



PRIMERAS PLANAS INTERNACIONALES

BRASIL La operación policial más sangrienta en una favela de Río **P5**



FÚTBOL El Madrid golea al Granada (1-4) y sigue en la lucha por el título **P32 Y 33**



Israel lanza una ofensiva a gran escala por tierra y aire contra Gaza

El ataque del Estado judío contra la Franja es el mayor desde la guerra de 2014

Artillería y carros de combate se suman a los bombardeos aéreos

La violencia sectaria entre judíos y árabes estalla en varias ciudades israelíes

JUAN CARLOS SANZ, **Jerusalén**
Israel lanzó en la madrugada de hoy un ataque a gran escala por tierra y aire contra Hamás en la franja de Gaza, en su mayor ofensiva desde la guerra de 2014. Las andanadas de disparos de la artillería y los carros de combate concentrados en la frontera del enclave palestino se sumaron a los

bombardeos masivos que la aviación realiza desde el lunes. Tropas israelíes participaban en una operación que hace presagiar un agravamiento del conflicto. El Ejército no dio detalles del ataque terrestre que se producía en torno a la valla de separación con Gaza. “Hamás va a pagar un alto precio por sus ataques a Israel”,

dijo el primer ministro, Benjamín Netanyahu. “Aún no se ha dicho la última palabra en esta operación, que solo terminará cuando sea necesario”, añadió.

En la escalada de ataques iniciada el lunes han muerto al menos 109 palestinos, incluidos 28 niños, y siete israelíes, entre ellos dos menores. Mientras tanto, la

violencia sectaria entre judíos y árabes se extiende por las ciudades israelíes con más población de origen palestino, en las que se han producido linchamientos, ataques con cuchillos y actos de vandalismo. “Solo podemos calificar [los enfrentamientos] de guerra civil”, dijo el presidente del país, Reuven Rivlin. **PÁGINAS 2 Y 3**



Un tanque lanzaba ayer obuses contra Gaza desde la localidad fronteriza de Sderot, al sur de Israel. / MENAHEM KAHANA (AFP)

El director Wes Anderson toma la localidad madrileña como escenario

Chinchón es de cine

GREGORIO BELINCHÓN, **Madrid**
Chinchón volverá a ser escenario de una película, esta vez por decisión del director estadounidense Wes Anderson, quien ya está montando allí unos decorados que simularán un paisaje desértico norteamericano. Esta localidad madrileña de 5.000 habitantes acogió muchos años an-

tes rodajes de cintas como *Rey de reyes* o *El fabuloso mundo del circo*. En *La vuelta al mundo en 80 días*, Mario Moreno, *Cantinflas*, toreaba en su famosa plaza Mayor.

La película de Anderson se rodará durante julio, agosto y septiembre, según fuentes municipales. **PÁGINA 27**



Los alumnos deberán seguir con mascarilla y distancia el próximo curso

El Gobierno quiere asegurar la educación presencial con cautelas

IGNACIO ZAFRA, **Valencia**
El Gobierno pretende que las medidas de prevención de contagios se sigan aplicando en las escuelas el próximo curso. Según la propuesta elaborada por Educación y Sanidad, remitida ayer a las comunidades, a la que ha tenido acceso EL PAÍS, los mayores de seis años deberán seguir llevando mascarilla, formando grupos burbuja o, en su defecto, manteniendo las distancias. **PÁGINA 22**

Cuatro comunidades tienen menos de una muerte al día por covid

JESSICA MOUZO, **Barcelona**
Cuatro comunidades —Murcia, Baleares, Cantabria y La Rioja— registraron de media menos de un muerto por covid al día en la semana del 19 al 25 de abril, la última con datos consolidados. Ocho autonomías reportaron menos de 10 fallecidos esa semana, lo que se explica por el avance de la vacunación y las restricciones. Sin embargo, Madrid contó 112 muertos esa semana y, junto con el País Vasco y Navarra, encabeza la tasa de fallecidos por habitante. **PÁGINA 21**

