PRODUCERS DAIRY WANTS TO CLOSE H STREET. PROTESTS PLANNED. »

PELOSI SAYS HAIR SALON SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR ‘SET-UP’ VISIT »

BIDEN RAISES OVER $360 MILLION IN AUGUST, SHATTERING RECORD »
A Fresno milk processor's $4 million plan to improve trucking efficiency and air quality would close a street leading toward downtown Fresno. Producers Dairy wants to close H Street between Palm and Belmont avenues — south of the Tower District — citing the need for truck parking. The proposal would allow for a consolidated route for Producers' trucks coming in and out and onto the highway. "We’ve been looking for quite some time trying to find a parking solution," said Producers Dairy President Scott Shehadey.

Community members object to the plan and have scheduled demonstrations. "Who gets the street is really what it comes down to. Does the public get to keep the street or are we going to give this gift to private industry?" said Kiel Lopez-Schmidt, a vocal opponent of the project. The city is holding a virtual meeting on Thursday at 6 p.m. to update the community about the plan.

Producers Needs Space for Trucks
Located in the triangle between H Street, and Palm and Belmont avenues, Producers takes raw milk from around the Valley, processes it, and sends it back out on the road. Trucks are parked at multiple locations in the area. The goal, Shehadey says, is to consolidate parking closer to the main plant. Parking at a Thorne Avenue location was lost because of High-Speed Rail. Producers previously presented a plan to the city to expand the parking lot at an old cheese plant it owns on Belmont, between Ferger and Roosevelt avenues, a block away from its main facility. But that plan was tabled in 2018. Lopez-Schmidt said Producers wasn’t living up to covenants it made regarding the property.

"I think we really moved some council members to just see that Producers wasn’t living up to their word and this wasn’t the right use of the property. It’s right next to several homes," Lopez-Schmidt said. As an alternative, Producers has a pending purchase of a property with an old mill at 315 N. H Street, but the deal is contingent on the city closing the road.

Opponent: Our Health is More Important
Lopez-Schmidt grew up in a neighborhood near Producers. He is leading the charge to fight the plan. "If we can’t find a way that our neighborhood health is balanced with industrial uses, then industrial uses don’t belong so close to our neighborhoods. And that’s our stance," Lopez-Schmidt said.

In its draft environmental report, Producers says there are unavoidable impacts to the project, such as noise and removal of historic resources. In addition, Producers wants to demolish a...
Community Regional Medical Center is diverting patients with head trauma after a contract with several dozen physicians lapsed Monday. Twenty-eight physicians in 12 specialties lost the funding they need to continue serving patients at Community Medical Center, according to a news release from the Central California Faculty Medical Group.

Six of these physicians are UCSF faculty who provide the 24-hour neurosurgical trauma coverage required for CRMC to maintain its status as a Level 1 trauma center. Emergency negotiations between CMC and CCFMG are ongoing, but it didn’t appear Wednesday that a resolution was imminent. The doctors continued working, but CCFMG said that after 5 p.m. Wednesday patients with head trauma would need to be diverted to the nearest Level 1 trauma center. That’s in Sacramento at the UC Davis Medical Center.

Late Wednesday, CCFMG emailed a statement to GV Wire™. "I was informed by Emergency Medical Services that they were notified by Community Medical Center’s senior hospital administration that Community Regional Medical Center will not have neurosurgical trauma coverage until at least Friday," said Dr. James Davis, chief of trauma at CRMC, chief of...
SAN FRANCISCO — A testy Nancy Pelosi said Wednesday she takes responsibility for trusting the word of a San Francisco hair salon that it was OK to come in for a solo visit — even though the city still does not allow indoor beauty services because of the coronavirus pandemic. But the Democratic House Speaker called Monday’s visit a “set-up” and said the salon owes her an apology for misrepresenting city health orders.

“I take responsibility for trusting the word of a neighborhood salon that I’ve been to over the years many times, and that when they said we’re able to accommodate people one person at a time, and that we can set up that time, I trusted that,” Pelosi told reporters Wednesday. “As it turns out, it was a set-up.”

Critics, including President Donald Trump, called her a hypocrite and asked why she did not know the coronavirus-related rules in her home city. Kious, owner of ESalon SF in the city’s upscale Cow Hollow district, told Fox News that she rents chairs to stylists, and one of them informed her in advance that Pelosi wanted a wash and blow dry. California guidelines on salons vary by county, but stringent San Francisco officials have not yet permitted indoor salons to open.

