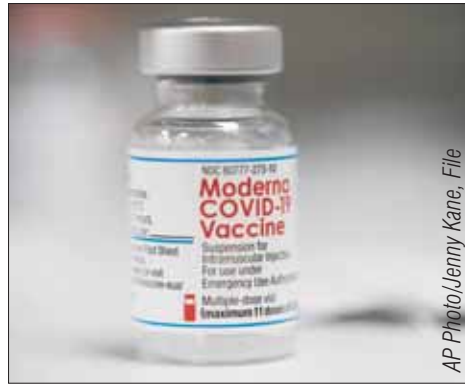


U.S. reaches deal with Moderna for omicron COVID-19 vaccine

By Zeke Miller
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration says it has reached an agreement with Moderna to buy 66 million doses of the company's next generation of COVID-19 vaccine that targets the highly transmissible omicron variant, enough supply this winter for all who want the upgraded booster.

The order of the bivalent shot follows the announcement in June that the federal government had secured 105 million doses of a similar vaccine from rival drugmaker Pfizer. Both orders are scheduled for delivery in the fall and winter, assuming regulators sign off on their effectiveness. The Pentagon said the Moderna contract was worth \$1.74 billion.



AP Photo/Jenny Kane, File

The omicron strain has been dominant in the U.S. since December, with the BA.5 subvariant now causing a massive wave of infections across the country, even infecting President Joe Biden.

"We must stay vigilant in our fight against COVID-19 and continue to expand Americans' access to the best vaccines and



AP Photo/Charles Krupa, File

treatments," Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra said in a statement. "As we look to the fall and winter, we're doing just that — ensuring Americans have the tools they need to stay safe and help keep our nation moving forward."

The U.S. orders with Pfizer and

PLANNING FOR WINTER. A vial of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, left, is displayed on a counter at a pharmacy in Portland, Oregon, on December 27, 2021. The Biden administration says it has reached an agreement with Moderna to buy 66 million doses of the company's next generation of COVID-19 vaccine that targets the highly transmissible omicron variant, enough supply this winter for all who want the upgraded booster. Pictured in the right photo is a vial of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

Moderna include options to purchase 300 million doses each, but reaching that total will require more funding from congress, the Biden administration said.

About 261 million Americans have received at least one COVID-19 shot, but only 108 million have received a booster.

"Squid Game" receives Emmy nomination

NEW YORK — Emmy Award nominations were released in July, and "Squid Game," the brutal Netflix survival drama about desperate adults competing in deadly children's games for a chance to escape debt, won in its bid to become the first non-English-language drama series ever nominated for top drama.

In the bleak and disturbing series from South Korea, hundreds of men and women on the brink of financial ruin compete in a deadly battle for roughly \$38 million in cash. Every game is a traditional Korean children's game such as Red Light, Green Light, but the consequence of losing is death. The winner is the person who outlasts all opponents.

It remains Netflix's most popular series.

"Squid Game" became the first series to

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Hawai'i national park gets land where ancient villages stood

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experts and residents to better understand the various cultural sites.

The addition brings the total park size to 554 square miles, almost as large as the entire island of Oahu.

While the park has recently acquired a few small parcels of land in the same area, the donation is the park's largest addition since 2003, when about 156 square miles of land was incorporated.

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park superintendent Rhonda Loh in a statement called the Pohue Bay area "an incredibly precious and culturally significant landscape that needs to be protected."

She added: "The park is working to de-

My Turn: Summer heat brings burning feet

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suffocating in the furnace-like dorm while Jeremy and I were whiling away the night in the luxury of our air-conditioned fortress. We were the Kings of the Palace!

Until ...

It started slowly. I felt a tingling sensation in my foot. Soon, both feet felt like I was walking on pins and needles. Then, all of a sudden, my feet felt like they were on fire. I started maniacally flopping back and forth under the sheets.

At one point, I frantically turned to Jeremy and yelled, "Jeremy! What is going on with my feet!?" I soon discovered that he was going through the same thing.

Apparently, the cleaning crew had sprinkled some disinfectant on the shower stall, and that's where the burning feeling was coming from.

I'm just thankful that the bathroom had a shower and not a tub.

I don't even want to think about what else could have been burning.

Humor writer Wayne Chan lives in the San Diego area; cartoonist Wayne Chan is based in the Bay Area.

Kueng, Thao sentenced for violating Floyd's rights

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prison on October 4, though Magnuson noted that could change because of their state trial. Magnuson said he would recommend that they be allowed to serve their time at minimum-security federal facilities in Duluth or in Yankton, South Dakota, to be near family. The final decision is up to the Bureau of Prisons.

Chauvin, who is white, was the most senior officer at the scene and was sentenced to a 22 1/2-year state sentence that he's serving concurrently with his federal sentence. He's been held in solitary confinement in the state's maximum security prison at Oak Park Heights for his own safety since his murder conviction and will eventually be transferred to federal prison.

Associated Press/Report for America reporter Trisha Ahmed contributed.

velop an interim operating plan for Pohue that explores opportunities for public use compatible with resource protection."

Trust for Public Land acquired the privately owned land July 12 and gave it to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park the same day.

