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Climate, health bill now law

Signing caps spurt
of legislative progress
for Biden, Democrats

**By Zeke Miller
and Seung Min Kim**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden signed Democrats' landmark climate change and health care bill into law Tuesday, delivering what

he has called the “final piece” of his pared-down domestic agenda, as he aims to boost his party’s standing with voters less than three months before the midterm elections.

The legislation includes the most substantial federal investment in history to fight climate change — some \$375 billion over the decade — and would cap prescription drug costs at \$2,000 out-of-pocket annually for Medicare recipients. It also would help an estimated 13 million Ameri-

cans pay for health care insurance by extending subsidies provided during the coronavirus pandemic.

The measure is paid for by new taxes on large companies and stepped-up IRS enforcement of wealthy individuals and entities, with additional funds going to reduce the federal deficit.

In a triumphant signing event at the White House, Biden pointed to the law as proof that democracy — no matter how long or messy the process — can still deliver for vot-

ers in America as he road-tested a line he will likely repeat later this fall ahead of the midterms: “The American people won, and the special interests lost.”

“In this historic moment, Democrats sided with the American people, and every single Republican in the Congress sided with the special interests in this vote,” Biden said, repeatedly seizing on the contrast between his party and the GOP. “Every single one.”

The House on Friday approved

the measure on a party-line 220-207 vote. It passed the Senate days earlier with Vice President Kamala Harris breaking a 50-50 tie in that chamber.

Biden signed the bill into law during a small ceremony in the White House, sandwiched between his return from a six-day beachside vacation in South Carolina and his departure for his home in Wilmington, Delaware. He plans

Turn to Law, Page 2



JOE CAVARETTA/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

Where there’s smoke ...

Tourists ride an airboat at the Sawgrass Recreation Park in Weston as a 1,400-acre fire in the Everglades in western Broward County burns on Tuesday. The fire isn’t a threat to people or buildings and is being monitored from the air and ground. The fire started from a late-night lightning strike, officials said. **SEE STORY ON PAGE 18**

Broward recruits teachers from Philippines

INSIDE

- Broward off to a smooth start on the first day of school, **Page 3**
- DeSantis wants retired police, firefighters to be teachers, **Page 3**

By Shira Moolten
South Florida Sun Sentinel

Broward school district has found one more way to fill many vacant positions going into the school year: hiring from the Phil-

ippines.

One hundred and two Filipino teachers have either already arrived in schools, or are on their way to schools, in the coming weeks.

“It’s overwhelming,” Artie

Marforie, a new science teacher from the Philippines at Westpine Middle School, said to Superintendent Vickie Cartwright when she visited his classroom on

Turn to Teachers, Page 22

Fla. man dies after eating raw oyster

Dish served at seafood restaurant Rustic Inn

By Cindy Krischer Goodman
South Florida Sun Sentinel

A Florida man has died from a bacterial infection after eating a raw oyster at the famed Rustic Inn Crabhouse in Fort Lauderdale.

The death is the second in the state this month traced to the bacteria, *Vibrio*, found in an oyster.

Gary Oreal, manager of the Rustic Inn, said the South Florida man who died had worked at the restaurant about two decades ago.

Turn to Oyster, Page 22

Cruise bookings increase

Demand on the rise as requirements are loosened

By Ron Hurtibise
South Florida Sun Sentinel

A surge in cruise bookings on the day after Carnival Cruise Line announced that it was relaxing its COVID testing requirements proves there’s a “pent-up demand” for cruising that has not yet been satisfied, the cruise line said Tuesday.

On Friday, Carnival announced it would no longer require vaccinated passengers to take a COVID test within three days of boarding cruises less than 16 days

Turn to Cruises, Page 20

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Cruises

from Page 1

long, except on trips to Canada, Bermuda, Greece and Australia.

Unvaccinated passengers will no longer be required to submit to an “exemption request process” and will be allowed to board by simply presenting the results of a negative PCR or antigen test taken within three days of boarding, except on trips to Australia or trips 16 nights or longer. Children younger than 5 are exempt from all testing and vaccination requirements.

The new rules take effect on Sept. 6. On Monday, the first full business day after the announcement, bookings for Carnival cruises were twice as high as on the same date in 2019, the company said in a news release on Tuesday.

Aug. 15 fell on a Thursday in 2019, so the company compared two weekdays.

“Mid-August is typically not a busy month for cruise bookings, but it’s clear that pent-up demand for Carnival has not been satisfied and guests are responding very favorably to our updated protocols,” Carnival Cruise Line president Christine Duffy said in a statement.

Prior to the announcement, bookings through the end of 2022 “have also been very solid,” she said, adding, “With the further alignment of protocols to other vacation choices, our guests are booking the remaining 2022 inventory, and are getting a head start planning for 2023.”

Most other major cruise lines have announced similar moves since the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stopped monitoring cruise ships for COVID cases last month.

Beginning Aug. 8, Royal Caribbean dropped its testing requirement for vaccinated passengers sailing less than six nights, but kept the requirement for unvaccinated passengers on all trips.

In an earnings report released on July 28, Royal Caribbean said that booking volumes in the second quarter for 2022 sailings were 30% higher than bookings during the comparable period in 2019.

In addition, “booking volumes for 2023 have shown consistent improvement week over week and have been accelerating over the last several weeks,” the report said.

Norwegian Cruise Lines is dropping all pre-cruise requirements for vaccinated passengers ages 12 and over beginning on Sept. 3. Unvaccinated passengers 12 and over will



Seven Carnival Cruise Line ships gather in off the coast of Cozumel on Monday, March 7, to celebrate the line’s 50th anniversary. FILE

have to present a negative antigen or PCR test 72 hours prior to boarding. Children 11 and younger will not be subject to testing or vaccination requirements of any kind, the cruise line said.

