Seems Like Old Times

Tampa Bay’s Tino Gregorich (left) and Yandy Diaz celebrate after defeating the Kansas City Chiefs 3-2 in Super Bowl LV at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Fla. Brady threw three touchdowns passes to Gregorich, his old teammate when they won titles together with the New England Patriots. Brady, 43, earned his fifth Super Bowl MVP and seventh ring. Sports, D1

IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES RESUME

Chula Vista church that sued meets indoors after top court’s ruling

BY KATE MORRISSEY

On the first Monday after the Supreme Court ruled that California had illegally restricted church worship services, church leaders in Chula Vista, Calif., gained permission to resume services.

A federal judge on Friday said the state's ban on such services violated the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the Constitution's First Amendment.

As they prepared to welcome back millions of worshipers, they are not sure whether the church will continue to follow safety guidelines.

COLLEGE TURNS PAGE, CITES RACIAL EQUITY GAINS

BY KRISTEN TANTRA

How the college’s APIE plan has been a success story

The university’s APIE plan has been a success story.

The school has increased its diversity and inclusion efforts and made significant progress on addressing race-related issues.

The college’s APIE plan has been praised for its focus on racial equity.

STUDY: VARIANT SPREADS RAPIDLY THROUGH NATION

Scops expert co-write report saying it could be predominant by March

BY CAROL ZIMMER

A new study suggests that the variant detected in the United Kingdom is spreading rapidly in the United States, doubling roughly every 12 days, according to a new study published in the New England Journal of Medicine. The variant has been detected in 11 states, including New York, New Jersey, and Texas.

Doctors cite harm to children shut out of school

BY KRISTEN TANTRA

Predictions are that the variant may spread even faster in the United States.

One of the nation’s largest school districts, Los Angeles Unified, has already closed schools for the winter break due to the spread of the variant.

Sports

AZTECS BACK IN ACTION

After two games against New Mexico were wiped out, SDSU’s Pac-12 East road trip begins D3

U-T INDEX

Comics C3 Earth Watch B2 Local B1 Sports C1

Crossword C6 Editorial B3 Lottery A4 Television

Dear Abby C5 Horoscope C6 Obituaries D6 Weather

President’s Day Sale

In honor of your hard work

Up to 45% off

Take the lead with Windows 10 Pro devices.

Call 866-336-1661 today or shop Dell.com/BusinessDeals
CHICAGO MAYOR TOUTS DEAL TO OPEN SCHOOLS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot issued a preliminary agreement with the state that would allow city schools to reopen in varying capacities, potentially without enrolling half of its roughly 360,000 students at one time.

The city, which has the nation’s third largest school district, would be granted flexibility in meeting state mandates, Lightfoot said Thursday, with the reasoning being that the city’s schools are larger and deal with students and teachers coming from various backgrounds.

The preliminary agreement allows for the city to continue and expand its virtual-only model while taking the first step toward socially distanced in-person instruction.

In a message to Chicago Public Schools teachers and families Thursday, Lightfoot said the initial deal would be finalized in about two weeks.

The union, which represents about 32,000 teachers and staff, pushed back against the agreement, saying it would not own the city’s schools for two years and maintain the virtual as of now.

The agreement was about making sure everyone in our school community is safe and has access to the best possible education, according to the union’s president.

While the deal is a “clear step” forward, it doesn’t characterize it as an offer to proceed with in-person instruction.

“We do not yet have any details on what it means for the health of our students and teachers in our schools, or what it means for the resources necessary to make this happen,” said building service workers union president Pat Ahearn.

The school board also wants to hear more from teachers and students about how the deal would work.

The school board has been pushing for in-person instruction since the pandemic began, but the agreement made it clear that the city would only open schools if it was safe to do so.

The deal also includes a guarantee of job security for teachers and staff, and a commitment to provide all students with access to reliable internet connections.

The union also called for more transparency and input from teachers and students in the decision-making process.

The school board has been working with the teachers union to come up with a plan that meets the needs of all students and staff, and will continue to do so as the school year progresses.