

Calls for service increase for local agencies

By Antjea Wolff
Awolff@morningsun.net

PITTSBURG, Kan. — Pittsburg Police Department and Crawford County Sheriff’s Office saw calls for service climb last week compared to the previous

week. From May 12 to 18, Pittsburg PD responded to 379 calls for service, a 6 percent increase from the previous week. The department also conducted 50 traffic stops and engaged in 138 officer self-initiated

activities. Of these calls and activities, 14 arrests were made, and 61 reports were recorded. The sheriff’s office responded to 286 calls for service, a 3 percent increase, from May 11 to 17. The department conducted 90 traffic

stops, made 13 arrests, assisted 21 motorists or community members, and took 17 reports. *This reporting is made possible, in part, by the Support Local Journalism Project Fund. Learn more at: southeastkansas.org/Localnews*

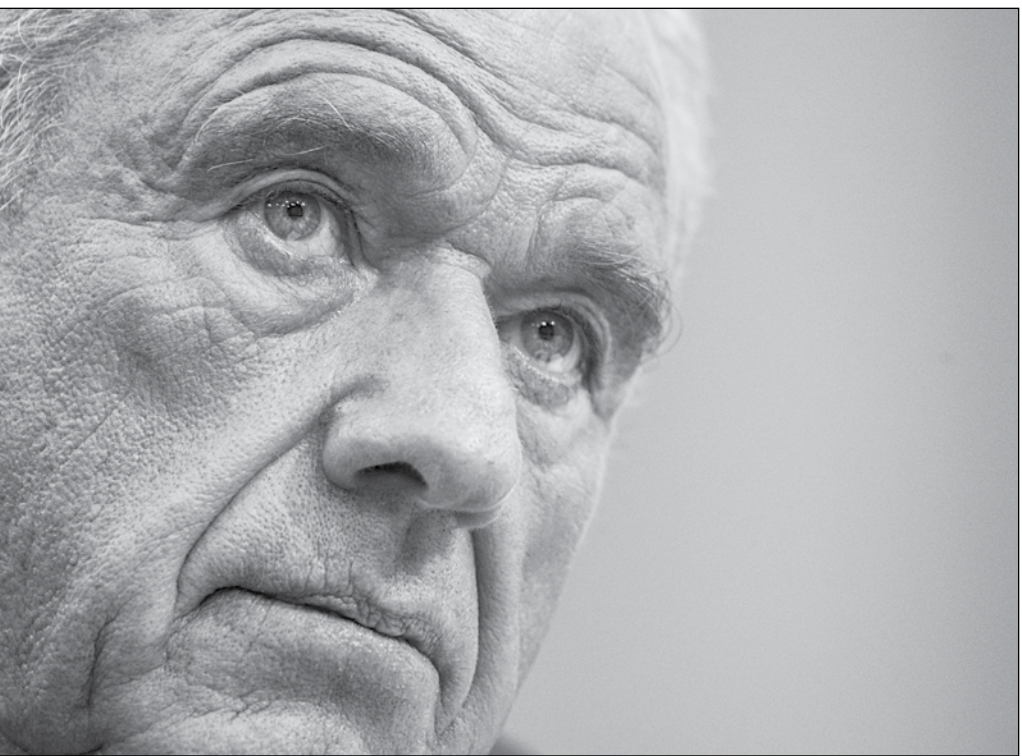
RFK Jr. pledged not to upend US vaccine system, but big changes are underway

WASHINGTON (AP) — Robert F. Kennedy Jr. clinched the political support needed to become the nation's top health official by pledging to work within the decades-old federal system for approval and use of vaccines. Yet his regulators are promising big changes that cloud the outlook for what shots might even be available.

The Food and Drug Administration will soon "unleash a massive framework" for how vaccines are tested and approved, according to Commissioner Marty Makary. Details aren't yet public but the plan is being overseen by the agency's new vaccine chief, Dr. Vinay Prasad, an outspoken critic of the FDA's handling of COVID-19 boosters.

Makary and other Trump administration officials already have taken unprecedented steps that raise uncertainty about next fall's COVID-19 vaccinations, including delaying FDA scientists' full approval of Novavax's shot — and then restricting its use to people at higher risk from the virus. They've also suggested seasonal tweaks to match the latest circulating virus strains are new products requiring extra testing.

