USA & WORLD

- 'Extreme' atmospheric river triggers **avalanche warnings**.
- What part is **Anonymous** playing in the war effort against Russia?
- **Study**: 5 million children globally have lost parent/caregiver to COVID.
- Here's how cyberwarfare is fought across the internet.
- Five essential **commodities** that will be hit by war in Ukraine.
- Ukraine has been a **proving ground** for Russian cyberattacks.
- The West is **already fighting** in a cyber conflict.
- Putin's energy shock: The economic **realities** of invasion.
- Peace in Europe 'shattered' as Russia invades Ukraine.
- How a **digital cold war** with Russia threatens the IT industry.
- The average business receives **10,000 cybersecurity alerts** every day.
- National Guard **activated** as truck convoys head to nation's capital.
- Chemical in COVID test kits can cause **sickness** if ingested.
- Are migrants to the U.S. a **sign** of a “failed state” in Mexico?
- Should Iran **bet its future on** Russia?
- Iran **returns** donated vaccines because they were made in the U.S.
- How a battery shortage could **threaten** US national security.
- Russia-Ukraine Crisis: Resources for the Crisis Management Team.
- Ukrainian DDoS attacks should put U.S. on **notice**.

The COVID virus contains DNA **that matches sequence patented by Moderna** 3 years before pandemic began.

- The UK government is increasingly reassured that the pandemic was the result of a lab leak.
- New report suggests there is a **one-in-three trillion chance** Moderna's sequence randomly showed up via natural evolution, at the very least “is highly unusual and requires further investigations.”
- There are two theories on the origins of COVID-19:
  - One is that it was a lab leak, probably from viruses being investigated at the Wuhan lab.
  - The second is that the virus occurred naturally in bats, jumped to an intermediary animal (yet to be identified) and then to humans.
- At this time, the evidence for each is about 50/50.
CALIFORNIA

• Drought drained $1.2 billion from CA agricultural sector in 2021.
• California to stop requiring masks at schools after March 11.
• Study: Cleaning products could expose people to pollution.
• UC hospitals create COVID-19 ‘Long Hauler’ Task Force.
• Key to having a healthy forest? Frequent, low-intensity fires.
• New COVID Sick Leave Mandate: What employers need to know.
• UCB Poll: Majority support for COVID-19 mask, vaccine mandates.
• UC sees record breaking number of applications.
• California convoy opposing COVID-19 mandates hits the road.
• Citing drought, US won’t give water to California farmers.
• Experts tell Senate that key climate change strategy is flawed.
• Patient Flow Program at UCD Health: A National Gold Star Winner.
• Study reveals most, least ‘tax-friendly’ states; how CA compares.
• State to allow bitcoin payments for govt services.
• Facial recognition software was used to combat insurance fraud.
• How will Ukraine-Russia Crisis affect California?
• State provides employees with more Supplemental Paid Leave.
• Troubling questions follow closure of sprawling pain clinic chain.
• UCSF research shows MDMA could help with psychiatric disorders.
• UCB may have to turn away 3,050 students this fall.
REGION

- Weekend fire guts a large **pallet yard** in Riverside.
- San Diego leaders introduce **bill** in hopes of ending gun violence.
- How Russia’s invasion of Ukraine impacts the **SoCal economy**.
- Economic **impact** of Ukraine crisis felt in SoCal gas prices, groceries.
- RivCo Sheriff’s Lieutenant dies in ‘**Line Of Duty**’ from COVID.
- SpaceX **launches** Starlink satellites from Vandenberg Space Force Base.
- Santa Ana police looking for man who **stole** $1M worth of COVID tests.
- Ukrainian Americans in SoCal outraged over Putin's attacks.
- SoCal Counties fight millions of **hacking** attempts.
- Orange County’s **high-density** future.
- Autonomous electric vertical take-off and landing (**EVTOL**) flights.
- Southern California Edison **bolsters** wildfire mitigation efforts.
- Newsom calls Salton Sea the “**Saudi Arabia of lithium**.”
- Beach closed after **50,000 gallons of raw sewage** spilled into the ocean.
- Police **chase** stolen party bus across SoCal.
- SB County's **COVID cases** fall 73.9%; California cases plummet 65.9%.
- Disney is building **planned communities** with estates.

**Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson says Riverside**

“Building Tomorrow Today”

Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson used her second State of the City address to encourage Riversiders to rally around three main themes:
- Reinventing our economy through Arts, Industry, and Innovation;
- Reimagining the River; and
- Revitalizing our Downtown.

Working within that framework, Riverside can create its future by focusing on five key areas:
- Homelessness
- Quality of life
- Jobs
- The economy, and
- Division within our country and community

Watch **here**

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The County of Riverside Emergency Operations Center is currently activated to **Management Watch.**
COMMUNICATIONS

• 28 February:
  • Second VPIA Candidate Vision Seminar
    – Tuesday, March 1st
  • Nominations for the 2022-2023 Systemwide UC Women’s Initiative for Professional Development (UC WI)

• 25 February:
  • 2022 Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL) Guidance and Notice & Form
  • Staff Assembly Executive Board General Meeting: replay & links / resources

• 24 February:
  • Paws to Share: Bringing Pets and People Together, March 23, 2022

• 23 February:
  • 50 years of Black and Chicano/Latino histories at UCR

Please Reference Notes Section For More Information
New interactive tool shows the chronic conditions affecting majority of U.S. adults
Hundreds of AI projects underway as Defense Department eyes future combat
Senators press HHS to detail plans for developing new COVID-19 vaccines
Financing the preservation of diverse life on Earth in a capitalist system
What Is Mass Formation Psychosis?
Canadian Emergencies Act committee members will take oath of secrecy
Drawing Lessons from the COVID-19 Crisis to Improve Emergency Response
Wife of Navy engineer pleads guilty in submarine spy case
Unprecedented oil spill catches researchers in Peru off guard
Responding to Russian Cyber Operations
Economic Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Will It Be a Barrier to Achieving Sustainability?
The price of pandemics.
IMF Special Series on COVID-19
Dystopian robot dogs are the latest in a long history of US-Mexico border surveillance
The Crisis of American Higher Education
College presidents head for the exits
Universities Face Existential Threats Unless They Transform Their Operating Models
Are universities of the past still the future?
Facing an existential crisis, some colleges do something rare for them — adapt
Does the pandemic mark a breaking point for universities?
2022 California Children’s Report Card

- A new report offers a glimpse into the struggles — and victories — children have experienced as the pandemic approaches the end of its second year.

- Education, child care, physical and mental health, homelessness, poverty, juvenile justice and food security are among the topics explored in the report, which issues A-through-F letter grades based on data and state policies.

- Of major concern:
  - disparity in learning loss during last year’s school closures;
  - surge in suicides among Black youth;
  - many children aren’t getting basic medical care.

- Policymakers need to do a better job addressing mental health challenges.

California lags behind most other states in the number of adults on school campuses, including teachers, counselors, tutors, social workers, nurses and psychologists.
What this means for Higher Education

- The challenges associated with the pandemic threaten to offset and undo years of improvements for high schools and colleges.
- This has caused alarmingly high learning losses in areas like math and reading around the world - this disruption has been described as “the worst education crisis ever recorded.”
- High school graduation rates dipped in at least 20 states in 2021.
- This generation of students now risks losing $17 trillion in lifetime earnings in present value, or about 14 percent of today’s global GDP, because of COVID-19-related school closures and economic shocks.
- Future success will be determined by the success of schools, colleges, and universities in supporting students to enroll in college, complete a bachelor’s degree, and join the workforce with the skills and preparation needed to participate in the economy.
- California has no shortage of money. Our shortage is the lack of urgency and a coherent strategy to address our education system’s needs.

‘The system is working for some and not for others’
What this means for Higher Education

Overall, California students are not well prepared for college.

California has defined college and career preparedness using multiple measures, and reports levels of preparedness on the California School Dashboard. While only 46% of all students met the criteria for "prepared," specific groups were even less likely to be ready for college due to structural racism, unstable living situations, and other barriers.

Increases in state funding allowed UC and CSU to significantly boost enrollment over the past decade, but it's still not enough to meet ever-increasing demand.

UC admitted its largest and most diverse class ever in fall 2021. However, over 71,000 freshman applicants were still denied admission, including nearly 44,000 Californians.²¹⁴

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**35%**  
increase in new CSU student enrollment between 2010-2020

**21%**  
²¹⁵ increase in new UC student enrollment between 2010-2020
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Category</th>
<th>Statewide %'s for all races</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children in working families for whom a licensed child care space was available</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Race Data</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students who were college- or career-ready</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students who were ready or conditionally ready for college-level math courses</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students who reported feeling connected to their school</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Learner students who gained proficiency in English</td>
<td>No Race Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-and-4-year-olds enrolled in preschool or transitional kindergarten</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth in foster care who graduated high school on time</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th graders who graduated high school on time</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th graders who met or exceeded standards in math</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To summarize learning lag across assessments on different scales, results were converted to a single “months of learning” metric that used either a typical amount of growth from one year to the next or the range of achievement scores within a given school year.
Behavioral Health Care: Mental Health

The isolation, stress, and increased material hardships of the pandemic have strained the vulnerable mental health of California’s young people.

Students rating their mental wellness at 7 or higher on a 10 point scale:
- 68% Pre-pandemic
- 39% Pandemic

Major Depressive Episodes (MDEs) among youth have grown in recent years, but only about a third of youth with an MDE received treatment in 2019.

Percent of California youth aged 12-to-17 with a Major Depressive Episode (MDE) in the past year:
- 8% 2004-2007
- 14% 2016-2019
- 36% of youth with an MDE received depression care

California policymakers need to prioritize policies and programs that work across sectors to prevent behavioral health challenges as well as promptly and effectively treat difficulties that arise.
Behavioral Health Care: Drug Overdose

**Between 2006 and 2015**
there were 36,422 drug-related deaths among adolescents and young adults in the United States.

**In 2015**
U.S. societal costs of drug-related deaths in adolescents and young adults were estimated at approximately $35.1 billion.

Deaths due to drug overdose spiked during the pandemic.

Fentanyl is especially dangerous, leading to overdoses among young people.

According to the CDC, the 15-to-24 age group saw the largest percentage increase in drug overdose death rates from 2019 to 2020, at 49%, but had the second-lowest overall rates among age groups.
During the pandemic, children have been facing many types of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

The term ACEs refers to a specific set of traumatic events including physical or emotional abuse or neglect; however, children can endure other significant traumas such as community violence, structural racism, homophobia, and separation from parents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of ACE</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic needs not met</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced physical abuse at home</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced verbal abuse at home</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced sexual abuse</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witnessed domestic violence</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Often felt unloved or unsupported</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household member was mentally ill</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household member abused alcohol or drugs</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents or guardians were divorced or separated</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household member served time in jail</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preventing Trauma & Supporting Healing

Childhood trauma can negatively impact long-term physical and mental health, but protective factors can help neutralize those impacts.

Social connections, caring adults, and community supports can reduce the impact of ACEs.

A person with four or more ACEs is:

- 12.2x more likely to attempt suicide
- 10.3x more likely to use injection drugs
- 2.2x more likely to have heart disease
- 2.4x more likely to have a stroke
- 21% more likely to be low-income
- 39% more likely to be unemployed

Protective factors that buffer the impact of ACEs:

- Knowledge of parenting & of youth development
- Concrete support in times of need
- Parental resilience
- Social connections