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ANALYSIS

State's rainy day savings a blessing

Years of socking away cash leave Newsom in a stronger position than past governors to tame a huge deficit.

By JOHN MYERS

SACRAMENTO — The warnings had been sounded in Sacramento for years: California was long overdue for an economic downturn, one in which tax revenues would evaporate and leave lawmakers with a series of painful choices in balancing the state budget.

"The next governor's going to be on the cliff," then-Gov. Jerry Brown said as he unveiled his final state budget plan in January 2018, pointing to a horizontal line on a chart showing California's record-breaking economic expansion. "That big red line is what I've had. What's out there is darkness, uncertainty, decline and recession. So good luck, baby!"

But few thought Brown's doomsday warning would come true so soon. On Thursday, Gov. Gavin Newsom will offer the Legislature his ideas on how to eliminate a deficit that could total \$54.3 billion between now and July of next year, fueled by the coronavirus crisis. No economic collapse in modern times has ever happened so fast. Government cash receipts were \$1.3 billion above projections through March with only three months left in the fiscal year; now revenues are projected to miss the mark by \$9.7 billion through June 30.

"The United States, every state in this nation, will be struggling with unprecipitated deficit," [See Deficit, A7]



AL SEIB Los Angeles Times

WELCOME ABOARD

Surfers get back in the water at Malibu Surfrider Beach after Los Angeles County reopened beaches for activities. L.A. Mayor Garcetti, however, said Angelenos must wear masks when outside. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Minors' rights suffer in pandemic

U.S. is deporting migrant kids rather than releasing them to sponsors

By MOLLY O'TOOLE AND CINDY CARCAMO

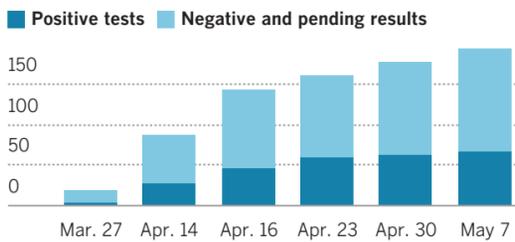
WASHINGTON — The 17-year-old Guatemalan boy has been in a California detention center for migrant children for more than 400 days.

He's one of the longest-held of the roughly 1,800 minors in the U.S. immigration detention system — the largest in the world, and one now riddled with the novel coronavirus.

Under a decades-old legal settlement, the government is required to hold migrant children in "safe and sanitary" conditions and

Coronavirus testing of unaccompanied migrant minors

Most have not been tested. Of those who have, more than a third have tested positive.



Office of Refugee Resettlement

MOLLY O'TOOLE Los Angeles Times

make "prompt and continuous" efforts to release them and reunify families. Two federal judges in recent weeks have ruled that the administration has violated the terms of that agreement in its handling of migrant children.

The Guatemalan teen — detained at the center in Fairfield, in Solano County — has been held by the Trump administration far longer than contemplated under the settlement.

It's not for lack of someone wanting to take him. When Bryce Tache and James Donaldson read on social media about the teen

[See Minors, A12]

In Wuhan, it's back to COVID-19 tests

A month after China's ground zero reopened, new cases emerge, prompting the return of fear and barricades.

By ALICE SU

WUHAN, China — Red lanterns swayed in the wind above beeping thermometers. A queue jerked forward every few minutes, moving like toy soldiers through a socially distanced assembly line. Medical staff in goggles and face shields manned three tables: one for registration and temperatures, two for testing.

"Open your mouth," the staff commanded over and over. The residents in the Jade Belt apartment complex obeyed, wincing, sometimes gagging, as the work-

ers scraped the backs of their throats with long cotton swabs. Security guards hovered around the area, cordoned off with string.

The Jade Belt residents — a few wearing raincoats as protection — were among the first in line after the city government ordered Monday that all Wuhan residents be tested for the coronavirus within 10 days. The action was a swift response to six new cases of COVID-19 reported Sunday — the first such infections since early April.

The 10-day time frame appeared implausible based on the city's testing capacity. It was also somewhat impractical given that the limited accuracy of the nucleic acid virus tests were not followed by restrictions on movement. One could test negative Wednesday morning, have lunch with an

[See Wuhan, A4]



For The Times

RESIDENTS in the Qiaokou district in Wuhan, China, undergo COVID-19 testing. The city issued orders for all residents to be tested within 10 days.

