CA-25: Mike Garcia

Los Angeles Times

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Bipartisan vote delivers a major win for Biden; Democrats' talks still delay larger measure

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Looking to the brain for COVID's secrets

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The Telegraph

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Downtown Macon's calendar is packed with activities this month

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House gives Biden victory

Homelessness hard on students

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MATHEU JANIS PHOTOS, HERALD & REVIEW

Christina Knost's (back left) daughter, Harper (center), feeds chickens at Regenerative Life Farm the pumpkin scraps she made after smashing one earlier on Saturday.

Court stays mandate on larger businesses

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — A federal appeals court on Saturday temporarily halted the Biden administration's vaccine requirement for businesses with 100 or more workers.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted an emergency stay of the requirement by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration that those workers be vaccinated by Jan. 4 or face mask requirements and weekly tests.

Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry said the action stops Democratic President Joe Biden "from forcing his agenda" with his mandate overreach.

"The president will not impose medical procedures on the American people without the checks and balances afforded by the constitution," said a statement from Landry, a Republican.

Solicitor of Labor Seema Nanda said the U.S. Department of Labor is "confident in its legal authority to issue the emergency temporary standard on vaccination and testing."

Nanda said the authority "is act quickly in an emergency where the agency finds that workers are subjected to a grave danger and a new standard is necessary to protect them," she said.

Such circuit decisions normally apply to states within a district — Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, in this case — but Landry said the language employed by the judges gave the decision a national scope.

"This is a good victory for the people of Louisiana, but it is a victory for all Americans. Never before has the federal government tried in such a forceful way to get between the choices of an American citizen and their doctor. To me that's the heart of the entire issue," he said.

At least 27 states filed lawsuits challenging the rule in several circuits, some of which were made more conservative by the

Please see MANDATE, Page A2

A SMASHING IDEA

Families destroy pumpkins, give scraps to Shelby County farm

MATHEU JANIS
matheu.janis@sjnc.net

FINDLAY — With pumpkins rotting on porches a week after Halloween, people are looking for sustainable and fun ways to dispose of these gourds before the smell on them gets any worse.

"Smashing a pumpkin is a fun way to get rid of them, but it's also a way to feed farm animals scraps and compost them into healthy soils to help farms," said Christina Knost, the policy coordinator at Faith in Place, an Illinois affiliate of Interfaith Power and Light. "I just thought it would be a cool way for people to come out to a farm and meet the farmers."

Regenerative Life Farm in Findlay has a garden market that sells homegrown produce like carrots, beets, lettuce, green onions, radishes, spinach, bok choy, kale, tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, squashes and potatoes.

Families on Saturday visited the second annual pumpkin smash event hosted at Regenerative Life Farm, 2248 County Highway 3 in Findlay, to destroy their jack-o-lantern creations in a safe and environmentally friendly space.

Other than harvesting the remains of their pumpkin carcasses, guests were also invited to tour the farm and buy fresh produce from their market.

Justin Cullen, the pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Sullivan, said he came out to the farm with his children and wife Elizabeth to do something positive with their pumpkins while also touring the farm and interacting with the chickens.

"The kids loved the tour of the chickens and they enjoyed picking out eggs, holding a chicken and feeding them a few times weeks," Justin said. "It's a good skill for them to be exposed to and the people are so friendly."

Knost said they hosted the event last year right around election week, which allowed people the opportunity to let out some post-up feelings, but this year they are hoping to bring more focus to the farm itself and

Please see PUMPKINS, Page A2

Biden hails 'monumental' infrastructure win

ALAN FRAM AND JEAN MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Saturday hailed Congress' passage of his $1 trillion infrastructure package as a "monumental step forward for the nation" after fractious fellow Democrats resolved a months-long standoff in their ranks and the deal.

"Finally, infrastructure week," a beaming Biden told reporters. "I'm so happy to say that: Infrastructure week."

The House passed the measure 228-206 late Friday, prompting prolonged cheers from the mostly Democratic side of the chamber. Thirteen Republicans, mostly moderates, supported the legislation while six of Democrats' farthest left members opposed it.

Approval of the bill, which promises to create legions of jobs and improve broadband, water supplies and other public works, sends it to the desk of a president whose approval ratings have dropped and whose normally party got a cold shoulder from voters in this past week's off-year elections.

Democratic candidates for governor were defeated in Virginia and squeaked through in New Jersey, two blue-leaning states. Those setbacks made party leaders — and moderates and liberals alike — impatient to produce impactful legislation and demonstrate they know how to govern. Democrats can ill afford to seem in disarray a year before midterm elections that could give Republicans congressional control.

Voters "want us to deliver," Biden said, and Friday's vote "proves we can do it."

"This one big item, we delivered," he added.

The infrastructure package is a historic investment by any measure, one that Biden compares in its breadth to the building of the Interstate highway system in the last century or the transcontinental railroad the century before. He called it a "blue-collar

Please see BUDGET, Page A2

ALEX BRANDON, ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Joe Biden speaks about the bipartisan infrastructure bill Saturday in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington.

news membership

AT HERALD-REVIEW.COM

IL-15: Rep. Mary Miller

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Dear Abby and more
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Biden celebrates bipartisan infrastructure win

Democrats dour on Booker's hopes to defeat Paul in Senate race

LA-06: Rep. Garrett Graves

The Times-Picayune

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Fall back tonight

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Large businesses get temporary reprieve

Hope for hemp

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Biden hails bill as big 'step forward'

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SD-AL: Rep. Dusty Johnson

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Biden's border plans went from hopeful to chaotic

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OPERATION LONE STAR

Biden's infrastructure bill approved by the House

President calls it 'instrumental step forward'

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TxDOT takes to social media to spread the word about driving safety

VA-09: Rep. Morgan Griffith

Full lock

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Infrastructure bill passes

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