

California's Dixie Fire now second-largest in state's history

By [Amanda Watts](#) and [Camille Furst](#), CNN

Updated 7:23 PM ET, Sun August 8, 2021

The [Dixie Fire](#) in California, the largest wildfire currently burning in the country, has grown to become the second-biggest in the state's history, according to [CalFire](#). The blaze has scorched 463,477 acres of land in northeastern California and is second only to the [August Complex Fire](#), which ravaged Northern California almost a year ago, burning more than 1 million acres.

What does the Delta variant have in store for the United States? We asked coronavirus experts

By [Meredith Wadman](#), Science Magazine

Aug. 4, 2021 , 6:50 PM.

The United States is standing at a dire inflection point, with pandemic coronavirus cases surging and **only 50%** of the population fully vaccinated. Driving the latest wave is the highly contagious Delta variant, which according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) caused between 80% and 87% of all U.S. COVID-19 cases in the last 2 weeks of July. The variant's exceptional infectiousness has driven cases from a 7-day average of 13,500 daily cases in early June to 92,000 on 3 August. The good news is that severe disease and death are highly unlikely among the vaccinated—and U.S. vaccination rates are beginning to increase once again, if modestly.

Kim Kardashian Ended Her Marriage To Kanye West After Growing Tired Of "Extravagance" And Having "No One To Share Life With" When He Made Them Live Apart

[Ellie Woodward](#), BuzzFeed

Posted on June 11, 2021, at 5:04 a.m. ET

In the final episode of the last ever season of *Keeping Up With the Kardashians*, Kim told all. She reflected, "I never thought I was lonely. But, turning 40 this year, I was like, 'No, I don't want a husband that lives in a completely different state...I used to think that [living apart] was when we were getting along the best, but to me that's sad and that's not what I want,'" she continues. "I want someone where we have the same [TV] shows in common. I want someone that wants to work out with me."

Olivia Rodrigo's 'Sour' Scores 2021's Biggest Album Debut

By [Ellise Shafer](#), [Variety Magazine](#)

Jun 1, 2021 3:50pm PT

Rodrigo's debut album, "Sour," which released on May 21, debuted at the top of the Rolling Stone album chart for the week of May 21-27. With 302,100 total album-equivalent units, the 11-track record scored the biggest album debut of 2021 so far, besting Taylor Swift's "Fearless".

The cost of the Suez Canal blockage

By Mary-Ann Russon, BBC News

Published 29 March, 2021

A huge container ship that has been wedged in the Suez Canal since Tuesday has finally been freed from the shoreline. Peter Berdowski, chief executive of Dutch salvage company Boskalis, said the Ever Given had been refloated on Monday, "thereby making free passage through the Suez Canal possible again". However, it is not clear yet when full traffic in the canal can resume. The blockage has been the source of much worry and frustration for the global shipping industry. Looking at the bigger picture, German insurer Allianz said on Friday its analysis showed the blockage could cost global trade between \$6 to \$10 billion a week and reduce annual trade growth by 0.2 to 0.4 percentage points.

Simone Biles wins bronze in balance beam after withdrawing from other Tokyo Olympics events

BY CHRISTOPHER BRITO

UPDATED ON: AUGUST 3, 2021 / 7:28 PM / CBS NEWS

Simone Biles has won bronze in the women's balance beam final after pulling out of other events at the Tokyo Olympics, citing mental health issues. She continued to defend her decision to remove herself from competition for her own safety. That thrust conversation around mental health into the spotlight. Biles is the most decorated American gymnast of all time. She has won 25 medals at world championships and now, seven more at the Olympics, according to her Olympic page.

Senators Push Infrastructure Bill A Step Closer To Passage

August 9, 2021 12:05 AM, NPR News

Senators hoisted the \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill over another hurdle late Sunday, a coalition of Democrats and Republicans pushing it closer to passage despite a few holdouts trying to derail one of President Joe Biden's top priorities. The rare momentum in government was holding steady, a reflection of the bill's popularity and the eagerness of senators to show voters back home they can deliver. One of the biggest investments of its kind in years, the bill promises to unleash billions of dollars to upgrade roads, bridges, broadband internet, water pipes and other public works systems supporting the nation.

Families, Teachers Fret Over Delta Variant as Schools Reopen

By Lesley McClurg, KQED

Aug 7

Bay Area students are beginning to head back to school for the start of the fall semester, with some seeing the inside of a classroom for the first time in 18 months. But COVID-19 cases are spiking across the region, fueled by the highly transmissible delta variant. However, public health officials and school leaders are not considering closing schools. They learned a lot of hard lessons during the pandemic. Isolation is not good for any of us, especially children. Dr. Sunitha Kaiser, a UCSF pediatrician and professor, stated "We know now that the benefits of being in school for children far outweigh the risks."