

LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

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BUSINESS Fast-food chain is deploying corporate workers to fill labor shortage **8B**

KATS Wayne Newton postpones his upcoming Strip return because of back pain **3A** ▶

THURSDAY
October 14, 2021

MUSTREADS



The Associated Press

NATION

- "Star Trek's" William Shatner blasted into space on a historic flight. **8A**
- FDA officials said they are grappling with the timing of J&J vaccine boosters. **8A**
- The film and television workers union threatened to strike next week. **8A**

SPORTS

- The Golden Knights' more aggressive defensive approach led directly to the winning goal in their season opener. **1C**

NEVADA & THE WEST

- Clark County reported 385 new coronavirus cases and 20 deaths. **1B**
- Negotiations over CCSD's employee vaccine mandate have not yet started, unions said. **1B**
- Skeletal remains were identified as a Henderson woman who went missing in December. **1B**

BUSINESS

- Retailers are urging holiday shoppers to buy early because of supply chain snags. **10B**

WASHINGTON REPORT

- The U.S. and Israel said they are exploring a "Plan B" for dealing with Iran. **2A**
- Progressives warned against a "false choice" in cuts to the president's agenda. **2A**

OPINION

- The age skew of the coronavirus shows how important it is for seniors to get vaccine boosters. **7B**

WORLD

- WHO announced it will reinvestigate the origins of the coronavirus. **11A**
- Russia's Vladimir Putin said the Kremlin has "constructive" relations with the U.S. **11A**



Plenty of sun
72 52

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LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL
Volume 117, Number 197

Inflation soars in U.S.

Supply line woes 1 of many reasons

By Christopher Rugaber
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Another jump in consumer prices in September sent inflation up 5.4 percent from where it was a year ago, matching the largest increase since 2008 as tangled global supply lines continue to create havoc. U.S. consumer prices rose 0.4 percent in September from August as the costs

of new cars, food, gas, and restaurant meals all jumped.

The annual increase in the consumer price index matched readings in June and July as the highest in 13 years, the Labor Department said Wednesday. Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, core inflation rose 0.2 percent in September and 4 percent compared with a year ago. Core prices hit a three-decade high of 4.5 percent in June.

The ongoing price gains raise pressure on the Federal

See **INFLATION** 6A

Social Security benefits to see 5.9% boost in '22

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Christopher Rugaber
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Millions of retirees on Social Security will get a 5.9 percent boost in benefits for 2022. The biggest cost-of-living adjustment in 39 years follows a burst in inflation as the economy struggles to shake off the drag of the

coronavirus pandemic.

The COLA, as it's commonly called, amounts to an added \$92 a month for the average retired worker, according to estimates Wednesday from the Social Security Administration. It's an abrupt break from a long lull in inflation that saw cost-of-living adjustments

See **COLA** 6A

Rising prices President Joe Biden said that he will open the Port of Los Angeles 24/7 to ease supply issues and tame inflation ▶ **Page 10B**

Regroup, restart for Raiders



Benjamin Hager Las Vegas Review-Journal @benjaminhphoto

Raiders interim head coach Rich Bisaccia directs practice Wednesday at the Intermountain Healthcare Performance Center in Henderson. After Monday's bombshell resignation of Jon Gruden, the Raiders say they are focused on Sunday's game in Denver against the Broncos.

In Sports

- The process of moving on from former coach Jon Gruden officially began for the Raiders on Wednesday. **1C**
- Derek Carr and Gruden had a special bond, but now the QB must lead the team through adversity. **1C**



Bill Dentzer Las Vegas Review-Journal
Gov. Steve Sisolak says "it's going to be a heated year in Nevada for politics."

Sisolak preps for 'heated year'

Governor defends COVID decisions

By Bill Dentzer
Review-Journal Capital Bureau

CARSON CITY — Like the premature autumn cold snap, election year politics has also arrived in Nevada's capital early. Not even the Halloween decorations that festoon the governor's mansion are above partisan reproach.

The seasonal décor, unchanged for at least a decade, prompted a resident's complaint to local media this week that one dangling fake head looked too much like former President Donald Trump. Eager not to offend, staff at the mansion replaced it with a lantern.

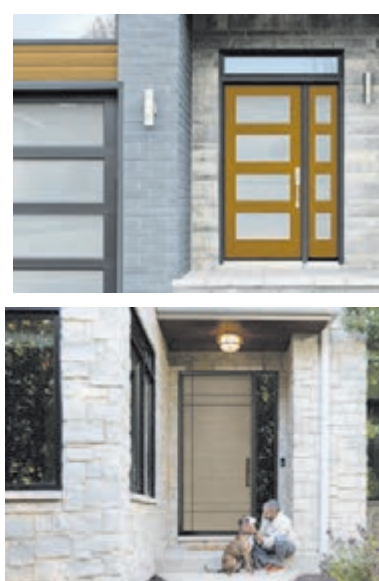
The complaint doesn't much surprise the mansion's current resident, first-term Gov. Steve Sisolak, a Democrat running for re-election

next year. Nevada's 2022 primaries might be still eight months off, the general election five months after that. But for all the activity the election is generating it could be right around the corner. Months ahead of the official filing period, some five Republicans already have lined up to challenge him.

"Between my race and (U.S.) Sen. (Catherine) Cortez

See **SISOLAK** 7A

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► **SISOLAK**

Continued from Page 1A

Masto's race, it's going to be heated year in Nevada for politics," the governor said in an interview Wednesday.

The remark might wind up an understatement. The governor's race will surf pent-up voter sentiment from the economic, political and social upheaval brought on nationally by a deadly pandemic, not to mention clashes over police conduct and voting rights, a presidential race undermined by falsehoods, and an unprecedented assault on the seat of national government by an armed mob.

Central to his re-election will be how voters rate his handling of the coronavirus outbreak. Sisolak shut down the state in mid-March 2020 as the pandemic took hold, ordering businesses to close and putting other restrictions in place to slow the spread of disease. It will be "up to the voters to decide what kind of job we did on COVID," he says.

"The naysayers are loud. I don't know how many of them there are. But I've never focused any decisions that I've made as relates to COVID on re-election," Sisolak said. "They were strictly based on science and medical advice that I was given by my medical advisory team. And that's what I use to make my decisions."

He adds: "When I put my head down on my pillow at night, I know that I did the best job I possibly can. And I know that there's not a doubt in my mind that the actions that we have taken since March of 2020 have saved a lot of lives."

"I understand they make the argument about freedom and what-not, but my whole premise has been keeping people alive," he adds. "I've thought about this a lot, but I don't know why and how this became so politicized. Testing was politicized. Wearing masks is politicized. Social distancing, capacity and restaurants is politicized. It shouldn't be that way. I mean, we should all care about each other. And unfortunately, we have seen, in my opinion, the best of the people and the worst of the people during the pandemic."

The coming election

To date, announced Republican opponents include former U.S. Sen. and Secretary of State Dean Heller, North Las Vegas Mayor John Lee,



Bill Dentzer Las Vegas Review-Journal
Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak gave a reporter a tour of the governor's mansion Wednesday in Carson City.

Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo, businessman Guy Nohra and Reno lawyer Joey Gilbert.

"They're not running against me yet, but they are talking like they're running against me," Sisolak said. The candidates "focus all on everything that I've done and I haven't done, and I get criticized every day for that. None of them have any good ideas in terms of what they would have done differently than I did."

He adds later: "I think what they have to do is differentiate themselves from each other, which I'm not seeing. Running against me is not enough in my opinion to win an election. They're gonna have to have a plan moving forward. I don't know what that plan is. Right now the plan is to criticize how I'm doing things, but at some point, to gain more votes they have to say I'm better than this one."

Failed blockchain proposal

The governor is coming off the recent demise of a policy initiative he threw his full weight behind this year - Innovation Zones, under which tech-related companies could have carved out county-like governments in rural areas. The proposal failed to win any meaningful support in the Legislature this year, and at the end of September, the company behind the plan surrendered and withdrew

the idea, criticizing the governor in the process.

"No, innovation zones was not a mistake. It didn't work out," the governor said, noting the lack of business diversity in the state. "This was an idea that was brought to me that was potentially tens of thousands of jobs, could provide affordable housing, and could provide a future for an awful lot of people in Northern Nevada on some undeveloped land. I'm willing to sit down and talk to them, I wish it would have gotten more vetting. It didn't, it didn't get any traction, it didn't get anybody buying into the project, and the developer backed away from it. And I understand it's his money, it's his land, he gets to do whatever he wants to do. But I think the idea of attempting to diversify our economy and listen to ideas is a good thing."

Challenges beyond COVID

Sisolak says a second term will focus on rebuilding the economy and increasing employment in a state that has "lost a lot of jobs." The state's unemployment rate remains stubbornly atop the nation's and "a lot of those jobs are never coming back," especially in the hospitality sector.

"We need to train workers into another field," he said, building back the job base in small but steady increments. "There are not many

things that come along like what happened in Northern Nevada with Tesla or Panasonic or Switch that are thousands of jobs," he said. "That just doesn't happen. You've got to do it 50 jobs, 100 jobs, 20 jobs at a time. And that's what we're doing."

Getting personal

Sisolak says he still rises at 4 a.m. daily, spends an hour walking on a treadmill, and is in good health. A devout Catholic, he says his faith guides his toughest decisions.

"I get down on my knees every morning and say my prayers. It's an important part of my life and who I am. During the toughest times of this pandemic, I probably prayed more to make decisions that you know are going to be unpopular. I know when I make the decisions that 50 percent of people aren't gonna like it. But 50 percent are. But in my heart, I know that it's the right thing to do. And I put a lot of faith in God to advise me to give some direction in that regard."

Asked about making his case for re-election, he says the state is "closer to the end than we are to the beginning" of the pandemic emergency, but that the future is unpredictable. The economy, he said, is rebounding very, very quickly, citing monthly gaming wins that are approaching all time highs, and he says he's "confident that our economy is going to be a lot better in six months, a year than it is now."

He cites passage this year of education funding "at a level higher than it's ever been funded before," with a late-session compromise that imposed higher taxes on the state's mining industry, and a continued emphasis on diversifying the state's economy, including efforts to make it a hub for power transmission and renewable energy production.

"Whether it's an economic downturn, whether it's a natural disaster, whether it's a shooting in Las Vegas, that, you know, shut down the Strip for a while, whether it's a pandemic, a lot of things have happened in my life that have negatively impacted gaming," he said. "We need to do what we can to diversify away from just a single industry. And I think we're sending a message that we're doing that."

Contact Capital Bureau reporter Bill Dentzer at bdentzer@reviewjournal.com. Follow @DentzerNews on Twitter.

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