5 percent**
14. Wyoming+ (June): 3,672 breakthrough cases (62 percent); 9 breakthrough deaths (52 percent) **Fully vaccinated as of Aug. 15 (46.8 percent)**

*vaccinated
+fully vaccinated
-unclear
**excludes partially vaccinated

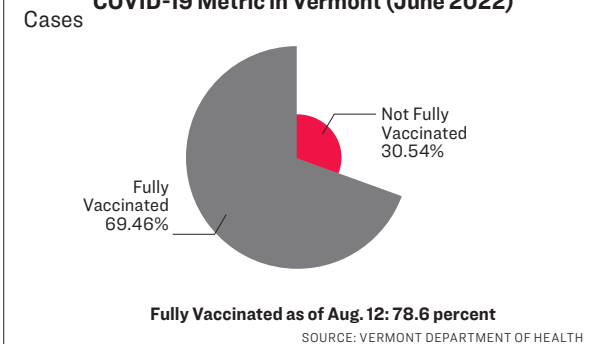
COVID-19 Metrics in Minnesota (June 5-July 3, 2022)



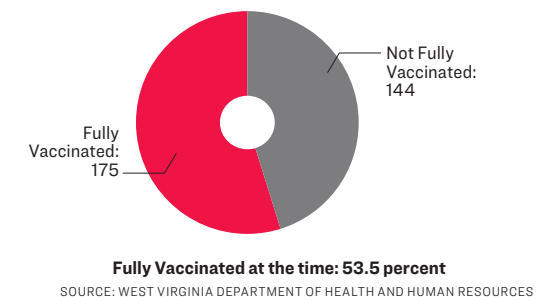
COVID-19 Hospitalizations in Oklahoma (June 5-July 5, 2022)



COVID-19 Metric in Vermont (June 2022)



COVID-19 Hospitalizations in West Virginia (July 31, 2022)



Adjusted Rates

Some states adjust the data before releasing them. The adjustment is meant to eliminate differences that result from one population being different from another. The most common adjustment is based on age.

Age adjustment is used to compare populations directly “when the age distribution of who most commonly gets the disease, or seriously sick from the disease, is skewed,” according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. For COVID-19, older populations are more likely to experience severe illness and death, and are also more likely to be vaccinated, experts say.

While the raw numbers look bad for the vaccinated, after adjusting for age, the rates of COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths in Wisconsin are higher for the unvaccinated throughout 2022 (cases have been higher in the vaccinated in recent months). That’s similar to most of the other states that report data as rates, some of which also provide raw numbers.

Wisconsin’s raw numbers were obtained through a records request.

Officials don’t utilize the state-level data for vaccine effectiveness, instead looking to clinical trials and vaccine efficacy studies, Dr. Ryan Westergaard, chief medical officer for the department’s Bureau of Communicable Diseases, said during a briefing.

While protection against infection has gone down, the effectiveness against severe disease and death remains high, Westergaard said. That view was echoed by Dr. Leisha Nolen, Utah’s state epidemiologist. She said studies can help control for biases such as vaccinated people being more likely to get tested at sites, which report data to the state, versus at-home testing, which isn’t counted.

The studies show “the vaccines aren’t doing as well at keeping us from getting infected, but they are still keeping people out of the hospital,” Nolen told Epoch Insight.

Not all experts agree.

Dr. Robert Malone, who helped invent the messenger RNA (mRNA) technology used by Pfizer and Moderna, noted that a number of countries have reported high metrics among the vaccinated.

Even instances of vaccine recipients getting hospitalized or dying at the same rates as the unvaccinated is “clear evi-

dence that the vaccines are not working to prevent disease and death,” he told Epoch Insight.

Ninety-five percent of Americans aged 65 and older are fully vaccinated. If the vaccines were working, then very few older vaccinated people would be admitted to hospitals and die with COVID-19, according to Dr. Peter McCullough, the chief medical adviser for the Truth for Health Foundation.

“That’s one of the reasons why the CDC recently came out with guidance where they said from a public health perspective, there’s just no difference between the vaccinated or unvaccinated person,” McCullough said, referring to updated guidance issued on Aug. 11.

A doctor checks the vital signs of a patient at Providence Cedars-Sinai Tarzana Medical Center in Tarzana, Calif., on Jan. 3, 2021.

(Below) A mother looks toward her son who is being transported by the Houston Fire Department EMS to a hospital on Aug. 16, 2021.

(Bottom) Health care workers use a nasal swab to test a person for COVID-19 in Pembroke Park, Fla., on July 22, 2020.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: L. JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES, APU GOMES/AP VIA GETTY IMAGES, JOE RAEDI/GETTY IMAGES



Majority Vaccinated

In 11 other states, the vaccinated made up a majority of at least one metric, but the proportion of vaccinated didn’t exceed the percentage of vaccinated.

All data are from 2022. Percentages reported near or above 50 percent.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arizona+** (May): 62 percent breakthrough cases; 56.4 percent breakthrough hospitalizations
Fully vaccinated as of June 1: 62 percent 2. Connecticut+ (July 14 to July 20): 2,116 breakthrough cases (56 percent); (July 25) 63 percent breakthrough hospitalizations
Fully vaccinated at the time: 73 percent 3. Georgia+ (June 4 to July 1): 57,489 breakthrough cases (51 percent); 142 breakthrough deaths (54 percent)
Fully vaccinated at the time: 56 percent | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Illinois+ (June 1 to June 29): 205 breakthrough hospitalizations (49 percent); 195 breakthrough deaths (62 percent)
Fully vaccinated at the time as of Aug. 15: 65 percent 5. Maryland+ (June): 67.5 percent breakthrough cases, 70.6 percent breakthrough hospitalizations
Fully vaccinated as of May 31: 76 percent 6. Massachusetts+ (Aug. 2): 334 breakthrough hospitalized patients (60 percent); (June 25 to July 1) 48 breakthrough deaths (77 percent)
Fully vaccinated as of July 18: 79 percent 7. Montana+ (May 14 to July 8): 277 breakthrough hospitalizations (52 percent); 10 breakthrough deaths (48 percent)
Fully vaccinated at the time: 53 percent 8. New Mexico+** (July 4 to Aug. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1): 15,520 breakthrough cases (62 percent); 398 breakthrough hospitalizations (55 percent); 45 breakthrough deaths (67 percent)
Fully vaccinated as of Aug. 9: 69 percent 9. Oregon+ (June): 27,092 breakthrough cases (59 percent); 83 breakthrough deaths (51 percent)
Fully vaccinated as of Aug. 16: 70 percent 10. Pennsylvania+ (April): 25,077 breakthrough cases (61 percent)
Fully vaccinated at the time: 65 percent 11. Tennessee– (July 1 to July 8): 73 breakthrough hospitalizations (52 percent)
Vaccinated at the time: 52 percent fully, 5.3 percent partially |
|--|--|--|

*vaccinated
+fully vaccinated
–unclear
**excludes partially vaccinated

Studies

A rise in breakthrough metrics began in 2021. Vaccines were waning against the Delta virus variant. Studies show they're performing worse against Omicron, which became dominant in the United States in late 2021, and subvariants such as BA.5, including offering lowered protection against severe disease.

While some experts say it's still worth getting vaccinated, others note healthy people are at little risk from COVID-19.

Studies on booster effectiveness have returned mixed results, largely showing an initial increase, followed by a quick decline, in protection.

Vaccinated people, at a certain point, are more likely than unvaccinated people to get infected, according to some research, which could relate to immune imprinting.

Researchers found that adults who received a second dose of an mRNA shot had an increased risk of infection after at least 90 days, and a separate group found that the probability of reinfection was greatest among people who received two or more COVID-19 vaccine doses.

Due to the waning effectiveness of the vaccines, U.S. regulators have already cleared first and second boosters—as have many other countries—and are poised to authorize updated vaccines that target Omicron, describing the current formulation as not “well-matched” to the dominant variant.

“It's really not possible to predict what this virus is going to do, and I think it makes sense to be prepared with these boosters, which contain components of a BA.4 and BA.5 as well as the so-called archival Wuhan strain,” Dr. Cody Meissner, a U.S. Food and Drug Administration outside vaccine adviser, told Epoch Insight.

Vaccinated people, at a certain point, are more likely than unvaccinated people to get infected, according to some research, which could relate to immune imprinting.



Remaining States

Of the remaining states, eight reported the unvaccinated making up a majority of each metric.

All data are from 2022. Rates are age-adjusted.

1. California** (June): 215,900 unvaccinated cases (51.7 percent); 5,057 unvaccinated hospitalizations (52 percent); 413 unvaccinated deaths (59 percent)
Unvaccinated at the time: 20 percent
2. Colorado**+ (June 26 to July 3): 353.2 unvaccinated cases, 145.5 fully vaccinated, 244.3 boosted; 13 unvaccinated hospitalizations, 5.6 fully vaccinated, 4.9 boosted; (May 25 to June 1): 54.7 unvaccinated deaths, 35.2 vaccinated, 18.1 boosted
Unvaccinated at the time: 20.5 percent
3. Indiana* (2022 through late July): 264,779 unvaccinated cases (50.7 percent); 90 percent unvaccinated hospitalizations, 35 percent unvaccinated deaths
Not fully vaccinated as of July 24: 45 percent
4. Maine*+ (July 16 to July 23): 333 not fully vaccinated cases, 68.5 fully vaccinated; 17 not fully vaccinated hospitalizations, 1.8 fully vaccinated; 0.5 not fully vaccinated deaths, zero vaccinated
Not fully vaccinated at the time: 25.2 percent
5. Nebraska* (June 26 to July 23): 11,048

not fully vaccinated cases (59 percent); 3,412 not fully vaccinated hospitalizations (97 percent); deaths unclear

Not fully vaccinated at the time: 35 percent

6. New Jersey*+ (as of July 16): 565 not fully vaccinated cases, 117 fully vaccinated, 199 boosted; 16 not fully vaccinated hospitalizations, 3 fully vaccinated, 5.5 boosted; 0.35 not fully vaccinated deaths, 0.06 fully vaccinated, 0.1 boosted

Not fully vaccinated as of Aug. 17: 33 percent

7. North Carolina* (July 31 to Aug. 6): cases not available; 50.6 percent not fully vaccinated hospitalizations; death rate per 100,000 (June 30 to July 30): 2.2 not fully vaccinated, 0.4 fully vaccinated, 0.2 boosted

Not fully vaccinated as of Aug. 18: 37 percent

8. Texas*+ (June 18 to June 25): 334.4 unvaccinated cases, 163.9 fully vaccinated; hospitalizations not available; 0.5 unvaccinated deaths, 0.2 fully vaccinated

Not fully vaccinated as of Aug. 10: 38 percent

*counts partially vaccinated with unvaccinated

+rates per 100,000

**excludes partially vaccinated The 17 others reported incomplete or insufficient data. Some were still working on filling records requests by press time.

FROM L. MICHAEL CHAO/GETTY IMAGES; EWA MARIE UZONTEGU/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



CDC Reporting

Data the CDC presents on its website, based on statistics from 31 health departments, are used by the agency and others to assert that vaccines work.

On a page titled “COVID-19 Vaccines are Effective,” the CDC links to the presentation, which has also been cited by agency officials.

The data are presented as rates. Efforts to obtain the raw numbers haven't yet been successful. According to the rates, the unvaccinated were more likely to test positive and die with COVID-19 than the fully vaccinated. Boosted people were even better situated.

A separate presentation on COVID-19 hospitalizations is based on data from hospitals in 14 states. It has stopped listing people who were vaccinated but hadn't received a booster, comparing only the unvaccinated to the boosted.

State officials are advised by the CDC to not report raw numbers, because “the percentage of vaccinated people among COVID-19 cases rises with either increasing vaccination coverage or decreasing vaccine effectiveness.” Officials are recommended to report data as incidence rates and rate ratios, or ratios that adjust for age differences between the unvaccinated and vaccinated populations, which are described as “more stable and directly related to vaccine effectiveness.”

Metrics are misleading “unless one is able to correct for age and health status,” Dr. Roger Klein, a policy adviser to The Heartland Institute and a former adviser to the CDC and other U.S. health agencies, told Epoch Insight via email.

Most states only report age-adjusted rate ratios or only make raw data available for download by day or week, requiring collation to compare across periods of time. Epoch Insight reviewed percentages and numbers from states that do report them, and received unadjusted data from others that have never been reported before. Some states stopped reporting metrics by vaccination status after inquiries from Epoch Insight. Their reports were saved before they stopped. ■

Hilary Lin and Angel Yuan contributed to this report.

(Left) A technician holds a dose of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine in Aurora, Colo., on Dec. 15, 2020.

(Above) People walk at Ocean Drive, in Miami Beach, Fla., on Jan. 9, 2021.

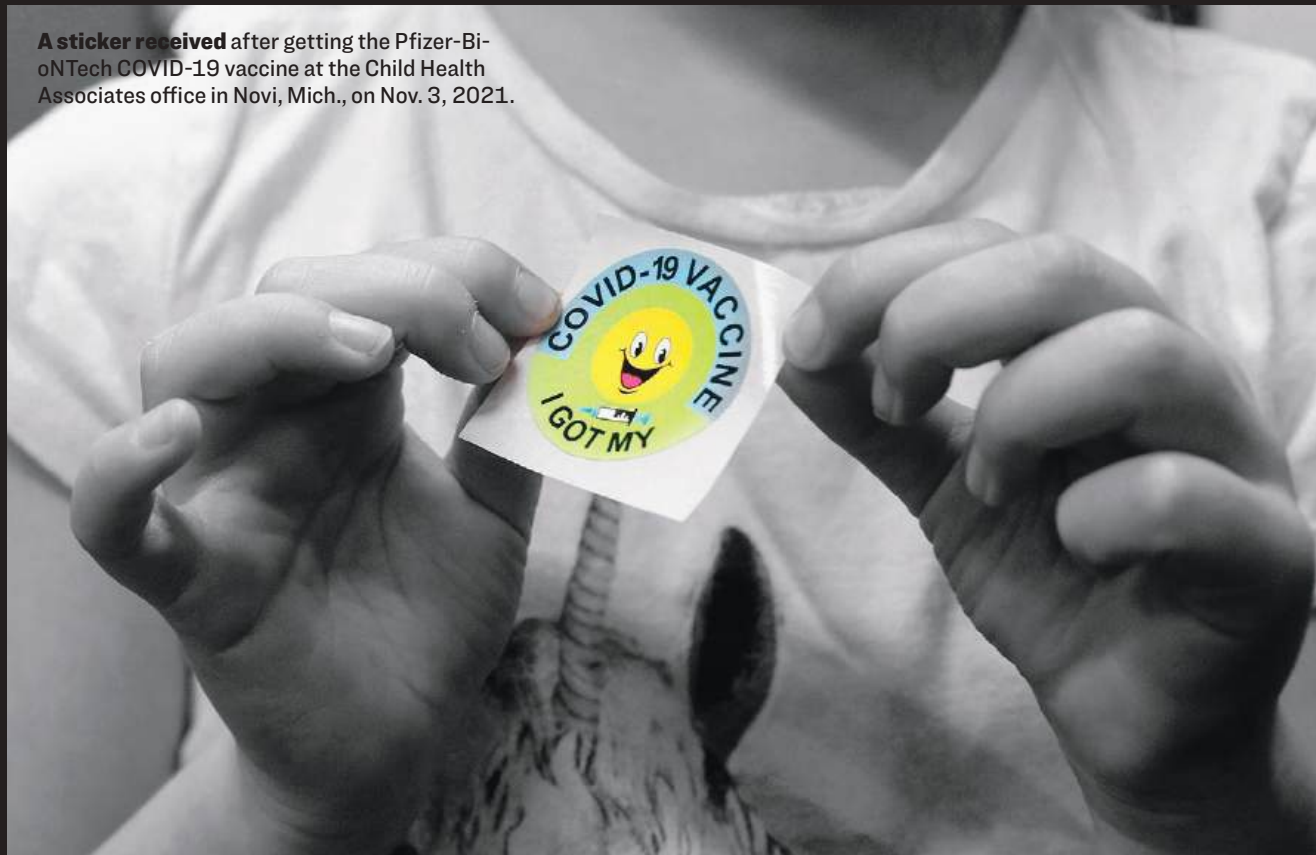
14 States

IN RECENT MONTHS, 14 states have seen higher percentages of vaccinated people testing positive, being hospitalized, or dying with COVID-19 compared to the percentage of the population that was vaccinated.

SCIENCE

TEENS SUFFER VACCINE REACTIONS: Study

A sticker received after getting the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at the Child Health Associates office in Novi, Mich., on Nov. 3, 2021.



29 percent of young Pfizer COVID vaccine recipients suffered heart issues, a new study shows

By Zachary Stieber

NEARLY 3 IN 10 CHILDREN WHO received Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine experienced heart effects afterward, according to a new study. Researchers studied 301 students across two schools in Thailand. The students were aged 13 to 18 and had received a dose of Pfizer's vaccine without a serious adverse event. Most had no underlying disease, while 44 had conditions such as asthma and allergic rhinitis.



A teen receives a COVID-19 vaccine at a mass vaccination center at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, Conn., on May 13, 2021.

Researchers conducted laboratory tests to establish a baseline and followed up at intervals of three, seven, and 14 days after the students received a second dose of the vaccine.

Researchers found that 29 percent of the youth experienced cardiovascular effects, including heart palpitations, chest pain, and shortness of breath. Fifty-four students had abnormal electrocardiogram results. Six experienced mitral valve prolapse, which the Mayo Clinic describes as a heart valve disease; six had high blood pressure; and seven were diagnosed with heart inflammation.

Two of the children were hospitalized, with one being admitted to intensive care.

Limitations of the study, published ahead of peer review and funded by Mahidol University, included requiring parental permission for blood testing, which could have impacted participation.

Nearly 100 percent of the vaccine recipients recovered within two weeks, researchers said. Still, due to the detection of heart effects, young people receiving any of the vaccines based on messenger RNA technology—as are both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines—“should be monitored for side effects,” the authors said.

Pfizer didn't respond to a request for comment.

Reaction

Several cardiologists, after reviewing the new paper, said it adds to the body of evidence that the risks of the vaccines may outweigh the benefits, especially for young people.

“Any form of heart damage in young persons is concerning since the long-term risks of heart failure and sudden death with exercise are unknown,” Dr. Peter McCullough, the chief medical adviser for the Truth for Health Foundation, told

“This is one of [about] 200 published papers demonstrating the risks of COVID-19 vaccination far outweigh any theoretical benefit.”

Dr. Peter McCullough, chief medical adviser, Truth for Health Foundation

Epoch Insight in an email.

“This is one of [about] 200 published papers demonstrating the risks of COVID-19 vaccination far outweigh any theoretical benefit.”

U.S. authorities have acknowledged a link between the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and heart inflammation, but have maintained that the benefits of the shots outweigh the risks for all age groups older than 6 months.

According to reports collected by the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System through May 26, males aged 5 to 49, and females aged 12 to 29, had higher than background rates of myocarditis following a second Pfizer dose. The highest rate was 76 per million within seven days of a second dose among males 16 or 17 years old.

Dr. Anish Koka, a cardiologist in Philadelphia, said the new study results “are not reassuring.”

While the study authors said most patients recovered, some of the conditions they experienced were far from mild, Koka wrote in a blog post.

“The Thai study helps fill in some of the data void so parents and their doctors can be better informed when discussing the risks and benefits of the vaccines,” he said. ■



The Pfizer logo outside the company's headquarters in New York, in this file photo.

CLOCKWISE FROM L: JEFF KOWALSKI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES; JOSEPH PREZIOSO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES; MARIO TAMAI/GETTY IMAGES

PHARMACEUTICALS

VACCINE REGRETS

Poll: 10 percent of Americans regret taking COVID vaccine

By Enrico Trigoso

TEN PERCENT OF AMERICANS WHO received the COVID-19 vaccine regret having done so, according to a recent poll.

In addition, 15 percent of the 1,038 adults who took the survey said they had been diagnosed with a new condition within weeks or months after taking the vaccine.

Children's Health Defense (CHD) commissioned the poll two years after the inception of Operation Warp Speed, in order to find out about people's position on the COVID vaccines and their health.

The poll, conducted by Zogby Analytics, states that the margin of error is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

"The fact that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports more than 232 million Americans ages 18–65 have taken at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and 15 percent of those surveyed report a newly diagnosed condition is concerning and needs further study," Laura Bono, CHD's executive director, said in a statement.



"The mRNA vaccine technology is new and clinical trials naturally have no long-term data."

Laura Bono, executive director, Children's Health Defense

"The mRNA vaccine technology is new and clinical trials naturally have no long-term data. CHD believes this survey points to the need for further study."

Sixty-seven percent of the respondents got one or more shots, while the rest were unvaccinated.

Among those who took the COVID vaccines, 6 percent took one dose, while the rest took two to four shots.

Of the newly diagnosed medical conditions, the most common were blood clots (21 percent), heart attack (19 percent), liver damage (18 percent), leg and lung clots (17 percent), and stroke (15 percent).

Sixty-seven percent of participants said that getting the vaccine was a good decision, while 24 percent were neutral.

Another poll, conducted at the same time, which surveyed 829 American adults aged 18 to 49,

shows that 22 percent of them reported a new condition within weeks or months after getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

The top conditions were autoimmune problems, blood clots, strokes, lung clots, liver dam-



A man receives a dose of a COVID-19 vaccine in Apple Valley, Calif., on March 30, 2021.