La ruptura de los comunes con ERC agrava el bloqueo político en Cataluña

CAMILO S. BAQUERO, **Barcelona**
La opción de un Govern monocolor de ERC —con apoyo de la CUP, los comunes y al menos cuatro votos de Junts per Catalunya— saltó ayer por los aires. A 13 días del fin del plazo para evitar una repetición electoral, En Comú Podem dio por roto el diálogo si Pere Aragonès no se compromete a no dar entrada a Junts. **PÁGINAS 14 Y 15**

Pat Metheny Músico sin límites

Se abre a nuevos estilos, compone y saca un nuevo álbum. En diciembre tocará en la Argentina. P.50



Agüero, más cerca del Barcelona y de Messi

Medios catalanes dicen que llegaría por dos temporadas. P.44

Tema del día • La suba del costo de vida impacta en la economía real

La inflación de abril fue mayor a la esperada: 4,1% y preocupa al Gobierno

El Indec anunció un aumento que superó las expectativas oficiales. Las subas en la ropa, los combustibles y los alimentos fueron las más significativas. En sólo cuatro meses, la inflación alcanzó el 17,6% y, entre abril del año

pasado y el actual fue del 46,3%. Esos números impactan con dureza sobre la meta anual del 29% que Guzmán planteó en el Presupuesto. Desde el sector empresario temen que el costo de vida se acerque este año al 50%. P.3

Máximo K contra Guzmán

El diputado presentó un proyecto para bajar las tarifas de gas en el interior entre el 30 y 50%.



Delante a frente. Francisco y Alberto F.

ENCUENTRO EN ROMA

El diálogo del Presidente con el Papa en el Vaticano duró 25 minutos

Francisco lo recibió, pero el trato fue distante y protocolar. Fernández fue acompañado por Guzmán, Solá y Beliz. Y reveló luego que el Papa "expresó su predisposición para ayudarnos" en las negociaciones por la deuda. El Presidente se reúne hoy en Roma con la directora del FMI, Kristalina Georgieva. P.8

En la avenida Corrientes.
Comerciantes y empleados marcharon con sus autos.



EMMANUEL FERNÁNDEZ

Protestan para que vuelvan los shoppings

La Cámara empresaria del sector y el gremio de Comercio se manifestaron ayer en la puerta del Abasto Shopping. Piden que les permitan reabrir sus negocios tras otro mes de restricciones. El 10% de los locales ya cerraron definitivamente. P.36

CRIMEN DE UN JUBILADO

Cita mortal en Núñez: buscan a dos "viudas negras"

Adrián Muñoz tenía 74 años, era jubilado y jugaba siempre al tenis en River. Apareció muerto en su departamento de Núñez, con múltiples heridas y dos cuchillos clavados en la espalda. Lo vieron ingresar a su edificio acompañado de dos mujeres a las que

había conocido en una aplicación de citas. La entrada de los tres a su vivienda quedó registrada en las cámaras de seguridad. Ahora, la Justicia busca identificar a las sospechosas con las que la víctima había tenido más de un encuentro. P.38

Del Editor

Fernando Gonzalez

Alberto, aplazado en el examen "cara de Papa". P.2

TENSION EN ORIENTE MEDIO

Israel concentra soldados en la frontera con Gaza y prepara una ofensiva

En medio del conflicto que ya provocó 110 muertes, el Ejército israelí convocó a 7.000 reservistas en el límite con Gaza. Sigue con los ataques aéreos y se prepara para la alternativa de una invasión. P.24

Dynamic duo

US and UK are side by side in fighting corruption — GLOBAL INSIGHT, PAGE 8

Bitcoin player

How Musk is pulling the strings in the crypto world — GILLIAN TETT, PAGE 23



Modi operandi

India's outrage at bungled response to deadly pandemic — BIG READ, PAGE 21

Cameron says Greensill lobbying was for benefit of British economy

◆ Former PM approached officials on 56 occasions ◆ Acknowledges 'generous' pay package

JIM PICKARD AND GEORGE PARKER

David Cameron has defended his lobbying of ministers and officials on behalf of Greensill Capital, insisting it was to benefit the economy rather than preserve the value of his share options in the company.