A PORTRAIT FROM THE FRONT LINE



FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

FIGHTING FOR LIFE IN SOUTH L.A.

Like medical centers all over the world, Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital is in the thick of battle against COVID-19. But unlike others, it's had to rise above the sad legacy of its predecessor, a troubled facility that critics called "killer King." Rakeem Addison, above, a patient care technician preparing to enter a COVID-19 patient's room, embodies the new hospital's resiliency. He was once homeless. Now he's helping a vulnerable community. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

Electoral college gets a hearing

The Supreme Court justices seem to disagree with an argument that electors have a right to defy their state's popular vote for president. **NATION, A5**

Weather
Mostly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 76/58. **B8**



See Spot enforce social distancing

By SHASHANK BENGALI

SINGAPORE — Leaves crunch underfoot as Spot marches through the park, back straight as a tabletop, stride brisk as a soldier's.

A grassy field encircled by trees beckons. But Spot is focused on the asphalt path ahead, where a few joggers and bicyclists are out for some socially distanced sunshine.

A cyclist in a brimmed



ROSLAN RAHMAN AFP/Getty Images

A ROBOT DOG named Spot carries a recorded coronavirus-era reminder to Singaporeans.

Industry asks state to delay rules on pollution

Powerful firms are pressuring regulators to halt air quality and climate regulations due to pandemic.

By TONY BARBOZA

As experts warn that exposure to pollution can increase the risk of dying from COVID-19, an array of powerful industries is pressuring California regulators to delay or roll back air quality and climate regulations due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The trucking industry wants to stall new emissions-reduction rules. Oil companies want looser enforcement of existing regulations. Port and shipping interests are pushing to delay rules on ocean vessels as they become Southern California's largest source of smog-forming pollution.

Will Barrett, clean air advocacy director for the American Lung Assn. in California, said the lobbying effort is a "brazen attempt to use the COVID pandemic as a justification for long-held policy complaints about clean air programs in California" and accused industry of using the crisis "as cover to roll back or delay programs that will save lives."

The breadth of requests presents a conundrum for regulators who, even in eco-minded California, have been open about the need to grant some measure of relief from environmental requirements in response to the pandemic. While officials say their commitment to fighting climate change and air pollution remains unshaken, they are nonetheless postponing compliance deadlines and delaying pollution-reduction rules.

To minimize the effects on air quality and climate goals, officials said they are considering such requests on a case-by-case basis and trying to separate those specifically related to the coronavirus from those seeking to capitalize on the crisis for long-sought regulatory relief.

Kate Gordon, Gov. Gavin Newsom's senior advisor on climate, said that some of the requests "are very understandable and really have to do with the fact of the current crisis, and in some cases they're regulations

[See Pollution, A7]

NASCAR gets back in fast lane

As the season resumes Sunday, organization knows it must avoid an outbreak among drivers and crews. **SPORTS, B6**

Hollywood Bowl cancels its season

For the first time in 98 years, there will be no summer concerts in the amphitheater, due to coronavirus. **CALENDAR, E1**

PERSPECTIVES

A PORTRAIT FROM THE FRONT LINE
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMUNITY HOSPITAL



Security guards guide a patient into one of many tents erected outside Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital since the spread of the novel coronavirus. The hospital serves 1.3 million residents in South Los Angeles.



Emergency medical technician Alessandro Garcia, left, assists respiratory therapist Janssen Redondo in the hospital's intensive care unit. A "PPE coach," he shows staff how to don and maintain their personal protective equipment.



Photographs by FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital opened in 2015 near "King/Drew," the medical center in the Willowbrook neighborhood created after the 1965 Watts riots, only to lose its accreditation and be shut down in 2007 because of substandard care. In a triage tent outside the emergency department, nurse Sandy Valle, above left, and emergency medical technician Javier Gonzalez, center, confer as nurse Michelle Kim labels blood samples.



After a patient stopped breathing, right, a medical team in the intensive care unit gave him CPR, a procedure that can spread the novel coronavirus. The patient survived. It turned out that he did not have the coronavirus. Most of the hospital's patients are African American.

Dr. Maita Kuvhenguhwa, an infectious-disease specialist, greets patient Maria Cuellar, 63, who survived COVID-19. Far right, Dr. Oscar Casillas says Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital has overcome skepticism among those who remember the troubled hospital that preceded it. "There is a real sense of pride here and in accomplishing something that people didn't think could happen," he said.