FROM L: CHILDRENSHEALTHDEFENSE.ORG; MARIO TAMAYO/GETTY IMAGES; SHUTTERSTOCK

age, leg clots, heart attacks, disrupted menstrual cycles, Guillain-Barré syndrome, and Bell's palsy. Ten percent of these conditions were severe.

Fourteen percent of the participants regretted taking the vaccine, while 58 percent thought it was a good decision, and the rest were neutral.

Previous Reports

In May, a cardiologist told Epoch Insight that he has seen a spike in cases of heart inflammation. Although the media have given more attention to COVID vaccine blood clot issues, there have been many more cases of myocarditis, according to his observation.

Some doctors have also observed menstrual irregularities associated with the COVID-19 vaccines, something that Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious

Diseases, said is an issue that needs to be studied more.

Also in May, Epoch Insight reported that a pediatric cardiologist had to stop working and was punished by his board for not wanting to recommend a vaccine to a young patient who had contracted COVID previously.

A Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advisory panel on June 15 unanimously recommended the FDA give emergency authorization to the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines for children as young as 6 months of age.

The U.S. drug regulators on March 29 announced they had granted emergency authorization allowing a fourth dose of the jabs to be given to all Americans aged 50 and older. ■

Zachary Steiber contributed to this report.



22%

OF AMERICAN ADULTS aged 18 to 49 reported a new condition within weeks or months after getting a COVID-19 vaccine, another poll shows.

MANDATES

READY TO SUE

Lawsuits coming for entities that don't change COVID mandates after CDC update: lawyer *By Zachary Stieber*



A sign in a restaurant window informs customers that they will need to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination to be allowed inside, in New York on Aug. 20, 2021.

ENTITIES WITH COVID-19 vaccine mandates that don't pay heed to the new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance will face lawsuits, a civil liberties lawyer says.

"We don't have a new lawsuit in the works yet. But if we see that colleges and universities and public employers are not responding to the new CDC guidance the way that they should be, then we would certainly tee up a new lawsuit,"

Mark Chenoweth, president and general counsel at the New Civil Liberties Alliance, told Epoch Insight.

The response to the updated guidance should be, at a minimum, a lifting of mandates for people who have recovered from COVID-19, he added.

Such people have a high level of protection against severe illness and death, according to a number of studies. Many studies indicate the protection is higher than that of the COVID-19 vaccines—in-

cluding one study funded by the CDC.

The CDC issued updated guidance on Aug. 11, stating in part that risk for illness from COVID-19 "is considerably reduced by immunity derived from vaccination, previous infection, or both" and that "persons who have had COVID-19 but are not vaccinated have some degree of protection against severe illness from their previous infection."

The public health agency rolled back quarantine recommendations for people, regardless of vaccination status, citing the high amount of immunity in the U.S. population from vaccination, prior infection, or both.

Since virtually all entities that have imposed mandates have cited CDC guidance, the entities won't be able to argue they aren't aware of the updated guidance, according to Chenoweth.

That means any institution that doesn't alter or rescind its mandate in light of the update "is ripe for a lawsuit," he said.

"Because the thing that the judges have said so far is that it was rational for these employers to follow CDC guidance, but now the CDC guidance is different. And if they're now going forward with these mandates for example, against people who have natural immunity in the teeth of the CDC guidance on that question, then I think it's going to be much harder for them to win even a rational basis challenge to their policies."

Suits

The New Civil Liberties Alliance has brought lawsuits against Michigan State University (MSU), the U.S. government, Fairfax County Public Schools, George Mason University, and Rhode Island officials over mandates that the legal group says are illegal.

They have focused on how entities aren't granting exemptions to people with proof that they've recovered from COVID-19.

While one of the cases won the plaintiff an exemption from the mandate, judges have ruled against many others, often tracing the mandates to CDC guidance.

"Plaintiffs have the burden of negating every rational basis that supports the MSU vaccine mandate, and the Court finds that they have failed to do so," U.S. District Judge Paul Maloney, a George W. Bush appointee, wrote in February as he

dismissed the suit.

"CDC guidance is clear: '[V]accination remains the safest and primary strategy to prevent SARS-CoV2 infections,'" he added. "In achieving MSU's stated legitimate goal of protecting its students and staff from COVID-19, it was plainly rational, in July 2021 when MSU established the policy, for MSU to rely on CDC guidance and require its students and staff to receive the COVID vaccination."



"I think it's remarkable that it's taken the CDC this long to come around to admitting the science on this topic."

Mark Chenoweth, president and general counsel, New Civil Liberties Alliance

The CDC has long maintained that vaccination is superior to natural immunity, and urged people with natural immunity to get vaccinated, even though many studies show that natural immunity provides better protection than vaccination and some suggest that people who recovered from COVID-19 are at higher risk of side effects if they do get a vaccine.

Moreover, some experts say getting

vaccinated after recovery doesn't make sense because the increase in protection is negligible, though others say the increase is worth the risk.

Could Have Changed in 2021

Chenoweth said the CDC should have updated its guidance in 2021.

"I think it's remarkable that it's taken the CDC this long to come around to admitting the science on this topic. The science was there at least a year ago when we started litigating the issue of whether or not folks with natural immunity should be subjected to vaccine mandates," he said.

A CDC spokeswoman told Epoch Insight in an email that the update was based on having more tools such as treatments than were available in 2020 and "the reality that nearly the entire U.S. adult population now has some level of immunity, either due to vaccination, past infection, or both."

"We also have a better understanding of who is at higher risk for getting very sick with COVID-19 and ways we can help protect them from severe disease. With more tools to protect ourselves and our communities from severe illness from COVID-19—like vaccination, boosters, and treatments—we have increased protection and flexibility for the future. CDC's commitment to addressing COVID-19 is strong and as a nation, we continue to respond to evolving challenges and identify best practices related to COVID-19," she added.

The spokesperson didn't respond when asked why the guidance wasn't updated in 2021.

Chenoweth said courts would be made aware of the new guidance, including the appeals court weighing the appeal in the MSU case. In another case, for Dr. Stephen Skoly Jr., a surgeon in Rhode Island, the update will be incorporated into an amended complaint. ■



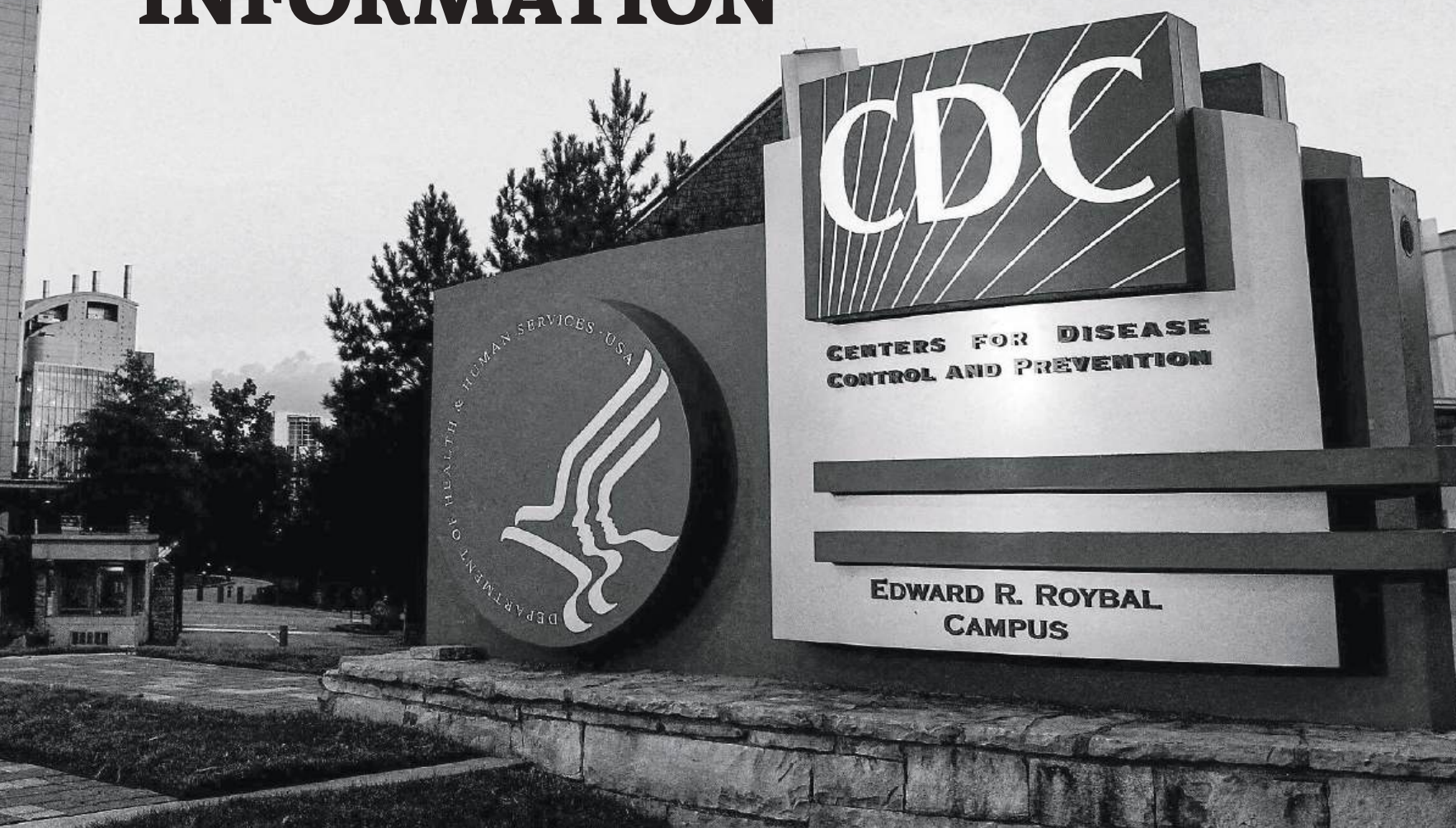
A health care worker prepares to administer a monkeypox vaccine at the Pride Center in Wilton Manors, Fla., on July 12.

CLOCKWISE FROM L: SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES; NCLAL.LEGAL.ORG; JOE RAEDL/GETTY IMAGES

EXCLUSIVE

CDC Admits to Issuing

FALSE INFORMATION



Agency changes statements about post-vaccine myocarditis and vaccine injury reporting system

By Zachary Stieber

THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE Control and Prevention (CDC) has admitted it gave false information about COVID-19 vaccine surveillance, including inaccurately saying it had conducted a certain type of analysis more than a year before it actually did.

The false information was conveyed in responses to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests

for the results of surveillance, and after the CDC claimed that COVID-19 vaccines were being monitored “by the most intense safety monitoring efforts in U.S. history.”

“CDC has revisited several FOIA requests and as a result of its review CDC is issuing corrections,” a CDC spokeswoman told Epoch Insight in an email.

No CDC employees intentionally provided false information, and none of the false responses were

FROM L. TAMM CHAPPELL/REUTERS; MICHAEL OLEVENGER - POOL/GETTY IMAGES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention headquarters in Atlanta on Sept. 30, 2014.

“The CDC was not analyzing VAERS for early warning safety signals for well over a year after the vaccination campaign began—which still counts as a significant failure.”

Josh Guetzkow, senior lecturer, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

given to avoid FOIA reporting requirements, the spokeswoman said.

Heart Inflammation

Epoch Insight in July submitted a FOIA request, or a request for nonpublic information, to the CDC for all reports from a team that was formed to study post-vaccination heart inflammation by analyzing reports submitted to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), a program run by the CDC and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The CDC not only said that the team didn’t conduct any abstractions or reports through October 2021, but that “an association between myocarditis and mRNA COVID-19 vaccination was not known at that time.”

That statement is false.

Clinical trials of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines detected neither myocarditis nor pericarditis, two types of heart inflammation. But by April 2021, the U.S. military was raising the alarm about post-vaccination heart inflammation, and by June 2021, the CDC was publicly acknowledging a link.

The CDC previously corrected the false statement but didn’t say whether its teams had ever analyzed the VAERS reports.

“In reference to myocarditis abstraction from VAERS reports—this process began in May 2021 and continues to this date,” the CDC spokeswoman said in the email.

The CDC still hasn’t released the results of its analyses.

Data Mining

The CDC promised in January 2021 that it would perform a specific type of data mining analysis on the VAERS reports called proportional reporting ratio (PRR). But when Children’s Health Defense, a nonprofit, asked for the results, the CDC said that “no PRRs were conducted by the CDC” and that data mining “is outside of [the] agency’s purview.”

When asked for clarification, Dr. John Su, who heads the CDC’s VAERS team, told Epoch Insight in an email that the CDC started performing PRRs in February 2021 “and continues to do so to date.”

The CDC is now saying that both the original response and Su’s statement are false.

The agency didn’t start performing PRRs until March 25 this year, the CDC spokeswoman said. The agency stopped performing them on July 31.

The spokeswoman said it “misinterpreted” both Children’s Health Defense and Epoch Insight.

Children’s Health Defense had asked for the PRRs the CDC had performed from Feb. 1, 2021, through Sept. 30, 2021. Epoch Insight had asked if the response to the request was correct.

The spokeswoman said the CDC thought “data mining” referred only to empirical Bayesian (EB) data mining, a different type of analysis that the FDA has promised to perform on the VAERS data.

“The notion that the CDC did not realize we were asking about PRRs but only data mining in general is simply not credible, since our FOIA request specifically mentioned PRRs and their response also mentioned that they did not do PRRs. They did not say ‘data mining in general,’” Josh Guetzkow, a senior lecturer at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem who has been working with Children’s Health Defense, told Epoch Insight via email.

“There is also no credible reason why they waited until March 25, 2022, to calculate PRRs, unless it was in response to our initial FOIA filed in December 2021, which was rejected on March 25, 2022—shortly after they say they began their calculations.

“It means the CDC was not analyzing VAERS for early warning safety signals for well over a year after the vaccination campaign began—which still counts as a significant failure.”

The CDC also hasn’t released the results of the PRRs.

“PRR results were generally consistent with EB data mining, revealing no additional unexpected safety signals,” the agency spokeswoman said. “Given it is a more robust data mining technique, CDC will continue relying upon EB data mining at this time.”

The FDA has told Epoch Insight it conducted EB data mining, but the agency has declined to share the results. ■



UPS employees move shipments of the Pfizer and BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, inside a sorting facility in Louisville, Ky., on Dec. 13, 2020.

VACCINES

IMMUNE IMPRINTING

Dr. Malone warns of vaccine dangers after Fauci floats 2nd booster shot

By Zachary Stieber

A doctor samples proteins at Novavax labs, one of the labs developing a vaccine for COVID-19, in Gaithersburg, Md., on March 20, 2020.

PHOTO BY ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

DR. ROBERT MALONE IS WARNING of immune imprinting after Dr. Anthony Fauci signaled his backing for second COVID-19 vaccine boosters for all Americans aged 5 and older.

“I couldn’t design a vaccine if I wanted to, to be more likely to drive immune imprinting,” Malone, who helped invent the messenger RNA technology the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are built on, told Epoch Insight.

Immune imprinting refers to a phenomenon whereby initial exposure to a virus strain may prevent the body from producing enough neutralizing antibodies against a new viral strain.

The COVID-19 vaccines currently in circulation are based on the Wuhan strain of the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus. Also known as SARS-CoV-2, the virus causes COVID-19.

A number of strains have emerged and become dominant since the Wuhan strain was prevalent, including the currently dominant Omicron variant.



“This is increasingly becoming a vaccine-driven disease.”

DR. ROBERT MALONE

Researchers from Imperial College London and the United Kingdom Health Security Agency have found that people who received three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine and were infected with the Wuhan strain had a lower level of protection against later strains when compared to people who hadn’t been infected. Other groups, including researchers at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, have found the vaccines to be much less effective against Omicron subvariants than the Wuhan strain.

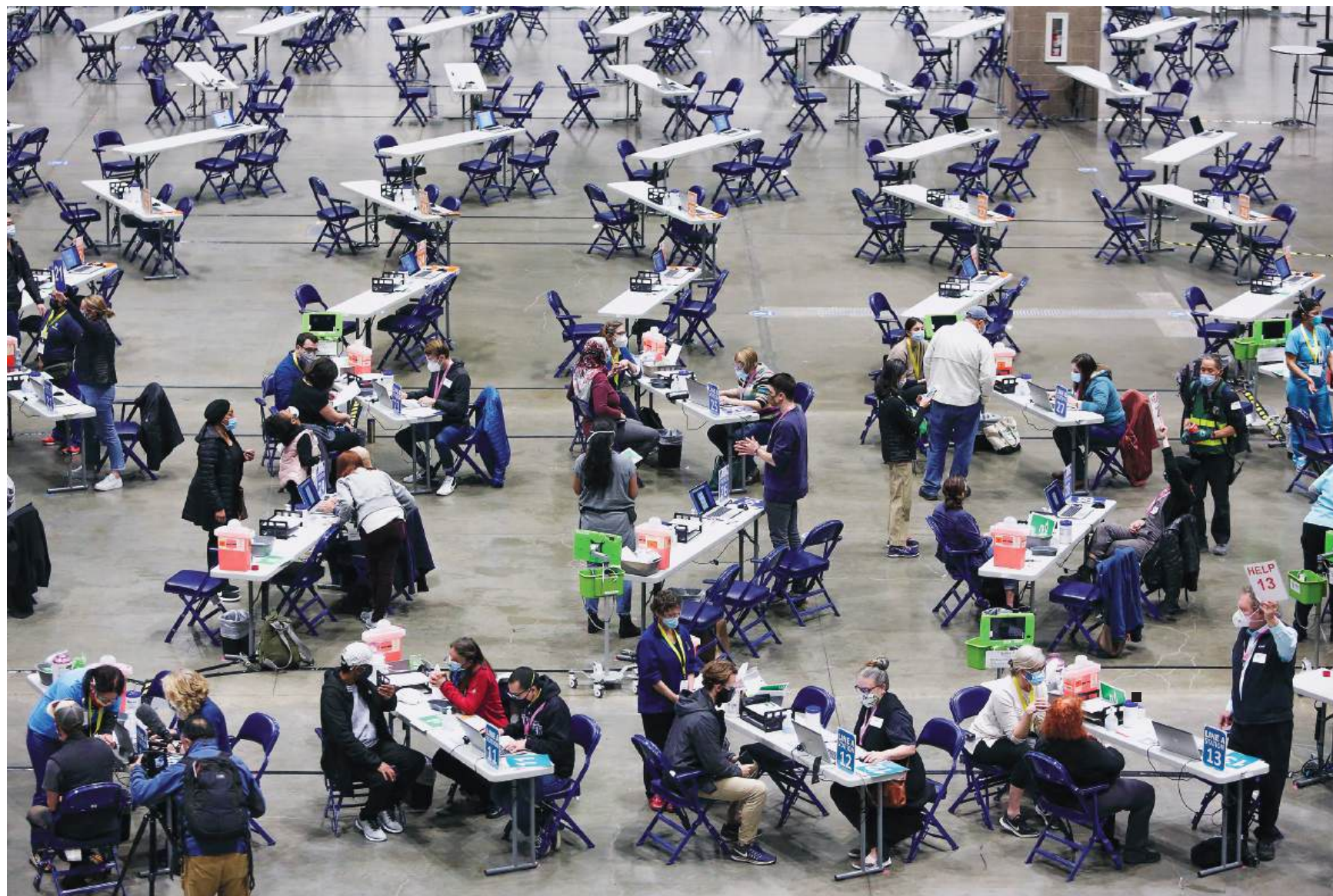
A number of studies have found negative effectiveness among vaccinated groups. That means those who get vaccinated are more likely to become infected.

In some areas, vaccinated persons account for a majority of those infected or in hospitals or dying with COVID-19. In Louisiana, for example, 70 percent of the deaths recorded between June 23 and 29 were among the vaccinated.

Second Booster Push

The vaccines were originally promoted as two-shot primary regimens (Pfizer and Moderna) or a one-shot immunization (Johnson & Johnson). They were said to have an efficacy as high ♦♦

People receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in Seattle on March 13, 2021.



70%

In Louisiana, 70 percent of the deaths recorded between June 23 and June 29 were among the vaccinated.

as 100 percent against symptomatic infection.

Due to waning effectiveness against the emerging variants, U.S. officials authorized booster doses. In March, because the effects of the boosters against infection didn't last long, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cleared and recommended second boosters for all adults older than age 50.

Fauci, the head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and President Joe Biden's top medical adviser, is now saying Americans aged 5 to 50 should be allowed to get a second booster dose.

Fauci told The Washington Post that the United States "[needs] to allow people who are under 50 to get their second booster shot, since it may have been months since many of them got their first booster."

"If I got my third shot [in 2021], it is very likely the immunity is waning," he said.

Fauci, who has no authority over authorizing or recommending boosters, has signaled major changes to U.S. vaccine policy in the past.

White House, FDA Respond

Dr. Ashish Jha, the White House's COVID-19 response coordinator, told reporters on July 12, "We have conversations all the time about what are possible things we could be doing to better protect the American people."

Jha said that the decision on second boosters will be made by the FDA and CDC. Fauci uttered a similar statement during the briefing.

"The FDA is evaluating the current situation, including the emerging epidemiology indicating increased hospitalization, and will be open to all potential options to address this, if necessary," an FDA spokesperson told Epoch Insight in an email.