The former prime minister, giving his first public comments about Greensill since it collapsed in March, refused to say how much money he was on track to earn from the supply-chain finance company before it went into administration.

People close to the matter have told the Financial Times that Cameron had shares worth close to 1 per cent of the value of Greensill. The company was at one point valued at \$7bn.

But Cameron told the House of Commons Treasury select committee that suggestions of a potential windfall for him from any Greensill initial public offering were "completely absurd". He declined to say what the actual figure was but said he had share options and was paid a "generous amount, far more than I earned as prime minister".

He added that he had a "big economic investment in the future of Greensill".

Cameron lobbied several ministers and civil servants, including Treasury officials on 56 separate occasions, in an attempt to secure the company's access to two government-run Covid-19 debt schemes. But after three months of talks, the Treasury decided in mid-2020 that it was not interested in Cameron's proposals.

Mel Stride, Conservative chair of the Treasury committee, said Cameron could have been motivated to "undertake this barrage" of contacts at the start of the coronavirus crisis in the spring of 2020 because he had realised his "opportunity to make a large amount of money was under threat".

The former prime minister said: "My motivation for contacting the government was we had a really good idea for



David Cameron confirmed he attended Greensill board meetings despite not being a director of the company
AFP/Getty

extending credit to businesses." Stride asked whether Cameron should have known Greensill was in trouble when concerns first emerged about the firm, including in a May 2020 Financial Times report.

But Cameron said he did not realise the company was in serious difficulty until December 2020. "I did not believe in March or April [2020] . . . there was a risk in Greensill falling over."

Angela Eagle, a Labour member of the committee, told Cameron some of his messages to ministers and officials

seemed to be "more like stalking than lobbying".

Cameron defended his lobbying, saying that Treasury officials did not think it was "inappropriate" given the "economic heart attack" happening to the UK at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. The reason for his "persistence" was that financial technology companies such as Greensill were "not well understood" by most people.

Cameron confirmed he attended Greensill board meetings despite not being a director of the company.

"I would . . . make contributions, particularly on geopolitical matters," he said. "I didn't sit on the credit committee, risk committee or audit committee." He also tried to win new clients for Greensill and helped with relationships

with clients. Its path to collapse began in September 2020 when Tokio Marine, its main insurer, gave notice that it was withdrawing cover within six months. Cameron said he had not been aware of the move, despite attending board meetings and listening to the company's internal podcast.

The former prime minister acknowledged that Greensill had an excessive "client concentration" with GFG, the metals group run by the industrialist Sanjeev Gupta.

But Cameron defended Greensill's practices. "Just because the business goes into administration, it doesn't mean that everything about it was wrong," he said.

"It doesn't mean the whole thing was some giant fraud."

Briefing

Concerns rise over virus variant

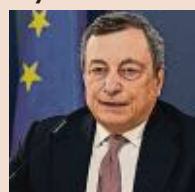
Boris Johnson yesterday said health officials were "anxious" about the B.1.617 coronavirus variant and refused to rule out the possibility of localised lockdowns to stop its spread. — PAGE 2

England NHS waiting list hits record 5m

In England almost 5m people are waiting for non-urgent NHS treatment, with 435,000 waiting more than a year for procedures such as hip and knee transplants. — PAGE 3

Draghi waives salary as Italy's leader

Mario Draghi has given up his €115,000 salary as Italy's prime minister. It is a move intended to strike a chord in a country where populist parties often criticise lawmakers' pay and perks. — PAGE 4



Trail leads to Russia in US pipeline hack

US president Joe Biden says there is 'strong reason' to believe that the hackers behind the Colonial Pipeline attack were based in Russia. However, he cleared the Kremlin of any involvement. — PAGE 4

