

What's News

Business & Finance

Individual investors in the U.S. are holding the highest level of stocks on record as they up the ante by borrowing to magnify their bets or buy on small dips in the market as major indexes climb to fresh highs. **A1**

◆ **Basecamp's** move to ban political conversations laid bare a sharp divide in the tech industry over how to navigate potentially divisive issues. **A1**

◆ **Black homeowners** are having a harder time catching up on missed mortgage payments than other borrowers, new research shows. **A2**

◆ **Dell struck** a deal to sell its Boom! cloud business to private-equity firms Francisco Partners and TPG, part of a larger reordering of the company's business. **B1**

◆ **Revenue** from Robinhood's payment-for-order-flow business more than tripled in the first quarter, at the height of the app-enabled stock-trading mania. **B1**

◆ **Warren Buffett** defended Berkshire's investments over the past year, while saving his harshest comments for some of the hottest investment vehicles at the company's annual meeting. **B1, B2**

◆ **The judge** in a high-profile court battle between Apple and "Fortnite" creator Epic Games will be grappling with the question of how to define a market in the digital age. **B1, B4**

◆ **Smaller businesses** are proving to be a weak link in China's economic recovery as they struggle to fully bounce back from the effects of Covid-19. **A9**

World-Wide

◆ **Biden's ability** to spend \$4.5 trillion on proposed infrastructure and social programs without boosting deficits depends on a range of political and economic variables, some of which are beyond his control. **A1**

◆ **Lawmakers** and administration officials signaled they expect talks on an infrastructure package to ramp up this week, as Republicans and the president work to see if a bipartisan deal is within reach. **A4**

◆ **A boat** that authorities say was illegally smuggling migrants into the U.S. capsized off the coast of San Diego with at least 30 people on board, killing three. **A3**

◆ **The highly contagious** U.K. variant of the Covid-19 virus, now the dominant strain in the U.S., is making the pandemic harder to control, but authorized vaccines work well against it. **A6**

◆ **Israel extended** its Covid-19 vaccine passport system to children who aren't yet eligible to be inoculated, but who return a negative PCR test for coronavirus. **A8**

◆ **Farmers**, whose participation is critical to meeting the Biden administration's goals on slashing greenhouse-gas emissions, say they will need government's help to cover costs. **A3**

◆ **A SpaceX capsule** with four astronauts returning from the International Space Station splashed down safely in the Gulf of Mexico, marking the end of 168 days in orbit. **A3**

◆ **Died: Eli Broad**, 87, billionaire philanthropist. **A2**

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Nighttime Splashdown for NASA Gives SpaceX a Lift



RETURN: Support teams work around the SpaceX Crew Dragon Resilience capsule early Sunday shortly after splashdown. It marked the end of 168 days in space for the four astronauts, and the end of SpaceX's first operational round-trip mission. **A3**

Biden's Bid to Contain Deficit And Spend Big Faces Hurdles

By KATE DAVIDSON

President Biden's \$1.9 trillion Covid-19 relief package was financed entirely with borrowed money. Now, he is proposing to spend about \$4.5 trillion on infrastructure and social programs—without adding to the red ink.

"We can do it without increasing deficits," Mr. Biden, a Democrat, said in a joint address to Congress last week, detailing a series of tax increases on the wealthy and

corporations to pay for programs ranging from building charging stations for electric cars to subsidizing child care.

Mr. Biden's ability to spend what he proposed without adding debt depends on political and economic variables, some beyond his control. Among them: Whether moderate Democrats will go along with his proposed tax increases, and whether those increases will stay in place long enough to cover all of the extra costs.

Taken together, the two new

proposals would add about \$1.3 trillion to deficits over the next 10 years, according to estimates by analysts at the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget and Cornerstone Macro Research.

They said the shortfalls would eventually be made up in the following years as tax increases continue and some of the spending winds down. Over time, they said, the national debt might begin to decline as a share of economic output.

"I think it is clear that the

framework for these proposals is to spend early, create a lot of investments that they think are going to have perpetual returns to the economy, and reduce the very long-term debt," said Marc Goldwein, senior vice president at the nonpartisan CRFB, based in Washington.

But Mr. Goldwein said relying on tax increases to pay for the proposals is risky.

◆ **Infrastructure talks** are set to ramp up..... **A4**

◆ **GOP's blue-collar agenda** is still a work in progress..... **A4**

Lawsuit Without End: 28 Years So Far

Chevron lost an Ecuador pollution case. U.S. courts deemed it fraudulent. The fight goes on.

By SARA RANDAZZO

Chevron Corp. was fixated on roses. The giant U.S. oil company objected last June when Washington proposed allowing duty-free rose imports from the world's poorest countries, including Ecuador.

A decade earlier, an Ecuadorian court had blamed Chevron for oil pollution and told it to pay \$9.5 billion in damages, one of the largest-ever penalties of its kind.

Chevron had since proved the ver-

dict fraudulent, it told the U.S. Trade Representative. But Ecuador refused to render it unenforceable despite an order to do that from an international arbitration tribunal. Letting Ecuador save money on flowers after blatant "acts of defiance" would tell the world the U.S. rewards bad behavior, the oil company said.

Chevron lost the war of the roses. But it still hasn't paid a cent of the Ecuadorian judgment, and says it won't stop legally battling until it can ensure that it never has to.

"We're going to fight this until hell freezes over, and then we'll fight it on the ice," a former Chevron general counsel, Charles James, said before his retirement in 2010, a remark that became a watchword at the company.

His successor, R. Hewitt Pate, said this spring that "only the government of Ecuador could deliver a final resolution of this case," by nullifying the verdict.

Big companies that see lawsuits against them as unfounded often reach

◆ **Robinson's revenue** soars after rally..... **B1**

◆ **Buffett offers defense** of Berkshire investing..... **B1**

Investors Stock Up On Shares In Record Numbers

Individuals in U.S. keep raising holdings as indexes reach highs and volatility declines

By GUNJIAN BANERJI

Individual investors in the U.S. are holding the highest level of stocks on record as they up the ante by borrowing to magnify their bets or buy on small dips in the market as major indexes climb to fresh highs.

Stockholdings among the nation's households increased to 41% of their total financial assets in April. That is the highest level on record, according to JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Federal Reserve data going back to 1952 that includes 401(k) retirement accounts.

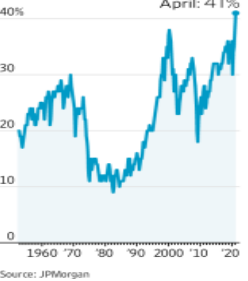
JPMorgan's Nikolaos Panigirtzoglou, who analyzed the data, attributed the elevated allocations to appreciating share prices alongside stock purchases.

The enthusiasm for stocks comes as market volatility has been edging lower and the S&P 500 has hit 25 records this year, fueled by a stellar earnings season and the prospect of an economic recovery that is speedier than many predicted. Meanwhile, stimulus checks have fueled a record rise in household incomes, boosting spending and helping propel the recovery.

Please turn to page A6

Stock allocations among U.S. households

Sum of equities held as a percentage of total financial assets



Sick Are Left to Care For Sicker in India's Wave

NEW DELHI—Days before Nikita Goel had planned to get married, she and five family members tested positive for the coronavirus, including her parents and 86-year-old grandfather. "I felt like a roof had fallen," she said.

Her father and grandfather were soon fighting for every breath, and Ms. Goel, suffering fever and coughing fits, was the one sent to find help from an overwhelmed healthcare system collapsing around her. "I suddenly felt I was left alone in the world, alone to save my family," said Ms. Goel, 28 years old.

The wave of Covid-19 sweeping India has hit hard and suddenly, swallowing entire families and neighborhoods and, in many cases, Please turn to page A8

◆ **Resilient U.K. variant** can be curbed..... **A6**

Fury Over Super League Erupts



Anger over aborted plans for a European soccer Super League boiled over Sunday when protesters broke into Manchester United's home stadium in Manchester, England. **A8**

Welcome to the New Casablanças: World Cities That Stayed Open

Executives are making their way to locales where business is done in person

By YAROSLAV TROFIMOV

DUBAI—Oliver J. Christof used to spend some 300 days a year traveling the world, drumming up business for his family's industrial-services company in Austria.