Vaccine makers and the FDA are working together to develop variant-specific shots for the fall, which, they say, will offer better protection. But the updated shots aren't yet on the market.

Many U.S. adults have received a primary series of a vaccine, including 91 percent of those aged 65 and older and 77 percent of those aged 18 and older. But booster doses have been a harder sell.

Only 70 percent of elderly persons who received a primary series have received a first booster, along with just 51 percent of those aged 18 and older, according to CDC data. A second booster has only been administered to 28 percent of the population aged 50 and older.

Few of the COVID-19 vaccine mandates included a booster, and most of the mandates have been rescinded due to factors such as plunging COVID-19 metrics and the waning effectiveness of the vaccines.

'Vaccine-Driven Disease'

The COVID-19 metrics in the United States have been creeping up in recent weeks, with the weekly average number of cases jumping by 75 percent since late March and hospitalizations with COVID-19 doubling since April.

Officials blame the new BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron subvariants, which have been edging out other strains in the United States and are thought to be more transmissible but don't seem to cause



Dr. Anthony Fauci has no authority over authorizing or recommending boosters, but has signaled major changes in U.S. vaccine policy in the past.

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Dr. Anthony Fauci testifies during a hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington on May 17.

more severe illness. The subvariants are "more likely to lead to vaccine breakthrough infections," researchers at Columbia University found.

People should get a booster as soon as they're eligible, which is typically about five months after their last shot, Jha and CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said.

"Don't delay," Jha said.

But Malone is among the scientists who are challenging the idea that the old vaccines are the solution.

"You got a major problem with the new Omicron, that's the BA.5. The people that are getting infected chronically and hospitalized and dying are predominantly the vaccinated. It's happening all over the world," Malone said.

"Now they've got a problem because they have driven this because of immune imprinting. This is increasingly becoming a vaccine-driven disease."

Malone said that Fauci, a major vaccine proponent, "has basically created a situation through the insistence on the hyper vaccination where he's actually driving the disease in the United States."

Government officials disagree. Walensky said CDC data show that people who either haven't received a vaccine or haven't been boosted have less protection than those who have been boosted, including against infection, even as studies show the boost against infection quickly drops after the first and second booster.

Fauci said that people who were previously infected, or have natural immunity from surviving COVID-19, "don't have a lot of protection" against the new subvariants.

Neither mentioned how natural immunity, according to a new study, remains stronger than the protection from vaccines, even with boosters, particularly against severe disease. ■

Meiling Lee contributed to this report.

VACCINES

EMAILS REVEAL

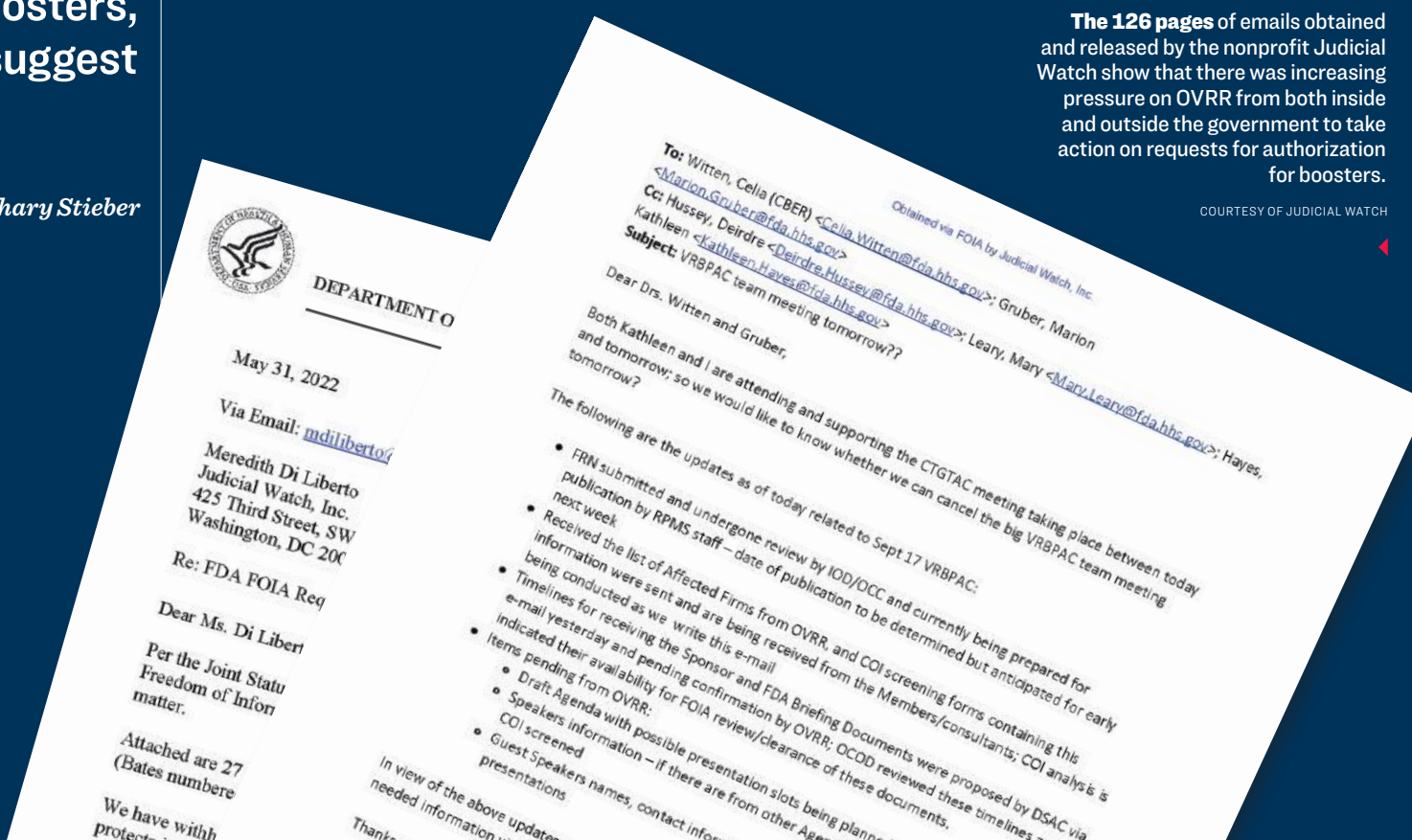
Top FDA officials worried about pressure to authorize COVID-19 vaccine boosters, emails suggest

By Zachary Stieber

FDA CONCERN

The 126 pages of emails obtained and released by the nonprofit Judicial Watch show that there was increasing pressure on OVRP from both inside and outside the government to take action on requests for authorization for boosters.

COURTESY OF JUDICIAL WATCH



TOP OFFICIALS AT THE FOOD and Drug Administration (FDA) were worried about what they saw as pressure being placed on them by vaccine companies and the White House to clear COVID-19 vaccine booster doses, according to newly released emails.

Dr. Marion Gruber, director of the FDA's Office of Vaccines Research and Review (OVRP), said she was "very concerned that companies (such as Pfizer and Janssen) are trying to put pressure on OVRP by way of PR," or public relations, in one of the missives.

"We need to be given time to consider their data and cannot be pushed by these companies and, for that matter the Administration, who try to impose timeless [sic] that make no sense," Gruber told Dr. Peter Marks, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, in an Aug. 25, 2021, email.

The 126 pages of emails, obtained and released by the nonprofit Judicial Watch, show that there was increasing pressure on OVRP from both inside and outside the government to take action on requests for authorization for boosters.

The pressure was triggered in part by a joint statement signed by FDA Acting Commissioner Janet Woodcock, longtime National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Dr. Anthony Fauci, and other Biden administration officials.

The group stated that the protection from the COVID-19 vaccines was declining over time and that "a booster shot will be needed to maximize vaccine-induced protection and prolong its durability."

"You had this corporate-government pressure on the civil servants who were over there, and they objected so much, at least two of them resigned."

Tom Fitton, president, Judicial Watch



A woman receives a COVID-19 vaccine at La Colaborativa in Chelsea, Mass., on Feb. 16, 2021.

Marks was encouraging Moderna to submit a formal request for booster authorization, Michelle Olsen, a Moderna executive, told Sudhakar Agnihothram, who worked under Gruber, via email two days later. Marks urged Moderna to file the request “as soon as possible,” according to the emails.

‘Bite My Tongue’

In a discussion around that time, Marks told staffers that “we wouldn’t be doing rushed reviews anymore,” Dr. Doran Fink, who also worked under Gruber, wrote to Gruber and others.

“I had to bite my tongue ... so as not to ask about the booster doses that the administration promised to everyone by Sept 20!” Fink wrote.

Gruber responded, “He keeps on telling me that following this approval, he will sit down with us to hammer out a plan to get on top of the workload because ‘while I was gone he actually did an inventory and determined that our workload is no longer manageable’ ... at the same time he encourages sponsors to send in submissions and I am sure promises fast turn-around.”

Johnson & Johnson also repeatedly emailed the FDA asking for meetings to discuss data in preparation for submitting a booster authorization request. Karin Van Baelen of Janssen said an executive was meeting with Marks and that Moderna had already made presentations to Fauci and Dr. Francis Collins, head of the National Institutes of Health. Gruber grew frustrated, culminating in the email to Marks.

In another message, Gruber pushed back when Marks messaged Fink to personally review work they were doing to analyze vaccine data, which Marks said was done at the behest of Woodcock.

“I am concerned and disappointed about the apparent lack of confidence and trust that Dr. Woodcock has in the OVRP team and that she has asked you to verify the information that we have provided to you in today’s meeting and in the email sent to you by Doran this afternoon,” Gruber said.

Edits ‘May be Rejected’

The rush to get boosters cleared was prompted by the joint statement from the White House and

Food and Drug Administration headquarters in White Oak, Md., on July 20, 2020.



Dr. Peter Marks, director of the FDA’s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, testifies during a hearing on the federal coronavirus response, on Capitol Hill in Washington on March 18, 2021.



“I had to bite my tongue ... so as not to ask about the booster doses that the administration promised to everyone.”

Dr. Doran Fink

FROM L: JOSEPH PREZIOSO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES; SARAH SILBERG/GETTY IMAGES

other Biden administration officials, according to Van Baelen.

“In view of the urgency created by the recent joint announcement by HHS and Medical Experts, we consider it important to be able to address the questions raised related to U.S. citizens who received the Janssen vaccine single dose regimen earlier this year as soon as possible,” she said.

At one point, Gruber reached out to international colleagues, lamenting the “crazy controversy and very strong push towards boosting vaccines that I am seeing here in the U.S., the E.U., and a few other countries.”

“The message appears to be ‘total buy-in in the need for boosters,’” Gruber wrote in another email, asking for edits on a statement the FDA was preparing. “This is not how I am writing the BD, I am trying to take a more neutral approach. This piece sounds as if we already decided to

approve this supplement.”

Maureen Hess, a colleague, said she would make edits but noted that Woodcock signed onto the joint statement, “so our edits may be rejected above us.”

Gruber and Dr. Phil Krause, who was deputy director at OVRP, resigned from the FDA because of their disagreements over the need for vaccine booster doses.

“You had this corporate-government pressure on the civil servants who were over there, and they objected so much, at least two of them resigned,” Tom Fitton, president of Judicial Watch, told EpochTV.

Gruber, Krause, Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson didn’t respond to requests for comment.

The FDA, Marks, and Woodcock declined to comment.

The FDA’s outside advisory panel challenged the administration’s effort for vaccine boosters for all, voting only to recommend authorization of boosters for several subsets of Americans. However, the FDA soon bypassed the panel and authorized boosters for all adults, triggering public pushback from Krause and another former FDA scientist, Luciana Borio.

Second vaccine booster doses have since been cleared for tens of millions of Americans because of the waning protection provided by the first booster, and there are signals that virtually all Americans will soon be advised to get second boosters. ■

VACCINES

Doctors Rebut Fauci Over Vaccine Effects

Fauci criticized for saying COVID vaccines induce 'temporary' menstrual irregularities

By Enrico Trigoso



DR. ANTHONY FAUCI'S RECENT comments on menstrual irregularities have met with serious rebuttal from gynecologists, who say the COVID-19 vaccines shouldn't have been administered without adequate safety testing, especially on pregnant women.

"The menstrual thing is something that seems to be quite transient and temporary," Fauci told Fox News on July 25, when asked about the effect of the vaccines on menstrual cycles.

"We need to study it more."

Fauci is director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and has been a frontman for COVID vaccine information in the United States.

But Dr. Christiane Northrup, a former fellow in the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, disagrees with Fauci.

"Unfortunately, the menstrual problems we are seeing are far from transient and temporary," she told Epoch Insight. "Many women have been bleeding daily or having heavy, irregular, painful periods for an entire year.

"And some of these are well past menopause. Something is way off here."

Other experts also weighed in.

Dr. James Thorp, an extensively published, board-certified physician in obstetrics and gynecology, as well as maternal and fetal medicine, told Epoch Insight: "The significant and dramatic changes in menstrual patterns occurring after COVID-19 vaccines should not be marginalized. It is indicative of major adverse effects on women of reproductive age.

"The stakeholders claimed that the vaccine would remain at the injection site in the deltoid muscle. This was misinformation.

CLOCKWISE FROM L: GREENASH/POOL/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF DR. NORTHRUP; FREDERIC J. BROWN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

"The lipid nanoparticles (LNPs) are now known to be distributed throughout the entire body and to be concentrated in the ovaries, according to at least two studies." A lipid nanoparticle is an extremely small particle, a fat-soluble membrane that is the cargo of the messenger RNA (mRNA).

Pfizer's Internal Documents

Pfizer's internal documents, obtained via a Freedom of Information Act request, show a 118-fold increase in the concentration of LNPs from the time of vaccine injection to 48 hours.

"The LNPs are known to include toxic substances including polyethylene glycol and pseudouridinated mRNA," Thorp said. "The limited number of ovum in the ovaries (about 1 million) are exposed to potentially toxic substances and could potentially have catastrophic effects on human reproduction."

"The stakeholders claimed that the pseudouridinated mRNA couldn't be reverse transcribed into the human DNA. This was misinformation," he added, referring to a Swedish study published in February, which concluded that Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine is able to enter human liver cells and is converted into DNA.

Thorp, who has been practicing obstetrics for more than 42 years, believes that the medical industrial complex had unequivocal evidence on the vaccine's danger to pregnant women.

"This is proven not only by VAERS, but also by Pfizer's own internal document, 'Pfizer 5.3.6 Postmarketing Experience,'" Thorp said. VAERS, the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System, is a program run by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration.

The data show that within the first 90 days of trials, 1,223 people died, others suffered severe adverse effects, and 45 percent (124 out of 270) of pregnant, vaccinated mothers suffered complications.

In a 2012 study, Thorp says, researchers found "a high local accumulation of nanoparticles, nanocapsules, and nanoemulsions in specific locations of the ovaries" of the different mouse species and Wistar rats that were studied "in vivo, in vitro, and by sophisticated microscopic imaging." The LNPs were found in all the animals.

Michael Yeadon, a former vice president at Pfizer, believes that the pharmaceutical industry "definitely knew," since 2012, that the lipid nanoparticles would accumulate in the ovaries of women who took products containing lipid nanoparticles.

"No one in the industry or in leading media could

claim they didn't know about these risks to successful pregnancy," Yeadon told Epoch Insight in April.

Sidestepping Responsibility

Northrup fears there could be much more data related to reproductive damage that haven't yet been discovered.

"The phrase 'this requires more study,' while downplaying the current evidence of harm, is a common way to discount the experience of thousands of women," she said. "Unfortunately, academic doctors do this all the time as a way to sidestep responsibility for the untoward effects of their treatments."

In a previous interview, Northrup told Epoch Insight: "The female menstrual cycle is considered a vital sign as important as blood pressure and body temperature when it comes to health assessment.

"Our initial findings of bleeding and decidual cast shedding in women who have been exposed to those who have had the experimental injection suggest that what we've seen so far is just the tip of the iceberg." A decidual cast is "the sloughing off of the entire inside of the uterus all at once."

"The reproductive effects of this shot could be far worse than we've been led to believe," she said.

Research analyst Tiffany Parotto, founder and director of MyCycleStory, a survey that tracks women's menstrual problems following COVID vaccination, told Epoch Insight in May that she was distressed about the censorship and deletion of a Facebook group of about 21,000 members in which women discussed their menstrual irregularities.

Parotto, Thorp, and Northrup co-authored a peer-reviewed study on menstrual irregularities of vaccinated women, which was published in April.

Fauci's office didn't respond to a request for comment. ■



"The reproductive effects of this shot could be far worse than we've been led to believe."

*Dr. Christiane Northrup,
former fellow, American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists*



A woman receives a COVID-19 vaccine in Corona, Calif., on Jan. 15, 2021.

LAWSUIT

FIGHTING VACCINE MANDATES



(Top left) Health care workers protest against NorthShore University HealthSystem's vaccine mandate outside Evanston Hospital in Evanston, Ill., on Oct. 12, 2021. (Bottom left) California's frontline health care workers hold simultaneous protests against the government's mandatory vaccination order at Kaiser Permanente-Riverside Medical Center and Kaiser Permanente Orange County-Irvine Medical Center on Aug. 21. (Left) Hospital staff protest against NorthShore University HealthSystem's vaccine mandate outside Evanston Hospital in Evanston, Ill., on Oct. 12, 2021. (Above) Protesters gather to oppose the vaccine mandate for health care workers in Fountain Valley, Calif., on Oct. 1, 2021.

Health care workers who sued over COVID-19 vaccine mandate win \$10 million settlement
By Zachary Stieber

A GROUP OF HEALTH CARE WORKERS who sued their hospital over a COVID-19 vaccine mandate are slated to receive \$10 million, according to a settlement agreement filed on July 29.

About a dozen workers at the NorthShore University HealthSystem in Illinois lodged the suit in October 2021, arguing that the facility was illegally not granting religious exemptions to the mandate.

After eight months of negotiations, the workers and NorthShore “have agreed to settle this case,” according to a memorandum filed in federal court.

Under the settlement’s terms, North-

Shore will pay \$10,337,500 into a settlement fund for workers affected by its mandate—specifically, workers who, between July 1, 2021, and Jan. 1, 2022, asked for a religious accommodation and were denied, and either received a vaccine to avoid termination, or were fired or resigned from their employment. About 473 workers fit under that category.

NorthShore will also adjust its vaccine mandate “to enhance its accommodation procedures for individuals with approved exemptions for sincerely held religious beliefs.”

Workers fired because they refused to get vaccinated due to their religious

beliefs are eligible to apply for reemployment.

U.S. District Judge John Kness, the Trump appointee overseeing the case, was asked to approve the proposed settlement.

Liberty Counsel, the legal group representing the plaintiffs, described the settlement as a first of its kind for an action against a private employer that denied hundreds of requests for religious exemptions to a COVID-19 vaccine mandate.

“The drastic policy change and substantial monetary relief required by the settlement will bring a strong measure

of justice to NorthShore’s employees who were callously forced to choose between their conscience and their jobs,” Horatio Mihet, vice president of legal affairs at the group, said in a statement.

“This settlement should also serve as a strong warning to employers across the nation that they cannot refuse to accommodate those with sincere religious objections to forced vaccination mandates.”

Fund

If the agreement is approved, affected workers could apply for money from the \$10 million fund.

Each worker who eventually got a vaccine despite raising religious objections would be eligible for about \$3,000, while those who were fired or resigned from their position could receive about \$25,000, according to estimates.

The final amounts will depend on how many workers apply for money, among other factors.

In addition, the agreement sets aside \$260,000 for the named plaintiffs in the case. Each would be slated to receive about \$20,000, on top of the other funds.

Liberty Counsel is also asking for \$2 million in attorneys fees, or about 20 percent of the total settlement. ■

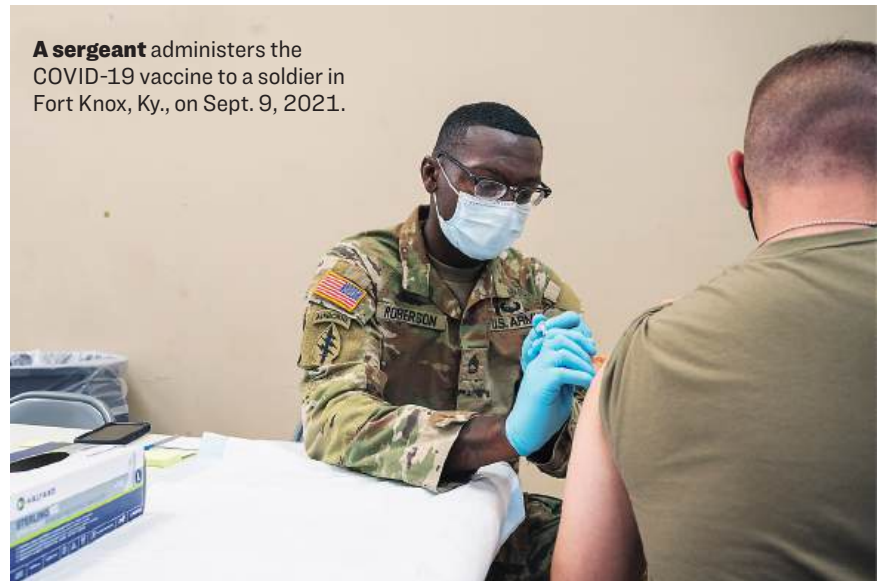
FROM L: CARA DING/THE EPOCH TIMES; LINDA JIANG/THE EPOCH TIMES; CARA DING/THE EPOCH TIMES; MEI LI/THE EPOCH TIMES

1,440
EXEMPTIONS

TO THE MANDATE have been granted, including 104 religious exemptions. Another 2,847 are pending, and 6,803 have been rejected.



