

December Article



Chinese capsule begins its return

Kaushya Bhattu



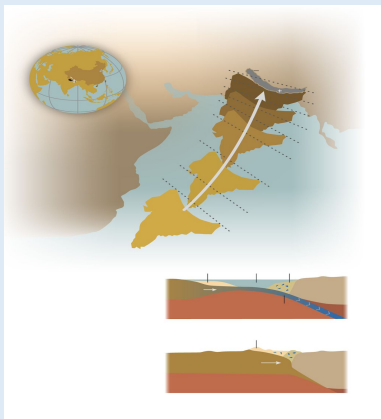
In more than four decades, a Chinese capsule with moon rocks begins its return to earth. Orbiting around the moon for around a week, The Chang'e 5 lunar probe fired up its engines to move out of the moon's orbit. The craft landed on the moon earlier this month, collecting about 4.4 pounds of samples in an area known for ancient volcanic activity. The capsule itself will be separated from the spacecraft. The collected moon rocks will be examined to learn more about the moon's history and other activities in the solar system itself. The examination will be studied in the lab and the samples will be examined for composition and age. After the

moon rocks have reached Earth, they are expected to be shared with other countries. Although these are the updates currently, there are more future plans to begin as early as 2022.

Source: <https://apnews.com/article/china-moon-3459705b9a573a20a87a9b8f4b433671>

Heights of The Mt. Everest

Amruta Aradwad



Mount Everest is one of the tallest mountain peaks in the world. It was formed some 60 million years ago when the Indian Tectonic Plate collided with the Eurasian Plate. The result was the Mighty Himalayan Range and eventually Mt. Everest. The Tibet and Nepal border gave rise to the formation of Everest. Nepal and China have agreed on a new standard height for Mt. Everest, according to AP News. There were many geological ups and downs the mountain had faced. The height keeps changing, the movement of the tectonic plates can lift it up ever so gradually but the earthquakes bring it down. The new height increase on the peak is 0.86 m or more than 2 ft, given by Nepal.

Source:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/earth/why-mount-everest-can-grow-and-shrink-plate-tectonics/>

The Covid-19 Vaccine

Sanjita Suryadevara



The coronavirus pandemic has wreaked havoc across the world for approximately a year now. The impact hits close to home, with North Carolina alone affected by 425,000 cases and the United States holding a grim 16 million cases. But as the year nears the end of its tunnel, we may finally see a light. On December 11, the Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use authorization for the vaccine from Pfizer and BioNTech, for people of age 16 years and older. Federal officials have announced that the distribution of the first 2.9 billion doses would begin

within the first 24 hours of authorization. The CDC advises that health-care workers and nursing home residents—some of the most vulnerable populations—be the first to receive the vaccine.

The creation and authorization of this vaccine not only provides us with a sliver of hope but also serves as a historical moment in science. The time between the discovery of the virus and the development of the vaccine is only a span of 11 months. Even though these 11 months may have seemed extensively prolonged for the worse, they were much shorter compared to the time it took to develop other notable vaccines. Previous to the covid-19 vaccine, the mumps vaccine held the record for the shortest timeline; a whopping 4 years. There is still no vaccine for AIDS, even after nearly four decades following the identification of HIV. “It’s an all-capital-letters, followed by several exclamation points,” Howard Markel, a medical historian for the University of Michigan, stated about the accomplishment.

The science behind the vaccine also proves to be revolutionary; the Pfizer-BioNTech product uses a portion of genetic material condensed in a fat bubble in order to instruct cells to build the proteins necessary to dot the virus. This will be the first time genetic technology has been used in a population outside of clinical trials. The Moderna vaccine, which uses a similar method, is set to enter a review by the FDA before its authorization.

Although the promising news and studies revolving around these vaccines do account for optimism, there is still much to be done before we can put this health crisis behind us. There is still a question of how long the vaccine protection lasts, how to effectively manufacture and distribute the product, and how to keep the stock available for the public as demand increases. Younger people and people with no underlying health issues are less likely to receive shots before late spring or early summer of next year. The ever-growing denial of the virus and downplaying of its threat could make this effort especially difficult. Pfizer is also keeping a close eye on ongoing vaccine trials and results for any allergic reactions after British health authorities reported two recipients of the vaccine to be showing severe allergic reactions. Richard Hatchett, chief executive of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (a non-profit group funding the virus research), stated, “The entire world is seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, but for most of the world, they are still in a very, very long tunnel, and that’s the problem...the reason we’ve developed the vaccine is to end the pandemic, and you don’t end the pandemic until you...protect the most vulnerable people, who are globally distributed.”