In October, when Europe entered new lockdowns, the family relocated to Dubai, one of the few cities open in a world largely closed.

People now come to see Mr. Christof. This year, some four-fifths of the company's clients and partners have shown up in

Bosses Who Forbid Office Political Talk Trigger Hot Debate

By KATHERINE BINDLEY

When leaders of the product management and communication software company Basecamp announced last week that it would curb political conversations at work, fallout came fast.

Tech employees, workplace consultants and politicians alike assailed the decision on Twitter and LinkedIn, though other company leaders called it a courageous move. Some employees publicly threatened to quit. Ultimately, the Chicago-based company offered buyouts to its staff of about 50. A significant number of employees decided to leave.

Though small, privately held Basecamp is influential among tech companies—its founders have written popular books about work and held theirs up as a model workplace, with shortened weeks in summer and paying everyone working in the same role the same salary. Its attempt to tell employees not to engage in discussions on societal and political issues during work shows how, after years of encouraging teams to "bring their whole selves to work," some companies want employees to bring a little less.

Years ago, Alphabet Inc.'s Google and Facebook Inc. led the way in embracing open discussions of sensitive topics at work, providing internal message boards, town halls and other forums for employee opinions. Many others followed suit, and leaders came to take stands on social issues and give employees arenas to express themselves.

Recently, some companies have gone the other way—most notably cryptocurrency exchange Coinbase Global Inc., which last fall declared its culture "apolitical." Chief Executive Brian Armstrong wrote that the company wouldn't debate causes or political candidates internally and that employees shouldn't expect Coinbase to take public stances on their own personal beliefs.

Google and Facebook, citing a desire to curb internal tensions, have also moved to

The \$100m deli

How stock market mania reached a New Jersey sandwich shop — PAGE 7

Napoleon's ghost

Debate on leader's legacy embodies French culture war — OPINION, PAGE 17



Staying power

Airbnb chief on navigating the pandemic — HOW TO LEAD, PAGE 12

Blank-cheque groups' shares fall as investor caution rises

- ◆ Spac tie-ups see average dip of 39%
- ◆ Red-hot sector hit by abrupt cooling

ORTENCA ALIAJ AND JAMES FONTANELLA-ARHAN — NEW YORK

Shares in businesses that went public through deals with "blank-cheque" companies have dropped by an average of two-fifths from their highs, as appetite for the once red-hot sector of the US stock market cools rapidly.

Of the 41 special purpose acquisition companies that completed transactions since the start of 2020, only three are still within 5 per cent of their share price peaks. Eighteen have more than halved, and several are down more than 80 per cent. The average fall is 39 per cent.

The figures come from a Financial Times analysis of data from Refinitiv tracking Spacs that acquired businesses valued at more than \$1bn. The slump comes against the backdrop of a wider US stock market rally that set a new high in the past week.

Spacs, shell companies that raise money from investors through a listing on the promise of merging with an unidentified private company, have been among the busiest segments of global markets over the past year. Nearly half of the \$230bn raised globally in new listings has gone to Spacs.

Less than two months ago, investors were still enthusiastically chasing Spac shares higher once companies announced their acquisition plans. Groups ranging from electric-vehicle developers and software companies to mortgage originators chose to go public via deals with a Spac instead of the traditional route of an initial public offering.

The frenzy saw blank-cheque compa-

nies break records in terms of fundraising and dealmaking in the first quarter.

But deals are now taking longer to complete as regulators take a closer look at disclosures and revenue forecasts made by the companies, and institutional investors that typically fund the deals show more caution.

As a result, new Spac launches have slowed to a trickle.

Shivaram Rajgopal, a professor at Columbia Business School, said that historically during a market frenzy there were a higher number of underperforming companies that go public as they try to ride the wave, and this trend had been true for Spacs. "When there's overvaluation, when sentiment is going crazy, the more marginal company is likely to go public," he said.

Of the Spac deals completed since January 2020, eight have fallen so heavily they now trade below the \$10 at which shares were originally priced when they first raised cash.

Shares in Spacs that are still hunting for deals have also fallen. More than two-thirds of the 425 blank-cheque companies that have listed since January 2020 are trading below \$10. This may suggest there is scepticism that they will find acquisitions to add value.

The share price declines and slowdown in deals suggest retail investors and other market players are cooling in particular on start-ups with little to show in the way of revenue or even a product, which were among those whose shares rose the most in the boom. **Blank cheque warning page 6**

Light on Putin HarperCollins sued by oligarchs over book on president's rise



Russian president Vladimir Putin at the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour in Moscow.

The Orthodox Easter service at the weekend came as it emerged that four Russian billionaires and state energy giant

Rosneft have filed lawsuits in London against HarperCollins over a book it published about the president's rise.

Claimants in the legal assault on *Putin's People* include Mikhail Fridman and Roman

Abramovich, owner of Chelsea FC. Their move highlights the high-stakes nature of writing about the global elite and the role of top London law firms in defending their interests. **Billionaires sue page 8**

Briefing

► **KPN rebuffs rival private equity offers**
The Dutch telecoms group has put itself at the heart of a potential €18bn bidding war after throwing out unsolicited takeover offers from a consortium led by EQT and Stonepeak, and one from KKR. — PAGE 8

► **US and Europe set for quicker rebound**
Latest data have shown that the economies have a good chance of recovering the ground lost amid the coronavirus pandemic by the end of the year, much faster than economists had expected. — PAGE 4

► **Buffett in inflation warning to investors**
Berkshire Hathaway boss Warren Buffett has told the group's annual meeting that he was surprised by the "red hot" US economic rebound as he pointed to a bout of rising prices across the economy. — PAGE 6

► **Yellen defends Biden plan for tax rises**
US Treasury secretary Janet Yellen has urged Congress to stick to the White House plan to pay for its \$4.1tn investment plan with higher taxes, warning over fiscal discipline. — PAGE 2



► **Madrid vote to reverberate across Spain**
The conservative People's party's Isabel Diaz Ayuso will seek re-election as head of Madrid's regional government tomorrow in a battle that one observer says will "determine the future of the right". — PAGE 2

► **Mutual funds lose ground as ETFs rise**
The number of mutual funds, long a staple of the US retail investment landscape, has fallen at its fastest pace in two decades amid managers' mergers and competition from exchange traded funds. — PAGE 6

► **El Salvador president tightens grip**
Nayib Bukele has seized control of the top court and replaced the attorney-general in a move that has been condemned by the US and business leaders as well as opposition groups. — PAGE 4

Datawatch

Corruption concerns

% of respondents (Apr 2021)



Across the world, some 30 per cent of people are concerned about political and financial corruption in their country, a rise from 23 per cent in April last year. South Korea and South Africa experienced the biggest increases

Source: Ipsos Mori



Johnson faces home truths over Downing St flat work

Boris Johnson has been riding high as the UK vaccine rollout steams ahead and the economy springs back to life. But a political storm has been brewing over the lavish refurbishment of the prime minister's flat, while a split with his former chief aide has turned into a vicious briefing war. The two developments have revived questions about Johnson's character and judgment ahead of local elections across Britain this week. **Big Read** — PAGE 15

India's vaccine shortage will last for months, biggest manufacturer warns

STEPHANIE FINDLAY — NEW DELHI

The head of India's Serum Institute, the world's biggest vaccine manufacturer, has warned that a shortage of jabs will last for months after Narendra Modi's government failed to prepare for a devastating second Covid-19 wave.

Adar Poonawalla told the Financial Times that India's severe vaccine shortfall would continue until July, when production is expected to rise from about 60m-70m doses a month to 100m.

Poonawalla said that, in January, the authorities had not prepared to confront a second wave. "Everybody really felt that India had started to turn the tide on the pandemic," he said.

But India has since been pummeled by a wave of infections, reporting a record 400,000 new cases yesterday.

Many cities and states are under lockdown, including New Delhi.

Modi has come under fire for pushing ahead with an aggressive regional election campaign in West Bengal, despite warnings that his mass rallies would become super-spreader events. The prime minister's Bharatiya Janata party failed to win power in the state yesterday, amid growing anger over the government's handling of the pandemic.