Members of U.S. Air Force prepare to receive the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at Osan Air Base, South Korea, on Dec. 29, 2020.



A sergeant administers the COVID-19 vaccine to a soldier in Fort Knox, Ky., on Sept. 9, 2021.

MANDATES

AIR FORCE EXEMPTIONS

Judge orders Air Force not to punish members seeking religious exemptions to COVID-19 vaccine mandate

By Zachary Stieber

AIR FORCE OFFICIALS WERE ordered on July 27 to not discipline airmen who are seeking religious exemptions to the military's COVID-19 vaccine mandate.

U.S. District Judge Matthew McFarland, a Trump appointee, entered a preliminary injunction against the military branch.

Two weeks earlier, MacFarland issued

a temporary restraining order. He asked the military to make its case as to why he shouldn't enter a preliminary injunction, which is a longer-lasting measure.

In a 16-page filing, government lawyers said blocking the military from punishing unvaccinated members "would interfere with ongoing legal proceedings and would otherwise be improper, particularly in light of significant new developments."

Among the developments, they pointed to U.S. drug regulators authorizing a COVID-19 vaccine made by Novavax. Unlike the three vaccines previously available in the United States, the Novavax vaccine doesn't use fetal cells in its development, manufacturing, or production, government lawyers said, echoing statements from Novavax that have been disputed by some outside groups.

"Those class members whose religious objections were based on mRNA technology or the use of fetal-derived cell lines are no longer substantially burdened by the COVID-19 vaccine requirement because this option is now available," the lawyers said.

Included in the opposition was a declaration from Lt. Gen. Kevin Schneider, director of staff for the Air Force's headquarters. He claimed that unvaccinated members "are at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19 and substantially more likely to develop severe symptoms resulting in hospitalization or death" and that exempting a large number of

airmen "would pose a significant and unprecedented risk to military readiness and our ability to defend the nation."

Of the 14 Air Force members who died from COVID-19 since March 14, 12 were unvaccinated, according to Schneider.

McFarland wasn't convinced. "Defendants fail to raise any persuasive arguments," he said.

Chris West, an attorney representing the plaintiffs, called the ruling "such a big win" on Twitter.

Thousands Affected

The Air Force has approximately 497,000 members. Of those, 97.1 percent have received a primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine as of July 11.

About 1,440 exemptions to the mandate have been granted, including 104 religious exemptions. Another 2,847 are pending, and 6,803 have been rejected.

The small number of religious exemptions granted is "farcical," McFarland said earlier this year. He said the Air Force "has effectively stacked the deck' against service members seeking religious exemptions."

Under the new order, the Air Force can't take disciplinary action against or attempt to kick out members who have requested a religious exemption on or after Sept. 1, 2021, and were deemed by a chaplain as having a "sincerely held religious belief." Most military members who apply do and were either denied or haven't had action on their request. ■

A nurse supports a patient as they walk in the COVID-19 alternative care site at Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno, Nev., on Dec. 16, 2020.

PHOTO BY PATRICK T. FALLON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

COVID-19

NURSES DECRY HOSPITAL PROTOCOLS

COVID-19 treatment protocols are 'brutal,' say nurses who left hospital system

By Matt McGregor

NURSES WHO WITNESSED “brutal” hospital COVID-19 treatment protocols kill patients paint a bleak picture of what is taking place in state and federally funded health care systems.

“They’re horrific, and they’re all in lockstep,” Staci Kay, a nurse practitioner with North Carolina Physicians for Freedom who left the hospital system to start her own early treatment private practice, told Epoch Insight. “They will not consider protocols outside of what’s given to them by the CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] and the NIH [National Institutes of Health]. And nobody is asking why.”

Fueled by cognitive dissonance amid an array of red flags, Kay said hospital staff are administering blatantly problematic treatments that performed poorly in clinical trials, such as remdesivir, and following protocols such as keeping the patient isolated, just to adhere to the federal canon.

“I’ve seen people die with their family watching via iPad on FaceTime,” she said. “It was brutal.”

As a former nurse in intensive care, Kay says she has seen her share of tragedy, but seeing how COVID patients were being treated “had [her] waking up in the middle of the night in a cold sweat with chest pains.”

“I hated my job,” she said. “I hated going to work. I was stressed in a way I’ve never

been before in my entire life.”

Keeping families isolated was especially difficult, she said, because people couldn’t come to say goodbye to their loved ones.

‘We Can Do Better’

Kay was looking for other options when she found an inpatient protocol designed Dr. Paul Marik, founding member of Front Line COVID-19 Critical Care Alliance, which purported to have a 94 percent success rate.

However, after Kay pitched it to the head of the pulmonary critical care department, she was dismissed, and the physician boasted that the hospital had a 66 percent survival rate at the time.

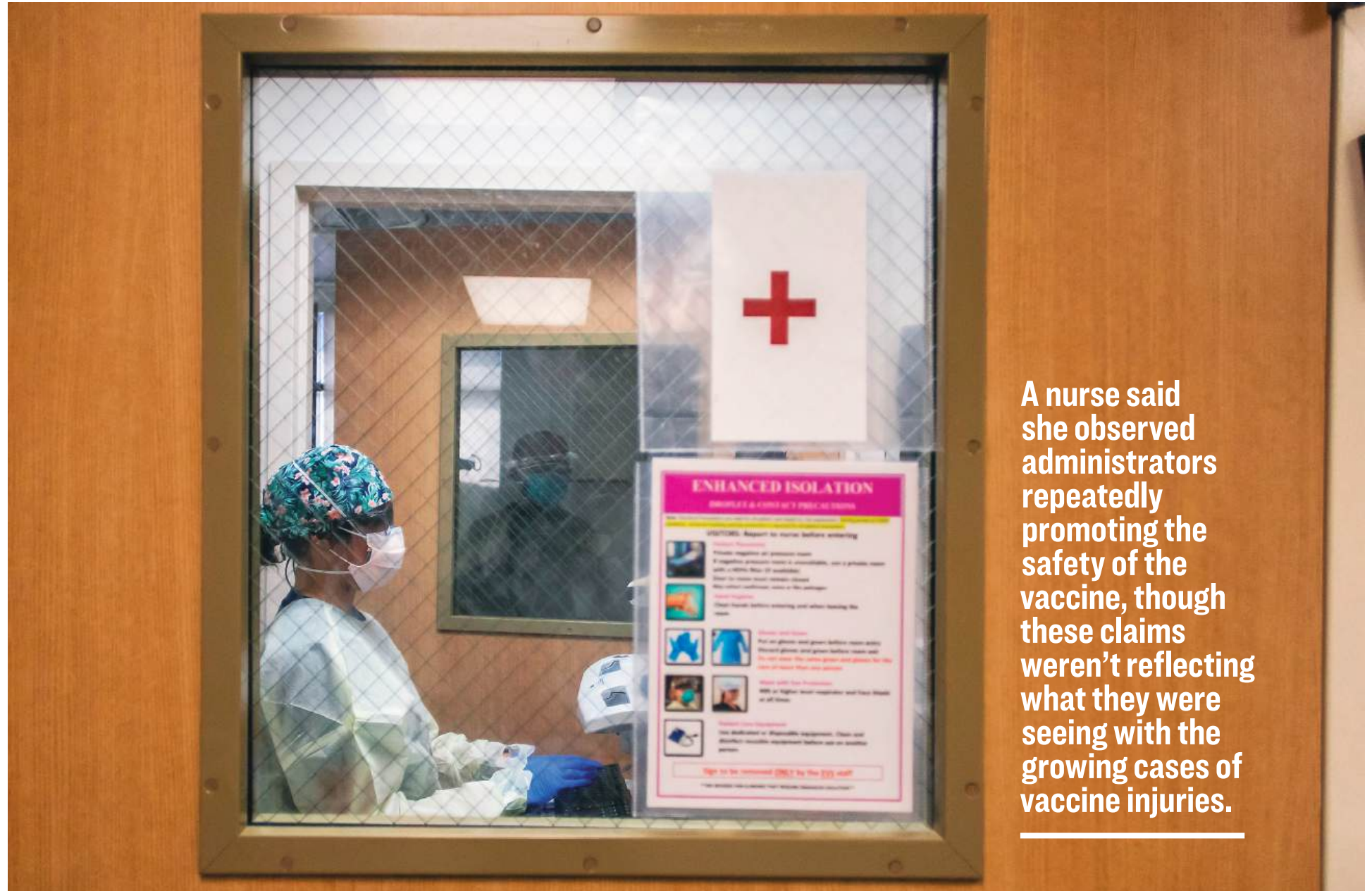
“I told him, ‘I feel like we can do better,’ but I was very quickly shut down,” she said. “I became very angry because I’m watching people die and I knew we could have been doing better.”

It was as if formerly smart people had become brainwashed, “and then just dumb,” she said, and lacking the mental wherewithal to discern between true and false.

This led Kay to begin treating patients in the outpatient setting to prevent their admission into the hospital system, which is now her full-time job after being fired for not submitting to what she described as illogical testing requirements for those who weren’t vaccinated.

At her telemedicine business, Kay said, she’s seeing multiple cases of people suffering from COVID-19 vaccine injuries.

“I saw things on the inpatient side,



A nurse said she observed administrators repeatedly promoting the safety of the vaccine, though these claims weren’t reflecting what they were seeing with the growing cases of vaccine injuries.



(Above) A registered nurse works at at Providence Cedars-Sinai Tarzana Medical Center in Tarzana, Calif., on Sept. 2, 2021.

(Left) Syringes of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at Kedren Community Health Center in Los Angeles on Feb. 16, 2021.

FROM L. APUD GOMES/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF STACI KAY

too, that I suspected were vaccine injuries that went unacknowledged by our physicians,” she said. “I saw brain bleeds, seizures out of nowhere, cancer that just spread like wildfire, ischemic strokes, and I saw one person die horrifically from myocarditis.”

On the outpatient side, she said she’s seen conditions resulting from the COVID-19 vaccine such as brain fog, cognitive decline, joint pain, gastrointestinal dysfunctions, and neuropathy, which is numbness and tingling in the hands, feet, and extremities.

‘The Old School Is Going to Have to Become the New School’

Kay’s business, Sophelina Consulting, provides telemedicine, mobile urgent

care, and mobile IV therapies. It’s independent of corporate, federal, and state control, which, she said, is a solution to a health care system paralyzed by oppressive requirements.

“As long as there’s corporate control over medicine, whether it’s Medicare or private insurance companies, you’re always going to have providers who are forced, pressured, and coerced to do things that they wouldn’t normally do,” she said. “Physicians don’t have the treatment they used to have.”

Because of this corporate control, Kay said the list of boxes they must check takes time away from the actual patient.

“Getting away from this corporate structure is going to be a game changer,” she said.



“I’ve seen people die with their family watching via iPad on Facetime. It was brutal.”

Staci Kay, nurse practitioner



In the hospital room of a COVID-19 patient at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center in Los Angeles on Feb. 17, 2021.

Kay advocated for returning to the “old school” way, which is the direct, primary care model in which the patient pays a monthly or annual fee to have access to the provider without the interference of a traditional insurance company that requires “too many hoops to jump through, headaches, and checkboxes.”

She points to a health care model called GoldCare, designed by Dr. Simone Gold, founder of America’s Frontline Doctors.

Gold, who was sentenced to two months in prison for her alleged involvement in the Jan. 6, 2021, breach of the U.S. Capitol, created GoldCare as a private membership association (PMA).

Because much of what insurance companies do revolves around potential lawsuits, to be a member of the PMA, one must sign a clause, agreeing that they won’t sue.

“What that does for us is, we don’t have to order unnecessary testing or consults just to cover our back end because that’s most of what corporate medicine does,” Kay said.

As a result, she said, both the patient and the physician are happier because the treatment process hasn’t been weighted down with bloated insurance requirements.

For Kay, this model—an evocation of a simpler time in medical care when doctors were more connected with their patients—is key.

“The old school is going to have to become the new school,” she said.

NIH and the CDC didn’t respond to Epoch Insight’s request for comment on COVID-19 treatment protocols.

Boycotting the System

Having accepted salmon, eggs, and honey for payment, a nurse in Washington

state, who wished to remain anonymous, shares Kay’s more traditional vision for the future of health care.

She told Epoch Insight that people “need to boycott their health insurance.”

“I think people who don’t need surgery to save their life should not go to the hospital,” the nurse said. “I think people need to find doctors who are private pay and pay for only what they need to be done.”

The federal government must be removed from the health care equation, she said.

“I especially don’t think any children should be going to these practitioners who are accepting state funding or Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements,” she said.

The nurse requested anonymity because—in addition to being unvaccinated—in Washington and Oregon state, she said the government has made it

possible for the public to submit anonymous complaints, “devoid of evidence,” against health care workers who promote treatments that deviate from the official protocols.

After the nurse was fired for not complying with the vaccine mandate, she started her own private care business that offers monoclonal antibodies, L-lysine and vitamin C infusions, infrared red light therapy, and nebulizer machines as treatments as needed and when indicated.

‘Widespread Data Suppression’

With her newly launched business, the nurse performs the early interventions that, she says, hospitals should be doing “but refuse to do because they say there’s no evidence for it.”

The nurse works with a growing network of physicians and providers that functions as a “total parallel society,” existing in the shadows beside the “crooked” health care system, she said.

In the aftermath of the public vaccination campaign in her community, the nurse said she saw an increase in strokes and embolization procedures as doctors engaged in “widespread data suppression,” such as not reporting to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System what she saw as vaccine injuries and deaths, and recording non-COVID deaths as being caused by COVID.

Even before the CDC had modified its definition of “fully vaccinated,” the hospital system was reclassifying patients who had only received one vaccine as unvaccinated, she said.

“The worst part of it was when the pulmonologists decided that unvaccinated patients would get seven days on the ventilator, then they would tell the families that nothing more could be done,” she said. “They would then terminally extubate these patients, even when more could have been done.”

The nurse personally witnessed this, she said, with a 33-year-old mother of two children.

“She had been on ivermectin at home and was viewed as an anti-vax conspiracy theorist,” the nurse said.

A nurses draws a dose of COVID-19 vaccine from a vial at the Cameron Grove Community Center in Bowie, Md., on March 25, 2021.

“I used to consider my co-workers as people with whom I’d trust my life, but after they got that second dose of the vaccine, it was like they had a hive mind bent on hatred.”

Nurse

Before the mother was terminally extubated and her status changed to “comfort care,” the nurse said she argued with hospital administrators for 12 hours.

She had asked the pulmonologist to consider running more tests, she said.

“It had been over a week since the last D-dimer [blood test], and this would have indicated whether fibrin in the bloodstream was increasing or decreasing,” the nurse said. “The usual process with a known pulmonary embolism was to check every three days. There were more anticoagulant drugs and routes

of administration that could have been utilized. Intravenous heparin is reversible. If they were willing to withdraw life support, why were they not willing to try something that could clear a circulatory impairment?”

In the end, the hospital won, she said.

“The mother died gasping for air while my hand was on her back,” she said. “I couldn’t believe it. I went to my manager and asked for an audit to be done on our coagulation times and pulmonary embolism treatment protocols. That got me booted from the ICU [intensive care unit] until I was fired.”

The nurse said she observed administrators repeatedly promoting the safety of the vaccine, though these claims weren’t reflecting what they were seeing with the growing cases of vaccine injuries.

Though there were some staff who saw the truth but ignored it to keep their jobs, there were many whom she observed—just as Kay reported—who exhibited “mind-blowing cognitive dissonance.”

“They received the vaccines themselves, and if they were to ever confront the possibility that they willingly became the hands of a truly evil agenda, I don’t think they could live with themselves,” the nurse said.

“I used to consider my co-workers as people with whom I’d trust my life, but after they got that second dose of the vaccine, it was like they had a hive mind bent on hatred. It’s very eerie to say that out loud.” ■



FROM L. MARIO TAMAYO/GETTY IMAGES; WIN MCNAMER/GETTY IMAGES

VACCINE TRIALS

Lab Rat Effects

Moderna trial documents reveal that after COVID vaccination, lab rat offspring had rib malformations

By Enrico Trigoso

DOCUMENTS FROM MODERNA'S COVID-19 vaccine trial on animals show that some of the offspring of rats that were injected with the company's mRNA shot developed rib malformations.

The documents total 700 pages and contain a portion of the formal biologics license application (BLA) package that Moderna had submitted to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for approval of its SpikeVax mRNA vaccine.

The documents, which were obtained via a Freedom of Information Act request by Judicial Watch, haven't yet been made public, but have been analyzed by former pharma executive Alexandra Latypova and reviewed by Epoch Insight.

Included in the documents are test results showing that Moderna mRNA shots caused statistically significant skeletal malformations in the offspring of rats that received doses of mRNA-1273 (SpikeVax mRNA) vaccine.

"[The] mRNA-1273-related variations in skeletal examination included statistically significant increases in the number of F1 rats with 1 or more wavy ribs and 1 or more rib nodules. Wavy ribs ap-

peared in 6 fetuses and 4 litters with a fetal prevalence of 4.03% and a litter prevalence of 18.2%. Rib nodules appeared in 5 of those 6 fetuses," the documents read.

"F1" refers to the rat offspring. "Wavy ribs" refers to ribs not properly shaped.

"Maternal toxicity in the form of clinical observations was observed for 5 days following the last dose (Gestation Day 13), correlating with the most sensitive period for rib development in rats (Gestation Days 14 to 17)," the documents state.

Six out of about 149 baby rats had wavy ribs, and five of those also had rib nodules.

According to Latypova's analysis, only female rats were studied (male rats weren't treated with the Moderna vaccine).

The females received a human dose of 100mcg SpikeVax mRNA, 28 days and 14 days prior to mating and at gestation days 1 and 13.

"[Half of the] rats [were] euthanized before delivery to examine [their] fetuses. The rest [were] followed to 21 days after delivery," Latypova stated. "No numbers are provided for the study size."

There is no study report in the documents, but rather only Moderna's own interpretation

of the outcomes.

The results were part of reproductive toxicology testing done by Moderna, which is the only reproductive toxicology testing that was conducted for the product, according to Latypova.

It isn't known how the dose translates from humans to rats.

"Neither Moderna nor Pfizer provided any dose calculations or justification information for dose selection in animal studies," Latypova told Epoch Insight.

"Doses of drugs, or especially biologics, do not necessarily have linear relationships with toxicity or efficacy. It is likely a much more complex relationship and unfortunately not known at all."

"Reproductive toxicology is the study of adverse effects of medicinal products on reproduction. The FDA requires reproductive toxicity testing for any NME [new molecular entity] to be used in women of childbearing potential," added Latypova, who has worked in more than 60 pharmaceutical companies, mainly focusing on creating and reviewing clinical trials, many of which have been submitted to the FDA.

Despite the lab results, the FDA issued a statement on Jan. 30 stating that there were no adverse effects on postnatal developments.

"No vaccine-related fetal malformations or variations and no adverse effect on postnatal development were observed in the study," the statement reads.

"In a developmental toxicity study, 0.2 mL of a vaccine formulation containing nucleoside-modified mRNA (100 mcg) and other ingredients that are included in a 0.5-mL single human dose of SPIKEVAX was administered IM to female rats on four occasions: 28 and 14 days prior to mating, and on gestation days 1 and 13."

Pfizer Vaccine Also Caused Abnormal Ribs in Rats

In August 2021, Elsevier published a peer-reviewed study titled "Lack of Effects on Female Fertility and Prenatal and Postnatal Offspring Development in Rats with BNT162b2, a mRNA-Based COVID-19 Vaccine."

BNT162b2 is the Pfizer vaccine product.

All the authors of the publication were employed by Pfizer, BioNTech, or Charles River, a Pfizer contractor.

This publication suggests that there was a "lack of effects" in postnatal offspring development, but the study shows that there was a 295 percent increase (8.3 percent, compared to 2.1 percent in the control group) in abnormal ribs in vaccinated rat offspring. A huge increase was reported in what is described as the "supernumerary lumbar."

'An Extremely Dangerous Warning Signal'

"Skeletal abnormalities in the bony rib cages are ab-

solutely important and were statistically increased in the rat offspring of the experimental group compared with the placebo group," Dr. James Thorp, who is board-certified in obstetrics and gynecology, as well as maternal-fetal medicine, told Epoch Insight after reviewing Latypova's analysis of Moderna's BLA package.

"In clinical obstetrics and maternal-fetal medicine, we see similar findings in skeletal abnormalities prior to birth that are extremely serious and often lethal.

"This was an extremely dangerous warning signal in reproductive toxicology studies and was never brought to the light of day to protect our global citizens.

"The CDC, Pfizer, Moderna, and the flagship medical journals of the medical industrial complex lied to the American public and should be held accountable."

Thorp recently analyzed and verified the most recent Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System data related to COVID-19 vaccines and compared them to the influenza vaccines, finding numerous abnormalities.

The CDC website recommends that pregnant women receive COVID-19 vaccines in order to "prevent severe illness and death."

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists also "strongly recommends that pregnant individuals be vaccinated against COVID-19," adding that pregnant women's complete vaccination should be a "priority."

Moderna, Pfizer, the CDC, and the FDA didn't respond to requests for comment. ■

"Neither Moderna nor Pfizer provided any dose calculations or justification information for dose selection in animal studies."