There is still much to be done before we can go back to life as it was. We may never be able to return to the past, either. But just as the vaccine is being brought to us through the

Our News

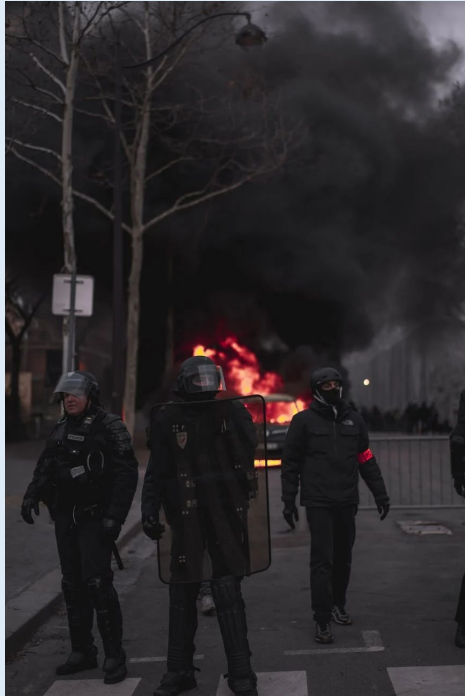
innovation and hard work of thousands of people in a time of crisis, we can use that same innovation and hard work to redefine our lifestyles as the world itself changes. And eventually, we will get to the end of this tunnel. ~

Source:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/10/6-key-questions-about-the-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine>

What could an American Civil War look like?

Ayemhenre Isikhuemhen



It's no secret that many are speculating about a second American civil war, as fear-driven masses are gearing up. One of the most prominent questions asked by everyone is "in a scenario of a civil war sparked by political tension, what would it look like?". First, we should understand that such a civil war wouldn't reflect conventional warfare like that in the world wars and in the first civil war. Expect many different groups with specific political ideas and objectives of different sizes will be consolidating power in local areas or in important cities for the Country, mind that even if a group is relatively small they still can pose a great threat, as in during Hong Kong protests against the Chinese government, the protesters had been to stockpiled over 40,000 firebombs like Molotovs makeshift gasoline bombs, in only one university campus the protester was holding down. All thanks to time and consumer resources.

Many civilians who are currently gearing up from all sides of the political spectrum and all races are acquiring firearms and training, so one could imagine the chaos that could arise from the incident. Due to the "war" situation people around the world would see the war as American government vs insurgences, and this could determine the winner of the war, whatever political groups like the democrats or republicans are considered the legitimate government will be able to win and subjugate the populace in the long run, for one they will be receiving aid from allies like South Korea, Nato, and global sympathizers, and most importantly the legitimate government will have the support, the majority of the populace and even military who would rather feel safe and have stability rather than to overthrow a government. Although urban 4th generation warfare is difficult to combat, I believe that the constitution will overcome another obstacle. I am certain that within the first 2 months there will be many casualties in every part of the country.

Source: Aloïs Moubax from Pexels

New Museum: Rich Girl Museum in Greensboro

Ashley Harshaw



In Michaela Ratiff's "For the 'gram': Rich Girls Museum in GSO takes selfies to a whole level," she describes the new museum in Greensboro. The owner of the museum, MerTeekia Sweat posted a TikTok that went viral and it made the museum popular. The museum is a selfie museum. A selfie museum is where rooms are used for a photoshoot. The door to the museum is a soda machine. MerTeekia Sweat decided

to open in Greensboro because there is nothing to do here. She had to do a lot of research about the selfie museums. She lived in Los Angeles and visited many places.

I really want to go to the Rich Girls Museum. It seems really cool and you can take good pictures there. I saw the TikTok that the owner posted. There is a pink room with airplane seats and a room with yellow and white gumball machines and more. I think this will be very profitable for MerTeekia Sweat!

Source: <https://triad-city-beat.com/rich-girls-museum/>

Schools reopening in January (NC)

Avyukth Bhattu



With there being a vaccine made for the Coronavirus schools in North Carolina especially Guilford county has stated that they want to open schools back up again sometime in mid to late January. Schools are letting people stay at home for the year to feel safe and are trying to work an A-day, B-day schedule so they can keep the students safe. If that happens there are many problems that we will face because so much is undefined and is getting worked on. Teaching will be harder as well

because the teachers have to teach the students in class as well as the ones online, this will definitely take a toll on the pace at which we go normally. Overall I feel like unless we can carry out this plan flawlessly, which is going to be really hard to do given the circumstance, the county/state should just continue virtual learning and end the year that way because this can give the state time to rethink what they should do educationally for students which wouldn't be as big of a risk as it is now.

Source: <https://theconversation.com/how-other-countries-reopened-schools-during-the-pandemic-and-what-the-us-can-learn-from-them-142706>