

Oxnard police release video of officer-involved shooting

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VENTURA COUNTY STAR

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Ship's passengers unload for quarantine

Vessel at the center of hantavirus outbreak

Kathryn Palmer, Sara M Moniuszko, Marina Pitofsky and Daniel de Visé
USA TODAY

The cruise ship at the center of a hantavirus outbreak arrived in Spain on May 10, and officials started the process of moving groups of passengers back to their home countries to begin quarantining.

Once the MV Hondius anchored near Tenerife, Spanish nationals disembark-

ed on small boats and were taken to shore, then transferred onto buses and taken to the local airport.

The passengers who are not showing any symptoms of the virus will board a flight back to Madrid on a Spanish military plane.

They'll be taken to a hospital to be quarantined, government officials said. They will have no physical contact with members of the public.

Planes for the Spanish and French nationals had departed by 6:30 a.m. Eastern time, Reuters reported. Canada, the Netherlands, the U.K., Turkey, Ireland, and the United States were listed

by Spanish health minister Monica Garcia as the next countries to evacuate their citizens, with the Dutch plane also due to take Germans, Belgians and Greeks, according to Reuters.

The World Health Organization said on May 8 that eight people had fallen ill in cases linked to the ship, including three who died – a Dutch couple and a German national. Six of these people were confirmed to have contracted the virus, with two other suspected cases, the WHO said.

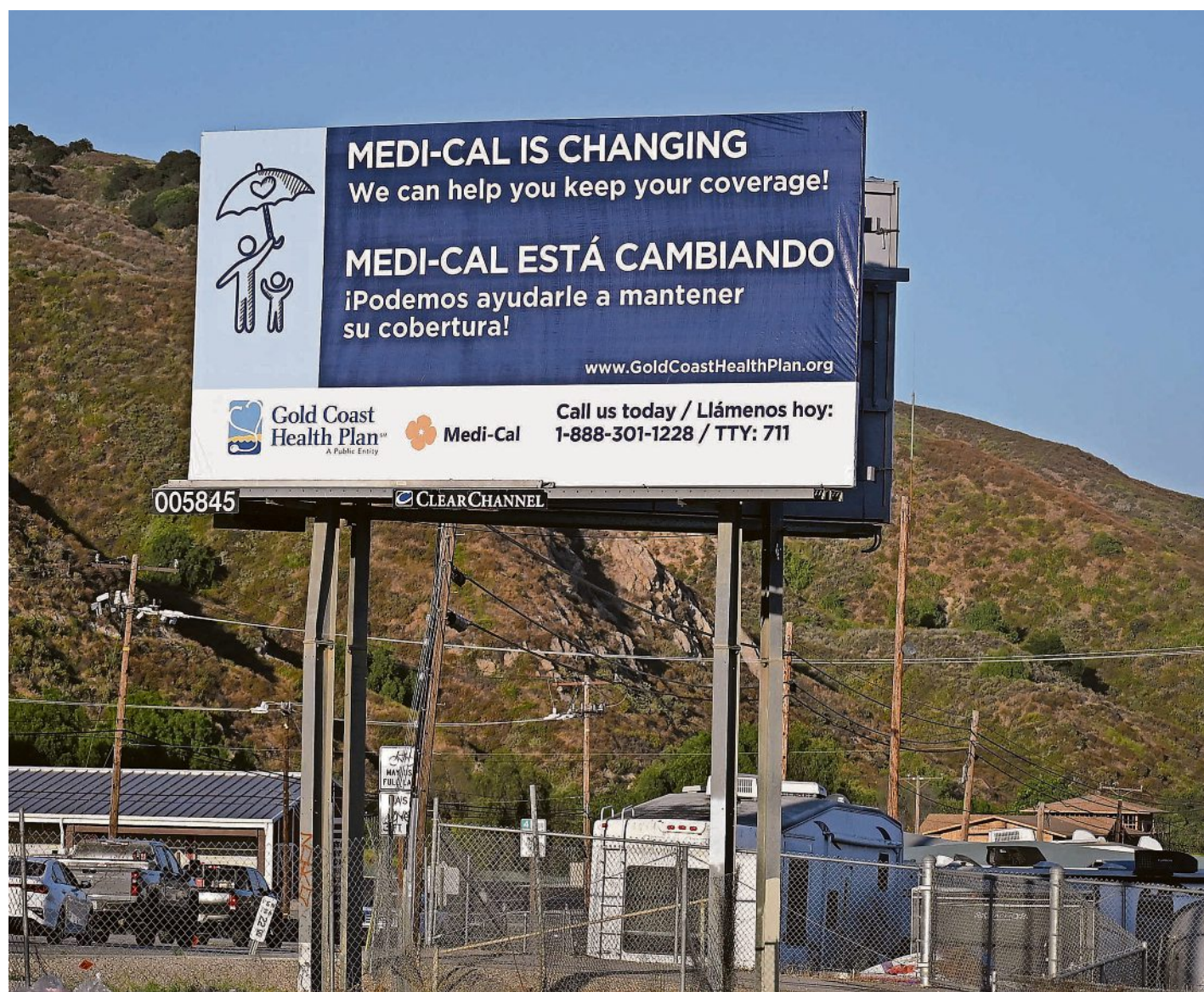
Americans will be taken to Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska, where they will be transported to the National

Quarantine Center at the University of Nebraska, Omaha, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials.