Alexandra Latypova, former pharma executive



Six out of about 149 baby rats in the study had wavy ribs, or ribs not properly shaped, and five of those also had rib nodules.

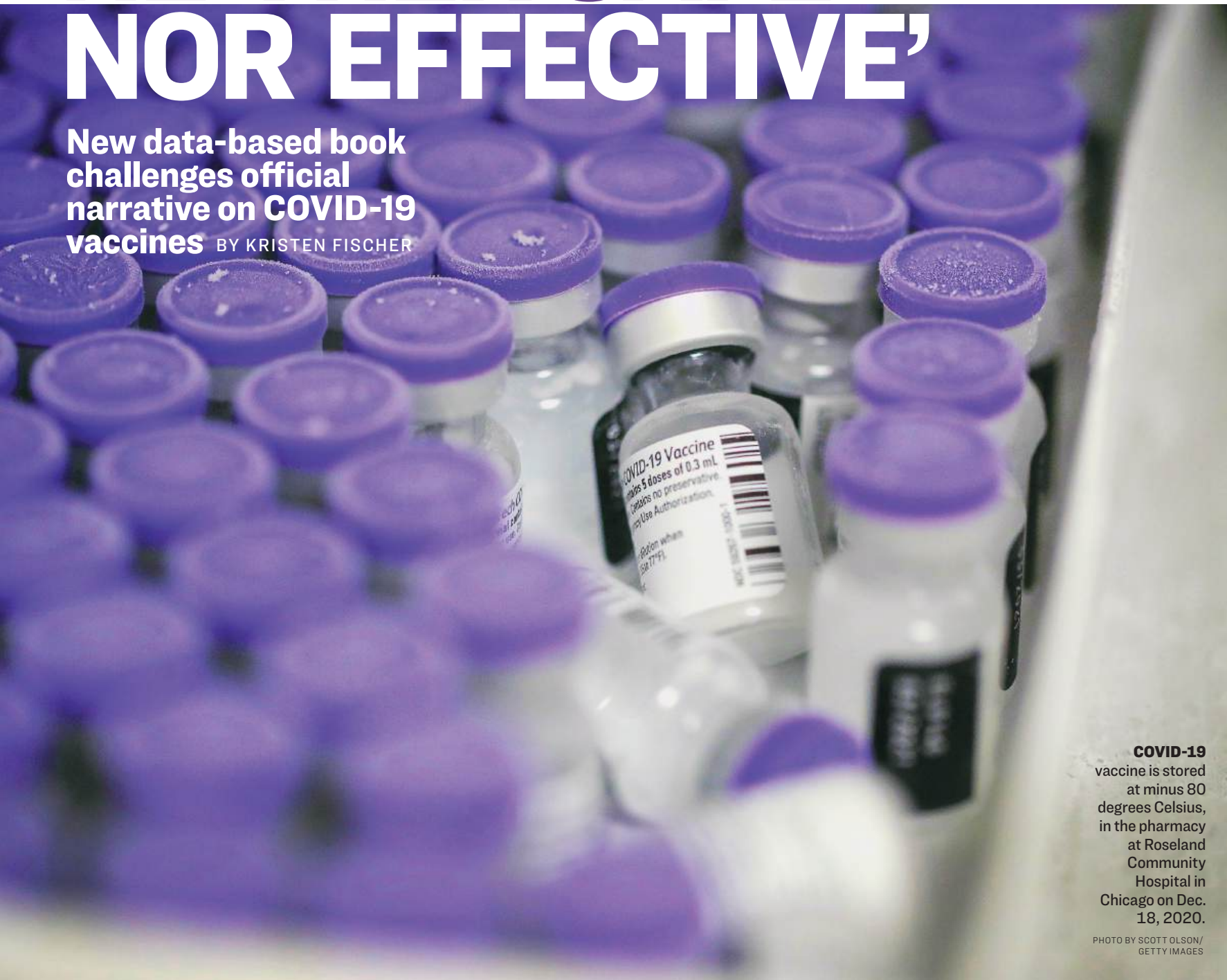
Vials of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine at Recipharm's plant in Monts, France, on April 22, 2021.

FROM L. GUILAUME SOUVANT/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES, CHINA PHOTOS/GETTY IMAGES

COVID-19 VACCINES

‘NEITHER SAFE NOR EFFECTIVE’

New data-based book challenges official narrative on COVID-19 vaccines BY KRISTEN FISCHER



COVID-19 vaccine is stored at minus 80 degrees Celsius, in the pharmacy at Roseland Community Hospital in Chicago on Dec. 18, 2020.

PHOTO BY SCOTT OLSON/
GETTY IMAGES

AS MORE RESEARCH IS published on people who have taken the COVID-19 vaccine, more data—at least the data that make it to publication—are revealing that many people have had harmful effects from the injections.

Of course, COVID-19 itself comes with health consequences, and everyone understands that. But the vaccine was supposed to be so safe and effective that it was acceptable to even coerce people into getting it. In fact, even those who caught COVID-19 and achieved natural immunity were compelled to get the vaccine.

In her latest book “Neither Safe Nor Effective: The Evidence Against the COVID Vaccines,” Dr. Colleen Huber shared some of the data that have been emerging.

The Arizona-based naturopathic medical doctor said the damage done so far from the mRNA vaccines is undeniable. She also highlights issues in the medical and media fields that have kept people from getting access to facts. This all comes as many people are still being pressured to take the vaccine or are suffering consequences for not taking it.

Huber encouraged people to pick up the book and to think for themselves while reading it.

“You won’t get past chapter one without being convinced that these vaccines shouldn’t be used on anyone because of all the damage that has been seen in vaccinated populations,” she said.

Examining Vaccine Effects

In the book, Huber discussed how mRNA is the culprit behind the risks and damage to people. The technology had never been used safely in the past. It’s always had “wildcard dangerous effects in the body.”

The mRNA mechanism sets in motion a process that can affect the DNA of the person and affect multiple organs in unwanted ways.

A Swedish study published this year shows that the Pfizer vaccine enters the DNA of liver cells within six hours.

“This, in turn, changes how the DNA of the body produces new proteins,” Huber said. “In other words, the liver of a vaccinated person is gradually becoming different, and it is too early to know how and to what extent.

“The liver is responsible for hundreds of metabolic functions, so this is one of many reasons why taking these vaccines is so horribly reckless.

“We cannot yet be certain about this happening in other organs, because that research hasn’t yet been done, and this, again, is because the technology is still so new.”

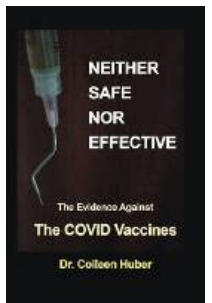
Based on data she reviewed from the United States, Europe, and Israel, Huber said there are demonstrated cardiovascular injuries, such as heart attack, cardiac arrest, myocarditis, and pericarditis, associated with the vaccine.

Other common side effects were neurological injuries such as Bell’s palsy and seizures, new and aggressive cancers, and liver diseases.

In the book, Huber focuses on evidence of the first three adverse effects, because they were “by far the most thoroughly documented, and the least deniable,” she said.

The book includes data presented by Pfizer and the Food and Drug Administration under court order (after a lengthy back-and-forth battle). The data show that of the 30,096 people in the clinical trial (and an additional 2,990 on whom they have no data), there were 1,223 deaths and 11,361 people who had “not recovered at the time of report.”

It’s too early to know the effects of the vaccine, especially in those who got the initial vaccine (or two-dose vaccines) but didn’t get the boosters. Some people who had the initial vaccine and had some adverse effects took ivermectin, vitamin D, N-Acetyl Cysteine, and ♦



The cover of “Neither Safe Nor Effective: The Evidence Against the COVID Vaccines” by Dr. Colleen Huber.



“Few doctors have the time, energy, bandwidth, or, frankly, the ‘cojones’ to rebel against the bureaucrats.”

Dr. Colleen Huber, author

COURTESY OF DR. HUBER



A man receives a dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in Detroit on April 6, 2021.

pine needle tea for relief. Ivermectin gives the best results, Huber believes, because it has known mechanisms against the spike proteins.

More Shots, More Damage?

Huber believes that the more vaccines (or “boosters”) a person gets, the more damage that can be done.

She highlights data from the UK that show an especially high COVID-19 death rate there. The UK is one of the most heavily vaccinated countries in the world, with 92 percent of people older than age 12 being vaccinated.

The poorer outcomes are linked to more mRNA being added to the body “in order to churn out even more of the devastating spike proteins into the cardiovascular system,” she believes.

Setting Records Straight

In addition to issues surrounding the quality and suppression of data, there’s also conflict about research that gets published and research that never makes it into journals (and, therefore, never reaches the mainstream media).

Huber echoed Dr. Peter McCullough, a well-known cardiologist who has sounded the alarm on how journals have suppressed research on early treatments for COVID-19.

Huber said it’s hard to get her hands

“Governments in one country after another, first the U.S., then the UK and Scotland, which had collected the most data, suddenly hid data.”

Dr. Colleen Huber, author

on data, especially if the data have never made it to publication.

“Governments in one country after another, first the U.S., then the UK and Scotland, which had collected the most data, suddenly hid data,” she said.

Unmasking the Medical Community

If the vaccines are so harmful, why did so many doctors pressure patients to take them?

“Doctors are threatened in many ways by rogue and frequently lawbreaking medical boards—the domineering antagonists to the passive doctors—to ‘shut up and do what we tell you,’” she said, citing her own experience. “Few doctors

have the time, energy, bandwidth, or, frankly, the ‘cojones’ to rebel against the bureaucrats.”

If the general trend of the medical profession is to recommend COVID-19 vaccines and if threats are made against any who would choose to rebel, you’ll find that the majority goes along with it, Huber said.

“That is, until the tide turns. When the tide begins to turn,” she said. “It’s much easier for an individual doctor to move with the herd against bad medical treatments, such as the COVID vaccines.”

She said many doctors are no longer pressuring patients to get the vaccines.

“And it all seems to be happening at once, at least in pediatrics and cardiology,” Huber said. “When the flock of birds turns and starts flying in a different direction, each bird turns in cooperative, almost choreographed, synchrony.”

She compared the shift to that which occurred with the pain-relieving drug Vioxx. In the early 2000s, it was highly recommended. But in 2007, the harms of the drug were exposed, and doctors stopped prescribing it.

Now, avoiding that drug is “not at all controversial,” according to Huber.

“No medical board punishes a doctor for avoiding Vioxx,” she said. ■



A pharmacist holds a bottle of the arthritis drug Vioxx in New York, in this file photo.

In the early 2000s, Vioxx was highly recommended. But in 2007, the harms of the drug were exposed, and doctors stopped prescribing it. Dr. Colleen Huber compares this example to what’s happening now with the COVID-19 vaccines, as doctors gradually stop pushing patients to get them.

THIS PAGE FROM TOP: MATTHEW HATCHER/GETTY IMAGES, SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

The Week

President Joe Biden announces student loan relief measures with Education Secretary Miguel Cardona, at the White House on Aug. 24.

PHOTO BY LIVIER DOULIERY/ AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Biden to Cancel \$10,000 of Student Loan Debt for Millions

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN’S PLAN to forgive thousands of dollars in student debt for millions of Americans and adjust repayment for others will cost roughly \$500 billion, according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

Biden says he will cancel up to \$10,000 of student debt owed to the federal government for households earning less than

\$250,000 a year and individuals earning less than \$125,000 a year. That will cost the most: from \$330 billion to \$390 billion.

Another key part of the plan is adjusting repayments, including forgiving all loans at or under \$12,000 after 10 years of payments are made, down from 20 years. That will cost an estimated \$90 billion to \$190 billion.

“We won’t back down until our elections are completely and totally secure.”



Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton

“We’re heavily dependent on foreign adversarial nations.”



Rep. Pete Stauber (R-Minn.), referring to the United States’ reliance on China for critical and rare earth minerals used for new technologies.

\$10,000 PER BORROWER

The Biden administration has announced that it **will spend hundreds of billions of dollars to pay off at least \$10,000 in federal student loan debt** for each borrower, despite widespread worries that the move will worsen the inflation crisis.



\$113,000 in Taxes — Clifford Tatum, a former Washington and Georgia election official who previously garnered criticism for past election problems on his watch, owes the IRS some \$113,000 in taxes, according to documents posted on Twitter by Texas state Sen. Paul Bettencourt. Tatum will soon begin a new job running elections in Houston.

\$4.90
COFFEE

Americans are spending an average of **\$4.90 for a cup of coffee**, marking a 7.6 percent increase from the same time last year, NPD Group says.

\$3
BILLION

President Joe Biden has announced that **the United States is giving \$3 billion more in military assistance to Ukraine**. The money is being drawn from aid that Congress approved, including a \$40 billion package that Biden signed in May.

70%

A Northern California district attorney has revealed that **more than 70 percent of suspects who were released on \$0 bail between 2020 and 2021** in Yolo County went on to commit new crimes.

THIS PAGE FROM TOP: SAMIRA BOUJAU/THE EPOCH TIMES; NTD/SCREENSHOT VIA THE EPOCH TIMES; SHUTTERSTOCK; RIGHT PAGE FROM TOP: SAMIRA BOUJAU/THE EPOCH TIMES



The Internal Revenue Service Headquarters Building in Washington on Sept. 19, 2018.

ECONOMY

IRS Waiving \$1.2 Billion in Taxpayer Penalties

THE IRS HAS ANNOUNCED that it will waive penalties levied against U.S. taxpayers who failed to file their 2019 and 2020 returns in a timely manner during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The agency will also issue over \$1.2 billion in refunds or credits to taxpayers who received the fees.

According to the IRS, roughly 1.6 million taxpayers, including individuals and businesses, will automatically receive the billions in refunds or credits by the end of September. Spread across 1.6 million taxpayers evenly, that would amount to an average refund of \$750 per taxpayer.

MANDATES

Pentagon’s Vaccine Mandate Is Illegal: Military Whistleblowers

IN OPPOSITION TO THE CONTINUED military vaccine mandate, a group of military whistleblowers has delivered a 41-page memorandum to members of Congress.

Capt. Joshua “Hippity” Hoppe, a Marine Corps MV-22B Osprey pilot, wrote to various congressmen, explaining that he and other signatories of the memo had attempted to bring their concerns about the military vaccine mandate to their commanders, but their efforts had “fallen on deaf ears.” In June, a 12-page report titled the Congressional Survey of Accountability, Trust, and Freedom began a public attempt to call attention to the difficulties of service members who refuse the vaccine mandate, typically for religious reasons.

According to the whistleblower memo, vaccines released under the emergency use authorization (EUA) have been unlawfully administered by the Department of Defense since August 2021.

The argument rests on the claim that the Pentagon’s Aug. 24, 2021, vaccine mandate applied to “COVID-19 vaccines that receive full licensure from the [FDA], in accordance with FDA-approved labeling and guidance.” And, therefore, EUA vaccines cannot be forced upon service members.

ABORTION

Judge Blocks Biden Administration’s Emergency Abortion Rule in Texas

A FEDERAL JUDGE has blocked the White House from enforcing guidance in Texas to require hospitals to provide emergency abortions regardless of state laws.

U.S. District Judge James Wesley Hendrix agreed with Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton that the guidance from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) was unauthorized and went beyond the text of a related federal law.

The judge declined to enjoin the guidance nationwide and instead only barred HHS from enforcing it and its interpretation of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act in Texas.

POLICY

Federal Government Imposes 1st-of-Its-Kind Fee on Greenhouse Gas Emissions

HIDDEN DEEP WITHIN the more than 700 pages of the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is a brand-new provision intended to give the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the power to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Specifically, the IRA establishes the Methane Emission Reduction Program under a new section in the Clean Air Act, allowing the EPA to impose a fee on certain “climate pollutions.”

It’s the first time the federal government has ever imposed a fee on any GHG emission and is part of efforts to bolster the EPA’s power to address the “climate crisis.”



A government sign advises people to “Stay Home, Protect the NHS, Save Lives,” in London’s Piccadilly Circus on April 13, 2020.

UK

UK Government Urged to Investigate Non-COVID-19 Excess Deaths

THE UK GOVERNMENT is facing renewed calls for an investigation as the number of non-COVID-19-related deaths in England and Wales remained higher than usual over the past three months, particularly in younger age groups.

According to the latest data published by the Office for National Statistics, there were 950 excess deaths in England and Wales in the week ending Aug. 12, with 592 of the deceased having COVID-19 mentioned on their death certificate.

The previous week saw 1,350 excess deaths, with 723 involving COVID-19. The trend has persisted in most weeks since May.

MALAYSIA

Former Malaysian Prime Minister Begins 12-Year Jail Term

FORMER MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER Najib Razak has begun serving a 12-year prison sentence after losing his final appeal on charges related to a graft scandal involving state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

Najib, 69, faced seven charges in July 2020 of criminal breach of trust, abuse of power, and money laundering. He was convicted, sentenced to 12 years in prison, and fined 210 million ringgit (\$47 million).

On Aug. 23, a five-member Federal Court panel upheld his conviction and sentence for the embezzlement of 42 million ringgit (\$9 million) at SRC International—a former unit of 1MDB—and denied his appeal.



Malaysia’s former prime minister Najib Razak in Putrajaya, on Aug. 23.

ASIA

Cambodia Begins Monitoring Foreigners, in Human Trafficking Crackdown

CAMBODIAN AUTHORITIES have initiated nationwide tracking of all foreigners as part of a crackdown on human trafficking, following reports of thousands of Asian victims being lured and trapped in the country through job scams.

Interior Minister Sar Kheng said police have begun checking foreigners staying in Kandal and Preah Sihanouville provinces to rescue victims and arrest human traffickers, local newspaper Khmer Times reported.

Some foreigners claimed that they had been lured by job listings offering high salaries, but after arriving in Cambodia, they were forced to work illegally in jobs that were “not what they had agreed to,” Kheng said.

The operation came after Taiwan’s government said that it sought to rescue some 370 Taiwanese victims held captive in Cambodia by criminal groups, Focus Taiwan reported.

MIDDLE EAST

Pentagon Confirms Military Airstrikes on ‘Iran-Backed Militia’ in Syria

THE PENTAGON HAS announced that it conducted targeted airstrikes on Iran-backed militia in Syria in order to “protect U.S. forces” in the Middle Eastern country.

Officials said the airstrikes were ordered by President Joe Biden and conducted in Deir ez-Zor, a strategic province in Syria that borders Iraq and contains oil fields.

The airstrikes were necessary in order to “defend and protect U.S. forces from attacks like the ones on August 15 against U.S. personnel by Iran-backed groups,” U.S. Central Command wrote in a statement.

THIS PAGE FROM TOP: GUYON KIRK/AP/PA VIA GETTY IMAGES; ARIF KARTONO/AP/PA VIA GETTY IMAGES



Perspectives

Natural gas is flared off at a plant outside of the town of Cuero, Texas. Prices for natural gas have been skyrocketing in 2022.

PHOTO BY SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES



FED FRAUD

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THOMAS MCARDLE was a White House speechwriter for President George W. Bush and writes for IssuesInsights.com.

Thomas McArdle



Fed Fraud

Officials fear being blamed for a recession

“A MILLION WORKERS working FOR NOTHING. You better give them what they really own,” John Lennon sang in “Power to the People.”

With a level of inflation not seen in 40 years currently ravaging workers’ wages, they resent being robbed of the money they earn. That’s why, in a free country that understands and appreciates the free market, we insulate the central bank from political passions by making it independent and enforcing that independence: so it can fight inflation hard when the need arises.

But legal independence can never shield a government’s central bankers imperviously. As Milton Friedman noted in 1962, in perhaps the most influential essay promoting central bank independence, “Even when central banks have supposedly been fully independent, they have exercised their independence only so long as there has been no real conflict between them and the rest of the government.”

The U.S. Federal Reserve currently is tasked with an objective that its chairman and policymakers know to be impossible in today’s Washington. Even potent increases in the federal funds’ short-term bank-to-bank interest rate of 75 or even 100 basis points won’t bring it up to parity with the current 8.5 percent inflation rate. Chairman Jerome Powell and his Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) colleagues won’t be receiving kudos for conquering ever-increasing prices of energy and consumer goods at any time in the foreseeable future, if ever.

But there’s a great risk that they’ll be leveled with the blame for the recession that has already begun, especially if it proves to be severe.

Paul Tucker of Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and author of “Unelected Power: The Quest for Le-

gitimacy in Central Banking and the Regulatory State,” has said that “while an arm’s length monetary authority, insulated from day-to-day politics, can help underpin a constitutional system of government, unelected central bankers surely need to be constrained by legislation.”

The U.S. Federal Reserve currently is tasked with an objective its chairman and policymakers know to be impossible in today’s Washington.

Since 1977, federal law, with the intention of constraining, has tried to have its cake and eat it too. Congress has charged the Fed with a mission to “promote effectively the goals of maximum employment, stable prices, and moderate long-term interest rates.” The law might as well demand that the U.S. central bank wave its wand and conjure up full employment without inflation perpetually, out into the far future—along with a winning Powerball ticket for each of the nation’s citizens while it’s at it.

This isn’t to say that pushing back against inflation with some level of effectiveness isn’t possible for the Fed today, but not when internally, there exists no united front. The Federal Reserve is divided. For instance, St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank President James Bullard just told The Wall Street Journal that he wants another 75-basis-point increase at next month’s FOMC meeting “to continue to get the policy rate higher and into restrictive territory.”