Kious said she considered Pelosi getting her hair done “a slap in the face” to struggling business owners. However, in his statement, Soleimanpour said photographs and other information show that Kious had been performing indoor services since at least April without wearing a mask, and she also had been encouraging “and almost forcing stylists” to work. Kious did not respond to repeated requests for comment from The Associated Press.
APPROVALS FOR NEW OIL AND GAS WELLS UP IN CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO — Despite pushing back against the Trump administration’s plan to expand oil extraction in California, the state has issued 190% more oil and gas drilling permits in the first six months of 2020 than were approved under Gov. Gavin Newsom’s first six months in office, two advocacy groups said Wednesday.

The agency that oversees oil and gas drilling in California issued 2,691 permits to drill new wells or rework existing ones the first half of this year, according to an analysis of state data by Consumer Watchdog and FracTracker Alliance. It also found that several months after announcing a crackdown on fracking projects, the state issued 48 new permits for hydraulic fracturing.

The groups, which maintains a website to keep track of the permits, said the trend conflicts with California’s environmental mandate and Newsom’s campaign promise to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. However, state officials counter the groups...

FRENZIED FINAL DAY BRINGS FIRSTS FOR CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

SACRAMENTO — Hundreds of newly passed California bills could be in jeopardy after most of the Republicans in the state Senate were forced to vote remotely for several days because of the coronavirus — a legally untested procedure legislative leaders expect will prompt a lawsuit in the coming weeks.

The uncertainty surrounding remote voting capped a frenzied final day of legislating in California that included cursing from quarantined lawmakers, a tense standoff over muted microphones and a lawmaker forced to bring her crying baby on the floor of the state Assembly in a futile attempt to save a housing bill. It was the perfect bookend for a bizarre legislative session shortened by the coronavirus...

POLICE: TEACHER WITH FAR-RIGHT TIES HARASSED HEALTH OFFICER

SAN JOSE — Authorities say a California community college instructor with ties to the far-right, anti-government “boogaloo” movement is in custody following his arrest for allegedly sending more than two dozen threatening letters to a county health officer during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Office arrested Alan Viarengo, 55, last week and seized large amounts of firearms and explosives from his family’s home, KNTV in San Jose reported. Court records reviewed by the station show detectives found more than 100 firearms and thousands of rounds of ammunition, tools for making ammunition and confederate flags. Viarengo has been charged with felony counts of stalking...

September 3, 2020 | AP News
SAN FRANCISCO — Despite pushing back against the Trump administration’s plan to expand oil extraction in California, the state has issued 190% more oil and gas drilling permits in the first six months of 2020 than were approved under Gov. Gavin Newsom’s first six months in office, two advocacy groups said Wednesday.

The agency that oversees oil and gas drilling in California issued 2,691 permits to drill new wells or rework existing ones the first half of this year, according to an analysis of state data by Consumer Watchdog and FracTracker Alliance. It also found that several months after announcing a crackdown on fracking projects, the state issued 48 new permits for hydraulic fracturing.

The groups, which maintains a website to keep track of the permits, said the trend conflicts with California’s environmental mandate and Newsom’s campaign promise to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. However, state officials counter the groups...

September 2, 2020 | AP News
SACRAMENTO — Hundreds of newly passed California bills could be in jeopardy after most of the Republicans in the state Senate were forced to vote remotely for several days because of the coronavirus — a legally untested procedure legislative leaders expect will prompt a lawsuit in the coming weeks.

The uncertainty surrounding remote voting capped a frenzied final day of legislating in California that included cursing from quarantined lawmakers, a tense standoff over muted microphones and a lawmaker forced to bring her crying baby on the floor of the state Assembly in a futile attempt to save a housing bill. It was the perfect bookend for a bizarre legislative session shortened by the coronavirus...

September 1, 2020 | AP News
SAN JOSE — Authorities say a California community college instructor with ties to the far-right, anti-government “boogaloo” movement is in custody following his arrest for allegedly sending more than two dozen threatening letters to a county health officer during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Office arrested Alan Viarengo, 55, last week and seized large amounts of firearms and explosives from his family’s home, KNTV in San Jose reported. Court records reviewed by the station show detectives found more than 100 firearms and thousands of rounds of ammunition, tools for making ammunition and confederate flags. Viarengo has been charged with felony counts of stalking...
WASHINGTON — Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden raised $364 million in August, a record sum that will give him ample resources to compete in the final two months of the campaign against President Donald Trump. Biden struggled to raise money early in the primary. But since he became the presumptive nominee in the spring, money has poured into his campaign. In July, he all but closed the huge cash-on-hand advantage enjoyed by Trump, who held $300 million in reserve. Biden’s August total, which was announced on Wednesday, speaks to the enthusiasm among Democrats to oust Trump from office. The flood of new contributions came from grassroots supporters, as well as deep-pocketed donors, and should alleviate any lingering concern over whether Democrats will be able to inundate the airwaves in key states.

“These numbers hum-ble me,” Biden wrote in a message to supporters. “Even in a global recession, working families set aside some money to power this campaign, and a little bit added up in a big way.” Already there are signs Biden is flush with cash. On Monday, the campaign announced it would spend $45 million on a broadcast and digital campaign this week. The 60-second spot features an excerpt from Biden’s Monday speech in Pittsburgh when he pushed back on Trump’s efforts to portray him as a supporter of the violence and unrest that has erupted in cities such as Portland, Oregon, and Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Trump Has Yet To Release His Fundraising Figures for August

“What I’m having to spend a lot of it on is to counter the lies,” Biden told reporters following a speech in in Wilm-ington, Delaware, referring to inac-urate statements from Trump and his allies, as well as recent ads by a political action committee called Preserve America. Preserve America, which recently launched an over $20 million ad campaign attacking Biden, is overseen by a GOP strategist who led Swift Boat Veterans for Truth. That organization helped tank Democrat John Kerry’s 2004 presi-dential run with misleading ads that questioned his record in the Vietnam War.

The ads they’ve begun airing in battle-ground states against Biden feature the widow of a slain police officer who questions whether Biden supports law enforcement and inaccu-rately suggest he condones “rioting and looting.” Biden has repeatedly spoken out against the unrest. Trump has yet to release his fundraising figures for August. But his campaign recently ac-knowledged it was conserving money for after...
TRUMP FACES PUSHBACK FOR URGING PEOPLE TO VOTE TWICE AS TEST

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is facing a backlash for urging voters in North Carolina to vote by mail and then try to vote again in person to test the mail-in ballot system in the Nov. 3 election.

Trump was asked by a television reporter during his trip Wednesday to Wilmington, North Carolina, if he had confidence in the vote-by-mail system. "They will vote and then they are going to have to check their vote by going to the poll and voting that way because if it tabulates then they won't be able to do that," Trump told WECT. "So, let them send it in and let them go vote. "And if the system is as good as they say it is, then they obviously won't be able to vote (at the poll). If it isn't tabulated, they will be able to vote."

North Carolina’s attorney general, Democrat Josh Stein, said it is outrageous for the president to suggest that people “break the law in order to help...”
BEIRUT — French President Emmanuel Macron issued a stern warning to Lebanon’s political class Tuesday, urging them to commit to serious reforms within a few months or risk punitive action, including sanctions, if they fail to deliver. Macron is on a two-day visit to Lebanon, marking the country’s centenary and holding talks with officials on ways to help extract it from an unprecedented economic crisis and the aftermath of last month’s massive blast that ripped through the capital Beirut.

“I’m here … to get results and bring about reforms,” he said Tuesday. The visit was Macron’s second since the devastating Aug. 4 explosion — the most destructive single incident in Lebanon’s history — that killed at least 190 people and injured more than 6,000. This time Macron’s visit, packed with events and political talks aimed at charting a way out of the crisis, also comes as Lebanon marks its 100th anniversary. Speaking to Politico en route from Paris to Lebanon on Monday evening, Macron said he wants credible commitments from political party leaders on reforms, including a concrete timetable for change and parliamentary elections within “six to 12 months.” The next three months will be “fundamental” for real change to happen, and if it doesn’t, Macron said he would take a different tack, imposing punitive measures ranging from withholding a vital international financial bailout to imposing sanctions against the ruling class.

“It’s the last chance for this system,” he said. On Tuesday morning, the French president went to a forest in northeast Lebanon where he planted a cedar tree to mark 100 years since the State of Greater Lebanon — the precursor of the modern state of Lebanon — was established. Lebanon was a former French protectorate until it gained independence in 1943.

Macron Repeatedly Spoke of the Need for Change
French warplanes flew in formation, spraying smoke the colors of the Lebanese flag over the Jaj forest in the Byblos region. During the planting ceremony, Macron hugged Tamara Tayah, an 11-year-old victim of Beirut’s port blast, whose mother, Hala Tayah was killed in the explosion. From the forest, Macron went to the Port of Beirut where nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrates stored there for six years exploded Aug. 4, killing 190 people, injuring more than 6,000 and damaging entire neighborhoods. Macron repeatedly spoke of the need for change. Asked about the new prime minister-designate...
NEW DELHI — India registered 78,761 new coronavirus cases on Sunday, the biggest single-day spike in the world since the pandemic began, just as the government began easing restrictions to help the battered economy.

The surge raised India’s tally to over 3.5 million, and came as the government announced the reopening of the subway in New Delhi, the capital. It also will move ahead with limited sports and religious events next month.

A country of 1.4 billion people, India now has the fastest-growing daily coronavirus caseload of any country in the world, reporting more than 75,000 new cases for four straight days.

One of the reasons is testing: India now conducts nearly 1 million tests every day, compared with just 200,000 two months ago. A significant feature of India’s COVID-19 management, however, is the growing rate of recovered patients. On Sunday, the...