India has vaccinated less than 2 per cent of its population, with many states running out of jabs. The shortages have delayed plans to widen the inoculation campaign to everyone aged 18 or older and forced India to halt vaccine exports that had been expected to supply much of the developing world.

Poonawalla said the Serum Institute had been unduly maligned over the vaccine shortages, pointing out that the

government was responsible for policy. The company has also been denounced for charging state governments and hospitals higher prices than it offered to the central government. Poonawalla, however, defended the prices following the criticism.

"I've been victimised very unfairly and wrongly," he said, adding that he had not boosted capacity earlier because "there were no orders".

New Delhi initially ordered 21m vaccines from the Serum Institute, which is making the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine and will supply the vast majority of the country's doses, in February.

Another 110m doses were ordered in March when infections started to climb steeply. In April, India's drug regulator gave emergency approval to Russia's Sputnik V vaccine in an attempt to secure more shots from overseas. **BJP suffers setback page 2**

World Markets

STOCK MARKETS					CURRENCIES					INTEREST RATES				
	Apr 30	Apr 29	%Week		Apr 30	Apr 29		Apr 30	Apr 29		price	yield	chg	
S&P 500	4181.17	4180.17	0.02	\$ per €	1.204	1.205	€ per \$	0.722	0.723	US Gov 10-yr	147.40	1.63	-0.03	
Nikkei Composite	32962.68	34016.91	-3.26	£ per €	1.385	1.384	€ per £	1.159	1.148	UK Gov 10-yr		0.54	0.00	
Dow Jones Ind	33874.85	34043.48	-0.50	¥ per \$	0.870	0.871	¥ per €	131.582	130.237	Ger Gov 10-yr		-0.20	-0.01	
FTSE Euro Stoxx 50	3662.88	3690.34	-0.46	₹ per \$	109.305	108.095	₹ index	81.341	81.823	Jpn Gov 10-yr	116.33	0.00	0.00	
Euro Stoxx 50	3874.74	4013.34	-4.91	₹ per €	151.338	149.578	₹ per £	1.263	1.288	US Gov 3-yr	106.94	2.31	-0.02	
FTSE 100	6968.81	6938.56	0.45	S¥ per €	1.088	1.105				Ger Gov 2-yr	106.24	-0.68	0.00	
FTSE All-Share	7963.85	7995.16	0.47	€ per \$	0.821	0.820								
CAC 40	6260.48	6257.94	0.18											
Xetra Dax	15135.31	15279.62	-0.94											
Nikkei	28812.63	28958.55	-1.07											
Hang Seng	28724.98	28756.34	-1.11											
ASX 200	7963.85	7995.16	0.47											
MSCI World \$	2963.31	-	-											
MSCI EM \$	1364.54	-	-											
MSCI ADM \$	208.07	-	-											
COMMODITIES														
	Apr 30	Apr 29	%Week								price	prev	chg	
Oil WTI \$	62.48	62.14	2.16											
Oil Brent \$	66.85	66.10	0.83											
Gold \$	1782.85	1787.25	-1.40											

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Clamor Grows To Get Footage Off Body Cams

**Uneven Access Across
U.S. Vexes the Public**

By RICHARD FAUSSET and
GIULIA McDONNELL NIETO DEL RIO
ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. —
Melkhia Bryant had been dead
only a few hours when the authorities
in Columbus, Ohio, released
body camera footage from the police
officer who had shot and killed her.

Andrew Brown Jr. was killed by
sheriff's deputies in Elizabeth
City, N.C., nearly two weeks ago,
and it could be many more weeks
— or even months — before video
of his death is publicly shown.

As body-worn cameras have be-
come more commonplace, and
public pressure on officials to take
police accountability more seriously
has mounted, so too have demands
to quickly release the footage
of violent or fatal encounters
between law enforcement officers
and citizens. A video can mean
the difference between drawing
attention or dying in obscurity.

But it is not always that easy.
While more police chiefs and mayors
have recently made ad hoc decisions
to quickly release videos of high-
profile episodes, activists and
lawmakers in some states are
pushing for faster public access.
That has made the question of timing
an important and unsettled
new frontier of policymaking as
the use of body cameras among
law enforcement in the United
States becomes the rule rather
than the exception.

As of 2018, at least 23 states and
the District of Columbia had
passed laws related to the public
disclosure of body-worn camera
footage, according to the National



Protesters demanding the
video of the killing of Andrew
Brown Jr. in North Carolina.

Conference of State Legislatures,
and many states are considering
measures this year. Few states
consider body-worn camera
footage exempt from public
records requests, although most
states have passed various ex-
ceptions associated with the dis-
closure — from who is allowed to
view the video to the time frame in
which it must be released.
In Ohio, body-worn camera
footage is generally subject to
public disclosure, and any author-
ity figure can choose to release it
at any time. In North Carolina,
a court order is required, even if
the person requesting the footage
is the head of a law enforcement
agency.

By first requiring a judge's ap-
proval to release body camera
footage through blanket, state-
Continued on Page A20



Edward Stely at an A.T.F. site in West Virginia. The gun lobby has blocked the creation of a tracing system with a searchable database.

Spending Plan Aims to Bolster Middle Class

By PATRICIA COHEN

Perhaps the most striking differ-
ence between the middle class of
50 years ago and the middle
class today is a loss of confidence
— the confidence that you were
doing better than your parents
and that your children would do
better than you.

President Biden's multitrillion-
dollar suite of economic proposals
is aiming to both reinforce and re-
build an American middle class
that feels it has been standing on
shifting ground. And it comes with
an explicit message that the gov-
ernment alone cannot deliver on
that dream and that the gov-
ernment has a central part to play.
"When you look at periods of
shared growth," said Brian Deese,
director of Mr. Biden's National
Economic Council, "what you see
is that public investment has
played an absolutely critical role,
not to the exclusion of private in-
vestment and innovation, but in
laying the foundation."

If the Biden administration gets
its way, the reconstructed middle
class would be built on a sturdier
and much broader plank of gov-
ernment support rather than the
vagaries of the market.

Some proposals are meant to
support parents who work: fed-
eral paid family and medical
leave, more affordable child care,
free prekindergarten classes. Others
would use public investment to
create jobs, in areas like clean
energy, transportation and high-
speed broadband. And a higher
minimum wage would aim to buoy
those in low-paid work, while free
community college would im-
prove skills.

That presidents pitch their
agendas to the middle class is not
surprising given that nearly nine
Continued on Page A20

How the Firearms Lobby Hamstrings the A.T.F.

This article is by Glenn Thrush,
Danny Hakim and Mike McIntire.

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. — If
there was one moment that
summed up the current state of
the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives, it was
when the floor at the agency's
gun-tracing center caved in a cou-
ple of years ago under the weight
of paper.

The accident was not entirely
accidental.

The gun lobby, led by the Na-
tional Rifle Association, has for
years systematically blocked
plans to modernize the agency's
paper-based weapons-tracing
system with a searchable data-

Biden Effort to Combat Gun Violence Relies on Ailing Agency

base. As a result, records of gun
sales going back decades are
stored in boxes stacked seven
high, waiting to be processed,
against every wall.

We had a lady pushing a cart,
and the floor just gave way," re-
called Tyson J. Arnold, who runs
the tracing center, tapping the
new, steel-braced deck with his
shoe.

Now the long-suffering A.T.F.

(somehow the "explosives" never
made it into the abbreviation) is at
the center of President Biden's
plans to push back at what he has
called "the international embar-
rassment" of gun violence in
America.

As he laid out his expansive vi-
sion for the nation on Wednesday
night, Mr. Biden once again called
on Congress to expand back-
ground checks and ban assault
weapons. But given the abiding
power of the gun lobby, his im-
mediate hopes lie in a more limited
list of executive actions that will
ultimately rely on the effective-
ness of the A.T.F., the federal
agency tasked with enforcing the
country's gun laws and executive
Continued on Page A18



Filling Gaps in a Desperate India

Receiving oxygen at a makeshift clinic in India's Uttar Pradesh state. With the health care system at
its breaking point, online grass-roots networks are racing to get aid to people who need it. Page A9.