He made it clear that he isn’t worried about a recession at all. But according to Minneapolis Fed Bank President Neel Kashkari, “as we continue to raise rates, as we

continue to raise costs, so to speak, of borrowing across the economy, it should be putting, tapping the brakes on the U.S. economy, and that makes it more likely that we would end up in a recession.”

The minutes of July’s FOMC meeting found members ruminating that “it likely would become appropriate at some point to slow the pace of policy rate increases.” And so, even with inflation at 1970s levels, the Fed is, in not so many words, apologizing for the BBs it’s shooting at the problem, which won’t come anywhere close to killing inflation.

They fear being blamed for a recession that’s the fault of President Joe Biden and a Democratic-dominated, big-spending Congress—who will no doubt be happy to have a scapegoat nearby and be the first to point fingers at the central bankers. The late, cigar-chomping, larger-than-life-at-6-feet-7-inches-tall Paul Volcker, who actually did get serious about conquering inflation in the early 1980s—at one point in 1981 setting the fed funds rate at 20 percent—was scorned and pilloried while in power. But today’s Fed policymakers should consider that he was later bestowed with honorary degrees from more than 20 centers of higher learning, including Dartmouth, Georgetown, Notre Dame, New York University, and Princeton.

Because of our politically correct, union-dominated public school system, few U.S. workers understand even the basics of economics or how harmonious economic freedom is with the realities of human nature. In the months to come, they may join in excoriating a Fed that at least partly does its job; they might even foolishly demand “power to the people” in the form of legislative reform that politicizes the Fed. But their lives will be much happier when the harsh medicine does its curing.

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Anders Corr



China and Russia Collude

Upcoming military exercises to include China, Russia, and India

CHINA ANNOUNCED PLANS On Aug. 17 to send troops to Russia for military exercises. The troops will join the Russian military, along with armed forces from India, Mongolia, Belarus, and Tajikistan.

The “Vostok” (East) exercises, which will be held from Aug. 30 to Sept. 5, take place in the context of Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine and Beijing’s threats to do the same to Taiwan.

The irresponsibility of the Ukraine invasion is clear from a Russian “warning” on Aug. 18 that a nuclear power plant occupied by Russia could fail and blanket Europe with radioactive material.

Russia and China don’t mean well. They held aggressive naval drills in the Sea of Japan in October 2021, followed by joint patrols in the western Pacific. The two countries entered South Korea’s air defense identification zone (ADIZ) uninvited in November, forcing the U.S. ally to scramble its military jets.

In January, Iran held naval drills with both Russia and China. The Middle Eastern country is in violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT).

These are provocative acts against the United States and its allies by the world’s most dangerous dictators. The 2022 U.S. National Defense Strategy recognizes China and Russia as America’s two biggest security threats—in that order.

The collaboration of additional countries is unfortunate. They say one best knows a country by the friends it keeps.

In this latest military exercise, the list of participating countries should be considered a rogue’s gallery of states that don’t put ethics at the forefront of their international relations; else, why would they cooperate militarily with countries that use violence against neighbors and genocide against their own citizens?

One of the biggest enigmas is India’s participation, even as China deploys its military against India’s border in the Himalayan mountains, doing violence to Indian soldiers.

Alicia Kearns, a Conservative politician in the UK, objected on Twitter to India.

The United States rightly points out that China and Russia are trying to overturn the rules-based international system established after World War II.

“Whilst many nations won’t limit engagements w/China, military cooperation w/Russia now undermines int’l norms & values,” she wrote.

India buys discounted-rate oil from Russia, undercutting the sacrifices of other democracies to support Ukraine in its life-or-death struggle against Moscow.

Likewise, Russian President Vladimir Putin has shown substantial support for the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP) fight against democratic Taiwan, including a denunciation on Aug. 16 of U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s trip to the island.

The People’s Liberation Army (PLA) responded by surrounding the island democracy in what appeared to be the testing of a naval blockade.

Russia has said that it’s cooperating with China on a new “sovereign development policy,” while China claims to be developing a “new type of international relations.”

The United States has rightly pointed out that China and Russia are trying to overturn the rules-based international system established after World War II. The design of that system was led by the United States, which was

the world’s strongest country at the time. For this reason, the main U.N. institutions are all in the United States and European democracies, including France, Italy, and Switzerland.

Yet Beijing has deftly built its influence in the United Nations because of its Security Council veto and utilization of economic influence and bribery among its 193 member states.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Ned Price rightly noted on Aug. 17 that the increased collaboration between Russia and China “is of concern because of the vision that the countries ... [have] for the international order [that] is ... starkly at odds with the underpinnings of the international system that have been in place for eight decades following the end of the Second World War.”

The attempt to overturn the international system goes beyond military matters to include a “new international reserve currency,” according to Nikkei Asian Review. Putin touted the global currency in June, which would be “based on a basket of currencies of BRICS members Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.”

This alternative to the dollar-based international payments system would facilitate sanctions evasion by countries such as Russia and China that seek to violate other countries’ sovereignty and territorial integrity in a premeditated manner. Those countries that collaborate in this criminality are complicit.

Some politicians, at least, are raising the alarm.

Rep. Mark Green (R-Tenn.) responded to the planned exercises on Twitter.

“The Chinese Communist Party is not our friend—they’re our adversary—and they’ve made their intentions clear by siding with leaders like Vladimir Putin,” Green wrote. “We cannot back down in the face of authoritarianism.”

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Milton Ezrati



Washington's Flawed New Law

New taxes, little help on inflation, and much central direction

WASHINGTON has enacted a new law. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) makes only tentative gestures toward inflation control. It mostly promotes Washington's preferred green initiatives with a raft of grants, loan guarantees, and tax credits. It extends some health care benefits to low-income Americans.

Its sponsors aim to pay for all this by upping corporate taxes and using stepped-up IRS enforcement to collect more money from everyone.

The law will increase federal outlays by roughly \$435 billion over the next five years. Its sponsors claim that the budget deficit will shrink because the law's new taxes and enforcement efforts will raise government revenues more than enough to offset the additional spending.

There is, however, plenty of room for skepticism. Administration of the new corporate tax looks so complex that actual collections will likely fall far short of the estimate used in the legislation. It's also doubtful that the \$80 billion allocated for IRS enforcement will pay for that expense, much less net a revenue increase. The highly regarded Penn-Wharton budget model has determined that the legislation will neither have much effect on inflation nor provide any deficit relief. Separately, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) sees a “negligible effect on inflation” from this legislation and no meaningful reduction in deficits.

Green initiatives take the bulk of the legislation's outlays—\$385 billion over the next five years. The law offers generous tax benefits and \$40 billion in loan guarantees

to promote carbon capture and “clean hydrogen” at electric facilities (regardless of energy source). It also offers tax credits and loan guarantees for nuclear power production and clean vehicles of all sorts. This support will extend to projects for advanced manufacturing, biogas, fuel cells, and energy storage technologies, including carbon capture and sequestration. Some \$2 billion in direct loans will go to constructing and modifying electric transmission facilities.

The law will increase federal outlays by some \$435 billion over the next five years.

The law allows the transfer of credits to unrelated parties, but only under certain circumstances. It also repeals the Trump-era moratorium on offshore wind leases.

The IRA also aims to reduce greenhouse emissions by 40 percent by 2030. The effort gives the Department of Energy the authority to advance an array of grants, rebates, direct loans, and cooperative agreements to pay for up to half the costs of promising projects. Some would aim to improve the efficiency of household heating and cooling systems and appliances, with \$1 billion earmarked for “affordable housing.” Some \$60 billion would go to what the legislation refers to as “environmental justice initiatives” through which it would aim to provide benefits to previously underserved neighborhoods.

The legislation also allocates \$27 billion to the Environmental Protection Agency and more to the Agriculture Department to

provide financial and technical support for projects that promise to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Automakers will get \$6 billion to produce hybrid and plug-in electric vehicles in the United States.

A striving for centralized control runs throughout this legislation. It gives the heads of all the agencies involved considerable discretion on what activities can qualify for support and how they would qualify. In other words, Washington would direct the emphasis not only on production, but also on the way people and businesses can pursue it.

Against this quest for government command and control, complexity and expense, practical people would naturally look for something simpler, less intrusive, and perhaps more effective. A carbon tax would do that. By making the emission of greenhouse gases expensive, such a tax would unleash a great diversity of effort to limit the use of fuel and the release of such emissions. Every American would seek ways to reduce his or her carbon footprint. Instead of the IRA's list of preferred technologies and what are effective commands on how to use them, this kind of general effort would engage everyone's imagination. It would also proceed with more vigor than the IRA's dictates could possibly muster.

Furthermore, a carbon tax would replace this law's huge outlays with added revenues, perhaps enough to offer Americans other needed benefits or even a cut in other tax burdens. Washington, however, isn't likely even to consider such an approach. Its love of command and control stands in the way.

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Andrew Moran



Winter to Bring Higher Gas Costs

A plethora of factors could make it difficult to meet heating demand

NATURAL GAS PRICES have increased significantly in 2022, skyrocketing by about 150 percent year-to-date to more than \$9 per million British thermal units (MMBtu) on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

But could the so-called bridge fuel reach \$13 MMBtu this winter? It might be possible, according to Laird Dyer, an Energy Analytics consultant, who spoke in front of an audience at the LDC Gas Forums Rockies & West on Aug. 16.

“We could see some pretty horrific numbers,” Dyer said.

The latest data and international developments might lend some support to dire double-digit prognostications.

This summer, the United States has witnessed sizable supply injections, according to weekly storage data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA). So far, the lowest builds were 15 billion cubic feet (bcf) and 18 bcf in the weeks that ended on July 24 and Aug. 12, respectively.

The upward stockpile trends may prove to be critical this winter, with early weather models showing everything from “unreasonably cold snowy” to “hibernation zone, glacial, snow-filled” conditions for much of the country. If the forecasts are accurate, a plethora of factors could make it challenging to satisfy elevated heating demand.

EIA production data highlight that output has decreased by about 1.8 bcf per day, led by declines in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. In total, the United States produces an average of about 92 bcf per day.

In recent days, maintenance issues in the New Mexico part of the Permian Basin have also weighed on output volumes. If facilities in this area are inoperable for an extended period, it might result in an enormous amount



Many market analysts say that demand remains robust, while supply and production continue to be lackluster.

of natural gas coming offline, according to industry observers.

Supply shocks could further strain the domestic sector, be it late-season hurricanes or prevalent winter freeze-offs. That would be devastating for an energy product that has seen an immense increase in demand, particularly overseas.

Asian and European liquefied natural gas (LNG) consumption had already risen significantly heading into 2022. However, demand spiked after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with Europe's LNG imports climbing by 66 percent compared to more than a year ago, touching an all-time high.

“Europe's options with regards to gas, coal, nuclear, and renewables filling the power gap are extremely limited and costly,” Vladimir Petrov, senior power analyst at Rystad Energy, wrote in a note.

Competition for the fuel source could also intensify in the coming weeks as Asian buyers prepare for the winter

season by ordering multi-month charters. Regional markets, including China and Japan, are already sounding alarm bells that power grids will be under tight strain if frigid temperatures engulf these nations, energy demand surges, and power plants go offline.

International LNG import capacity is about double the export capacity. But industry experts say this chasm could narrow if U.S. facilities suspend operations, similar to what happened to Freeport LNG.

In June, a fire forced the company to shut an export facility, erasing about 2 billion cubic feet per day from the foreign market and returned domestically. In recent months, most of the company's capacity has been concentrated in Europe, so the shutdown eliminated about 2.5 percent of the region's gas supply. The location is scheduled to reopen this fall, earlier than expected, because the damage wasn't as severe as initially reported.

That said, if the event never transpired, prices might have already climbed into the double-digit territory because of how strong foreign demand is right now, Dyer noted.

In the end, many market analysts say demand remains robust, while supply and production continue to be lackluster. The state of the global energy market could support higher natural gas prices for a while longer.

For now, investors are eyeing the \$10 mark in the spot price.

“We also feel there will be a lot of stops triggered if this market gets to new highs and reaches \$10, which would only act to send prices even higher,” NatGasWeather stated in a recent research report. “The market will remain volatile, with the risk of sudden pullbacks even in what feels like a bullish overall backdrop.”

September natural gas futures soared by about 3 percent to more than \$9.50 per MMBtu on Aug. 18.

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Daniel Lacalle



Misguided Interventionism

Underinvestment in energy is becoming a serious issue

IN THE PAST THREE MONTHS, oil prices have corrected dramatically as global oil demand has eased and concerns about a Chinese slowdown have added to a possible European recession. The picture of demand growth may be weakening, but the global supply-demand balance remains tight, and years of underinvestment may bring elevated oil prices for longer.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has “cut its 2022 forecast for growth in world oil demand for a third time since April,” Reuters reported. “It expects 2022 oil demand to rise by 3.1 million barrels per day (bpd), or 3.2 percent, down 260,000 bpd from the previous forecast.”

The International Energy Agency (IEA), on the other hand, “raised its forecast by 380,000 bpd to 2.1 million bpd,” but it was mostly updating and moving closer to other estimates from international bodies.

The EIA estimates that U.S. crude production will rise to 11.86 million bpd in 2022 and 12.70 million bpd in 2023 from 11.25 million bpd in 2021. It expects the United States will be close to all-time high consumption of 20.75 million bpd in 2023.

World oil demand growth in 2022 is revised downwards but still shows a tight supply-demand balance with a rising call on OPEC crude and a growth of 3.1 million bpd in consumption, including “the recently observed trend of burning more crude in power generation,” OPEC stated in its August monthly oil report.

Global oil demand will likely average 102.7 million bpd by 2023. However, non-OPEC production is likely to remain stable at 67.5 million bpd with most of the growth coming from the United States, Norway, Brazil, and Canada, according to the



A tighter market with significant geopolitical challenges was made tighter by policymakers' burdens on investment.

OPEC monthly report. That means that the world will have a higher need for OPEC oil, and evidence that massive subsidies haven't made a significant impact on the electricity and transport energy mix.

A tighter market with significant geopolitical challenges was made tighter by policymakers' burdens on investment.

Global oil and gas development capital expenditure has fallen from \$740 billion in 2015 to an average of \$350 billion, according to Morgan Stanley. Underinvestment in energy development and exploration is now a major problem.

According to Deloitte, the global upstream industry “will need to invest a minimum of about \$3 trillion (ex-MENA capex of \$2.7 trillion, real 2015 dollars) during 2016–2020 to ensure its long-term sustainability.” That means there's at least a \$2 trillion funding gap in the industry if you consider balance sheet requirements, debt maturities, and

estimated cash flow.

Over the past five years, most global energy companies have had to slash investment, in some cases by more than 50 percent, driven by environmental activism, regulatory and political pressure as well as lower access to credit.

Banks have limited the funding of oil and gas due to political and even central bank pressure, as the European Central Bank, for example, has included environmental requirements in their analysis of banks. Balance sheet challenges and weak cash flow in a low commodity price environment have also reduced the ability of energy companies to fund exploration.

Interestingly, limiting access to capital to the energy world in developed nations has created more bottlenecks and lower respect for the environment as most of the investment and growth has shifted to countries with lower environmental standards and that run state-owned oil companies.

For years, governments and policymakers have demanded less investment in fossil fuels while relying on cheap energy to sustain economic growth. Now it seems that policy nudging has backfired.

The developed nations' policymakers have presented the oil and gas sector with the following proposition: We don't want your product. We say we won't use your product in 2030. However, you must invest hundreds of billions of dollars every year to deliver it cheaply and abundantly when we want it.

The energy sector must have thought: Where do we sign? Note the irony.

If there's a tight oil market, it isn't due to a lack of resources or opportunities, but due to lower access to capital created by the misguided interventionism in energy policy.

JOHANNES EISELE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

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Fan Yu

Where Will Gold Prices Go?

The dollar's strength has capped the performance of gold

GOLD, TRADITIONALLY an inflation hedge and a haven investment during times of market duress, hasn't been an effective investment this year.

Inflation has been elevated. The consumer price index was up 8.5 percent in July versus a year ago, slightly lower than the 9.1 percent year-over-year reading in June. And despite a recent U.S. stock market rally, the S&P 500 index remains down 10 percent year to date. Meanwhile, gold's theoretical nemesis, bitcoin—which some experts dub as “digital gold”—is down almost 50 percent on the year.

All this suggests a perfect backdrop for gold to outperform, right? Wrong.

While gold hasn't been the worst performing asset class, it has nonetheless languished. The price of gold has fallen by more than 3 percent since Jan. 1. The New York Stock Exchange Arca Gold Miners Index is also down more than 16 percent on the year.

There are a few reasons for this, despite the seemingly ripe conditions.

First, gold is priced in U.S. dollars. So the stronger the dollar, the fewer dollars it takes to purchase an ounce of gold. That's a mathematical and mechanical truism.

While U.S. inflation has been running hot, the Federal Reserve has been diligent in raising benchmark interest rates. And more importantly, investors still expect further interest rate increases. While many economists believe the Fed has been behind the curve in “normalizing” interest rates, on a relative basis, it has acted more quickly in raising rates than other national central banks.

High relative interest rates versus other nations have attracted foreign investment flows into the United States and strengthened the U.S. dollar. Year to date, the dollar has risen more than 11 percent against the euro and more than 16 percent against the yen.

That strength has effectively capped



The argument against gold lies in the belief that the central bank can control inflation by increasing interest rates and managing a 'soft landing' of the U.S. economy and avoiding a deep recession.

the performance of gold.

The other deterrent is interest rates. The Fed's rate boosts have also sunk bond prices. This means the yield on various types of fixed-income instruments, such as government, corporate, municipal, and consumer debt, are rising as their prices go down. Such a dynamic makes bonds an increasingly attractive investment.

A high interest rate is perhaps the biggest factor working against gold. Gold, as a commodity, doesn't pay a coupon. So higher yields on bonds are an argument against investing in gold. Since hitting an all-time high of about \$2,100 per ounce in 2020, gold has been steadily declining.

So is gold's appeal as an inflation hedge and safe-haven asset class over?

It depends on which side of the fence you sit on regarding the outlook

for the U.S. economy.

The argument against gold lies in the belief that the central bank can control inflation by increasing interest rates, managing a “soft landing” of the U.S. economy, and avoiding a deep recession.

That's effectively the thesis from Capital Economics, which forecasts a year-end price of \$1,650 for gold. That isn't a huge decline from the current price, but the modest decline would be driven by further strengthening of the dollar and the 10-year Treasury bond yield settling in the 3 percent range.

So far, that's the path the Fed hopes the nation's economy is on. Minutes from the August meeting showed that policymakers were intent on increasing interest rates and tightening monetary policy to a level that could restrict economic growth. Though that's always been the plan, there's a fine line between restricting growth and causing a deep contraction.

But if you believe the U.S. economy is doomed and the central bank will be pressured to lower rates to stimulate growth, then gold prices will likely outperform.

Such an argument was made by economist Nouriel Roubini—who's been aptly nicknamed “Dr. Doom”—in a recent interview with Bloomberg TV.

Roubini sees two options for the U.S. economy. One is the Fed aggressively increasing interest rates to the 4 to 5 percent range, to the detriment of the economy. The other option is sustained high inflation of higher than 8 percent with relatively lower interest rates, because the Fed would have no choice but to stop raising rates or to even lower rates owing to the poor economy.

Investment bank Goldman Sachs's Chief Economist Jan Hatzius also believes the United States will find it hard to avoid a deep recession.

Relatively high inflation and relatively moderate interest rates—that is an environment ripe for gold prices to outperform.

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Jeff Minick



Choose Your Dreams Wisely

Not all dreams come true, but sometimes that's for the best

IN THE BED AND BREAKFAST that my wife and I once owned, a mid-20s couple and the husband's mother stayed for a night with us. While I was serving guests their breakfast, I overheard snippets of this threesome's conversation, dominated by the man, who spoke of his plans to become a millionaire in 10 years working as a sales rep.

When he left the table, his mother turned to her daughter-in-law and said, "So, what do you think of that?"

The young woman smiled and shrugged.

"Dreams are free," she said.

Not necessarily.

In fact, except for those entertainments that visit us in sleep or the passing daydreams that give us a reprieve from boredom or stress, I would contend that dreams, at least for anyone older than the age of 12, are never free. They always come with a cost.

Serious dreamers know well what I mean.

Long enamored with ballet, the bright 16-year-old who decides to pursue a professional career onstage understands that she's facing years of countless practices, relentless attention to diet and exercise, and a spin of fortune's wheel to bring the opportunities that will forward her ambitions.

Like that aspiring ballerina, all who pursue their dreams with great intent understand that sacrifices must be made and that nothing—nothing!—is guaranteed. Even when they've given their all to this pursuit, the wise know that circumstance, chance, or an ultimate lack of talent may put a stopper in their bottle of aspirations. All who have lost this race against the current are familiar with these sea changes of fate.

Then there are those who yearn to reach a goal but who lack the willpower or the aptitude to attain it.



Even our dalliance with daydreams can come with a psychological price tag.

In the classes I once taught to homeschoolers, there were always two or three students, most often boys, who wanted more than anything to become professional athletes or to reap millions creating digital games like the ones they played. They seemed blithely unaware of the odds against them. Is that 15-year-old who saw himself playing shortstop for the Atlanta Braves satisfied with his life as a 30-something welder in Charlotte, North Carolina? Or does he have lingering regrets?

For the young and the young at heart, thankfully, dreams often give way to other dreams, balms allowing for happiness.

