



A coffin maker in Nova Iguaçu, Brazil, this month. A dangerous virus variant first found in Brazil is now stalking neighboring nations.

NEWS ANALYSIS
*In Biden Plan,
Schumer Fills
A Pivotal Role*

By CARL HULSE
WASHINGTON — President Biden laid out his ambitious vision for a post-pandemic America on Wednesday night. Now it is up to Senator Chuck Schumer to make it a reality.
Mr. Schumer, a New York Democrat and the majority leader, insists that he is willing to negotiate with Republicans on the president’s second monumental piece of legislation, seeking a consensus that some of the moderate Democrats, including Senator Joe Manchin III of West Virginia, are demanding.
But it is already clear that the odds of such a compromise are vanishingly slight, leaving Mr. Schumer with an exceedingly difficult path to delivering on Mr. Biden’s promises.
With Republicans suffering sticker shock from more than \$4 trillion in new spending proposals outlined by Mr. Biden, and offering their own infrastructure package that is a tiny fraction of the cost, the gulf between the two parties could not be larger. Yet a handful of Democrats who could be crucial swing votes believe it is misguided and politically dangerous to pass legislation this big without buy-in from the other party.
Mr. Schumer said he was willing to give efforts at bipartisanship some time, but with a tight window to push through any major legislation before the political warfare of the midterm elections drown out any chance of making a law, his patience extends only so far.
“Now look,” he said in an interview this week in his Capitol leadership suite, “there’s a number of people in our caucus who believe strongly in bipartisanship and want us to try that. And that’s fair. And we will. And we’ve made a good start.”
He pointed to some modest measures like a water projects bill that passed on Thursday with support from both parties. But on crucial components of Mr. Biden’s plan — like the tax in-

Continued on Page A15
EMBOLDENED President Biden, 100 days in, is altering what it means to be a Democrat. PAGE A16

Covid Takes a Frightful Turn in South America
Virus Damage Tearing Through Economy and Social Fabric

By JULIE TURKEWITZ and MITRA TAJ
BOGOTÁ, Colombia — In the capital of Colombia, Bogotá, the mayor is warning residents to brace for “the worst two weeks of our lives.”
Uruguay, once lauded as a model for keeping the coronavirus under control, now has one of the highest death rates in the world, while the grim daily tallies of the dead have hit records in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Peru in recent days.
Even Venezuela, where the authoritarian government is notorious for hiding health statistics and any suggestion of disarray, says that coronavirus deaths are up 86 percent since January.
As vaccinations mount in some of the world’s wealthiest countries and people cautiously envision life

after the pandemic, the crisis in Latin America — and in South America in particular — is taking an alarming turn for the worse, potentially threatening the progress made well beyond its borders.
Last week, Latin America accounted for 35 percent of all coronavirus deaths in the world, despite having just 8 percent of the global population, according to data compiled by The New York Times.
Latin America was already one of world’s hardest hit regions in

2020, with bodies sometimes abandoned on sidewalks and new burial grounds cut into thick forest. Yet even after a year of incalculable loss, it is still one of the most troubling global hot spots, with a recent surge in many countries that is even more deadly than before.
The crisis stems in part from predictable forces — limited vaccine supplies and slow rollouts, weak health systems and fragile economies that make stay-at-home orders difficult to impose or maintain.
But the region has another thorny challenge as well, health officials say: living side-by-side with Brazil, a country of more than 200 million whose president has consistently dismissed the threat of the virus and denounced measures to control it, helping

Continued on Page A6



Deadly Stampede in Israel
Dozens were killed on Thursday at a Jewish religious celebration that drew thousands. Page A11.

Navalny Network Shuts Under Kremlin Pressure

By ANTON TROIANOVSKI
MOSCOW — Associates of Aleksei A. Navalny said they were shutting down their nationwide network of regional offices on Thursday even as the imprisoned Russian opposition leader vowed, in an online court appearance, to keep fighting the “emperor with no clothes” in the Kremlin.
Disbanding Mr. Navalny’s 40

regional offices became inevitable in recent weeks, an aide to Mr. Navalny said, amid the Kremlin’s latest efforts to stifle political dissent. Prosecutors are seeking to have Mr. Navalny’s movement de-

clared an extremist organization. A Moscow court this week ordered Mr. Navalny’s groups to halt all public activity pending a final ruling in the extremism case.
“Alas, we must be honest: It’s impossible to work under these conditions,” the aide to Mr. Navalny, Leonid Volkov, said in a YouTube video, warning that continuing to operate would expose supporters of the opposition

Continued on Page A11

Economic Surge in U.S.
Lifts Hopes for the Year
As People Aim to Spend

Mayor’s Goal: Open
New York by July 1

By MICHAEL GOLD and JULIA JACOBS
Mayor Bill de Blasio declared on Thursday that New York City would fully reopen on July 1, conjuring up a tantalizing vision of a summer in which the nation’s largest city would throw open its doors and return to its pre-pandemic vibrancy.
“This is going to be the summer of New York City,” Mr. de Blasio said at a news briefing. “We’re all going to get to enjoy the city again, and people are going to flock here from all over the country to be a part of this amazing moment.”
The mayor’s promise brought hope that after more than a year of restrictions, New Yorkers and tourists could once again swarm shops and galleries, baseball fans could watch games at sports bars, and sweaty revelers could dance until the wee hours at nightclubs.
Yet restoring the city to its earlier state, before it was stifled by the virus and scarred by profound losses, will pose a significant challenge.

Many of the city’s large employers have set their sights on a fall return, which will keep workers away from Manhattan’s business districts until then. The hospitality industry does not expect tourism, a key economic engine of the city, to return to pre-pandemic levels for years. Transit officials do not believe ridership on the subway, which is still closed for two hours each night, will completely rebound until 2024.

The city’s devastated cultural sector has yet to bounce back. Mr. de Blasio hailed the impact a reopening would have on the theater industry, but full-scale productions on Broadway — one of the city’s crown jewels and a key draw for tourists — will not return until September at the earliest, the Broadway League confirmed in a statement.

Mr. de Blasio’s authority to lift virus-related restrictions, which were imposed by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, is also limited. But should the reopening proceed, its success will still depend on the willingness of wary residents and workers to return to crowded spaces.
“Don’t get me wrong, I would love to be fully open again,” said Miguel de Leon, the wine director at Pinch Chinese in SoHo. “But I just want to make sure that these lines that they are drawing don’t feel so arbitrary.”
Even as the spring has brought New Yorkers back out of their homes, many shared Mr. de Leon’s cautious view. They were

Continued on Page A8

Relief Payments Fuel
Growth in Quarter

By NELSON D. SCHWARTZ
Consumers shook off the pandemic blues as 2021 began, putting stimulus checks to work buying cars and other goods and helping set the stage for what could be the fastest economic growth in decades.
The initial reading on the country’s first-quarter economic performance, delivered Thursday by the Commerce Department, showed that much remained far from normal. Even with a big jump in personal income, there was only a modest increase in spending on services like travel, dining and even health care.
But economists say that is already changing as more vaccinations are delivered and coronavirus-related business restrictions are eased. With better weather, savings accumulated during a long year of lockdowns, and an itch to make up for forced inactivity, Americans will have plenty of reasons to go out and spend.
“Consumers are now back in the driver’s seat when it comes to economic activity, and that’s the



way we like it,” said Gregory Daco, chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics. “A consumer that is feeling confident about the outlook will generally spend more freely.”
Over all, the broadest measure of the economy — gross domestic product — grew by 1.6 percent in the first three months of 2021, compared with 1.1 percent in the final quarter of last year. On an annualized basis, the first-quarter growth rate was 6.4 percent.
Total economic output should return to prepandemic levels by summer — in fact, Mr. Daco believes it has already done so. His firm estimates that the economy will expand by 3.1 percent in the second quarter, or about 13 percent on an annual basis. For the year, it expects growth of 7.5 percent, the best performance since 1951.
Continued on Page A14

As Masks Begin to Come Off,
A Delicate Dance Takes Form

By MATT RICHTER
Mark Rasch hopped on his bike Tuesday in Bethesda, Md., pedaled off for an afternoon ride, and realized he forgot his mask. As he turned back for it, news came on the radio over his earbuds: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said masks were no longer required outdoors for fully vaccinated people unless they were in a crowd.
Mr. Rasch, a lawyer, rode on, naked from nose to chin for the first time in a year. He reached nearby Georgetown and found he was nearly alone in that almost everyone else there remained masked.
“I wondered if there was a store I could go into without wearing a mask to buy a mask?” he said. Instead, he went home, and told his

wife: “Nothing is changing, but it’s happening quickly.”
It’s springtime of the pandemic. After the trauma of the last year, the quarantined are emerging into sunlight, and beginning to navigate travel, classrooms and restaurants. And they are discovering that when it comes to returning to the old ways, many feel out of sorts. Do they shake hands? Hug? With or without a mask?
It’s a confusion exacerbated by changing rules, state and federal, that vary by congressional district or even neighborhood, all while the very real threat of infection remains, in some places more than others.
Many states and cities are

Continued on Page A8



INTERNATIONAL A10-12
‘They Call It Social Cleansing’
The long-ignored slaying of a transgender woman in Honduras has drawn the notice of a human rights court. PAGE A10

Palestinian Vote Delayed
President Mahmoud Abbas said the May elections wouldn’t occur, prolonging a West Bank-Gaza split. PAGE A11

NATIONAL A13-19
Water Cleanup Measure Passes
The Senate voted 89 to 2 to spend \$35 billion to shore up aging water systems, a sign that bipartisanship on public works projects is possible. PAGE A14

Florida Passes Voting Limits
Gov. Ron DeSantis is expected to sign a Republican-led bill that cuts drop boxes, makes absentee ballots harder to get and imposes other curbs. PAGE A18

Racial Gap at Elite Schools
This year only eight Black students were offered slots at Stuyvesant, one of New York’s top high schools, and numbers were tiny at others, too. PAGE A18

TRACKING AN OUTBREAK A4-9
Fallout Over Ruined Doses
Emergent BioSolutions’ chief announced executive changes and said he took “full responsibility” for vaccine manufacturing problems. PAGE A7

SPORTSFRIDAY B8-11
Quarterbacks Lead N.F.L. Draft
The Jets tried again at quarterback, drafting Zach Wilson. The Jaguars, at No. 1, chose Trevor Lawrence. PAGE B8

A Sheikh and a Scandal
A horse owned by Dubai’s ruler is favored at the Kentucky Derby. Why rights groups want him barred. PAGE B9



BUSINESS B1-7
Fur, Feathers and Open Roads
Some long-haul truckers fight loneliness with dogs, cats, birds and even mini-pigs in the cab. Wheels. PAGE B4

Big Tech Wins the Pandemic
The top five giants raked it in not in spite of, but because of, the Covid crisis, raising hard questions. Analysis. PAGE B1

WEEKEND ARTS C1-14
A Look Into America’s Past
Dawoud Bey’s photographs in a Whitney Museum show expose rich histories hidden beneath the surface. PAGE C1

GrahamFest95 Goes Virtual
The Martha Graham Dance Company celebrates its 95th anniversary with films pairing dances with art. PAGE C1

OPINION A22-23
Farhad Manjoo PAGE A23





Partly sunny, windy 70/45 • Tomorrow: Mostly sunny 69/55 BS

Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2021 • \$2

Giuliani got 2019 warning on Russia

He continued contacts after FBI told him about operation to smear Biden

BY ELLEN NAKASHIMA, SHANE HARRIS AND TOM HAMBURGER

The FBI warned Rudolph W. Giuliani in late 2019 that he was the target of a Russian influence operation aimed at circulating falsehoods intended to damage President Biden politically ahead of last year's election, according to people familiar with the matter.

The warning was part of an extensive effort by the bureau to alert members of Congress and at least one conservative media outlet, One America News, that they faced a risk of being used to further Russia's attempt to influence the election's outcome, said several current and former U.S. officials. All spoke on the condition of anonymity because the matter remains highly sensitive.

Giuliani received the FBI's warning while deeply involved with former president Donald Trump's 2020 reelection campaign and related activities in Ukraine to surface unflattering or incriminating information about the Biden family. The revelation comes as the FBI this week setted Giuliani's cellphone and other electronic devices as part of a long-running criminal investigation into whether the onetime New York mayor and personal

SEE GIULIANI ON A3

Arizona audit stirs fears of partisanship in vote counts

BY ROSALIND S. HELDERMAN AND JOSH DAWSEY

More than five months after the 2020 presidential election, and after numerous failed attempts to overturn the results, former president Donald Trump has seized on a new avenue to try to call the outcome into question: a hand recount of 2.1 million ballots cast in Arizona's largest county.

Several advisers said the former president has become fixated on the unorthodox process underway in Phoenix, where the GOP-led state Senate took ballots and voting equipment from Maricopa County and turned them over to Cyber Ninjas, a private contractor whose chief executive has echoed baseless claims that the election was fraudulent but has now promised a fair review of the November results.

Ensnared at his private club

SEE ARIZONA ON A6

Voting laws: Florida is the latest to pass far-reaching restrictions. **A10**



Relatives of covid-19 victims gather outside a New Delhi hospital morgue. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi faces growing anger over his handling of the current devastating wave of cases and for continuing to hold large rallies for state elections.

In India's virus surge, a moment of reckoning for nationalist Modi

His image as a singular leader appears to be 'in tatters' as deaths and dissatisfaction mount

BY JOANNA SLATER AND NIHA MASHI

NEW DELHI — As he surveyed the thousands of people gathered at an election rally in eastern India on April 17, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appeared jubilant. "Everywhere I look, as far as I can see, there are crowds," he said, his arms spread wide. "You have done an extraordinary thing."

At the time, India was recording more than 200,000 coronavirus cases a day. In the western state of Maharashtra, oxygen was running short, and people were dying at home because of a shortage of hospital beds. In Modi's home state of Gujarat, crematoriums were being overwhelmed.

Those scenes were just a prelude to the devastation now unfolding in India. It is recording more infections daily — at last

count 379,000 — than any other country since the start of the pandemic. Hospitals are turning away severely ill patients, and their relatives are frantically searching for medical oxygen.

For Modi, the most powerful Indian prime minister in five decades, it is a moment of reckoning. He is facing what appears to be the country's biggest crisis since independence, a calamity that is challenging his vision of a proud, self-reliant nation.

Modi's own lapses and missteps are an increasing source of anger. As coronavirus cases skyrocketed, Modi continued to hold huge election rallies and declined to cancel a Hindu religious festival that drew millions to the banks of the Ganges River, despite pleas from health experts.

Rather than making urgent preparations

for a second wave of cases in an already weak health-care system, the government put much of its focus on vaccinations — a campaign too limited to blunt the oncoming disaster. The government repeatedly chose self-congratulation over caution, publicly stating that the pandemic was in its "endgame" in India as recently as last month.

Modi swept to a landslide reelection victory in 2019, offering Indians a muscular brand of nationalism that views India as a fundamentally Hindu country rather than the secular republic envisioned by its founders. He has cultivated an image as a

SEE INDIA ON A14

Virus aid: The U.S. is delivering more than \$100 million worth of supplies to India. **A14**

Growth speeds up in 1st quarter

ECONOMY ON VERGE OF ERASING LOSSES

But inflation is picking up; jobs haven't returned

BY ANDREW VAN DAM AND RACHEL SIEGEL

The U.S. economic recovery picked up speed, with the economy growing 1.6 percent in the first three months of the year because of rising coronavirus vaccinations and massive federal stimulus spending. The economy is on the verge of regaining all of its pandemic losses in coming months.

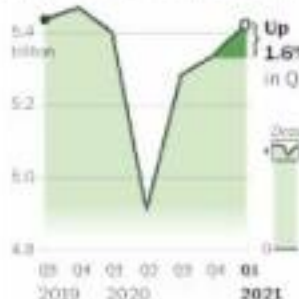
The GDP report, released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) on Thursday, showed that consumers are spending more on things like cars and homes. Plus, a record boost in household after-tax income suggests there's more consumer spending power waiting in the wings.

The rosy economic news came the same day as news of the third straight week of improvement in jobless claims, according to the

SEE ECONOMY ON A11

After a strong start to 2021, the recovery takes shape

Quarterly U.S. gross domestic product



Note: Quarterly total, adjusted for inflation and seasonality. Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis.

A sport's old guard vs. the dopers

Horse racing's elite cracked down with private eyes, political muscle

BY GUS GARCIA-ROBERTS

Scott A. Robinson was in the market for revenge. A Lamborghini-driving horseman, he'd gotten rich selling farm animal supplements online. But he claimed he was owed money by a former business partner he'd met at New Jersey's Meadowlands Racetrack.

Then the track's security chief offered to help, Robinson said, connecting him with a private investigation firm called 5 Stones Intelligence, which was known for its formidable federal connections. Robinson met them and agreed to pay \$30,000 for their services, he said, hoping they could help prove his case.

Eager for payback, Robinson

SEE JOCKEY CLUB ON A8



Horseman Scott A. Robinson met with FBI agents at a Florida hotel and was arrested for horse doping in 2020.

Teen's death ignites call to reform foster system

BY TIM CRAIG AND RANDY LUDLOW

COLUMBUS, OHIO — Ma'Khia Bryant and her sister lived with their foster mother in a two-story house in a middle-class neighborhood, next to a cornfield along the edge of the city limits here.

Residents described the neighborhood as quiet and most of those interviewed said they did not even know that the sisters were foster children until April 20, when Bryant, 16, was shot and killed by a Columbus police officer when he saw her swinging a knife at a woman during a disturbance in front of the foster home.

Bryant's grandmother, Jeanene Hammonds, said Ma'Khia called her that after-

noon asking for help. She told her grandmother that there was trouble at the foster home involving a former foster child who had previously lived at the residence. The young woman had returned for a visit and was upset over the condition of the house, sparking an argument, Hammonds said.

The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation is investigating the case, which has raised questions about police officers' use of deadly force. But the disturbance at the house and Bryant's death also are indicative of deeper problems in the state's foster care system, said foster parents and child welfare advocates, many of whom are now calling for reforms to the overwhelmed and disjointed system caring for

SEE COLUMBUS ON A22

IN THE NEWS



DAVID J. PHILLIP/ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL draft The Jacksonville Jaguars, as expected, make Clemson QB Trevor Lawrence the No. 1 overall pick. **D1**

Homeless in D.C. The overall count is lower, but the number of chronically homeless people has risen, city leaders said. **B1**

THE NATION Enthusiasm for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine doesn't appear to have flagged despite a temporary halt in its distribution because of rare blood clots. **A3** His first 100 days in office over, President Biden now faces a test of agility. **A4** Democrats are trying to push Medicare expansion as part of Biden's \$1.8 trillion families plan, defying the White House. **A5** A court said the EPA must ban the pesticide chlorpyrifos, which has been linked to neuro-

logical damage in children, unless it can prove the chemical is safe. **A6** Republicans rallied behind Sen. Tim Scott (S.C.) as Democrats and activists criticized his suggestion that they're using race as a political weapon. **A20** The world Families in the Philippines are scrambling to find care for covid-19 patients, often to no avail. They blame the government of Rodrigo Duterte. **A12** Palestinians will postpone their first elections

in almost a generation amid disputes with Israel over voting in East Jerusalem. **A35** The economy A lawsuit against the U.S. Agriculture Department says its guidance of three daily servings of milk products benefits the dairy industry, not the public. **A16** The FAA agreed to pay \$44 million to resolve a lawsuit brought by former employees who alleged that their jobs were outsourced because of age discrimination. **A17** A semiconductor shortage is widening beyond automakers, with Apple and Samsung

warning of production problems. **A18** The region Hackers targeting the D.C. police department briefly leaked the personnel files of several current and former officers. **B1** The end of Maryland's universal outdoor mask mandate has left some localities grappling with what their rules should be. **B1** Growth and development are at the center of Alexandria's mayoral race. **B1** Anti-gay messaging is throwing a shadow over the GOP nomination contest for Virginia's lieutenant governor. **B2**

INSIDE



WEEKEND A redefined show goes on Behind the scenes at Signature Theatre's filming of "Midnight at the Never Get." **STYLE** A tale of 'Transition' "The Quadrant Series" video plays look at D.C. through the eyes of Black artists. **C1**

BUSINESS NEWS...A24
COMICS...A24
OPINION PAGES...A29
LETTERES...B3
ENTERTAINMENT...B6
TELEVISION...B3
WORLD NEWS...A22

0 70628 21100 5

What's News

Business & Finance

A burst of growth brought the U.S. economy to just a hair below its pre-pandemic size in the first quarter, extending what is shaping up to be a rapid, consumer-driven recovery this year. **A1**

◆ **Amazon reported** record quarterly profit as demand remained robust for the company's deliveries and its cloud-computing and advertising businesses. **A1**

◆ **China is reining in** the ability of the country's internet giants to use big data for lending, money-management and similar businesses. **A1**

◆ **U.S. air-safety regulators** have launched an audit into how a Boeing factory tweak led to a recent safety issue with some of the plane maker's 737 MAX jets. **B1**

◆ **The S&P 500 rose** 0.7% to close at a record. The Dow also gained 0.7%, while the Nasdaq added 0.2%. **B11**

◆ **Comcast posted** a 55% rise in quarterly profit, buoyed by its broadband and wireless-phone units that continued to add more customers. **B1**

◆ **Endeavor's shares** ended 5% higher in their first day of trading, capping a two-year effort by the entertainment company to go public. **B1**

◆ **Global auto makers** that had expected the semiconductor supply crisis to subside in the spring are now warning that chips will remain scarce for months. **B1**

◆ **McDonald's said** new menu items helped it beat sales expectations in the U.S., while business abroad remained volatile due to shifting Covid-19 restrictions. **B3**

World-Wide

◆ **AstraZeneca has** struggled to pull together the full data necessary to apply for U.S. approval of its Covid-19 vaccine, further delaying its efforts to secure the FDA's go-ahead. **A1**

◆ **Moderna plans** to spend billions of dollars to increase the production of Covid-19 vaccines and potentially triple its yearly output of doses in 2022. **A7**

◆ **Biden's major economic** initiatives so far propose \$6 trillion in new federal spending for the next decade, far more than any recent president at a comparable point in their terms. **A2**

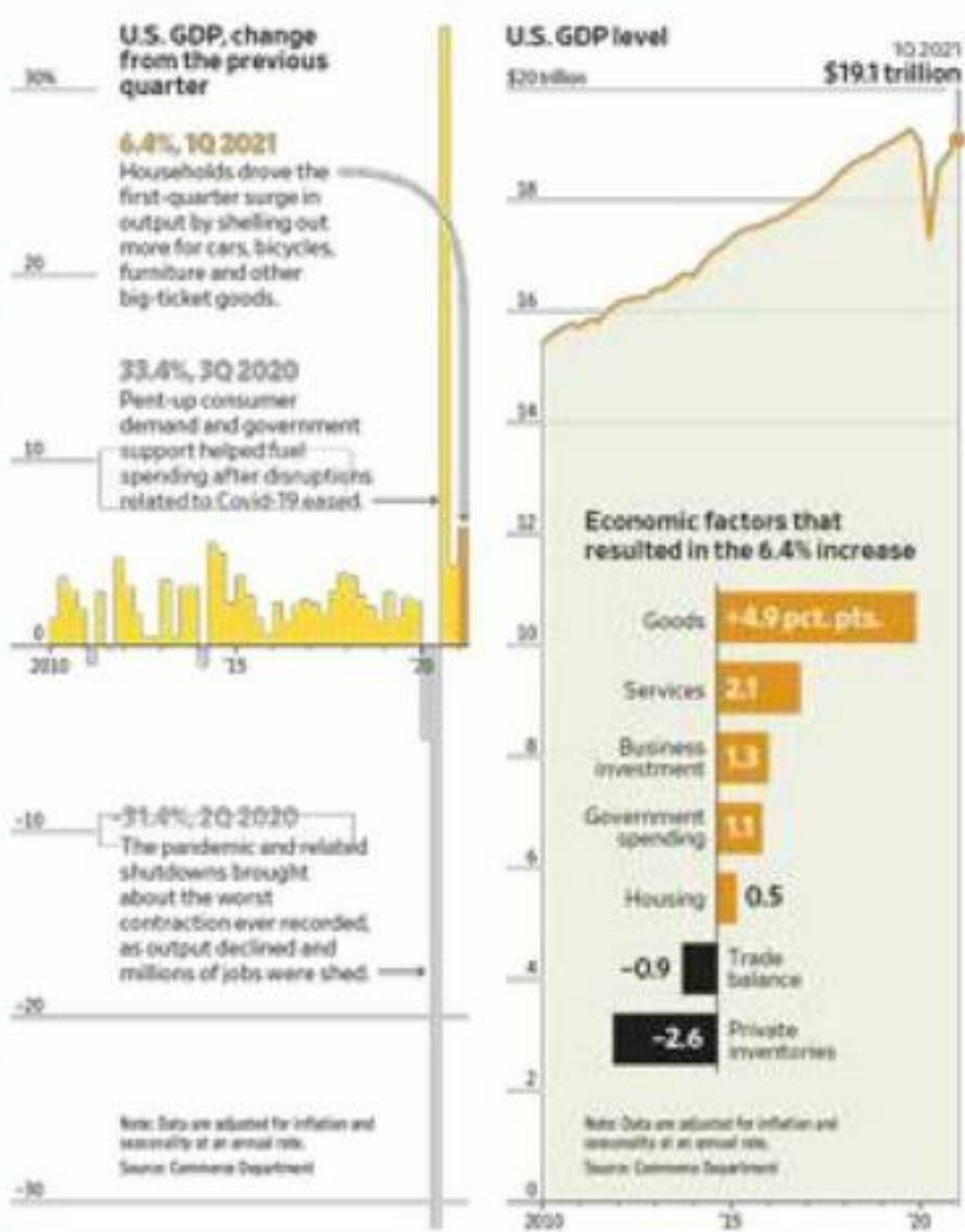
◆ **SAP admitted** it provided software to Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions, becoming the first company to benefit from a DOJ program that encourages firms to self-report. **A10**

◆ **Senate lawmakers** introduced legislation that would strip military commanders of their authority to decide whether to prosecute sexual-assault cases. **A6**

◆ **Florida's Republican-led** legislature approved a measure that adds new rules for voting by mail, including restrictions on ballot drop boxes. **A3**

◆ **The recent death** of Chadian President Déby at the hands of rebels has dealt a blow to the France-led stabilization strategy for Africa's Sahel region. **A8**

◆ **China's population** increased in 2020, the nation's statistics bureau said. It didn't elaborate, saying detailed data would be released in a coming census report. **A8**



U.S. Economy Bounces Back Near Its Peak

Consumers lead burst of activity, bring nation within 1% of the level reached pre-pandemic

By JOSH MITCHELL

A burst of growth brought the U.S. economy to just a hair below its pre-pandemic size in the first quarter, extending what is shaping up to be a rapid, consumer-driven recovery this year.

Gross domestic product, the nation's broadest measure of goods and services, grew at a 6.4% seasonally adjusted annual rate in January through March, the Commerce Department said Thursday. That left the world's largest economy within 1% of its peak, reached in late 2019 before the coronavirus pandemic hit the U.S.

Households, many of them vaccinated and armed with federal stimulus dollars, drove the first-quarter surge in output by shelling out more for cars, bicycles, furniture and other big-ticket goods. The government

not only spent hundreds of billions of dollars on stimulus payments but also on vaccines and aid to businesses.

"If you had asked me a year ago where we would be today, I certainly would not have said we would have recouped the pre-pandemic levels of economic activity," said Gregory Daco, chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics. "Everything about this crisis has been unique. The speed and the magnitude of the contraction in economic activity was unprecedented. The amount of policy support put in place was extremely rapid."

Hush Money Bikes, a bicycle shop that opened last year in Lancaster, Pa., has fielded new-bike requests from customers as far away as California, said co-owner Ted Houser. Shops are running low on bikes across the U.S. given all the demand, and manufacturers are

Please turn to page A2

◆ **Biden plan** would redistribute trillions of dollars. **A2**

◆ **Heard on the Street:** Economy isn't too hot for the Fed... **B12**

Amazon's Profit More Than Triples

By SEBASTIAN HERRERA

Amazon.com Inc. reported record quarterly profit as demand remained robust for its deliveries, cloud-computing and advertising businesses, capping a blockbuster earnings season for the world's largest technology companies.

The Seattle company's profit in the year since the pandemic started exceeded \$26 billion, more than the previous three years combined. Net income from January to March more than tripled to \$8.1 billion, and revenue of \$108 billion far exceeded the average of analyst estimates on FactSet.

Amazon said it expects sales from April to June to reach between \$110 billion and \$116 billion, which would mark three consecutive quarters with more than \$100 billion in revenue. The company's shares rose about 3.5% in after-hour trading Thursday.

The tech giant's success in the past year has catapulted the company to new heights, after consumers flocked to online shopping during pandemic lockdowns. Amazon's dominant grip over e-commerce and continued expansion into new industries have strengthened its power, although the company continues to face challenges from regulators and some employees.

Please turn to page A6

China Steps Up Oversight of Tech

By LINGLING WEI AND STEPHANIE YANG

China is reining in the ability of the country's internet giants to use big data for lending, money-management and similar businesses, ending an era of rapid growth that authorities said posed dangers for the financial system.

On Thursday, China's central bank and other regulators ordered 13 firms, including many of the biggest names in the technology sector, to adhere to much tighter regulation of their data and lending practices.

Their aim, said analysts: To curb a revolutionary business model that let China's Big Tech develop and use powerful payment apps and other information about hundreds of millions of users.

Among the firms required to conduct the restructuring: technology conglomerate Tencent Holdings Ltd., which owns the popular social-media app WeChat; ByteDance Ltd., owner of the short-video app TikTok; and the financial arms of food-delivery giant Meituan, ride-sharing provider Didi Chuxing Technology Co. and e-commerce firm JD.com Inc.

Spokespeople for Tencent, Meituan, Didi and JD.com didn't respond to requests for comment. ByteDance declined to comment. An article published Thursday by the official Xinhua News Agency said all of the 13 firms had agreed to rectify their business practices as required.

The move is the latest in a wider effort by China's ruling Communist Party to shake up the so-called "platform economy," or internet-based businesses that over the past decade have grown into colossuses with relatively light

regulatory oversight.

Last year, President Xi Jinping personally stepped in to block an attempt by the founder of online marketplace Alibaba, billionaire Jack Ma, to do an initial public offering of his financial-technology company, Ant Group.

Some Chinese officials said Mr. Ma's plans exposed what they said were "deep-rooted" problems that could jeopardize the country's financial security.

The crackdown also comes as China's leaders make greater demands for its tech entrepreneurs.

Please turn to page A8

Dozens Killed in Israel Stampede



At least 38 people were killed in a stampede at a religious bonfire festival in northern Israel early Friday. Israel dispatched medical teams and a rescue unit to the scene. **A8**

Inside the Fight Over Student Loan Losses

A banker who studied program sees deficit of \$500 billion as borrowers fail to repay

By JOSH MITCHELL

In 2018, Betsy DeVos, then U.S. education secretary, called JPMorgan Chase & Co. Chief Executive Jamie Dimon for help.

Repayments on federal student loans had come in persistently below projections. Did Mr. Dimon know someone who could sort through the finances to determine just how much trouble borrowers were in?

Months later, Jeff Courtney, a former JPMorgan executive, arrived in Washington. And that's when the trouble started.

According to a report he later produced, over three decades, Congress, various administrations and federal watchdogs had systematically made the student loan program look profitable when in fact defaults were becoming more likely.

The result, he found, was a growing gap between what the books said and what the loans were actually worth, requiring cash infusions from the Treasury to the Ed-

Please turn to page A11

New York Cheesecake in Japan Comes With a Big Side of Rules

U.S. Navy's recipe is strictly regulated by officials in Yokosuka; 'so rich and thick'

By ALASTAIR GALE AND CHIERO TSUNEOKA

YOKOSUKA, Japan—When restaurateur Koji Hirano tweaked his recipe for New York cheesecake with a touch of Japanese cream cheese, he wasn't worried only about what his customers would think. Government inspectors were due to come and sample the dessert.

If the graham cracker crust, rich cream cheese filling and dark cherry topping passed muster, he would become

an authorized purveyor of New York cheesecake—at least as it is defined by a group of Japanese officials nearly 7,000 miles from Midtown.

"The screening was very strict," he recalled later.

There are places that take their cheesecake seriously, and then there's the city of Yokosuka, where the classic American dish comes with a side order of military discipline.

Yokosuka, an hour south of Tokyo by train, plays host to the U.S.

Please turn to page A11



A piece of cake

AstraZeneca Delayed In FDA Approval Bid

By JENNY STRASSBURG AND THOMAS M. BURTON

AstraZeneca PLC executives have struggled to pull together the full data necessary to apply for U.S. approval of its Covid-19 shot, according to people familiar with the matter, further delaying its efforts to secure the Food and Drug Administration's go-ahead.

The company said last month that it would apply for what is known as emergency-use authorization for its vaccine by mid-April. It has recently told U.S. officials it might need until mid-May to finish its application for an FDA review, according to one of these people.

One especially time-consuming task has been compiling British data from almost four months of vaccinations in the U.K., including efficacy, virus-transmission and safety statistics, people close to the process said. The FDA is expecting to see the data, according to one of those people, adding to the complexity of AstraZeneca's submission. The extra data are also likely to lengthen any FDA review.

The AstraZeneca shot is approved and being used in large numbers around the globe, including across much of Europe.

Please turn to page A7

◆ **Vaccination push** meets rural skeptics. **A3**

◆ **Moderna sets target** of three billion doses in 2022. **A7**

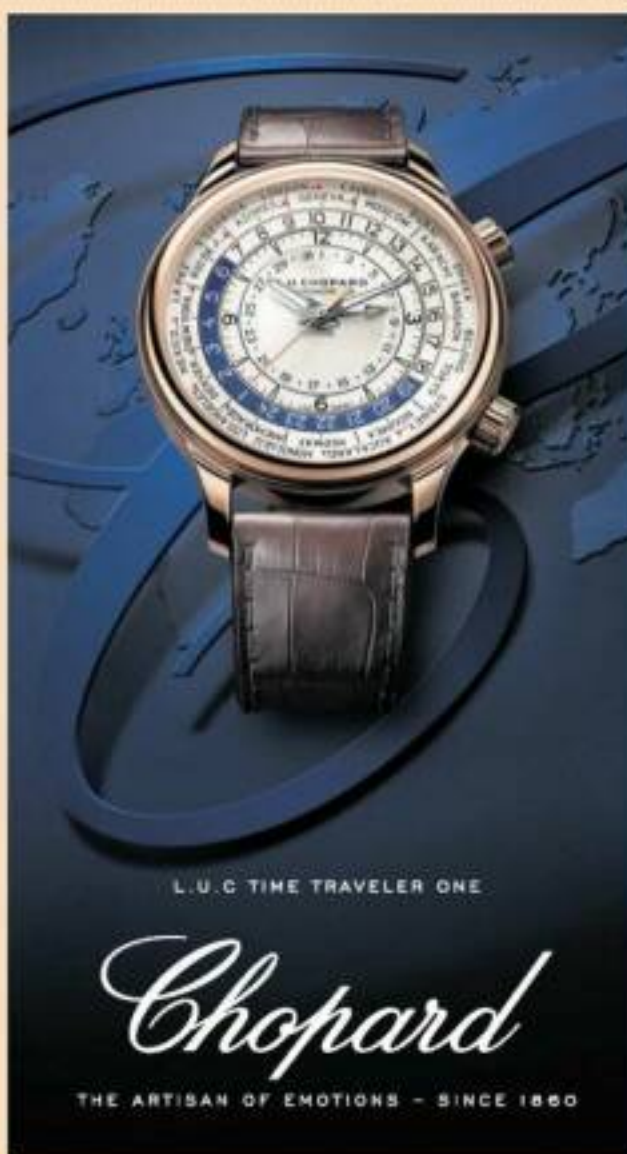
TOMORROW



Record number of listings beats dotcom-era peak — ANALYSIS, PAGE 10



A Nikkei Company



LAPD reverses ban on protest weapons

After judge’s revision of recent court order, department lifts freeze on certain projectiles.

By KEVIN RECTOR

The Los Angeles Police Department has lifted a week-old moratorium on the use of certain hard-foam projectiles at protests after a federal judge revised her recent court order restricting the weapons’ use.

The LAPD confirmed Thursday that it is putting its 37-millimeter projectile launchers back in the field for use, albeit under several remaining restrictions in U.S. District Judge Consuelo B. Marshall’s revised restraining order.

“The LAPD appreciates the court’s thorough review of all the facts and circumstances,” the department said in a statement to The Times. “We are committed to exercise the needed restraint in the use of crowd control tactics while also maintaining the critical need to protect the community, as well as our police officers.”

Marshall’s revised order, issued Wednesday, allows the LAPD to fire 37-millimeter hard-foam projectiles at the ground in front of protesters after declaring a gathering unlawful and issuing a dispersal order. It requires those weapons be used only by trained officers, and says they cannot be used to target individuals “unless absolutely necessary to prevent imminent serious bodily injury” to officers or others.

The initial order said such weapons, which fire five foam rounds at a time, “may only be used on persons who pose a threat of serious bodily harm” to officers and others.

[See LAPD, A12]



Photographs by CAROLYN COLE Los Angeles Times

REAL ESTATE is booming in the Sierra town of Truckee, Calif. Many people who can now work virtually are leaving big cities and moving into areas where they used to only be able to spend weekends.

Remote work altering, unsettling resort areas

Vacation spots become primary homes during pandemic

By LIAM DILLON

TRUCKEE, Calif. — For years, Ben Jarso couldn’t mix work and play. He worked at Facebook in Silicon Valley and on weekends drove almost four hours to Lake Tahoe to hit the ski slopes. When pandemic-related work restrictions freed him to work remotely, he decided to merge his passions.

Truckee, a town on the lake’s north shore, was a perfect choice with Wi-Fi-ready houses and easy access to his favorite ski resort. He started making offers on properties. Again and again he lost out. Turns out too many other people had the same idea.

He finally got a house, but it took quick action. He contacted the seller as soon as the four-bedroom home popped up on his real estate app, made the first offer and agreed to no inspection requirements. His new \$900,000 home has a large pine deck and two fireplaces, and boasts views of



BEN JARSO, an avid skier, moved from the Bay Area to Truckee, where he got a house for “a steal.”

1st-dose appointments fall

L.A. County officials are alarmed by a 50% drop in vaccine bookings as demand cools. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Donner Lake.

“I think it was a steal,” said Jarso, a 31-year-old product manager.

The Lake Tahoe property boom is a vivid example of a trend that emerged last spring when white-collar workers got the mandate to start working remotely. Those with the money and newfound freedom to work from anywhere have headed to the mountain, beach and desert wonderlands where they used to only be able to spend their weekends.

Housing markets are hot nationwide, but few areas have seen the surge in home prices and residents as outdoor vacation destinations.

“You can live your life on vacation,” said Rich La Rue, a real estate broker in the Palm Springs area. “All the things that you love to do: hiking, biking, whatever it is. A property comes on the market here and it’s a feeding frenzy.”

Case in point: the average ask- [See Remote, A9]

GDP growth surges in first quarter

The 6.4% annual rate signals a ‘rip-roaring’ spring and summer for recovering economy.

By DON LEE

WASHINGTON — Just a year after a new coronavirus blew a crater-size hole in the U.S. economy, the recovery gained momentum in the first quarter as growth surged at a strong 6.4% annual rate, government data released Thursday show.

Economists and government policymakers believe there’s more good news to come. The rebound is likely to grow even stronger in the months ahead, restoring millions of jobs and putting the nation on track in 2021 for the fastest growth since the 1980s.

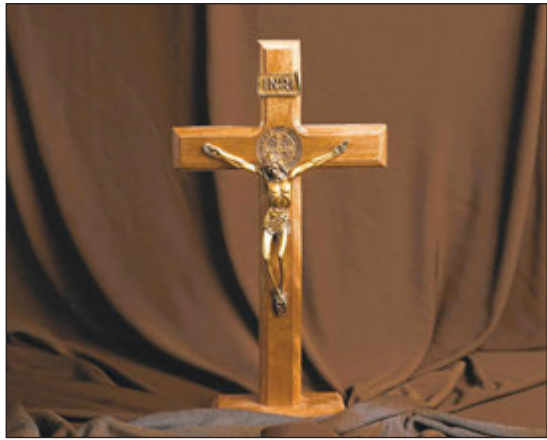
What is expected to keep the boom going are the combined effects of massive federal spending proposed by President Biden, greater vaccination rates that will encourage millions of people to resume spending and billions of dollars in COVID-inspired savings and pent-up demand.

There are some caveats that accompany the rosy forecasts, including product shortages, bottlenecks and higher prices, especially in sectors such as construction, auto manufacturing and other industries struggling to meet demand for materials such as lumber and semiconductors.

Both personal income and the saving rate rose [See GDP surge, A7]

In Georgia, Biden marks Day 100

At a drive-in rally in the crucial state, he thanks supporters for help, and asks for more. **NATION, A12**



CHRISTINE LIGORETTI of Aliso Viejo mailed her hospitalized mother a package that she never received. The box included a crucifix.

COLUMN ONE

Precious pieces left by COVID

A Bible, a cellphone, a sweater — victims’ family members cherish items picked up at the hospital.

By MARISA GERBER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DANIA MAXWELL

The siblings and their mother gathered in a circle around the family table. One by one, they pulled items from the plastic bag they’d picked up from the hospital lobby. Their mother went first, selecting her husband’s reading glasses, devotional booklets and Bible, a reminder of their nightly routine of reading the word of God together. The eldest daughter selected a shirt her father had worn in the hospital, as well as his cellphone, and two other sisters picked [See Belongings, A6]

PARCHED LANDS



MARCUS YAM Los Angeles Times

“WE CAN’T use tractors here,” says Hassan Kanazri, a farmer in Ghor Haditha, Jordan. The shrinking Dead Sea has left sinkholes, weakening the land.

A KINGDOM’S CRISIS

Climate change exacerbates Jordan’s water woes

By NABIH BULOS

GHOR HADITHA, Jordan — The first time people here saw a sinkhole, they thought a small asteroid had slammed into the Dead Sea’s salt-encrusted shore.

Then others appeared. One swallowed the edge of a state-owned building. Another opened near a house and forced the family to move. Worried farmers scanned their fields and abandoned their harvests. At one point, a chunk of highway collapsed, disappearing several stories deep and leaving a lone PVC pipe that ran like a high wire over the crater.

Finally, the residents of Ghor Haditha realized, the problem was literally beneath their feet, a symptom of the Dead Sea’s death and a disturbing measure of the parched land Jordan has become. This small kingdom has long ranked high on the list of water-poor countries. But a mix of a ballooning population, regional conflicts, chronic industrial and agricultural mismanagement and now climate change may soon bring it another distinction: the first nation to possibly lose viable sources of fresh water.

The sinkholes are a harbinger of a future [See Jordan, A4]

Jewish festival turns deadly

Dozens are reported killed and scores injured during a stampede at a religious gathering in Israel. **WORLD, A3**

5 charged in Lady Gaga dog stealing

Pop star’s pet walker was shot and two of her French bulldogs taken in the brazen assault on Feb. 24. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather
Mostly sunny and hot.
L.A. Basin: 90/63. **B10**



CULTURA El tesoro de la amiga barcelonesa de Vivien Leigh P30



FÚTBOL El Barça cae ante el Granada (1-2) y deja líder al Atlético P32 y 33



Las autonomías prolongarán las restricciones tras el fin de la alarma

Cataluña prepara una reforma legal para mantener el toque de queda

JESSICA MOUZO, **Barcelona**
Los gobiernos autónomos prevén mantener restricciones por la pandemia más allá del fin del estado de alarma, que decae el 9

Un millón de vacunados con AstraZeneca esperan una solución

PABLO LINDE, **Madrid**
Las autoridades sanitarias deciden hoy qué hacer con los menores de 60 años que recibieron la primera dosis de la vacuna de AstraZeneca contra la covid y han estado a la espera de la segunda desde que se restringió su uso por algunos casos de trombosis. Son más de un millón de personas, casi todas en trabajos esenciales, que aguardan a saber cómo se completa su inmunización. PÁGINAS 22 Y 23



Navalni, ayer en un video.

Alexei Navalni comparece demacrado desde prisión P3

de mayo. Desaparecerá así el paraguas jurídico que ha sostenido medidas como el toque de queda o el cierre de territorios, pero aun así las autonomías buscan fórmulas para mantenerlas.