The changes cross multiple health agencies. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention hasn't yet acted on an influential advisory panel's recent recommendations on use of a new meningitis shot or broader RSV vaccination. A meeting of Kennedy's "Make America Healthy Again" allies



Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. appears at a budget hearing before a House Appropriations, Subcommittee hearing, Wednesday, May 14, in Washington. (AP PHOTO/KEVIN WOLF)

was recently told to expect an end to COVID-19 booster recommendations for children — something that vaccine advisory panel was supposed to debate in June. And researchers around the country lost National Institutes of Health funding to study vaccine hesitancy. "I think you have to assume that RFK Jr.'s intention is to make it harder for vaccines to come to market," said Dr. Amesh Adalja, a vaccine expert at Johns Hopkins University. The changes are "looked at suspiciously because this is someone with a proven track record of evading the value of vaccines."

RAISING DOUBTS ABOUT VACCINES

In a Senate health committee hearing last week, Kennedy wrongly claimed that the only vaccines tested against a placebo, or dummy shot, were for

COVID-19. Sen. Bill Cassidy, a Louisiana Republican who chairs the committee, briefly interrupted the hearing to say, "For the record, that's not true" — pointing to placebo-controlled studies of the rotavirus, measles and HPV vaccines. Concerned by rhetoric about how vaccines are tested, a group of doctors recently compiled a list of more than 120 vaccine clinical trials spanning decades, most of them placebo-controlled, including for shots against polio, hepatitis B, mumps and tetanus. "It directly debunks the claim that vaccines were never tested against placebo," said Dr. Jake Scott, a Stanford University infectious disease physician who's helping lead the project. Antivaccine groups argue that some substances scientists call a

placebo may not really qualify, although the list shows simple saline shots are common. Sometimes a vaccine causes enough shot-site pain or swelling that it's evident who's getting the vaccine and who's in the control group — and studies might use another option that slightly irritates the skin to keep the test "blinded," Scott explained. And when there's already a proven vaccine for the same disease, it's unethical to test a new version against a placebo, he said. "We can't always expect placebo-controlled trials," Scott said. "It's imperative that be communicated clearly to the public, but it's challenging especially when there's so much noise in social media and so much misinformation."

Daughter shows what she really thinks about house rules

DEAR ABBY: We asked our 19-year-old college daughter, "Lulu," to dog-sit and housesit several months ago. She knew our rule of no visitors allowed in our home while we were out of town. Because of this, we didn't feel we needed to prepare the house by filing mail and documents away prior to our short trip. Lulu had her new boyfriend of a few weeks stay over for the weekend. She not only allowed this stranger into our home but also deceived us for months. It's difficult to let go of our disappointment in her poor judgment by allowing a stranger into our home with unsecured documents out in the open. Her sexual activities and consequences are her "adult" choices, but I'm not sure when I'll be able to trust our daughter again. She had an opportunity to start building our trust shortly after we found out about "the weekend," but didn't take our consequences and rules seriously enough during her school break and lost access to some privileges. Yes, she did start counseling sessions this past semester. Where do we go from here? -- NO TRUST IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR NO TRUST: Since we now know Lulu has poor judgment and lacks respect for your rules, take away your house key (if you haven't already), practice keeping your financial documents under lock and key when you're not in the house and hire a dog sitter. Then, cross your fingers and hope the counseling your daughter is receiving helps her become more mature and make better choices.

DEAR ABBY: I lost my daughter to cancer five years ago. She was only 36. She left behind a husband and three children, ages 3, 5 and 7. While my daughter



DEAR ABBY
Abigail Van Buren

ter and her husband worked, I was their "nanny granny" five days a week. I would also take them overnight on weekends. More often than not, I had more waking hours with my grands than their parents did. We were extremely close and bonded. After my daughter passed, my son-in-law asked me to move in to help. I was in a position to do so, and it went OK the first year. Then some cracks began to show, and we ended up having a huge fight over money (though it wasn't REALLY about money). After I said some horrible things about him on Facebook, he took the grands away from me. It has been two years, and I have begged his forgiveness to no avail. What can I do? -- MISSING THEM IN MARYLAND

DEAR MISSING THEM: You wrote that "cracks began to show." I wish you had mentioned what that huge fight was "really" about because I might have been able to answer your question about how to patch things up more fully. As it stands, all I can suggest is to continue apologizing to your former son-in-law and continue sending gifts to your grandchildren on their birthdays and at Christmas so they will know they have a grandmother who exists and cares about them.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