Even our dalliance with daydreams can bring a psychological price tag. The guy with three kids may not know it, but his fantasies about his attractive co-worker are damaging his marriage and his family life. The single woman

picturing in her head a "perfect soul mate" may have already missed a chance or two to be happily wedded.

James Thurber's short story "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" gives us an example of such a dreamer—a hero in his imagination but a milquetoast in real life.

Most of us, I suspect, have a touch of Mitty in our interior life, innocent diversions for the most part, but our larger visions constitute a precious part of what it means to be human.

Pursued with deliberation and on a grand scale, dreams lead to everything from peace in the Middle East to the invention of the personal computer. On a more minor but no less important note, our cherished ideals can create happy marriages and loving families.

Virtuous dreams are as vital to our humanity as blood and breath. They are the food feeding us into the future, inspiring us to climb mountains or to slog forward in the face of adversity.

As poet Langston Hughes writes: "Hold fast to dreams/For when dreams go/Life is a barren field/Frozen with snow."

We need our dreams. We just need to remember that they come with a price.

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THOUGHT LEADERS

Communism's Victims

A new museum honors the victims of the deadliest ideology of the 20th century



“Communism is premised on the state,” Elizabeth Spalding says. “And the state is above all. There’s no transcendent truth. ... Everything must serve or be made to serve the state. ... All life is cheap in comparison to the [Communist] Party.”

In a recent episode of “American Thought Leaders,” host Jan Jekielek spoke with Spalding, the founding director of the new Victims of Communism Museum in Washington. It’s the first museum in America honoring the tens of millions of people killed by communism in the past century, as

“We are a country and a people based on rights, rights from nature and nature’s God.”

Elizabeth Spalding,
founding director, Victims of
Communism Museum

well as the many millions more who suffered and continue to suffer under communist dictatorships.

She is also the vice chair of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation.

JAN JEKIELEK: Why a Victims of Communism Museum? And why aren’t there more of them?

ELIZABETH SPALDING: We’re the first Victims of Communism Museum in the United States. Other museums around the world are dedicated to victims of communism, but sometimes just for the people of that particular country. We’re focused on telling the story of all the victims of communism.

Some people still don’t understand that there are victims of communism. They might not even understand what communism is. And there are people defending communism. We want to make sure that at this museum, people can learn about communism and the atrocities it has perpetuated for a century in more than 30 countries. Five countries still have communist regimes, and they’re making more victims all the time.

MR. JEKIELEK: Tell me about the number of victims.

MS. SPALDING: More than 100 million people have been killed by communism in different states since the Bolshevik Revolution. But we must also count as victims those who are living and who lived under communism.

Today, more than 1.5 billion people live under communism in China, North Korea, Laos, Vietnam, and Cuba. These people are victims in that they don’t get to choose freely in their lives. We need to understand that not only the people killed by communism are victims, but also those forced to live under communism, even as they resist.

MR. JEKIELEK: In Poland, my mother got an offer to join the Communist Party and refused, and that changed her life. Why would saying no restrict someone’s life?

MS. SPALDING: If you want to rise in the ranks, you have to be a Party member. Your choices are limited, unless you serve the state. Your mother, thank God, decided to resist. That meant she hit a ceiling as to what she could do in Poland. But it also meant, I’m sure, she was subject to persecution.

A lot of people decide to join the Party. It’s easier. Just go along and get along. Others decide to try to get out. I understand that’s what happened with your mom, which is a great story. The Communist Party



Children during a Stalin-era famine in Ukraine. The famine, known as the Holodomor, took place in 1932 and 1933.

wanted her to live differently, and she said no. A major theme here at the Victims of Communism Museum is resistance.

MR. JEKIELEK: You grew up very aware of the realities of communism. Tell me how you ended up here.

MS. SPALDING: I grew up in a pro-freedom, anti-communist household where my parents taught me about the dignity of every human being. I met people who had resisted and had gotten out. Some had swum in shark-infested waters to get away. Some had burrowed under barbed wire fencing. I met boat people from Vietnam and people from Cuba. Growing up, I heard stories from people around the world who had escaped from communism.

Skip ahead a few years, after the Berlin Wall fell, and I was talking with my parents about how people were forgetting these things.

This was of grave concern to my parents, who had fought communism

their whole lives. We were having brunch one Sunday after church, just a couple of months after the wall fell. My mother said, “You know, there should be some sort of memorial and museum to the victims of communism.” My father said, “That’s a great idea.” So he took his napkin and wrote down “victims of communism, a memorial and museum.”

That was the start of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, which was then chartered by a unanimous act of Congress in 1993 and signed into law by President [Bill] Clinton. For a number of years, [the foundation] was very busy, all people working for free, including my father, Lee Edwards, who’s worked all of his life on these kinds of issues.

Finally, they raised enough money for a memorial that’s on federal parkland in Washington, D.C. It was dedicated in 2007 by President [George W.] Bush.

It’s a nonpartisan group, bringing together

Americans and people from around the world who understand that the victims of communism should be remembered. And then they wanted a museum. There were some roadblocks along the way. Raising money isn’t easy. Finally, several years ago, some more, bigger donations came in, not enough to do a museum the size of the Holocaust [Memorial] Museum, but to do something.

That’s when we decided to do what we’re calling a jewel box museum—something that tells the story about the victims of communism in a small space, but does it well. I spent the better part of two years researching and working with other scholars, but also writing and editing everything that people see on the walls in the museum.

MR. JEKIELEK: I want to touch on the Holodomor, when millions of Ukrainians starved to death because of Joseph Stalin’s policy. At the time, Walter Duranty of The New York Times was sending back glowing reports that everything was great, when millions of people were being starved.

MS. SPALDING: This year marks the 90th anniversary of that horrible communist-made famine. The Holodomor—death by hunger is what it means—killed millions.

The numbers are always hard to count, but scholars in recent years have settled on about 4 million for the Holodomor. The

FROM L. YORK/OU/THE EPOCH TIMES; PUBLIC DOMAIN

“We’ve spearheaded Victims of Communism Day, which has been adopted by a handful of states. Our goal, we hope, is that all 50 states will have a Victims of Communism Day.”

Ukrainians could have fed themselves and everybody else, except the communists said, “No, we need these quotas of grain met,” and they were impossible quotas. They took their crops and livestock, and consigned them to death. This is another truth of communism: Life is very cheap to them.

MR. JEKIELEK: Why is life cheap under communism?

MS. SPALDING: Communism is premised on the state, and the state is above all. There’s no transcendent truth. So if you say that the state is the be-all and end-all, then everything must serve or be made to serve the state. That’s what happens under communism. All life is cheap in comparison to the Party.

MR. JEKIELEK: So why do so many in the West have a favorable view of this ideology?

MS. SPALDING: A lot of

it is ignorance. We don’t teach it in our schools. And a lot of people learn that communism isn’t so bad or hasn’t really been tried. They don’t know the truth about its ideology, history, or legacy. They don’t see the destructive part of communism. Many people don’t realize that the Soviets who were our Allies in World War II were doing things as bad as the Nazis, and that horrible things are still going on under communist regimes.

MR. JEKIELEK: It’s shocking to me how few teachers and textbooks are explaining these things to students.

MS. SPALDING: It is shocking. We’ve spearheaded Victims of Communism Day, which has been adopted by a handful of states. Our goal, we hope, is that all 50 states will have a Victims of Communism Day.

And some of the states that have adopted a Victims of Communism Day are now talking about offering

a curriculum. Florida has passed a couple of pieces of legislation requiring education on communism and its victims. We also offer a summer seminar for ongoing certification for teachers. It’s open to middle school and high school teachers, whether they teach in public school, private school, or homeschool. We’re teaching them so that they understand what happened and what is happening in regard to communism.

MR. JEKIELEK: We have a very popular and powerful “American Thought Leaders” episode with one of your witnesses, Nal Oum, one of the few medical doctors to survive the Cambodian genocide.

MS. SPALDING: Every high school graduate should know what the Khmer Rouge and Pol Pot did. They should know about that genocide. Communism sets up a system demanding that people

conform, and imprisoning people in the most horrible circumstances to be reeducated.

MR. JEKIELEK: What do you say to people who believe it can never happen here?

MS. SPALDING: We’re a country and a people based on rights—rights [given] from nature and nature’s God, as the Declaration of Independence says. If we allow somebody to define that for us, then it could happen here. People in other communist countries didn’t think it would happen there, but then it happened.

We have to realize that freedom of speech, religion, assembly, and the press are precious and can be either given away or taken away if we don’t understand what they are and live them appropriately and responsibly. ■

This interview has been edited for clarity and brevity



People pass by the corpse of a starved man on a street in Kharkiv, Ukraine, in 1932.

THIS PAGE: ALEXANDER WIENERBERGER

Unwind



The secret to a flawless ski or snowboarding vacation is to plan every detail well in advance. That way, all you need to do is show up, hit the slopes, and have fun.

PHOTO BY MARK AGNOR/SHUTTERSTOCK

Have an Epic Ski Trip 68

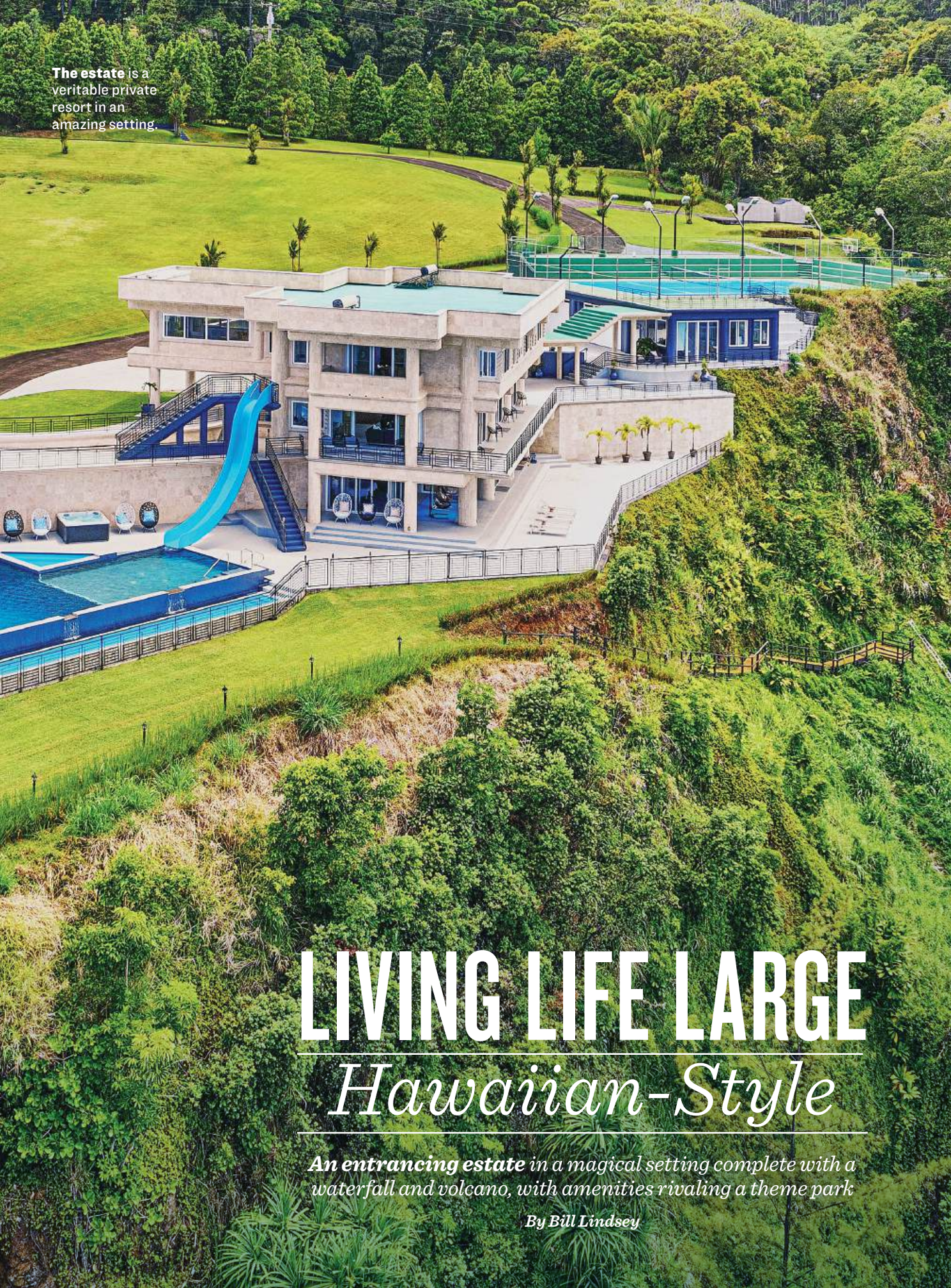
BOLIVIA IS A FASCINATING land of contrasts, from the traditional fishermen in the reed boats of Lake Titicaca to the high-tech, bustling capital city of La Paz. **66**

NOT ALL THAT LONG AGO, pickup trucks were strictly no-frills work trucks, but this grouping makes it easy to tow boats, move cargo, and haul the family in style. **71**

CHRIS SHEPHERD, chef and co-founder of four of Houston’s hottest restaurants, is now providing a helping hand to food industry workers. **74**

INSIDE

The estate is a veritable private resort in an amazing setting.



LIVING LIFE LARGE

Hawaiian-Style

An entrancing estate in a magical setting complete with a waterfall and volcano, with amenities rivaling a theme park

By Bill Lindsey

CURRENTLY BEING OFFERED VIA auction, this spectacular island residence offers a lavish lifestyle to those fortunate enough to pass through the gates.

Hawaii is well-known for incredible homes, but this one is in a category all its own. Known as Waterfalling Estate, it occupies 9.44 acres of very private, very prime Big Island real estate 18 miles from Hilo, where it's dramatically perched on a bluff in the shadow of Mauna Kea, a dormant volcano, and overlooks the glimmering sea. The property's theme is water in motion, which is quite apt, as, in addition to the expanse of Pacific Ocean, three streams cross the estate, and a 240-foot burbling waterfall is adjacent to the property, comfortably viewed from an observation deck.

Previously offered as a vacation rental, the property has every amenity required to keep guests of all ages happily occupied, either surfing, whale watching, perfecting their putting skills, playing tennis or basketball, taking nature hikes in nearby Hilo Forest Preserve and Akaka Falls State Park, or playing in a pool area that's better equipped than some water parks.

The strikingly designed 7,422-square-foot, fully furnished three-story residence affords postcard-quality views from every one of the many windows in the common areas, as well as from the five bedrooms served by four full baths and two half-baths. Access to the three living levels and the rooftop gathering area is provided via a charming staircase and a centrally located, pneumatic air compression elevator with glass walls.

The interior is simple yet stylish, with hardwood ceilings and tile floors throughout. The main gathering area features a well-equipped chef's kitchen with two island prep areas and bar seating in close, easy-to-serve proximity to the dining area.

The property also features a guest house that can also be used for staff quarters, a rooftop barbecue area, a nine-hole golf course, a tennis/basketball court with stadium seating for 450 spectators, an 82-foot-long lap pool, a 16-foot-deep diving pool, a two-story waterslide, hot tub, sauna, changing rooms, and a children's pool. The list goes on to include a cavernous garage for multiple vehicles or equipment storage, and a helipad.



**FALLINGWATER ESTATE
HILO, HAWAII**

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- 7,422 SQUARE FEET
- 9.44 ACRES

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(Above) The kitchen is a gourmet's dream, ready to create simple snacks or a meal for large gatherings.



(Top Right) The glass elevator whisks you to the bedrooms and up to the rooftop gathering area.



(Right) The furnishings are practical, comfortable, and perfectly situated to make the most of the amazing scenery.

SOTHEY'S CONCIERGE AUCTIONS



Copacabana, on the shores of Lake Titicaca.

Exploring Bolivia

Grand lake views and ruins of an ancient civilization

By Fred J. Eckert

BOLIVIA ISN'T USUALLY ONE OF the places that come to mind when you are thinking about where to visit next. It just didn't seem interesting. Those were exactly my thoughts—until recently.

On a particularly pleasant day, as I dined on some delicious seafood at an outdoor table at a restaurant overlooking a scenic vista of Lake Titicaca and the Royal Range of the Andes, I was very pleased that I had decided to visit Bolivia.

Lake Titicaca and many of its islands are a delight to the eye. What most people who have heard of this 3,200-square-mile lake that's 12,580 feet high up in the Andes Mountains usually know that it is called “the highest navigable lake in the world” (although, in fact, there are a couple of small lakes in the Andes of Peru and Chile higher still upon which you can navigate a small boat).

What few people seem to know is that by the shores of this lake—South America's second-largest—there once stood one of the biggest cities in the world, part of a civilization that both pre-dated and surpassed that of the Incas and is considered the most important civilization that developed during the pre-Columbian period.

That's what drew me to Bolivia—the chance to walk among the ancient ruins of Tiwanaku (just as often spelled Tiahuanaco) and learn about this great civilization, said to date back to 1500 B.C.

Long ago, around 200 B.C., Tiwanaku was a flourishing place, with an extensive system of roads and a highly sophisticated agricultural system that featured terraced planting surfaces set among a network of irrigation canals that retained heat, thereby keeping crops from freezing during cold Andean nights. At the same time, algae and aquatic plants grew in the canals and were used to organically



SHANTI HESSE/SHUTTERSTOCK, THOMAS WYNESS/SHUTTERSTOCK, COPYRIGHT FRED J. ECKERT, DUDAREV MIKHAIL/SHUTTERSTOCK

fertilize the crops. In the late 20th century, some Bolivian Andean farmers experimented with copying the ancient Tiwanaku system and increased their crop yields by doing so.

Tiwanaku faded into “lost civilization” status sometime around 1200 A.D. for uncertain reasons, one theory being that a drop in the level of Lake Titicaca left the settlement too far removed from the shoreline.

The trip that brought me there was Abercrombie & Kent's highlights of Peru with Bolivia extension. In 12 days, traveling in comfort with a small group, I took in many of the most memorable sights of both countries, enjoyed the best accommodations, and learned from guides who know their subjects in-depth and go out of their way to make your experience truly enjoyable.

Tiwanaku may be the highlight of Bolivia for some, but for others, it will be shopping in La Paz, Bolivia's largest and the world's highest capital city, or experiencing Bolivian landscapes and culture while traveling on Lake Titicaca or around the stark Altiplano (high plateau) region.

After flying into La Paz following our visits to Peruvian sights, our tour headed straight to Lake Titicaca.

First, we visited the Altiplano Museum, where we learned a bit about the archeology and anthropology of the high plateau region, then came the Andean Roots Eco Village, featuring the folkloric heritage of the area's local Indian communities. That included demonstrations about how they built the reed boats for which the Lake Titicaca area has so long been famous. These are the people who built the boats that Thor Heyerdahl sailed in his

epic Pacific expeditions.

Here, we saw up close and learned about Andean wildlife such as llamas, alpacas, and vicuñas. In the evening, we met with one of the local shamans, who believe you have to first heal the soul before you can heal the body and who are equally authorized as MDs to practice medicine here.

A day-long tour of Lake Titicaca aboard a large hydrofoil boat included stops to visit the town of Copacabana, situated on a picturesque bay, and a visit to an unusual place where members of the Uru Iruitos tribe live as their ancestors did—on floating islands that are sort of thick floating mats made from papyrus, a reed-like aquatic plant. Their floating island is not only a truly unusual experience but also a good place to shop for native handicrafts.

When it comes to shopping, La Paz is Bolivia's gem. This city of a million residents has its interesting sights, including an appealing contrast of Spanish colonial-era architecture adjacent to modern; a huge Indian market right downtown; but it's the shopping opportunities that truly set it apart from other big South American cities.

If you think leather goods are a great bargain in Peru, Ecuador, or Argentina, just wait until you shop in La Paz.

Bolivia may not be a destination that you have ever given much thought to, but you might want to think again. It's a very interesting destination with plenty for visitors to explore. ■

Fred J. Eckert is a retired U.S. ambassador and former member of Congress.

LAKE TITICACA

is the second-largest lake in South America, after Lake Maracaibo.

If You Go

For information about Abercrombie & Kent's South American destinations, see AbercrombieKent.com

Travel Tip: Especially when you travel to remote spots, think of this: If you ever had to be medically evacuated, it could cost you tens of thousands of dollars. Many plans that claim they cover this fall far short. We cover ourselves against this with a membership in MedjetAssist, which takes effect anytime we are more than 150 miles from home. Surprisingly, two-thirds of their medical evacuations occur in the United States.



(Above) A young girl leads a llama on Sun Island, Lake Titicaca. (Middle) A Bolivian Andean Indian fisherman in his reed boat, which is made of held-together bundles of reeds. (Right) The capital of La Paz, with mountains in the background.

PREPARE FOR A FLAWLESS SKI VACATION

The secret to a memorable winter ski experience is making a list and checking it twice

BY BILL LINDSEY ⇄



It may be warm outside, but now's the time to plan this year's downhill adventure.

HOW HARD COULD IT BE TO plan a ski trip? All you need to do is pick a spot and book a flight, right? That may work, but it could also result in unexpected, vacation-ruining scenarios.

Start by thinking about what didn't go exactly as hoped on your most recent trip. Maybe the rental boots didn't fit quite right, or the lift lines were so long you ended up making fewer runs than you'd hoped for. Or maybe the hotel you chose didn't live up to the internet photos.