Cataluña ultima un cambio en su ley de salud pública destinado a dar cobertura al toque de queda después del día 9, mientras que Asturias o Andalucía preparan documentos para acotar las restricciones. El País Vasco, Galicia, Castilla y León y Castilla-La Mancha se han manifestado a favor de una prórroga del estado de alarma que el Gobierno descarta. La Comunidad Valenciana y Aragón se acogerán a leyes autonómicas para justificar sus medidas. Los expertos alertan del limbo jurídico en que pueden caer las medidas que decidan las autonomías, como sucedió el pasado verano, cuando hubo decisiones judiciales dispares al respecto. Con una incidencia media acumulada de 230 casos por 100.000 habitantes en 14 días, la transmisión comunitaria del virus persiste. PÁGINA 21



"Señoras presidenta y vicepresidenta"

Joe Biden presentó su ambicioso plan social en una sesión conjunta del Congreso encabezada por la vicepresidenta, Kamala Harris, y la presidenta de la Cámara de Representantes, Nancy Pelosi. "Señoras presidenta, señora vicepresidenta; ningún presidente ha dicho antes estas palabras", afirmó Biden. PÁGINA 5 / EDITORIAL EN LA PÁGINA 10

El mercado laboral pierde 137.500 empleos de enero a marzo

Madrid y Cataluña sortean la destrucción de puestos de trabajo

MANUEL V. GÓMEZ, **Madrid**
El mercado laboral español destruyó 137.500 puestos de trabajo en el primer trimestre del año, según la Encuesta de Población Activa (EPA). El descenso es inferior al del mismo trimestre del año anterior. El paro se redujo en 65.800 personas debido al descenso de la población activa —las que tienen o buscan empleo— en más de 200.000. La tasa de paro es del 16%, sin contar a los afectados por ERTE. Tres comunidades sortearon la pérdida de empleo: Madrid (40.400 puestos de trabajo más), Cataluña (33.300) y Cantabria (1.200). PÁGINA 37

Las empresas pagan por sociedades un tipo efectivo del 8,3% del beneficio

LAURA DELLE FEMMINE, **Madrid**
El tipo efectivo del impuesto de sociedades fue el pasado año del 8,3% respecto a los beneficios, según el informe anual de la Agencia Tributaria. Desde 1995, este porcentaje ha caído casi 11 puntos, desde el 19,1%. Si se mide sobre la base imponible, el tipo efectivo ha bajado del 22% al 19,4% en ese periodo. La recaudación cayó casi un tercio en 2020. PÁGINA 38



ELECCIONES MADRID 4M

Ayuso usa la identidad madrileña como gran eje de su campaña

Gabilondo trata de animar a la izquierda al afirmar que solo está a 50.000 votos P15

24 horas con Rocío Monasterio: una cubana contra el Che Guevara P56

CHICAGO SPORTS **NFL DRAFT**

MOVING UP

Bears give up 4 picks to grab Ohio State's star quarterback **Justin Fields** at No. 11

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

City to allow more people indoors

Lightfoot eases restrictions, ready to reopen United Center and expand outdoor festivals

THE PERKS OF THE SHOT

Cities, companies offer incentives to boost COVID-19 vaccinations

By **Carla K. Johnson** and **Michelle R. Smith**
Associated Press

Free beer, pot and doughnuts. Savings bonds. A chance to win an all-terrain vehicle. Places around the U.S. are offering incentives to try to energize the nation's slowing vaccination drive and get Americans to roll up their sleeves. These relatively small corporate promotion efforts have been accompanied by more serious and far-reaching attempts by officials

in cities such as Chicago, which is sending specially equipped buses into neighborhoods to deliver vaccines. Detroit is offering \$50 to people who give others a ride to vaccination sites, and starting Monday will send workers to knock on every door in the city to help residents sign up for shots. Public health officials say the efforts are crucial to reach people who haven't been immunized yet,

Turn to Perks, Page 7



A man in a cannabis-themed costume hands out free pot during a "joints for jabs" event in New York. **MARK LENNIHAN/ AP**

Report: Negligence at VA home

Watchdog shows large-scale mismanagement from the top during an outbreak at the LaSalle Veterans Home that led to 36 deaths. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

By **Gregory Pratt** and **Alice Yin**
Chicago Tribune

Chicago sports fans are set to return to the United Center next month for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic started, officials announced Thursday, among other loosened restrictions touted as the latest step toward a normal summer with more bustle and less isolation. The city also is relaxing its pandemic rules on indoor gatherings, such as the number of people allowed inside bars, restaurants and churches, Mayor Lori Lightfoot announced Thursday. Outdoor events including farmers markets, festivals

and outdoor shows also will be increasing capacity, Lightfoot said. "I believe that the summer of 2021 will look more like '19 than '20," Lightfoot said, echoing a common catchphrase of hers while keeping mum on hotly anticipated annual bashes such as Lollapalooza. "With our announcement today, I think we're signaling we feel very optimistic about what the summer is going to look like, including some big events, and that's as far as I'll go today." The United Center, home of the Chicago Bulls and Blackhawks, and other large indoor venues will be

Turn to Chicago, Page 7

"The planned site for the park by the Spire skyscraper site downtown is not a location that really helps bring this city together, either. But children do travel on that road, and this name would help them see the possibilities. I'm trying to bring this city together, and that road does that." — 17th Ward Ald. David Moore



Cars on Lake Shore Drive pass through Grant Park last April. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Drive for Lake Shore

After much rancor, renaming iconic Chicago roadway for DuSable now steps away from reality

By **John Byrne**
Chicago Tribune

There were accusations of racism, concerns over address changes and an alternate plan pushed by Mayor Lori Lightfoot. But after the noise quieted

Thursday, Chicago moved a step closer to renaming the iconic Lake Shore Drive to honor the Black man credited with founding the city nearly 250 years ago. Now all it will take is a final signoff next month from the City Council to

rechristen Lake Shore Drive from Hollywood Avenue to 67th Street for Jean Baptiste Point DuSable, an explorer of Haitian descent. The debate didn't go down easy, though. Things got tense during

the Transportation Committee hearing when the Lightfoot administration brought forward an alternate ordinance to rename the drive with different wording than what 17th Ward Ald. David Moore had proposed. A city lawyer said it was simply cleaning up some phrasing to ensure the outer drive was completely

redubbed for DuSable without affecting the inner drive, where there are thousands of addresses that would need to be changed. But Moore said it seemed like an eleventh-hour move to backdoor him, calling the city's proposal "racist (expletive)." When some aldermen

Turn to Lake Shore, Page 7

Nephew of Daley facing charges

Case of collapsed bank ensnares 11th Ward alderman

By **Jason Meisner** and **John Byrne**
Chicago Tribune

Chicago Ald. Patrick Daley Thompson, nephew and grandson of the city's two legendary mayors, was charged Thursday as part of a federal investigation into the collapse of a clout-heavy bank in his family's longtime Bridgeport neighborhood, records show. Thompson, who has served as 11th Ward alderman since 2015, was charged in a seven-count indictment with filing false tax returns and lying to Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. officials about \$219,000 in loans and other payments he'd received from Washington Federal Bank for Savings before it was shuttered in 2017. Washington Federal collapsed in 2017, leading to federal charges against a number of the bank's executives and former customers alleging a multiyear, \$31 million embezzlement scheme that preceded the institution's failure. An arraignment date for Thompson has not been set. In a statement released by his lawyer Thursday afternoon, Thompson said his "conscience was clear"

Turn to Probe, Page 6

Tom Skilling's forecast High **57** Low **41**

Chicago Weather Center:
Forecast on back page on A+E

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