On MSC Cruises, testing is no longer required for vaccinated passengers sailing less than six nights from U.S. ports. Unvaccinated passengers 2 years old and up must present proof of a negative result of a test taken within three days of boarding.

Stock prices of publicly traded cruise lines have been up sharply over the past five days, though they remain well below their 52-week highs.

Carnival closed at \$11.19, up 13% over the past five days. Royal Caribbean was up 10.7% over the past five days and closed at \$44.08 on Tuesday. Norwegian’s \$14.56 close

on Tuesday was 14.7% higher over the past five days. MSC is privately traded.

The website CruiseCritic.com, which produces news about the industry as well as lets consumers book cruises from its site, recently surveyed 5,000 readers and found attitudes about post-COVID cruising equally split.

The 45% who said they are ready for pre-cruise tests to be over only slightly exceeded the 44% who said they aren’t ready because pre-cruises tests make them feel safer on board, respondents told Cruise Critic.

Aaron Saunders, Cruise Critic’s senior editor, said the site has heard from travelers on both sides of the issue.

“While we’ve certainly heard from some travelers who aren’t yet ready for COVID-related policies

to be relaxed, we also hear from a number who are ready to see changes made — specifically around testing requirements,” Saunders said in an email.

Jennifer Walker, owner of Jennifer Walker Travel Inc. in Washington, Illinois, said most clients she speaks to “still feel cruises aren’t a safe form of travel given the crowds onboard, and nothing seems to change their impression. They’re in a ‘wait-and-see’ position.”

However, Laurel Brunvoll, of My Unforgettable Trips in Gaithersburg, Maryland, said she has only seen a small increase in cruise bookings over the past several days but figures that’s because few people are aware of the change in protocol.

“The relaxation of testing and vaccine requirements helps streamline the entire planning process and relieves a lot of stress and uncer-

tainty for all cruisers (regardless of their vaccination status) as they anticipate their vacation,” Brunvoll said by email.

But Hubert Harriman, of Boca Raton, a veteran of 140 cruises, said the industry can now expect the return of passengers who have avoided booking a cruise because they don’t want to bother doing it.

“We have taken five cruises since COVID and had to go through the hassle of pre-testing each time,” he said Tuesday. “I am sure that many people didn’t want to bother doing that so it should increase sales.”

Ron Hurtibise covers business and consumer issues for the South Florida Sun Sentinel. He can be reached by phone at 954-356-4071, on Twitter @ronhurtibise or by email at rhurtibise@sunsentinel.com

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TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Town Council, acting in its capacity as the Local Planning Agency of the Town of Southwest Ranches, will conduct a public hearing at 7:00 PM on August 25, 2022 at the Southwest Ranches Town Hall located at 13400 Griffin Road, Southwest Ranches, FL 33330 to consider the following resolution.

(Resolution Applies to the Entire Town)
A RESOLUTION OF THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA (“LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY”), RECOMMENDING THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT AN AMENDMENT TO THE TEXT OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES UNIFIED LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE (“ULDC”) TO AUTHORIZE AND REGULATE LIMITED AGRICULTURE-RELATED ASSEMBLY ACTIVITIES AS A SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Local Planning Agency public hearing will be immediately followed by a meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches to be held at the Southwest Ranches Town Hall located at 13400 Griffin Road, Southwest Ranches, FL 33330 to consider the following enactments:

First Reading
AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES UNIFIED LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE (“ULDC”) SECTION 010-030, “TERMS DEFINED,” SECTION 035-080, “INDOOR AND OUTDOOR ASSEMBLY IN RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS,” SECTION 045-030, “GENERAL PROVISIONS,” SECTION 045-050 “PERMITTED AND PROHIBITED USES,” AND SECTION 060-030, PERMITTED AND PROHIBITED USES,” TO DEFINE, AUTHORIZE AND REGULATE LIMITED AGRICULTURE-RELATED ASSEMBLY ACTIVITIES AS A SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE IN THE RURAL, AGRICULTURAL AND COMMUNITY FACILITY DISTRICTS; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A copy of these proposed enactments may be inspected by requesting a copy from the Town of Southwest Ranches Town Clerk’s Office via email at rmuniz@southwestranches.org. Comments of any interested party relative to these matters may be submitted in writing via email, US Mail, or by submitting a comment in writing prior to the meeting.

SHOULD ANY PERSON DESIRE TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD, AGENCY OR COUNCIL, WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED AT THESE MEETINGS OR HEARINGS, THAT PERSON WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND IT WILL BE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, INCLUDING ALL TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH ANY APPEAL MAY BE BASED (F.S. 286.0105). Please call (954) 434-0008 for any questions regarding the above matters.

There may be occasions when one or more Board, Agency, or Council Members will participate by telephone. At the above location there will be present a speaker telephone so that any interested person can attend the meeting at the above location and be fully informed of the discussions taking place either by watching the virtual meeting or by telephone communication. Two or more members of any other Town Committee, Board, Agency, or Council, who are not members of this board may attend this meeting and may, at that time, discuss matters on which foreseeable action may later be taken by their Committee, Board, Agency, or Council.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, all persons who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this proceeding because of that disability should contact the Town Clerk, (954) 434-0008, no later than two business days prior to such proceedings. If an individual is hearing or speech impaired, please call (800) 955-8771 (V-TDD).

Russell Muñiz, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk