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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Exclusive: To tap U.S. government billions, Tesla must unlock EV chargers

Feb 10 (Reuters) - Tesla CEO Elon Musk has often talked about opening his Supercharging network to competitors, but has never actually done so in the United States, where the company dominates the electric vehicle market.

Now, the brash CEO may have 7.5 billion reasons to accelerate those plans.

The Department of Transportation next week is expected to finalize a requirement that will pressure Tesla to expand beyond its proprietary charging equipment in the U.S. and add the charger used by its competitors, administration officials tell Reuters.

Otherwise, the carmaker will be left out of the \$7.5 billion in subsidies flowing out of Washington, part of President Joe Biden's plan to blanket the nation with 500,000 EV chargers in the coming years, up from 100,000 in 2021.

The network is a central part of Biden's plan to tackle climate change by converting 50% of all new U.S. vehicle sales to electric by 2030. A dearth of chargers on U.S. roads has slowed the growth of EV sales and the positive environmental impact, advocates say.

German state open to Chinese firm taking over Ford plant Gigapresses - the giant die casts reshaping car manufacturing As the U.S. pressure builds, there are plenty of signs that Tesla is on the brink of democratizing its network, even though Musk has denounced the federal government's involvement before.

In January of last year, Tesla wrote the Federal Highway Administration, offering the Biden administration suggestions on how to shape

the charging program. In Ohio, the company responded to a recent request that companies submit charging proposals, state officials told Reuters. In Arizona, the company told the state it was open to upgrading its chargers or building new ones to meet the federal requirements, although a final decision was not made.

Musk met with White House officials last month in Washington D.C. Among the items discussed was EV charging program, White House infrastructure czar Mitch Landrieu told reporters.

Musk, for his part, said in a July 2021 earnings call that the point of Tesla's charging network was "not to create a walled garden and use that to bludgeon our competitors," but has not publicly discussed plans for U.S. market changes. The company has opened up some Superchargers in Europe and Australia.

An email to Tesla and Musk was not returned.

State officials are optimistic.

"We do understand that Tesla is looking to tweak their system to be more open access. So, if they do reach that point and meet those eligibility requirements, they certainly will be eligible for funding," said Stuart Anderson, the state of Iowa's Transportation Development Division Director.

SUPERCHARGER DOMINANCE
Tesla's U.S. Supercharger network is often held up as the gold standard: fast, reliable, and plentiful, with about 40,000 chargers worldwide.

But for years, the network has been exclusive to Tesla



owners, thanks to a plug that connects only to Tesla cars, meaning someone driving a Volkswagen, Ford, or Chevy vehicle wouldn't be able to use it.

Tesla drivers can purchase an adapter to connect with the U.S. standard "Combined Charging System" or CCS chargers but people who don't own a Tesla can't do the same with Superchargers.

Opening up its networks could grow a funding and revenue stream for Tesla, but could erode the brand's exclusivity and make it challenging for the automaker to manage the network, analysts say.

"It's definitely a balance for them: how much potential federal subsidies for expanding their network versus maintaining that competitive advantage on charging," Chris Harto, a Senior Policy Analyst at Consumer Reports said.

The Department of Transportation next week will detail final requirements that all electric vehicle chargers must meet to be eligible for funding under the \$7.5 billion effort to electrify highways and interstates across

the nation. Those requirements will also touch on cybersecurity and how much and what parts of the charger must be made in America.

Chargers seeking to become part of the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program must utilize a combined charging system, or CCS, the standard in the U.S. on nearly all charging stations except Tesla's popular Superchargers.

The move to finalize so-called 'minimum standards' by the administration is expected to unlock the first wave of funding and set off fierce competition among companies like ChargePoint Holdings and (CHPT.N) and EVgo Inc (EVGO.O). For these small companies, it represents a generational opportunity.

Any charger that wants to be eligible for federal dollars will have to meet the CCS standard once the rules are finalized next week, administration officials told Reuters.

Last year, Tesla offered up another idea. In its letter to the FHA, the company proposed that its Superchargers should qualify for rebates if they are co-located

A Tesla is charged at an electric car supercharger station in Los Angeles, California, U.S. August 2, 2018. REUTERS/Lucy Nicholson

with CCS chargers that work with competitors.

An administration official told Reuters that request was not seriously considered

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LOCAL NEWS

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates: ChatGPT 'will change our world'

Feb 10 (Reuters) - Florida lawmakers on Friday granted Governor Ron DeSantis effective control of the board that oversees development in and around Walt Disney Co's (DIS.N) central Florida theme parks, escalating the Republican's battle with the company.

State Republicans targeted Disney after it publicly clashed with DeSantis last year over a law that restricts classroom instruction of gender and sexual orientation, known by its opponents as the "Don't Say Gay" measure.

Legislators in Florida gave final approval on Friday to a bill authorizing the governor to appoint five supervisors to run what is now known as the Reedy Creek Improvement District, a quasi-government entity with oversight of the 25,000 acres surrounding the Walt Disney World resort.

The state Senate will confirm board members, and the board will have no role in day-to-day operations of the theme parks.

DeSantis' spokesperson Bryan Griffin said the prior system, under which the Florida legislature in 1967 gave Disney sole control over the district, lacked accountability.

"Florida is ... beginning a new era of accountability and transparency," he said.

Disney World is the largest employer in central Florida with close to 75,000 employees and drew 36.2 million visitors in 2021, according to the Themed Entertainment Association. The legislature voted last year to dissolve the special district, which for more than a half-century gave Disney the autonomy to govern itself, providing such government services as fire protection, water, sewer and waste removal services and infrastructure.

The action, seen as retaliation for Disney's then-Chief Executive Officer Bob Chapek speaking out against the state law limiting classroom discussion of LGBTQ issues, came with unintended consequences.

Tax experts and legislators warned that eliminating the district in



June 2023 would leave county taxpayers liable for nearly \$1.2 billion in bond debt.

The new bill preserves the Reedy Creek special district, though within two years it will be renamed Central Florida Tourism Oversight District. It will have the authority to collect revenue, pay off debt and provide a range of government services. The district is prohibited from operating its own airport or building nuclear power plants.

The legislation also expressly bars anyone with ties to the theme parks over the past three years from serving on the board.

Walt Disney World President Jeff Vahle praised the Reedy Creek district, saying it had helped the theme park grow and contribute to the

state's economy. "We are focused on the future and are ready to work within this new framework," he said in a statement.

The state Senate debated the bill for about an hour on Friday, with a handful of lawmakers voicing opposition.

"This all seems a retaliation by the governor for Disney voicing its support for the LGBTQ community," said Senator Linda Stewart, a Democrat who represents Orange County.

Editor's Choice



Medics from the First Volunteer Mobile Hospital unit treat soldiers transported from the frontlines, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, in the Donbas region of the Ukraine. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton



Trees are covered in snow in front of The Elizabeth Tower, more commonly known as Big Ben, as cold weather continues, in London. REUTERS/Toby Melville



A view of the Palace of Westminster seen from the London Eye, in London, Britain. REUTERS/Maja Smiejkowska



Police secures the area after 25 suspected members and supporters of a far-right group were detained during raids across Germany, in Berlin, Germany, December 7. REUTERS/Christian Mang



A swimmer dips her feet in Serpentine lake, as cold weather continues, in London, Britain. REUTERS/Henry Nicholls



Ukrainian service members are seen in Bakhmut, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, in Donetsk region, Ukraine. REUTERS/Yevhen Titov

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

BUSINESS

Many Products Used Daily By Millions May Disappear From Shelves

These Everyday Products Could Soon Become Scarce

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Everyday Products That Could Soon Become Scarce
When it comes to providing for our families, many of us don't plan beyond a few weeks of groceries, water, and personal products. Have you ever thought about what might happen if supply chain shortages broke down across the globe? We all remember how toilet paper flew off the shelves in the early days of the pandemic. Now is the time to plan and prepare for another potential disaster. Even if nothing catastrophic occurs, you know you've done what you can to protect yourself and your family from shortages. Pick up these products before it's too late.



Ketchup
Nothing says picnic better than hot dogs and ketchup. As the demand for a cheap meal like hot dogs has gone up, so has ketchup, specifically the small convenience packets commonly found at fast-food restaurants across the country. Although Heinz, a leading producer of ketchup, has increased its production of these pint-sized packets by nearly 25 percent, they cannot keep up with customer demand. You're better off buying in bulk.



Chocolate
According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, millions of acres of cacao plants have been

irreparably damaged by environmental pollution. It is theorized that cacao plants could be gone by 2050. Chocolate has served us well for decades, but we may now have to find a substitute for our favorite sweet.

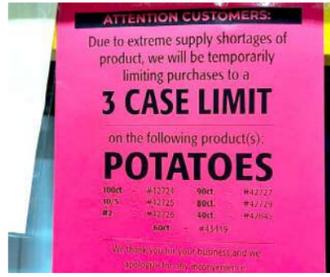


Coffee
Despite a massive crop yield in our southern neighbor, Brazil, coffee is indeed in short supply. An increase in international shipping rates has led to less cargo space for "non-essential" items such as coffee. A staggering 1 billion people across the globe drink coffee daily. In the U.S. alone, nearly 400 million cups of coffee are consumed every day. Revealing this next piece of information may just incite a worldwide riot.



Bacon
Due to the large increase of people buying bacon to supplement protein needs and satisfy keto cravings, stores are attempting to rise to the challenge and keep the popular anytime food on store shelves. There's nothing quite as inviting as the warm, comforting smell of bacon in the morning. It's equally as impressive for any meal, though a recent increase in outdoor gatherings has caused demand

to skyrocket.



Potatoes
Giants like McDonald's, Wendy's, and Burger King have stopped offering medium and large-sized portions of crispy golden french fries in an attempt to protect their reserves. Here's hoping they don't attempt to protect their reserves. Potatoes may seem fairly common, but their production is actually more dependent on weather and supply chain disruptions than you might think. Recent shortages have prompted the restaurant industry to take drastic actions to protect supply.



Eggs
A number of environmental factors caused chickens to be in short supply at the end of 2021. People didn't look too far past the missing fryers on the shelves to think about what may also be in short supply as a result. In this case, the chicken did precede the egg. Consumers are seeing fewer eggs on store shelves, not to mention a hefty price tag attached to each carton. According to the National Department of Agriculture, carton prices are up nearly 60 percent.

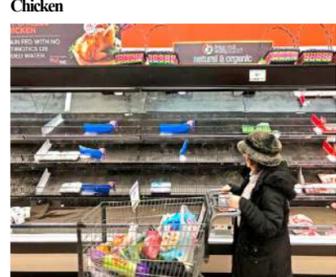


Canned Food
People have been quietly stocking away non-perishable items such as canned fruits, vegetables, and meats for years, but it's only recently that we have seen them in short supply. We will all feel better when we see store

shelves stocked to the brim once more. Due to a phenomenon called panic buying, consumers sometimes purchase items that are deemed "short on supply" in droves, causing certain goods to fly off shelves with reckless abandon. This has happened several times with canned goods.



Chicken
Making matters even worse after the lockdown, a massive ice storm set Texas poultry farms back in early 2021. The storm caused the death of over a million chicks, sending prices skyrocketing in grocery stores. In the coming months, you may see your favorite poultry dishes pulled off restaurant menus as well. Not only will they be too expensive to prep and serve, but increasing difficulties with supply will make them nearly obsolete.



Garlic
With nearly 60 percent of all garlic imported from China to the United States, things are looking bleak for garlic lovers. This herb, widely used in all types of cuisine to enhance flavor and improve nutritional value, is soon to be scarce. Shipping containers and plans for international



trade have slowed and even stopped in some places, prompting suppliers to bump up their prices by as much as 30 percent. What savory flavor enhancement will we find to replace something so popular?

Hot Dogs
Thanks to recent innovations in the hot dog industry, people are finding a new appreciation for dogs of all shapes and sizes. Organic ingredients, rich herb and spice blends, and even different meats make hot dogs a cheap and appealing meal option. With prices rising steadily for other household staples such as gas and food, people are turning to hot dogs as a means of saving a few dollars at mealtime. Increased supply is putting pressure on manufacturers who are struggling to keep up.



Cream Cheese
2021 brought a cyberattack on Schreiber Foods, and the plant had to shut down for several days. People reported seeing less and less cream cheese on shelves, as Schreiber is known as one of the largest cream cheese manufacturers in the country. Coupled with both labor shortages and supply chain issues, the coveted schmear is still hard to find in some areas. Here's hoping that New York City delis will find another option for those surly bagel customers who remain largely unsatisfied.



Maple Syrup
Maple syrup is in such short supply that Canada reported the story to NPR, telling the news source that they were going to release nearly 50 million pounds of the country's "strategic maple syrup reserves". What country has a 50 million pound reserve of maple syrup? According to Canadian experts, this amount is about half of the total stockpile that the country owns. It's anyone's guess as to how they will use that massive amount of product.



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COMMUNITY

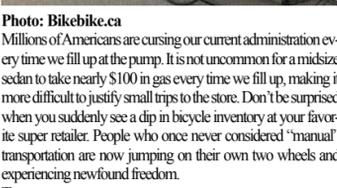
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These Everyday Products Could Soon Become Scarce

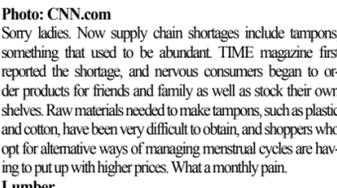
Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Bicycles
Millions of Americans are cursing our current administration every time we fill up at the pump. It is not uncommon for a midsize sedan to take nearly \$100 in gas every time we fill up, making it more difficult to justify small trips to the store. Don't be surprised when you suddenly see a dip in bicycle inventory at your favorite super retailer. People who once never considered "manual" transportation are now jumping on their own two wheels and experiencing newfound freedom.



Tampons
Sorry ladies. Now supply chain shortages include tampons, something that used to be abundant. TIME magazine first reported the shortage, and nervous consumers began to order products for friends and family as well as stock their own shelves. Raw materials needed to make tampons, such as plastic and cotton, have been very difficult to obtain, and shoppers who opt for alternative ways of managing menstrual cycles are having to put up with higher prices. What a monthly pain.



Lumber
With additional time on our hands as of the latter half of 2020, many people sought out home improvement projects and other time fillers as we attempted to make improvements to homes and gardens. Increased demand for lumber arose due to all the new garages and outdoor patios popping up. Lumber companies simply couldn't keep up with this demand, and production slowed and even stopped in some parts of the country.

Toys
With the number of toy stores across the country closing their doors permanently as of 2020, it has become more challenging to find the perfect imaginative play tool to keep your kids occupied and entertained. Major toy company executives encourage consumers who want particular toys to "not delay" when purchasing. Either get to your favorite retailer right away upon release or consider looking for them online for those important childhood "tools".



Garage Doors
The beginning of 2020's lockdown hurt rental car companies, as no one was traveling anywhere unless absolutely necessary. Many businesses, in an attempt to cut costs, sold off portions of their inventory to make ends meet. The move may have been a short-term solution to the financial crisis, but now it is biting them back once more. Lessening restrictions on travel make it more difficult to find the rental car needed to take you from place to place.



Gaming Consoles
New shopping habits after the pandemic sent millions of customers to their computers and smartphones as we learned how to buy online. Amazon and other web retail giants now easily dominate our purchasing habits. Because of an increased need to ship goods across the world, shipping con-

One obscure item that is hard for builders and homeowners to find right now is the garage door. With demand so high for this item, even contractors have to pay outrageous prices to obtain doors for their customers. The New York Times reports that "the home building industry is having the most difficult time in decades meeting demand." If you have a garage door, make sure yours is in good working order to prevent supply chain issues.



Automobile Parts
With nearly 12 percent of the world's automobile parts coming from China, car companies like Honda, Nissan, and Mazda have had no choice but to halt production as they wait, and then wait some more, for parts. While this doesn't affect all auto manufacturers or automobile parts, some are becoming more difficult to find. Others are on backorder, and still, more are priced higher than they have been in years, making auto repair more expensive overall.



Rental Cars
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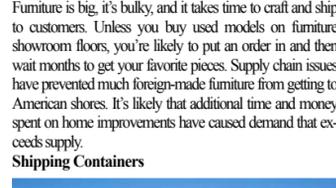
Pandemic entertainment brought out the inner gamer in all of us. More people are purchasing the latest, greatest gaming consoles introduced to the market. Gaming companies are taking advantage of this increased demand by creating hype around their products. While some patrons are more than happy to put their name on a waitlist in anticipation of the best new product, others are growing frustrated with the lack of products on store shelves and turning to old Nintendo systems for comfort.



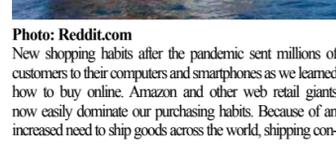
Furniture
Furniture is big, it's bulky, and it takes time to craft and ship to customers. Unless you buy used models on furniture showroom floors, you're likely to put an order in and then wait months to get your favorite pieces. Supply chain issues have prevented much foreign-made furniture from getting to American shores. It's likely that additional time and money spent on home improvements have caused demand that exceeds supply.



Shipping Containers
As of January 2022, the American Red Cross reported that the United States is facing the worst blood shortage crisis in over a decade due to a decrease in blood drives. This isn't the only issue that the Red Cross faces in its life-saving operations. Staffing shortages, a lack of interest in volunteering, and general apathy toward the organization itself have caused many branches of the Red Cross to shut down across the nation. The organization is attempting to partner with high-profile organizations just to garner additional support.



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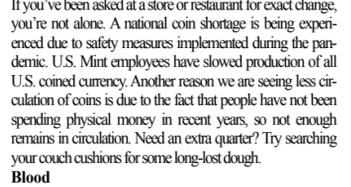
tainers are becoming harder and harder to find. Preppers who wish to use them for bug-out shelters may have to look elsewhere for protection.



Motorcycles
Not only did the supply chain fiasco mess with bicycle transportation, but it is also tinkering around with the motorized kind as well. Current fuel prices are causing many to seek alternative and more affordable means of transportation. Unfortunately, this means that motorcycle demand is high, and supply may be running low due to a shortage of aftermarket and repair parts. This low inventory is likely to last through the end of 2022 and into 2023.



Coins
If you've been asked at a store or restaurant for exact change, you're not alone. A national coin shortage is being experienced due to safety measures implemented during the pandemic. U.S. Mint employees have slowed production of all U.S. coined currency. Another reason we are seeing less circulation of coins is due to the fact that people have not been spending physical money in recent years, so not enough remains in circulation. Need an extra quarter? Try searching your couch cushions for some long-lost dough.



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