Hispanic Women Give G.O.P. Life in South Texas

By JENNIFER MEDINA

McALLEN, Texas — The front
door of the Hidalgo County Re-
publican Party's office is covered
with photographs of high-profile
politicians in the party: Gov. Greg
Abbott, Senator John Cornyn and
former President Donald J.
Trump. Nearly all of them are
white men.

Step inside, and you'll see a bul-

Seeking Further Gains Against Democrats

letin board with pictures of local
Republican leaders: Adrienne
Pena-Garza, Hilda Garza DeS-
hazo, Mayra Flores. Nearly all of
them are Hispanic women.

Hispanic Republicans, espe-

cially women, have become some-
thing of political rock stars in the
Rio Grande Valley shocked leaders
in both parties in November by
swinging sharply toward the
G.O.P. Here in McAllen, one of the
region's largest cities, Mr. Trump
received nearly double the num-
ber of votes he did four years ear-
lier; in the Rio Grande Valley over
Continued on Page A17

New York Retailers Fret as Offices Stay Empty

By PETER EAVIS
and MATTHEW HAAG

A big shift toward working from
home is endangering hundreds of
locally owned Manhattan store-
fronts, waiting for life to return to the
desolate streets of Midtown and the
Financial District.

The fate of these stores, and by
extension the country's two larg-

Remote Work Leaves Vital Culture at Risk

est business hubs, will hinge in
large part on how long landlords
will keep offering the rent breaks
that have kept many retailers
afloat. Landlords themselves are
under growing financial pressure

as office vacancies soar and com-
muters and visitors stay away.

At risk is Manhattan's unique
retail culture — the jewelers, bar-
ber shops, event spaces and bars —
and familiarity to the street-level
canyons of its skyscraper-filled of-
fice districts.

"Right now, we're suffering,"
said Gill Vaturi, who operates To-
Continued on Page A16



How Pfizer's Vaccine Is Made

It's a complex manufacturing and test-
ing process that takes 60 days and
results in millions of doses. PAGE A6

Political Effects of Sputnik V

Turmoil in Slovakia is an example of
how Russia's vaccine diplomacy can
turn out for a recipient country. PAGE A4

INTERNATIONAL A12-14

Love Story Leads to Cuban Jail
Accused of espionage, a dual Cuban and
U.S. citizen who married a Cuban diplo-
mat is serving a 13-year sentence. Her
mother is seeking her release. PAGE A12

NATIONAL A15-21

Wet Finish for NASA Mission
A SpaceX rocket with a crew of four
made the first nighttime splashdown
with astronauts since 1968. PAGE A21

Pushing Back in New York City

The woman who said the mayoral can-
didate Scott Stringer sexually assaulted
her denied working for a rival. PAGE A16



SPORTSMONDAY D1-6

Storming an Empty Stadium
Protests by Manchester United sup-
porters caused a soccer game against
Liverpool to be postponed. PAGE D3

A Baseball Gap Year

The Ivy League decided against spring
sports, so players at Brown headed
south for top-flight training. PAGE D1

BUSINESS B1-5

Shrugging at Tax Increase Talk
Investors, reflecting a customary ap-
proach, seem to care more about eco-
nomic data and corporate profits than
what President Biden might do on
capital gains. PAGE B1

Verizon Nears Yahoo-AOL Sale

In making the deal with the private
equity firm Apollo, Verizon is acknowl-
edging that it was behind on digital ads.
Instead, it will concentrate on building a
5G network. PAGE B1

OPINION A22-23

Ezra Klein PAGE A22



ARTS C1-6

Another Good Neighbor
A PBS Kids show about a mohawk-
sporting donkey, above with Purple
Panda, was inspired by a character in
"Mister Rogers' Neighborhood." PAGE C1



Waitlists are a last hope for UC spot

With the pandemic upending enrollment, uncertainty is the rule this admission season.

By TERESA WATANABE

Anika Madan, a senior at Sunny Hills High in Fullerton, had a loaded school resume when she applied to six University of California campuses for admission this fall: a 4.6 GPA, 11 college-level courses, student leadership positions and community service building robotic hands for people with disabilities.

She was accepted to UC campuses at Irvine, Riverside and Santa Barbara — but wait-listed at Berkeley, Davis and San Diego.

Once again she is on edge — along with tens of thousands of others — as yet another nail-biting phase of a record-breaking UC admission season begins this week. Campuses are diving into their massive waitlists, selecting students to fill the seats of those who turned down UC offers by the May 1 college decision day. For the wait-listed, this next round is sparking more anxiety, frustration and even defiance as they try to decide whether to hold out for an offer from a favored campus or just move on.

So what are the chances of being plucked from a wait-list?

Last year, UC undergraduate campuses extended more than 112,000 offers to be placed on a waitlist and students accepted more than half of them. UC ultimately offered about 34,000 seats to wait-listed students — more than double the number in 2019. Admission rates of wait-listed students rose at UCLA to 19% in 2020 from 13% in 2019. They increased during that same period at San Diego to 27% from 22%; Irvine to 24% from 19%; Riverside to 67% from 34%; and Santa Cruz to 86% from 62%. Berkeley and Davis also substantially increased their offers to 1,667 and 4,282, respectively, last year over 2019, but their admission rates were not immediately available.

The problem is, last year is hardly a guide, and uncertainties rule the season.

UC admission directors say the pandemic threw off their tried and true prediction models about who would enroll in fall last year as thousands of admitted students decided to pass on a year of online classes and substantially shuttered dorms. That, in turn, caused campuses to scramble to fill [See Waitlists, A12]



TAYLOR COLE visits the pitcher's mound at Angel Stadium, marked by Tyler Skaggs' No. 45, before the team's first home game after Skaggs' death in 2019. The Angels pitched a combined no-hitter that night. KENT NISHIMURA Los Angeles Times

The last days of Tyler Skaggs

A wrenching search for truth in Angels starter's overdose

By NATHAN FENNO

The day after Angels pitcher Tyler Skaggs was found dead in his hotel room, Eric Kay, the team's longtime communications director, leaned against a blue binder block wall during a news conference at Globe Life Park in Arlington, Texas.

A few feet away, facing cameras and reporters, manager Brad Ausmus wiped away tears as he described how the Angels coped during the previous 24 hours.

Sadness and shock over the unexpected death of the popular player from Santa Monica hung over the stadium on the warm afternoon in July 2019.

Little was known about the circumstances of the death. Ques-



TYLER SKAGGS, a rising star at 27, was given fentanyl-laced pills by a team employee, prosecutors allege. [See Skaggs, A6]

tions abounded. How could a seemingly healthy 27-year-old professional athlete die with no obvious explanation?

Kay shifted weight from one leg to the other. His left hand clasped his right wrist. He took a deep breath, leaned back, looked at the ceiling, then slowly exhaled. He appeared as dazed and heartbroken as everyone else in the room.

Authorities allege Kay knew more than he let on at the time.

Almost two years later, the now-former Angels employee is scheduled for trial this summer in U.S. District Court in Fort Worth. Kay, 45, is charged with giving Skaggs counterfeit oxycodone pills laced with fentanyl that resulted in his death, and with conspiring since at least 2017 to "pos-

California embraces shots with open arms

By LUKE MONEY, MATT STILES AND COLLEEN SHALBY

A number of factors have fueled California's remarkable turnaround from national epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic to having one of the lowest case rates in the U.S.

But one weapon in its arsenal has gone largely unnoticed: Californians' general

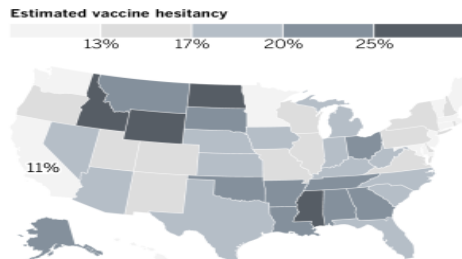
embrace of COVID-19 vaccines.

Federal data indicate only about 11% of Californians are estimated to be vaccine hesitant, a lower rate than those of all but four states: Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut and Hawaii.

This relative lack of reluctance has undoubtedly been a boon for the state's inoculation campaign — though a [See Vaccinations, A8]

Vaccine hesitancy by state

Percentage of adults who would "probably not" or "definitely not" receive a COVID-19 shot when available.



U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Census Bureau

MATT STILES Los Angeles Times

Coming to terms with 61,000 dead

"The Pandemic's Toll" series has looked at extraordinary lives lost in California. PERSPECTIVES, A2

COLUMN ONE

During Ramadan, every night is date night

Humble fruit holds special significance for Muslims, Coachella Valley farmers

By BRITNEY MEJIA

The table was laden with food: a rack of lamb, well roasted and succulent. A platter of chicken over rice. A tray of tabbouleh, a bulgur salad speckled with parsley. A rainbow of watermelon, orange slices and grapes.

But the first things guests reached for as they gathered at the Fejleh family's home to break fast together on a recent Tuesday night were shriveled fruits about the size of a thumb.

About 14 hours had passed without food or drink.

And what they wanted most of all were dates.

They reached across one another to get to the stars of the show, sectioned off with cardboard on a silver platter: deep black Safawi dates,



AYA MUHTASEB and her father, Adnan Fejleh, break their fast with dates during Ramadan at a family gathering in Montclair. IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

crunchy Deglet Noor, soft creamy honey dates, Ajwa with their ties to the prophet Muhammad. And the crown jewel, the sweet and sticky medjool.

"It's like the right amount of sweet to bring you back to life," said Aya Muhtaseb, who hails from the family of date farmers.

In 2020, COVID-19 forced mosques to close during Ramadan, the holiest month in the Islamic calendar. At a time when tens of thousands of people were dying and life was filled with uncertainty, Muslims could not break fast and pray together. Dates were a constant in every home.

After fasting from sunrise to sunset, Muslims turn first to the fruit, a practice believed followed by Muhammad, who is said to have broken his fast with three dates. On Twitter, some joke that it's the only month [See Dates, A8]

Guard shakes up top ranks

State commander fires a general, suspends another while limits are set on jets used for civilian missions.

By PAUL PRINGLE AND ALENE TCHEKMEDEVIAN

Turmoil has gripped the leadership ranks of the California National Guard, with the firing of the general who commanded its air branch, the suspension of a second key general and new limits placed by Gov. Gavin Newsom on the organization's use of fighter jets for civilian missions.

Newsom's office and the head of the Guard, Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin, refused to provide details on the reasons behind the recent leadership changes other than a statement from the Guard saying the organization "is committed to facilitating a positive working environment for all of its members, regardless of gender and ethnicity."

The air branch's former commander, who was forced out last month, told The Times he did nothing wrong and said Baldwin had "lost touch with reality."

The abrupt actions against the two generals mark the second major shake-up in California's Military Department in as many years. And they were announced on the heels of a Times report that Guard members were concerned that their leaders had readied an F-15C fighter jet last year for a possible mission in which the aircraft would fly low over civilian protesters to frighten and disperse them.

Baldwin denied that the jet was placed on an alert status for that purpose, and a Newsom spokeswoman said the governor would never authorize such a mission. Ernie Mellon said in a statement to The Times that Newsom wanted to be "crystal clear" about restrictions on the use of military aircraft for domestic missions.

"The governor has directed his Office of Emergency Services, in collaboration with the California National Guard, to review and assert definitive and unmistakable parameters for authorizing and using military aircraft under the State Emergency Management System, while reverting F-15 aircraft to a reduced state of readiness for civil support [See Guard, A12]

Dodgers thump Brewers 16-4

AJ Pollock had eight RBIs and Matt Benty drove in another seven as they each clubbed grand slams en route to the rout. SPORTS, D1

Boat capsizes, killing at least 3

More than two dozen are hurt after suspected smuggling vessel breaks up off San Diego. CALIFORNIA, B1

Border families still separated

Migrants forced to "remain in Mexico" by Trump are still kept from children under Biden. NATION, A4

Weather Partly sunny. L.A. Basin: 79/59. B6



BUSINESS INSIDE: Thinking of quitting? Learn to expand your skills on the job first. A9

Election falsehood now a GOP loyalty test

Trump's baseless claims, already reshaping party, could define midterms

BY ASHLEY PARKER
AND MARIANNA SOTOMAYOR

Debra Ell, a Republican organizer in Michigan and fervent supporter of former president Donald Trump, said she has good reason to believe the 2020 presidential election was stolen.

"I think I speak for many people in that Trump has never actually been wrong, and so we've learned to trust when he says something, that he's not just going to spew something out there that's wrong and not verified," she said, referring to Trump's baseless claims that widespread electoral fraud caused his loss to President Biden in November.

In fact, there is no evidence to support Trump's false assertions, which culminated in a deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6. But Ell, a Republican precinct delegate in her state, said the 2020 election is one of the reasons she's working to censor and remove Jason Cabel Roe from his role as the Michigan Republican Party's executive director — specifically that Roe accepted the 2020 results, telling Politico that "the election wasn't stolen" and that "there is no one to blame but Trump."

"He said the election was not rigged, as Donald Trump had said, so we didn't agree with that," SEE GOP ON A11

Officers' vaccine hesitancy raises risks

BY ISAAC STANLEY-BECKER

Police officers were among the first front-line workers to gain priority access to coronavirus vaccines. But their vaccination rates are lower than or about the same as those of the general public, according to data made available by some of the nation's largest law enforcement agencies.

The reluctance of police to get the shots threatens not just their own health, but also the safety of people they're responsible for guarding, monitoring and patrolling, experts say.

At the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, just 39 percent of employees have gotten at least one dose, officials said, compared with more than 50 percent of eligible adults nationwide. In Atlanta, 36 percent of sworn officers have been vaccinated. And a mere 28 percent of those employed by the Columbus Division of Police — Ohio's largest police department — report having received a vaccine. SEE POLICE ON A8



MELINA MARA/THE WASHINGTON POST

Too few homes, too much fire

California struggles with how to build much-needed housing in areas prone to blazes

BY SCOTT WILSON
IN GUENOC VALLEY, CALIF.

This land burns.

It has for centuries, flames sweeping over the oak-covered hillsides, lighting up grasslands studded with ancient basaltic rock. Now the valley, remote and groomed only by vineyards, is a test for how California will grow its economy and address its inadequate housing supply in the age of the year-round wildfire.

In February, the state attorney gen-



KYLE GRIFFIT FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

In California's Guenoc Valley, top, a lawsuit would block an approved housing and resort development because of concerns about wildfires like one in Malibu in 2018, above.

eral's office weighed in for the first time to support a lawsuit that would block an approved housing and resort development across 16,000 acres here, citing the risk of wildfire as the central reason. The move adds to a strong current of legislative and legal activity underway over how and where to build, as California heads into fire season with much of the state, including this northern county, facing severe drought conditions after a dry winter.

Those efforts stand to exacerbate SEE CALIFORNIA ON A18

The chip shortage's hidden casualties

Effect on Illinois maker of dog-washing booths shows far reach of issue

BY JEANNE WHALEN

Of all the businesses to suffer from the global shortage of computer chips, dog washing — a low-tech affair involving soap, water and a dirty pet — ought to be near the bottom of the list.

But as with so many low-tech tasks these days, high-tech options are available, and that's how CCSI International, a family-run manufacturer in rural Illinois, ran afoul of the chip shortage.

CCSI makes electronic dog-washing booths that dispense shampoo, water and optional fur-drying. The machines are a hit with dog-park managers and the U.S. military, which buys them for use on its bases.

But the machines are controlled by computer chips, and recently, CCSI, which assembles the booths at its factory in Garden Prairie, Ill., was told by its circuit-board supplier that



YOUNGJAE KIM FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Russell Caldwell leads CCSI International, which makes dog-washing booths and is one of the firms affected by the shortage.

the usual chips weren't available. A substitute chip would work, but CCSI would have to tweak its circuit boards.

That process has raised

CCSI's costs, bringing the frustrations of the same chip shortage that has idled auto factories around the world to a tiny town SEE SHORTAGE ON A16

As rules loosen, some schools skip quarantine

Many officials say few students get sick, and missed days take a toll

BY DONNA ST. GEORGE

In the northern suburbs of Cincinnati, Superintendent Matt Miller kept school doors open. But the coronavirus kept pushing students out. In the fall semester, he counted 5,172 student quarantines.

It meant a constant jostling of teaching and learning.

"We have had students who had to quarantine three times," said Miller, of Lakota Local Schools, among Ohio's larger school systems with 17,000 students.

But that has changed. In the continuing struggle to strike a

balance between safety and classroom learning, Ohio joined a handful of states that have now remade their rules to cut back on student quarantines. Many point to lower than expected spread of the virus inside schools and note that school leaders say there are few infections among students who get quarantined. In Ohio's case, quarantines are no longer required for potential classroom exposures as long as students were masked and other safeguards were in place.

Teachers and principals and parents were very happy to see the change," Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine (R) said in an interview. "Johnny wasn't sitting out or Sarah wasn't sitting out for 14 days. They were able to stay in school."

The issue could become more important in the fall, when districts across the country plan to be open five days a week for SEE QUARANTINE ON A6

IN THE NEWS



BILL INGALLS/NASA/REUTERS

Back to Earth and beyond After a successful splashdown of NASA astronauts, SpaceX eyes its future: sending civilians to space. A19

Israeli stampede As a shocked country buries 45 who were trampled to death, questions are raised on ultra-Orthodox self-segregation. A15

THE NATION

Texas Democrats conceded they had fallen short in a special election for a U.S. House seat in the state's 6th Congressional District, ensuring the seat will go to a Republican. A4

A growing list of House Democrats from competitive districts is headed for retirement, adding another concern for a party facing an uphill fight to maintain its slim control of Congress. A4

THE WORLD

A clash over a 645-mile pipeline that carries up

to 540,000 barrels of crude oil and natural gas liquids across Michigan and under the Great Lakes each day is placing stress on U.S.-Canada ties. A12

India counted votes for state elections as it announced 3,689 deaths from covid-19 in the previous 24 hours — a national record. A13

THE REGION

D.C. leaders are nearing the conclusion of rewriting the massive document that spells out goals for how the city should transform in the years to come. B1

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY
President Biden and first lady Jill Biden visit Virginia schools to discuss education funding.
Group of Seven foreign ministers hold their first face-to-face meeting in London in two years.

TUESDAY
Attorney General Merrick Garland testifies in a House subcommittee hearing.

WEDNESDAY
Secretary of State Antony Blinken travels to Kyiv to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.
Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.), the House ma-

jority leader, discusses legislative goals for 2021 in a Washington Post Live online interview.

THURSDAY
Jobless claims for the week ended May 1 are estimated at 533,000.
D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser discusses plans to reopen the city, efforts to get residents vaccinated and the push for District statehood.

FRIDAY
Vice President Harris meets online on immigration with Mexico's president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador.
The jobless rate for April is expected to decline to 5.8 percent.

INSIDE



STYLE

Welcome back
Dear Brood X cicadas: Here's what you missed in our messed up world, after 17 years away. C1

Family reunions
Having endured a long separation because of the pandemic, grandparents and grandchildren are finally seeing one another. C1

BUSINESS NEWS	A20
COMICS	C6
OPINION PAGES	A22
LOTTERIES	B2
OBITUARIES	B6
TELEVISION	C5
WORLD NEWS	A12

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River volvió a perder y quedó comprometido

Otra derrota por la Copa de la Liga, por 1-0 ante Banfield, dejó al equipo de Gallardo sin margen de error en la última fecha para acceder a los cuartos de final. **Deportes**



INTER, CON LAUTARO EN LA CANCHA Y ZANETTI EN LA OFICINA

—deportes

Tras 11 años, con los goles del delantero y Pupi como vicepresidente, el equipo de Milán salió campeón y los festejos desbordaron la Plaza del Duomo. **Página 6**

HAMILTON LES RECORDÓ A TODOS QUIÉN ES EL Nº 1

—deportes

Con la firma del campeón: una excelente carrera del británico, que ganó en Portugal y amplió su ventaja en el campeonato de Fórmula 1. **Página 8**

LA NACION

LUNES 3 DE MAYO DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

Con casi 30 medidas, creció la intervención del Estado en el sector privado

CONTROL. La Casa Rosada aplica decenas de regulaciones, limita precios y frena importaciones

Pablo Fernández Blanco
LA NACION

Desde su llegada al poder, el Gobierno aumentó drásticamente la injerencia del Estado en la vida de las personas y la actividad de las empresas. Un recuento de LA NACION arroja que desde diciembre de 2019

se pusieron en marcha casi 30 medidas orientadas a fomentar la intervención del sector público en la actividad privada, tanto de pequeños emprendedores y ahorristas como de grandes grupos multinacionales. La paleta del Gobierno tiene colores de todo tipo. Van desde la profundización del cepo cambiario

heredado de Mauricio Macri hasta la obligación de reestructurar el 60% de deudas en dólares para las empresas que tuviesen que pagar cuentas en el exterior. Así, el Banco Central las condujo a una especie de default inducido, que muchas pudieron esquivar a costa de manchar su historia de cumplimientos.

Otro capítulo es el aumento de impuestos. En poco más de un año y medio al frente de la Casa Rosada, Alberto Fernández subió o creó más de 14 gravámenes, y también les soltó las manos a los gobernadores para subir los tributos provinciales, lo que estaba vedado en la gestión anterior. **Continúa en la página 20**

Fernández respalda a Guzmán, pero sigue la tensión

ECONOMÍA. El ministro no logra desplazar a un funcionario de Cristina

El presidente Alberto Fernández respaldó ayer al titular de Economía, Martín Guzmán, que enfrenta fuertes críticas del kirchnerismo y que fue desautorizado por el subsecretario de Energía, Federico Basualdo, quien resistió un pedido de renuncia del ministro con el apoyo de Cristina Kirchner.

"Se queda", respondieron desde la Casa Rosada en referencia a Guzmán, en un intento de ratificar la autoridad presidencial.

En el Gobierno anticiparon, además, que el ministro formará parte de la comitiva del viaje presidencial a Europa previsto para este mes. **Página 13**



LUCILA MARTI GARRO

SOL, ARENA... Y VACUNAS. MIAMI (Para LA NACION).— Por primera vez desde el inicio de la campaña de vacunación en Florida, el operativo llegó ayer a las playas de Miami Beach, con el despliegue de gazebo, sillitas y una clínica móvil que aplicó al menos 250 dosis de Johnson y Johnson. En principio solo fueron inoculados residentes o trabajadores registrados, a pesar de que en algunos puestos de Florida la norma es más laxa y abierta a extranjeros. **Página 8**

La Ciudad mantiene las clases presenciales a la espera del fallo de la Corte Suprema

COVID. Los estudiantes porteños del secundario tendrán un sistema bimodal

El ministro de Educación, Nicolás Trotta, se reunió ayer con los responsables de las carteras educativas de la ciudad de Buenos Aires, Mendoza, Santa Fe y Entre Ríos, que tienen alto riesgo epidemio-

lógico, para insistir en medidas alternativas a las clases presenciales. Sin embargo, la Ciudad ratificó que mantendrá las aulas abiertas: mientras los alumnos secundarios porteños empiezan hoy con el sis-

tema bimodal, en los niveles inicial y primario, y en la educación especial se mantiene la presencialidad. En la Ciudad esperan además que la Corte se defina al respecto entre hoy y mañana. **Página 2**

La adolescencia, el punto ciego de la política

Luciana Vázquez
Página 3

Aulas cerradas: la reacción de las familias

Página 4

En las terapias faltan profesionales

Página 5

EL ESCENARIO

Problemas de Alberto, no del ministro

Claudio Jacquelin

—LA NACION—

"El problema no es de Martín. Es todo de Alberto". La frase que desde el viernes pronunciaban en el Ministerio de Economía explica la magnitud del conflicto que desató la dificultad para desplazar a un subsecretario a cargo de Guzmán, que, en realidad, solo acata órdenes del cristicamporismo. **Continúa en la página 15**

Inquietud en la región por El Salvador

CRISIS. El Congreso, afín a Bukele, destituyó a la Corte Suprema. **Página 10**

ENTREVISTA DA 2ª Christos Christou

Brasil poderia ter evitado tantas mortes por Covid

O presidente internacional da ONG Médicos Sem Fronteiras, Christos Christou, afirma que, além de negligência na prevenção, o Brasil é o único país a usar maciçamente o "kit Covid", remédios sem comprovação científica.

"Bastava fazer o básico, adotar as medidas que funcionaram em muitos lugares", disse o médico grego, que criticou o ritmo de vacinação no país. **A14**

Vacinação no Brasil

% da população vacinada*

	2ª dose	1ª dose
Brasil	9,9	19,8
RS	10,6	25,2
MS	10,4	24,1
ES	8,1	22,2

Cobertura da primeira dose**



Números da pandemia

	Casos	Óbitos
Total	14,8 mil	407,8 mil
2.mai**	59,2 mil	2.407
Variação***	-9,7%	-16,4%
Em 24 h	28,5 mil	1.210

Dados das 20h de 2.mai *Acima de 18 anos **Média móvel de 7 dias ***Em relação a 14 dias

Produção prevista é capaz de vacinar todos os adultos

Em seis meses, seria possível imunizar população mundial, indica projeção

Governos já encomendaram 11,6 bilhões de doses de vacina contra a Covid-19, quantidade suficiente para vacinar a população mundial inteira com 19 anos ou mais (cerca de 5 bilhões de pessoas), segundo projeção do Unicef (Fundo das Nações Unidas para a Infância).

Em tese, os laboratórios têm capacidade de produzir o que foi encomendado. Consideradas as vacinas aprovadas por pelo menos uma autoridade nacional (agência reguladora ou similar), as fábricas conseguem preparar 11,92 bilhões de doses até o final deste ano.

A taxa de vacinação tem crescido mês a mês, chegando a cerca de 18 milhões de imunizados por dia. Nesse ritmo, o restante da população poderia ser vacinada em menos de seis meses.

Essas são projeções aritméticas, sem contar erros e problemas de produção.

Além disso, a distribuição tem seguido a lógica socioeconômica. Se continuar assim, sobrarão doses na Europa e nos EUA e faltarão em muitos países. **Saúde B1**

Falta Coronavac para segunda dose em mais da metade das capitais B1

Cidades negociam doses com grupo suspeito de fraude

Consórcio de 15 municípios de São Paulo negocia a compra de vacinas da Oxford/AstraZeneca com grupo turco parceiro de empresa americana acusada pela farmacêutica de fraude. A AstraZeneca diz que vende apenas para governos. **Saúde B3**

Planalto tenta barrar quebra de patentes de vacinas

Saúde B2

Jardiel Carvalho/Folhapress



DOMINGO NO PARQUE É CHEIO E SEM MÁSCARA

Na reabertura, o parque Ibirapuera, na zona sul de São Paulo, lotou de visitantes que foram aproveitar o sol; muitos estavam sem máscara ou a usavam incorretamente **Cotidiano B5**

Internado novamente, Bruno Covas pede licença da prefeitura

O prefeito de São Paulo, Bruno Covas (PSDB), voltou a ser internado neste domingo à tarde e tomou a decisão de se licenciar do cargo a partir de hoje.

Covas, 41, está sendo tratado de câncer no sistema digestivo com metástase óssea. Ele havia saído do hospital na semana passada e estava em casa.

O vice-prefeito, Ricardo Nunes (MDB), assumirá a maior prefeitura do país.

Ex-vereador, Nunes é ligado ao grupo do presidente da Câmara Municipal, Milton Leite (DEM).

Entre tucanos, sua ascensão é vista com reservas, embora seu desempenho seja elogiado pelo governador João Dória. **Cotidiano B4**



Eduardo Krapp/Folhapress

EXPANSÃO DO ECOMMERCE AUMENTA A DEMANDA POR GALPÕES

Centro de distribuição do Mercado Livre, em Cajamar (Grande SP), com 150,5 mil m², o equivalente a um Maracanã; procura por áreas de armazenagem cresce desde a pandemia **Mercado A18**

Cai participação de capital estrangeiro em IPOs no Brasil

A participação de recursos externos em lançamento de ações de empresas brasileiras na Bolsa caiu de cerca de 70% para 30% em dez anos, com redução significativa no governo Bolsonaro. Segundo especialistas, o aumento do risco Brasil é uma das razões para a queda. **Mercado A15**

Equipe de Guedes não vê maneira de bancar mais obras

A equipe do ministro Paulo Guedes (Economia) não vê espaço para novo corte em despesas obrigatórias, especialmente com aposentadoria. A proposta de reduzir esses gastos para retomar verbas para obras tem sido articulada por parte do governo com o Congresso. **Mercado A20**

C. Rochamonte Renan age para ser vice de Lula

As falas rebarbativas de Renan Calheiros na CPI da Covid são um aceno ao PT: ele mira a vice-presidência da República. Uma chapa Lula-Renan tem simbolismo e potencial. Pode galvanizar as forças da corrupção, navegando em um ambiente de consagração da impunidade. **Opinião A2**

Esporte B6 Campo de futebol em Paraisópolis (SP) terá ajuda tcheca para fazer reforma

ilustrada B8
Sem experiência na cultura, ex-PM é quem define uso de verba da Lei Rouanet

Congresso destituiu cinco magistrados em El Salvador

Com maioria governista, o Congresso de El Salvador destituiu no sábado (1º) cinco juízes da Suprema Corte que bloquearam ações do presidente Nayib Bukele, populista de direita eleito em 2019. A medida recebeu críticas e gera temor de escalada autoritária no país. **Mundo A12**

Onda de ações leva à banalização da Lei de Segurança

A Polícia Federal abriu 77 inquéritos em 2019 e 2020 com base na Lei de Segurança Nacional, aprovada nos estertores da ditadura militar. A Folha reuniu informações sobre 35 pessoas atingidas pela onda de ações. A maioria foi feita a pedido do governo e arquivada pelo MP. **Poder A4**

ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje
27°
15°
0h 6h 12h 18h 24h

Fonte: www.climatempo.com.br

	Hoje	Amanhã
Rio	16 30	17 31
Brasília	14 25	14 26
Ribeirão	14 32	15 32



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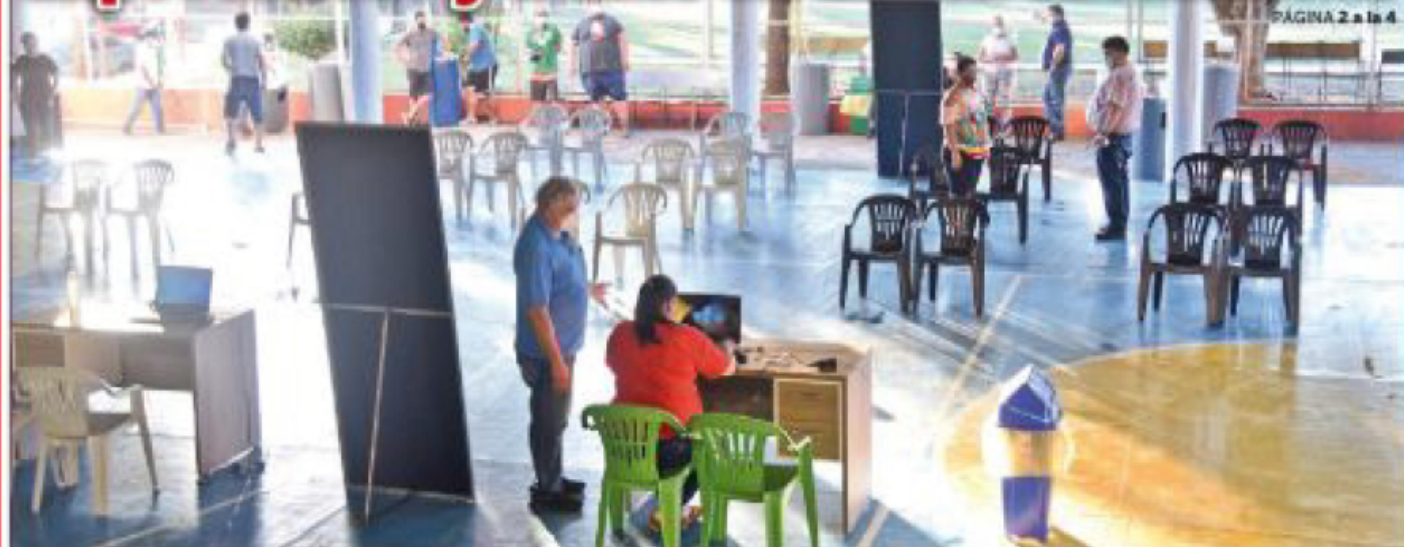
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**FIGARO OUI
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OUI 37% NON 63%
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Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr
Régionales en Paca : approuvez-vous l'alliance électorale entre LREM et LR ?

ILLUSTRATION : FABIEN CLAIREFOND

Élections régionales en Paca La droite cherche à sortir du piège tendu par Macron

Après l'alliance conclue entre LREM et Renaud Muselier, Les Républicains, conscients que c'est l'avenir de leur parti qui est en train de se jouer, ont dénoncé en bloc la manœuvre.

Sitôt annoncé, sitôt sanctionné. Renaud Muselier s'est vu retirer l'investiture LR après que Jean Castex a annoncé une alliance

entre LREM et le président sortant de Paca. L'affaire a pris une telle ampleur que Les Républicains se sont tous appelés di-

manche matin pour essayer de construire une nouvelle liste LR et trouver une solution pour éteindre l'incendie. Un défi alors

que la date limite du dépôt de candidature est fixée au 17 mai. Le sujet sera au cœur du conseil stratégique, mardi matin, com-

me au menu de la commission d'investiture, mardi soir, où Renaud Muselier sera présent. Le climat s'annonce électrique.

→ **MACRON RÉVE DE FRACTURER LR POUR AFFAIBLIR SON CANDIDAT EN 2022** → **BRUNO RETAILLEAU : « NE PRENONS PAS LES ÉLECTEURS POUR DES IMBÉCILES »**
→ **LE RN SE FROTTE LES MAINS ET MOQUE « LES RÉPUBLICAINS-EN MARCHÉ »** PAGES 2 À 4 ET L'ÉDITORIAL



Toulouse et La Rochelle hissent le rugby français au sommet de l'Europe

Le Toulousain Antoine Dupont (à g.) et le Rochelais Grégory Alldritt, dont l'équipe a réussi l'exploit d'écarter les Irlandais du Leinster dimanche en demi-finale, s'affronteront le 22 mai à Twickenham en finale de la Champions Cup. PAGE 15

Le plan de relance face au défi du déclin industriel français

Malgré une croissance meilleure en France (+0,4%) que dans la zone euro (-0,6%) au premier trimestre, la crise marque en profondeur l'économie. Le défi de la désindustrialisation n'en est que plus difficile à relever. Le plan de relance, à l'échelle française et européenne, doit impérativement accélérer la transition numérique et écologique des entreprises. PAGES 24 ET 25

ÉDITORIAL par Vincent Trémolet de Villers vtremolet@lefigaro.fr

Les demi-habiles

Ce qui est commode avec le Rassemblement national, c'est qu'il permet d'habiller des plus hautes vertus tous les renoncements, même les plus piteux. Non content de lui avoir abandonné, un à un, les piliers de la doctrine politique - nation, frontières, sécurité, laïcité -, nos stratèges qui, depuis quarante ans, le font tranquillement prospérer ont décidé, pour mieux le combattre, de lui ouvrir l'autoroute du Sud. Oubliant que la science électorale préfère la dynamique à l'arithmétique, Renaud Muselier a pensé qu'additionner deux faiblesses le rendrait plus fort. Rien n'est moins sûr. Dans ce jeu à somme nulle, ce que l'on gagne dans la poche gauche est perdu dans la poche droite. De son côté, Emmanuel Macron veut faire la preuve, un an avant l'élection présidentielle, qu'entre lui et la droite l'alliance est inéluctable. Le pari est hasardeux. Le soir du 27 juin, en cas de défaite de son candidat témoin, l'alliance LR-LREM, présentée comme une digue contre le RN, apparaîtrait comme un machepied. On retrouve une fois encore le vice originel de ces combinaisons : faire de Marine Le Pen le pivot de notre vie politique. Penser

en fonction de son parti plutôt que dans l'intérêt du pays. La droite, qui a trop souvent cédé à cette tentation, a malheureusement joué un grand rôle dans cet affaîsissement de l'intelligence. Bilan : la France, dont toutes les études d'opinion montrent que l'épicentre politique se trouve à droite, est devenue le champ d'un affrontement sommaire, brutal, souvent navrant entre deux candidats qui poursuivent le but commun d'évacuer du jeu cette famille politique. Impossible pourtant de se contenter d'un débat

La responsabilité de la droite est immense

public qui opposerait jusqu'à la nausée le « théâtre antifasciste » (Lionel Jospin) à la disqualification systématique des élites. La responsabilité de la droite est immense : retrouver souffle, convictions, énergie, vision, courage, pour nous libérer de cette élection négative. Sinon, les demi-habiles continueront de compter sur la martingale du « front anti-Le Pen », qui, à la fin de l'histoire, se retournera inévitablement contre ses concepteurs. ■

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The H moment Did Line of Duty's finale pay off?

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The Guardian

Senior Tory says Johnson should quit if he broke donation rules

Scottish leader breaks
ranks as PM faces claim
he sought cash for nanny

Rajeev Syal

One of Britain's most senior Tories broke ranks with colleagues yesterday and called for Boris Johnson to

resign if he is found to have breached ministerial rules over the refurbishment of a Downing Street flat, amid fresh claims that undeclared donations had been sought to fund the prime minister's lifestyle.

Douglas Ross, the leader of the Scottish Conservatives, said Johnson should "of course" quit if he had breached the code by failing to be honest about cash payments from a Tory donor. His comment, which caught No 10 by surprise, came after

Johnson was accused of obtaining funds for the flat from a second donor; a third was alleged to have been asked to pay for his son's care.

The party is attempting to move on from a torrid week as it gears up for elections across Britain on Thursday. Labour has narrowed the Tories' lead amid the sleaze allegations.

Appearing on BBC One's The Andrew Marr Show, Ross was asked if Johnson should stand down if found to be in breach of the code.

'People expect the highest standards of those in high office'

Douglas Ross
Scottish Conservatives' leader

"Of course, I think people expect the highest standards of those in the highest office of the land," he said.

"That's why I think people are looking at the investigations that are ongoing and waiting for the answers."

The new standards adviser, Christopher Geidt, is investigating if there has been a breach. Johnson would be expected to show his behaviour complied with the code, which makes clear there should be "no actual or perceived conflicts of interest".

His former aide Dominic Cummings claimed that the prime minister had sought



The invasion of Old Trafford: match off after fans storm ground

Ed Aarons and Andy Hunter

One of the biggest fixtures in the English football calendar was postponed yesterday after more than 200 Manchester United fans, protesting against the ownership of the club, broke into Old Trafford hours before

▲ A protester on the pitch at Old Trafford brandishes a corner flag
PHOTOGRAPH: OLI SCARFF/AFP/GETTY

their match against Liverpool. Two police officers were injured in ugly scenes outside the ground, one of them needing hospital treatment for a slash wound to his face after being attacked with a bottle.

In a planned protest over the Glazer family's decision to join the European Super League (ESL) last month, thousands of fans

Unity of UK 'under threat from English nationalism'

Ben Quinn

The UK's unity faces being destabilised by "flag-waving unionism" from English nationalist politicians, one of the most senior officials to emerge from Northern Ireland's traditionally Catholic community has warned.

Ciaran Martin, who created the framework for Scotland's 2014 independence poll as the Cabinet Office's constitution director, said the "complex identities" of Northern Ireland faced being undermined by post-Brexit attempts to "redesign" the British state.

While Boris Johnson said in Belfast in March that there must be broad acceptance of governing arrangements from those not in the majority, Martin said: "What we have from London instead is England-first, flag-waving politics and policies." This was "Greater