Argentina seeks more time on debt

Martin Guzmán, Argentina's economy minister, is touring European capital cities with President Alberto Fernández this week, appealing to countries to delay its debt repayments. — PAGE 6

Fear of job cuts in shift to electric cars

As US carmakers pour millions of dollars into building more electric vehicles, trade unions fear the transition from internal combustion engines will lead to widespread job cuts. — PAGE 11

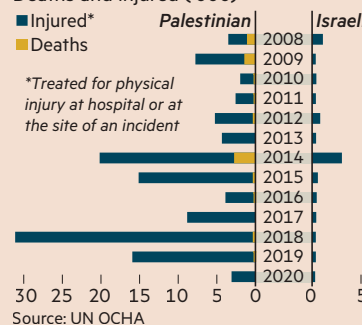
Wyelands Bank on brink of collapse

Wyelands Bank is to be sold or wound up after its accounts revealed repayments on 80 per cent of its loan book were overdue, raising further questions over owner UK industrialist Sanjeev Gupta. — PAGE 9

Datawatch

Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Deaths and injured ('000)



The UN has been tracking deaths and injuries in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict since 2008. From then until 2020, 5,600 Palestinians have died in clashes, while 115,000 have been injured. Over the same period 250 Israelis died, with 5,600 injured.

Violence flares in Israeli towns with street clashes between Jews and Arabs

MEHUL SRIVASTAVA — TEL AVIV

Israel reeled from its worst outbreak of communal violence in years as western and regional powers stepped up diplomatic efforts to end the conflict between Palestinian militants and Israeli forces.

Violence between Jews and Arabs erupted in several Israeli towns, shaking the country to its core and opening up a domestic front in the conflict.

The clashes between Israeli citizens came as the fighting between Israel and Hamas, the Palestinian Islamist group that controls the hemmed-in Gaza Strip, entered its fourth day.

Israel kept up its barrage of air strikes against Palestinian militants in Gaza, raising the Palestinian death toll to 87, including 18 children, according to Palestinian health officials. Hamas fired

salvos of rockets deep into Israel, causing Israeli authorities to reroute international flights from Tel Aviv. The militants have killed seven Israelis this week, including a soldier and a child.

Israel has positioned troops near the Gaza border and called up 9,000 additional reservists yesterday. But the military said it had made no decision on whether to launch a ground invasion.

As the death toll climbed there was unrest in Israeli towns on Wednesday night, with Arabs and Jews clashing.

The Arab-Israeli conflict has predominantly been between Israeli forces and Palestinian factions in occupied territories, but the communal violence has added a dangerous dynamic, turning up the pressure on the Israeli government.

Israeli Arabs account for about a fifth of the Jewish state's population, carry Israeli passports and vote in elections.

But they complain of institutional and social discrimination and their sympathy for the Palestinian cause has made them a target for rightwing politicians.

Prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu suggested he would deploy the military to quell the communal violence.

"We have seen Arab rioters set fire to synagogues and vehicles and attack police officers — it is anarchy," Netanyahu said, while urging Jews to respect the law. "You cannot take the law into your own hands. You cannot grab an ordinary Arab citizen and try to lynch him — just as we cannot watch Arab citizens do this to Jewish citizens."

Groups of rightwing Jews took to the streets of Arab neighbourhoods, including in Lod, Haifa, Acre and in Jaffa, where they severely beat a man they mistook as an Arab.