Top American health officials, including the CDC, have said they're "actively monitoring and responding" to the outbreak, though the risk to the United States remains "extremely low."

The WHO has recommended a 42-day quarantine period for passengers aboard the ship, starting May 10, and has also assessed the virus' risk to the public as low.

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A billboard along Highway 126 in Fillmore on May 7 urges people to keep their Medi-Cal insurance coverage. Enrollment in the program is falling. TOM KISKEN/THE STAR

Thousands drop Medi-Cal insurance in Ventura County

Tom Kisken
Ventura County Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

More than 13,000 Ventura County residents have dropped their Medi-Cal health insurance since October in a decline officials are convinced will continue and possibly snowball.

Leaders of the Gold Coast Health Plan, which administers Medi-Cal in Ventura County, said they're investigating the exact reasons for their falling membership numbers. But they pointed fingers at immigration enforcement fear, renewal and enrollment changes as well as coming provisions of President Donald Trump's "big beautiful bill."

Dr. Felix Nuñez, CEO of Gold Coast Health Plan, said 10,000 more people could drop out of the program by the end of year as part of a trend being felt statewide. He said the loss of insurance will mean sick people won't get treatment and will inflict financial wounds on every health system in the county.

"We can't stop this," Nuñez said, adding that the goal is to address misinformation that may be pushing people out of the program and slow the enrollment slide. "Will it be really, really bad or can we make it less bad?"



Dr. Felix Nuñez PROVIDED BY GOLD COAST HEALTH PLAN

Medi-Cal is the insurance program funded by state and federal government for low-income residents. In Ventura County, more than 227,000 people are covered by the program — about 1 in 4 residents.

Enrollment in the Gold Coast had been rising. The decline, now nearly 6% of total enrollment, emerged shortly after the July passage of Trump's budget reconciliation package – the "big beautiful bill." The law includes about \$900 billion less in spending over 10 years to the nationwide Medicaid health insur-

ance system that includes Medi-Cal in California.

The legislation is designed to save money by targeting fraud and waste in Medicaid. Changes include adding more frequent eligibility checks and other requirements needed to keep coverage. The bill brings cost-sharing provisions for some adults and work-reporting rules that mean many recipients will have to hold jobs, go to school or do volunteer work in order to keep insurance.

The Congressional Budget Office projected the law will increase the number of uninsured people in 2034 by 10 million.

'This is deliberate'

But the biggest changes have not yet begun with provisions like the work rules and increased eligibility checks set to start in January. Nuñez said the legislation has fueled confusion about timelines and eligibility that may be causing people to drop coverage when they're still eligible.

"That to me is not an accident. This is deliberate," he said, contending the

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Infighting slows Trump's agenda in GOP Congress

Zachary Schermele
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-Louisiana, said he's doing the impossible on Capitol Hill.

Over the last few weeks, Johnson has been hard at work negotiating with House Republicans and Senate counterparts to enact President Donald Trump's legislative agenda in a critical midterm election year, despite a historically small voting margin.

That's one way of looking at it. Another perspective, according to Sen. John Kennedy, R-Louisiana: "Mike's having a tough time."

"He's good," the often-frank lawmaker said in April in the halls of the Capitol. "But he can't work miracles."

Kennedy's observations came during a challenging week in the House. Republican infighting was on full display as Johnson struggled to cobble together the votes needed to advance a farm bill, extend a government spying program, and end the partial Department of Homeland Security shutdown.

Though the farm bill passed, it still faces an uncertain future in the Senate,

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Warm temps stoke fears of day-biting mosquitoes in county

Tom Kisken
Ventura County Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Insect control workers worry coming warm weather will turn Aedes aegypti mosquitoes into party guests that arrived way too early and never leave.

The day-biting, ankle-targeting mosquitoes hit Ventura County starting in January and picked up steam during March's record heat. Over the first three months of the year, a county-run mosquito hot line pulsed with calls at a volume officials believe is more than has ever been received over that time period.

Now forecasts for temperatures reaching into the 80s over parts of the county stokes concern eggs will be hatched and the biting season will heat up again.

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