Most ski resorts are expecting record numbers of visitors. As a result, it's very possible you'll experience shortages ranging from hotel rooms to rental equipment, and what's available may be priced higher than ever before.

THE FIRST STEP is to select your destination. According to SkiResort.info, there are 523 ski resorts in the United States, ranging in size from large (7,300-acre Big Sky in Park City, Utah, and Vail, Colorado), to tiny (Sawkill Family Ski Center in Kingston, New York, with a vertical run of 70 feet). That leaves 521 others to consider, so use a filter system, starting with when you want to go, with whom, and why, in order to be able to answer the where question.

With many resorts open until the end of April, you have six months of possible dates. Holidays and weekends tend to be the busiest times; if your schedule allows, these are the dates to avoid. A critical part of the when question concerns your traveling companions. If the group is made up of buddies from college, co-work-



Once you're securely settled into the lift, relax and enjoy the scenery.

With so many moving parts, all this can make planning a royal wedding look like a much simpler task.

ers, or one or two other couples, you need to consider their work and life schedules, as well as their skill levels and preferences for destinations and accommodations.

With so many moving parts, all this can make planning a royal wedding look like a much simpler task.

The why question also has many possible answers, all of which can influence the where choice. Is this a first ski trip for you or any of the others in attendance? Is it an annual pilgrimage to a favorite resort? Or perhaps it's a family reunion in a snowy setting. But if this is a family trip for just you, your spouse, and the kids, choosing a date becomes the easiest part of the process, basing it on school and work schedules.

When considering traveling partners, consider their abilities and overall health. If you plan to attack black diamond runs the second you arrive, you may have to do so without friends who are new to the sport, or those arriving from low-altitude areas such as Florida or Texas who will need time to acclimate a bit.

NEXT, YOU'LL NEED to arrange for lodging. For a large group of a family of five or more, or two or three couples, consider an Airbnb, Vrbo, Homestay, or other vacation rental property as a more social, yet still private, alternative to a group of hotel rooms. A common downside to this choice is the need to travel to and from the slopes, ski shops, dining, and après-ski opportunities, requiring a rental vehicle or ride-share services.

For this reason, a hotel on or near the slopes has a strong appeal, allowing you to walk to the lifts, restaurants, shops, and more. Do your research to shop rates and read reviews from previous guests. You can't ski 24/7, so consider the après-ski activities

Whether you are a skier or a snowboarder, make sure your equipment is in top-notch condition before you head down the mountain.

Boots are one of the most important pieces of ski safety equipment, so take the time to find a pair that fits perfectly.

Properly fitting gloves, a helmet, and goggles are must-haves to get the most enjoyment out of every run.

LEFT PAGE: TIM ARNOLD/UNSPASH; RIGHT PAGE FROM TOP: ANDRE NITSEVSKI/SHUTTERS TOCK; ANDRZEJ ANASTASIA/SHUTTERS TOCK; ROZKROVSKAYA TANYA/SHUTTERS TOCK; LILKIN/SHUTTERS TOCK; TOUKO AIKIONEM/UNSPASH; CAGI/SHUTTERS TOCK



The fun of skiing is made even better by the fairytale setting of a great resort.

such as snowmobiling or tours of nearby cultural or historic sites.

Regardless if you fly or drive to the resort, some equipment can be bothersome to bring along. Bringing your own skis certainly provides an aura of adventure, until you consider the effort required to get them to and from the airline check-in counter, into the rental car or shuttle van, then into the Airbnb or hotel lobby, and then into your room.

YOU MAY BE able to buy equipment at or near the resort, but most choose to rent it. If you decide to rent, don't assume you'll be able to rent skis easily; make reservations well in advance, being a pest if necessary to ensure the size and condition are the correct fit for you physically, as well as for your level of skiing proficiency. Check the rental store reviews; you don't want to see horror stories of renters arriving, only to be handed a set of "rock skis" that are too short or too long.

While you can rent boots, gloves, and helmets, strongly consider bringing your own gear if only to ensure a perfect fit. On a helmet-related note, use one, and use goggles instead of sunglasses for superior eye protection. Sunglasses provide more of a Hollywood glamorous look, until they go

flying off during a crash into several feet of snow, never to be seen again.

A few more suggestions and you'll be ready to structure your trip: Confirm that ski lessons are available for those in the group who need them. Make reservations and buy lift tickets now for your entire group. That way you can show up and ski, breezing right past the long lines of folks buying lift tickets. ■



You'll want to spend every minute on the powder, but make time for a warm, hearty meal.

E
LIFESTYLE
FROSTY ADVENTURE

Make the most of your annual ski trip



1

Try Something New

Add snowboarding and cross-country skiing to your downhill plans. You'll stretch your boundaries and just might discover a new "favorite" sport. Snowboarding is not just for kids, and cross-country is a unique challenge.



2

Broaden Your Horizons

Plan après-ski adventures such as moon-lit hayrides, snowmobile adventures, or meals at new restaurants.



3

Improve Your Skills

Just as with any other sport, there's always room for improvement, so book a lesson, focusing on handling moguls or any other aspect you want to improve.

THIS PAGE FROM TOP: JORDI PRATS/SHUTTERSTOCK; TRUE TOUCH LIFESTYLE/SHUTTERSTOCK

**ULTIMATE DO-IT-ALL VEHICLES:
LUXURY 4-DOOR PICKUPS**

Pickup trucks have always been practical, but now they are posh, too. This roundup can work all day and then be your chariot for a night on the town.

By Bill Lindsey



**Quietly Capable
RIVIAN R1T**

\$67,500

Few electric vehicles (EVs) are as tough as a Rivian. In 2020, two of them served as support vehicles for the TV series "Long Way Up," which documents a motorcycle trip from the tip of South America to Los Angeles. However, as seen in the documentary series, driving the truck requires significant preplanning. Using the air conditioner or hauling a load will decrease its 314-mile range, and, despite the hype, EVs do use fuel (electricity), which isn't free, and charging even under ideal conditions can take a while. But for limited range use, it's worth considering.



**King of the Road
DODGE RAM 3500**

\$44,520

Ram trucks are the choice of those who need to haul fifth-wheel trailers or transport heavy, bulky loads over rough terrain. They manage to do all this in complete comfort, with movie star looks. It has a towing capacity of up to 37,090 pounds when equipped with the optional 6.7 liter Cummins turbo diesel engine. The cockpit appointments rival high-end sedans, complete with a large touchscreen with 3D graphics and an air filtration system said to capture 95 percent of air particulates.



**Fast F-150
FORD F-150 RAPTOR**

\$70,555

The F-150 has been the top-selling truck in the U.S. for more than 40 years, delighting owners who need a no-nonsense truck for work but want one that can also haul weekend toys such as boats or all-terrain vehicles. For F-150 fans who crave the adrenaline-spiking performance that only comes from a growling, 450-horsepower, twin-turbo V-6 engine, there is the Raptor. The off-road-tuned suspension is ideal for hauling lumber or the kids to soccer practice.



**A Global Fan Base
TOYOTA TUNDRA**

\$35,950

Pick a spot on the globe, and chances are quite good there will be numerous Toyota Tundras there—many far from new—hauling passengers and cargo with ease. Excellent engineering, a quality build, and a cabin that provides all the creature comforts of a well-equipped car make the four-door version worth considering by those who want a sedan during the week, and then need to tow boats or campers on the weekend.



**Sized Right
CHEVROLET COLORADO**

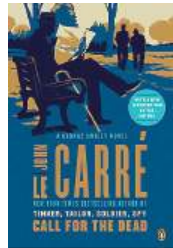
\$27,230

Most people rarely need a full-sized pickup truck but often need seating for four persons, making this a "Goldilocks, just right" choice. The relatively compact size makes it a breeze to park in tight parking garages, and it can be quickly and easily mastered by those new to trucks. A notable feature for the 2023 model is the storage compartment integrated into the tailgate that can even be used as a cooler. Trim options include the off-road-ready ZR2 model.

RECOMMENDED READING

This week, we feature a biography of young Louis Braille for children, and an insightful examination of the biomedical field's rise to power.

FICTION



'CALL FOR THE DEAD'
By John le Carré

The Clue Is in the Call

Le Carré was the spy-master novelist of the 20th century. "Call for the Dead" is an introduction to le Carré and his famous character George Smiley. This novel from the former British intelligence agent is both a detective novel and an espionage thriller.

PENGUIN REPRINT, 2012, 176 PAGES



'COLD COMFORT FARM'
By Stella Gibbons

A Funny Read on a Spirited Heroine

This comic English novel brings us Flora Poste, a recently orphaned socialite who goes to live with her rural relatives, the Starkadders—as loony a bunch as may be

found in all of literature. Flora is the embodiment of "keep calm and carry on" as she makes it her mission to bring civilization to this crumbling farm and its miserable, dirty occupants. She plans, plots, and intrigues to help the Starkadders find their better selves. Her attempts bring hilarity to the reader and some sanity to the farm.

MUST HAVE BOOKS, 2019, 192 PAGES



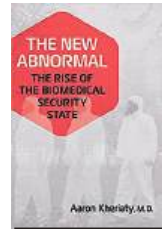
'PNIN'
By Vladimir Nabokov

A Compassionate Look at a Sad Little Man

Timofey Pnin is an out-of-place emigrant from Russia, now a professor at a small American college. Soft-hearted and earnest, he's a constant victim of his ineptitude. He tries to cling to his job, forge a tie with his ex-wife and her son, and heal his wounds of the past. While the bumbling Pnin is the butt of many jokes, his life has been one of hardship, touched by both the Russian Revolution and the Holocaust. Beautifully crafted, this novel will awaken a love for humanity in readers.

VINTAGE REISSUE, 1989, 208 PAGES

NONFICTION



'THE NEW ABNORMAL'
By Aaron Kheriaty

The Rise of the Biomedical Security State

Digging deep into his vast expertise, Dr. Kheriaty describes a society hobbled by fear and group-think—increasingly on a technocratic, dehumanized path with an authoritarian bent. Yet he offers a hopeful framework to forestall the possible dystopia he sees, complete with practical guidance. A must-read for the post-COVID age.

REGNERY PUBLISHING, 2022, 256 PAGES

BIOGRAPHY



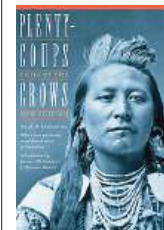
'THE LAST KING OF AMERICA'
By Andrew Roberts

The Misunderstood Reign of George III

Best-selling historian Andrew Roberts takes a deeper look at King George III, who fought

the American colonies. Relying on unpublished sources from the Royal Archives, the author depicts a much wiser ruler than almost universally portrayed and details accomplishments that have rarely been acknowledged. In this fair-minded perspective, the king who lost the colonies and then went mad is restored as a troubled but noble soul.

VIKING, 2021, 784 PAGES



'PLENTY-COUPS'
By Frank B. Linderman

The Last of the Great Chiefs

The last hereditary chief of the Crow Indians, Plenty-Coups (1848–1932) befriended Western writer Frank Linderman and shared stories about the raids against the Lakota Sioux, fighting on the side of the U.S. Army, and working always on behalf of his people. The chief delivers nearly all of the vivid narrative, with asides and explanations by Linderman, drawing the reader into the excitement and dangers of the skirmishes and battles of that time. The book includes photos and a helpful "Afterword."

BISON BOOKS, 2002, 204 PAGES

FOR KIDS



'OUT OF DARKNESS'
By Russell Freedman

The Blind Teaching the Blind

More than 200 years ago, a 15-year-old French boy, blind since the age of 3, began developing a system of raised punches on paper to teach the sightless to read and write. He brought a light into their darkness. This book is for readers aged 10 to 12.

CLARION BOOKS, 1999, 96 PAGES



'MOUSE PAINT'
By Ellen Stoll Walsh

Color-Mixing Mice

Three white mice hide away from a cat on a white piece of paper, until they find three jars of paint in primary colors. A joyful and simple introduction to the elements of color, "Mouse Paint" will be asked for again and again.

HARCOURT INC., 1995, 30 PAGES



Ian Kane
is a U.S. Army veteran, filmmaker, and author. He enjoys the great outdoors and volunteering.

MOVIE REVIEWS

This week, we look at a wonderful animated film about a grand singing contest, as well as a harrowing disaster film that's a classic of the '70s.

NEW RELEASE



'The Good Boss' (2022)

Javier Bardem stars as Blanco, who runs Blancos Básculas, a company that makes industrial scales, in a small Spanish town. When the time nears for a visit from an inspection committee that will determine whether the company deserves an award for excellence, he must make sure that things are in perfect order.

This Spanish film is comedic yet deeply moving, as Bardem's character seeks to prepare his employees by tackling their work-related issues. It's a hilarious satire that nicely fills out its almost two-hour running time.

COMEDY | DRAMA

Release Date:
Aug. 26, 2022

Directors:
Fernando León de Aranoa

Starring:
Javier Bardem, Manolo Solo, Almudena Amor

Running Time:
1 hour, 56 minutes

MPAA Rating: Not Rated

Where to Watch:
Theaters

★★★★★

A RIVETING FILM ABOUT ALCOHOLISM



'Days of Wine and Roses' (1962)

Boozing public relations executive Joe Clay (Jack Lemmon) meets secretary Kirsten Arnesen (Lee Remick) at a party. Kirsten not only falls for Joe but

also with him into alcoholism.

This is an extremely sobering (pun intended) and realistic drama about the pitfalls of alcoholism and its destructive

effects. Masterfully directed, it features great performances by the co-stars.

DRAMA

Release Date:
Dec. 25, 1962

Director:
Blake Edwards

Starring:
Jack Lemmon, Lee Remick, Charles Bickford

Running Time:
1 hour, 57 minutes

Approved

Where to Watch:
Vudu, Amazon, Apple TV

★★★★★

FAMILY PICK

'Sing' (2016)

"Sing" tells the tale of a koala named Buster Moon (voiced by Matthew McConaughey), who's struggling to save his beloved theater from closing. To that end, he tries one last desperate act to return the theater to its former glory—holding the world's grandest singing competition.

Although there are some silly gags, this animated gem brings together a solid cast of voice actors and writers and transcends many of the clichéd animated films out there. I didn't expect



to care much about the characters, but, surprisingly, I did.

ANIMATION | COMEDY | FAMILY

Release Date:
Dec. 21, 2016

Directors:
Garth Jennings, Christophe Lourdelet

Starring:
Matthew McConaughey (voice), Reese Witherspoon (voice), Seth MacFarlane (voice)

Running Time:
1 hour, 48 minutes

MPAA Rating: PG

Where to Watch:
Redbox, Vudu, DirecTV

★★★★★

ONE OF THE BEST DISASTER FILMS OF THE '70S

'The Towering Inferno' (1974)

Renowned architect Doug Roberts (Paul Newman) returns from vacation to join a celebration for and at his latest project: a supposedly state-of-the-art skyscraper. His concerns that his wiring specifications weren't adhered to are justified when a massive fire breaks out, threatening the lives of the guests.

Although the 1970s was a decade remembered for a slew of disaster movies, this is one of the best. With



a star-studded cast and a lot of thrills and spills, it has become a classic of the genre.

ACTION | DRAMA | THRILLER

Release Date:
Dec. 14, 1974

Director:
John Guillermin

Starring:
Paul Newman, Steve McQueen, William Holden

Running Time:
2 hours, 45 minutes

MPAA Rating: PG

Where to Watch:
Redbox, Apple TV, Vudu

★★★★★

BREAKING BREAD: CHRIS SHEPHERD WANTS YOU TO MAKE YOUR COMMUNITY YOUR (DELICIOUS) CLASSROOM

From growing a Houston restaurant empire to starting a charity to take care of his fellow industry workers, the insatiably curious chef's work is a testament to the power of forging relationships through food

By Crystal Shi

FOR CHRIS SHEPHERD, THE James Beard Award-winning chef and restaurateur, food is the ultimate icebreaker.

“Food is the first thing that you can talk about,” he said. “You don’t have to get political. You don’t have to get religious. When it comes down to, ‘How did you cook this chicken?’ that’s a pretty simple thing to do.”

This philosophy propelled Shepherd in building his Houston restaurant group, Underbelly Hospitality, starting in 2012 with the now-closed Underbelly, a celebration of his adopted city’s diverse immigrant cuisines.

Continuing Education

Shepherd cut his teeth in culinary school and fine-dining restaurants in the Midwest. But when he moved to Houston, he realized how much he still didn’t know.

He began eating across the city, from Vietnamese noodle shops to a Mexican spot with whole goats roasting on spits. With every order, he’d ask his waiter to add “two things that you think I would like,” Shepherd said.

He would eat, ask a lot of questions, and leave. And then he’d go back. And then he’d go back again.

At London Sizzler, a family-owned Indian restaurant, the son, Ajay Patel, caught on. They got to talking—topics ranging from food to sports to Ajay’s family story—and soon, Shepherd was in the kitchen with Ajay and his mother, Surekha, getting schooled in Indian cooking.

At Saigon Pagolac, a Vietnamese place run by Jacklyn Pham

Surekha (Sue) Patel, the matriarch behind the menu at family-run London Sizzler, gave Shepherd lessons in Indian cooking.

Shepherd doesn’t hide his love for gochujang, a Korean fermented red pepper paste.

Shepherd’s recipes, like these fish sauce caramel Brussels sprouts, reflect his multicultural inspirations.

SOUTHERN SMOKE FOUNDATION

Founded: 2015, after Chris Shepherd’s friend and former sommelier Antonio Gianola was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis

Focus: Since 2017, crisis relief for people in the food and beverage industry

Funds Distributed: More than \$9.9 million
SouthernSmoke.org



Chris Shepherd (L) shares a meal with friend, mentor, and talented chef Jacklyn Pham of Houston restaurant Saigon Pagolac.

and her father, Long, Shepherd learned the intricacies of fish sauce and regional Vietnamese specialties.

At Asia Market, a Thai market and restaurant, then-owners Lawrence and Noi taught Shepherd a sweat-inducing lesson on the power of heat—via their “Thai-style” (extra chiles) papaya salad.

These restaurants became Shepherd’s classrooms; the cooks and owners, his teachers and friends. In turn, he championed them, hanging their photos in his restaurant and urging diners to their doors.

Spreading the Spirit

In 2019, Shepherd set out to share all he learned in a cookbook, “Cook Like a Local.” Beyond recipes such as masala chicken wings and a Vietnamese-Houstonian

crawfish boil, it’s about “going out and learning from people ... breaking bread and sharing a conversation,” he said.

“I felt like, if I can do that, everybody else can do that. And if everybody else can do that, our world just becomes a better place.”

In July 2022, Shepherd announced in a statement his departure from Underbelly Hospitality to “focus on smaller projects” and Southern Smoke, the nonprofit foundation he founded in 2015. The organization provides financial relief to food industry workers during crises.

In his parting words, Shepherd offered familiar advice: “Explore your surroundings. Learn about people, where they’re from, and how to dine at the same table.”

“We are always learning. It’s time for me to learn a new chapter.”

ALL PHOTOS BY JULIE SOFFER



How to Behave at the Dog Park

Off-leash parks are great places to have fun with well-mannered pups

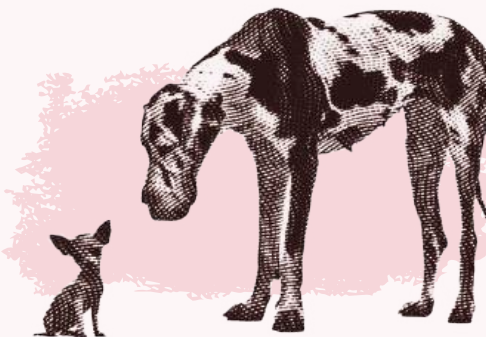
Many cities and towns have dog-friendly parks where our furry friends can frolic together. These are great fun when all the pups obey the rules of park etiquette.

By Bill Lindsey

1 Be Aware

While many dogs love the freedom to run off leash and play with other dogs in a safe, fenced environment, others may be shy or frightened until they become accustomed to the situation. Frantic tugging at the leash to get away from nearby dogs or angry barking is an indication it’s time to go home.

Trying to force the dog to “have fun” may only make matters worse. Comfort and reassure your pooch with hugs and verbal soothing.



4 Drop the Toy!

Some dogs are a bit more conniving than others, so keep an eye out to make sure your pup isn’t losing its toys, or worse, that he or she isn’t sneakily stealing from other dogs. Socialization is important for a well-adjusted dog, so insist on playing nicely with the other pups as well as people.

Pet owners love to meet other dogs, so encourage yours to be open to making new human friends.

2 Be Prepared

Pack essential items such as water, a water bowl, and some treats for training purposes, and share them with the other pups. Use a harness and leash to control the dog; a leash attached to a collar can place undue strain on his or her neck. Some harnesses even allow you to pick up a smaller dog if needed. Bring a hat and water for yourself.

3 Have Fun

Encourage your dog to play with others while under your supervision; don’t just unclip the leash and start checking emails. Bring a toy, ball, or Frisbee to toss for them to chase. Many dogs love cavorting with their owners, so wear running shoes and have some one-on-one playtime. Dog people know that our pups see us as their best friends and love spending quality time with us, so make trips to the dog park a frequent adventure.

5 Pups Only

The puppy park is a ton of fun for furry friends, but don’t try to make it a playground for kids. Not all pet owners want their dogs interacting with other people, especially if they’re in the process of training their pup. In addition to many dogs running amok, there are doggy “byproducts” to be aware of and avoid as well; your dog knows to avoid them, but little Timmy might not.

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