FREEMAN

CONTINUED FROM 1A

success of the proposed Southeast Kansas Hospital on the 55-acre Frontenac site.” The statement follows a request from the Morning Sun, last week, for clarification about the health system’s plans for the site. At a Freeman staff meeting last Thursday, Fry mentioned the feasibility study and at least a few

of those in attendance left with questions about the future of the project. According to Freeman’s Monday release, “The study will delve into all critical aspects of the \$168 million hospital, including market dynamics of the region, consumer demand, construction cost validation, and operational sustainability.” Freeman said that since he became CEO two months ago, Fry has been “assessing and

strategically coordinating efforts.” The release quoted Fry as saying that conducting the study “will best determine how to move forward in service to Southeast Kansas residents.” Freeman described the construction project as “in the initial phase which includes site development, utilities, and roadways.” According to the release, “engineers are completing the Phase 1 environmental assess-

ment of the site in Frontenac and are now in the process of geotechnical investigations of the subterranean condition.” According to previous Morning Sun reporting, in November 2024 at a Frontenac City Council meeting, then CEO Paula Baker and Project Manager Dan Taylor told city council members that civil engineers were currently doing a traffic study while geo-technical engineers were boring core sam-

ples as the underlying mines are deeper than originally anticipated. Frontenac Mayor Steve Morrison said the city was doing everything to ensure Freeman has what it needs to proceed with the plans. In March, Freeman hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the 170,000-square-foot hospital, which is designed to house 70 beds and create between 500 and 1,000 new jobs in

the area, according to Baker. The hospital will provide a variety of medical services including emergency, oncology, intensive care, in- and out-patient surgery, sports medicine, behavioral health, medical education, and a host of other services. *This reporting is made possible, in part, by the Support Local Journalism Project Fund. Learn more at: southeastkansas.org/Localnews*

THE MORNING SUN

PUBLISHER
Josh Letner
jletner@morningsun.net

BUSINESS
Kelly Mitchell
kmitchell@morningsun.net

Tiffani Gist
tgist@morningsun.net

NEWS EDITOR
Ron Womble
rwomble@morningsun.net

SPORTS EDITOR
Jim Henry
jhenry@morningsun.net

NEWS WRITERS
Aaron Pyle
apyle@morningsun.net

Dustin Strong
dstrong@morningsun.net

Antjea Wolff
awolff@morningsun.net

SPORTS WRITERS
Brock Sisney
bsisney@morningsun.net

Kalon Fullerton
kfullerton@morningsun.net

ADVERTISING
Marcia Ellinor
mellinor@morningsun.net

Logan Miles
lmiles@morningsun.net

Drake Miller
dmiller@morningsun.net

PRODUCTION
Sara Hannigan

Amber Ross

Chis Law

Angel Abshire

Covering Pittsburg and Southeast Kansas since 1887

701 N. Locust (P.O. Drawer H) Pittsburg, KS, 66762

The Pittsburg Sun — Established July 11, 1915

Published Tuesday through Saturday, except on all U.S. postal holidays.

The Morning Sun USPS 434-180 is published Tuesday through Saturday by Pittsburg Publishing Company LLC, 701 N. Locust, Pittsburg, KS 66762. Periodicals Postage Paid at Pittsburg, KS 66762. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Morning Sun, PO Box Drawer H, Pittsburg, KS 66762

Lobby hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Closed for lunch 12:30 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.

Phone: 620-231-2600 • **Questions?** Contact The Morning Sun at news@morningsun.net

Online: www.morningsun.net

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION EFFECTIVE 2-1-25 (PRINT RATES DO NOT INCLUDE SALES TAX)
PRINT SUBSCRIPTION INCLUDES UNLIMITED DIGITAL ACCESS & E-EDITION

	In-county	Out-of-county	Out-of-state	Electronic-only
1 year	\$190.99	\$234.99	\$263.99	\$124.99
6 months	\$96.99	\$122.99	\$130.99	\$72.99
3 months	\$52.99	\$61.99	\$70.99	\$38.99
1 month	\$19.99	\$22.99	\$24.99	\$14.99

Please contact the appropriate email below according to the subject of your inquiry:

Display ads — advertising@morningsun.net Obituaries — obits@morningsun.net

Classified ads — classified@morningsun.net News tips and press releases — news@morningsun.net