The parcel stretching from the southwest coast of Hawai'i Island up to the national park was purchased for \$9.4 million with funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and a donation from the Wyss Foundation. The land had previously been the target of several resort proposals, Trust for Public Land said.

"We are grateful the National Park

Abortion foes downplay complex post-Roe v. Wade realities

By Amanda Seitz and Josh Kelety
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When a 10-year-old Ohio girl travelled to Indiana in June to end a pregnancy forced onto her by a rapist, several conservative politicians and TV pundits called the report a hoax.

After horrific details confirmed the case was real, some tried a new tack: claiming, without evidence, that the child could have still legally obtained an abortion in Ohio under a near-total abortion ban that exempts only mothers whose lives or major bodily functions are at risk once fetal cardiac activity is detected.

Catherine Glenn Foster, president of the anti-abortion Americans United for Life, added another defense for young rape victims: She told the House Judiciary Committee that a 10-year-old's pregnancy "would probably impact her life and so, therefore, it would fall under any exception and would not be an abortion."

In televised statements and interviews, anti-abortion advocates have used misleading rhetoric about abortion access to downplay fallout and complications from restrictive abortion laws as doctors, struggling to interpret laws that have largely been untested in courts, turn away pregnant patients for care.

Those efforts have had an immediate impact, casting a narrative about a post-Roe v. Wade world that overlooks how abortion laws enacted in recent weeks have complicated the way doctors treat rape victims, miscarriages, and ectopic pregnancies.

More than half a dozen doctors interviewed by The Associated Press said they feel compromised and uncertain operating in an abortion landscape fundamentally changed by a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that rejected nearly 50 years of precedent that abortion was a protected constitutional right.

"It's a horrible position for healthcare providers to be in, to be unsure about what's legal and what's not legal, and to be questioning the care that they know that

Service will steward the area, ensuring the history, culture, and natural beauty of this place are protected for future generations," Trust for Public Land associate vice president Lea Hong, who leads the Hawai'i division for the organization, said in a statement.

Hong emphasized the role locals have played in preserving the land, fighting off pressure from developers and others to keep the area natural.

"It's really a testament to decades of community concern and love for that area," Hong said. "It's a testament to the community's dedication to conserving the coastline that this project will happen."

they should provide," said Dr. Jennifer Kerns, an associate professor in the department of obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive sciences at the University of California, San Francisco.

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, who initially questioned reporting of the 10-year-old girl's rape case, said in a Fox News Channel interview that she did not have to leave Ohio for abortion treatment, citing the state's exemptions. Late last month, Ohio Right to Life President Mike Gonidakis repeated the claim during a public forum: "She could have had that abortion here." The law's Republican sponsor said the same in a newspaper column.

But it's not as clear cut as they've suggested.

The state's nonpartisan Legislative Service Commission confirmed in an analysis that the age of a mother, alone, would not allow a girl to legally access the procedure in the state. Doctors in Ohio are required to document a medical condition and rationale if they administer an abortion to provide life-saving treatment.

Yost's office did not return a request for additional comment. Gonidakis laid out "different scenarios" to The AP under which the girl might have been able to access the abortion in Ohio, such as if a doctor agreed her life was at risk because of her age, while noting that he had not reviewed her medical records.

Across social media, some conservatives have also minimized concerns about access to treatment for ectopic pregnancies, calling it "still legal in every state." An ectopic pregnancy is defined as one in which a fertilized egg grows outside the uterus, where it has no chance of survival.

Abortion opponent Erin Morrow Hawley last month told the House Reform and Oversight Committee that ectopic pregnancies had become the subject of "misinformation."

"There have been social media posts suggesting that women won't get treated for an ectopic pregnancy because doctors might be afraid of performing the procedure, but that's absolutely false,"

said Hawley, an attorney at the religious nonprofit Alliance Defending Freedom. "Treatment for an ectopic pregnancy is not, in fact, an abortion."

State abortion laws, however, have fuelled confusion.

Doctors generally agree that the procedure to an end an ectopic pregnancy, which typically includes medication or surgery to remove the pregnancy, is not the same as an abortion.

But women reportedly have been declined care in states that have severely restricted abortion access, like Ohio, where an abortion is banned once fetal cardiac activity is detected. Fetal heartbeats can still be present in ectopic pregnancies. In one case, a central Texas hospital told a physician not to treat an ectopic pregnancy until it ruptured, per a letter from the Texas Medical Association.

In an e-mail to The AP, Hawley said that doctors who have turned away ectopic pregnancy patients because of abortion bans are misinterpreting the laws.

Still, before *Roe v. Wade* was even overturned by the Supreme Court in June, some religious hospitals had policies against treating women for ectopic pregnancies.

And many states have not specified in their newly enacted abortion bans that an ectopic pregnancy can be treated as an exception. That's left doctors in some states leery of ending the pregnancy, said Dr. Kate White, an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Boston University School of Medicine. Lawmakers in West Virginia, for example, are considering an abortion ban that would carve out an exception for ectopic pregnancies.

"Clinicians may be afraid to treat it if the abortion law in their state does not explicitly carve out ectopic pregnancy. You can see their worry, 'Hey, growing pregnancy, can't interrupt it ever,'" White said. "They are afraid that the law is too broad."

Kelety reported from Phoenix. Associated Press writer Julie Carr Smyth in Columbus, Ohio, contributed.