Hamas takes on Israel's might page 6

World Markets

STOCK MARKETS

	May 13	prev	%chg
S&P 500	4104.67	4063.04	1.02
Nasdaq Composite	13093.18	13031.68	0.47
Dow Jones Ind	33987.63	33587.66	1.19
FTSEurofirst 300	1683.83	1686.27	-0.14
Euro Stoxx 50	3950.96	3947.43	0.09
FTSE 100	6963.33	7004.63	-0.59
FTSE All-Share	3966.08	3986.82	-0.52
CAC 40	6288.33	6279.35	0.14
Xetra Dax	15199.68	15150.22	0.33
Nikkei	27448.01	28147.51	-2.49
Hang Seng	27718.67	28231.04	-1.81
MSCI World \$	2876.79	2928.33	-1.76
MSCI EM \$	1315.25	1329.08	-1.04
MSCI ACWI \$	686.77	698.42	-1.67

CURRENCIES

	May 13	prev		May 13	prev
\$ per €	1.207	1.208	£ per \$	0.712	0.709
\$ per £	1.405	1.410	€ per £	1.163	1.167
€ per €	0.860	0.857	¥ per £	132.312	132.081
¥ per \$	109.585	109.375	£ index	82.351	82.192
¥ per £	153.918	154.186	SFr per £	1.273	1.281
SFr per €	1.094	1.098			
€ per \$	0.828	0.828			

COMMODITIES

	May 13	prev	%chg
Oil WTI \$	63.58	66.08	-3.78
Oil Brent \$	66.98	69.32	-3.38
Gold \$	1830.70	1829.10	0.09

INTEREST RATES

	price	yield	chg
US Gov 10 yr	148.48	1.66	-0.01
UK Gov 10 yr		0.90	0.01
Ger Gov 10 yr		-0.12	0.01
Jpn Gov 10 yr	116.58	0.09	0.02
US Gov 30 yr	106.00	2.38	0.00
Ger Gov 2 yr	106.11	-0.66	0.00
	price	prev	chg
Fed Funds Eff	0.07	0.07	-
US 3m Bills	0.02	0.01	0.01
Euro Libor 3m	-0.55	-0.54	-0.01
UK 3m	0.08	0.08	0.00

Prices are latest for edition Data provided by Morningstar

A Nikkei Company



German exporters give up on UK over Brexit red tape

German companies that export to the UK have encountered a wave of extra costs and bureaucracy associated with Brexit. Even though a last-minute trade deal was signed to avoid tariffs when the UK left the EU in January, higher shipping costs and border delays have hit hard. Some have said they can no longer cope and will stop serving the British market. 'There is no vaccination against Brexit', said one exasperated chief executive.

Trade barriers ► PAGE 4

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Friedrich von Amerling, detail from "Portrait of Princess Marie Franziska von Liechtenstein (1834-1909) at the age of two," 1836.
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Passe sanitaire, laïcité : la majorité sous tension

► Le vote, mardi, à l'Assemblée du texte sur le passe sanitaire a mis en lumière les divergences entre le groupe LRM et son principal allié, le MoDem

► Le texte sur les modalités du déconfinement a finalement été adopté dans la nuit, après un premier rejet qui a placé la majorité au bord de la rupture

► Dans le même temps, la formation présidentielle se déchire sur la question du voile porté par une de ses candidates aux départementales

► L'affaire souligne les divisions idéologiques au sein de la majorité sur la question sensible de la laïcité et sur son délégué général, Stanislas Guerini

► Plusieurs élus macronistes dénoncent une surenchère à droite pour contrer le Rassemblement national

PAGES 8 ET 11

Politique

Macron et les écologistes, irréconciliables

Le probable échec du référendum sur le climat devrait entretenir la brouille entre le président et les militants de l'environnement

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Allemagne

Les Verts sur le front de la diplomatie

PAGE 4

M
ÉDITORIAL
OUVRIR UN VRAI
DÉBAT SUR
LES DROGUES
PAGE 32

LE RETOUR DU CONFLIT ISRAËLO-PALESTINIEN

► L'engrenage de violences rappelle le drame que le monde avait choisi d'ignorer

PAGES 2-3



La tour Hanadi, dans la bande de Gaza, le 11 mai. ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Armée

Le rappel du chef d'état-major au devoir de réserve

Dans un courrier, le général Lecointre invite les signataires d'une seconde tribune polémique à « quitter l'institution »

PAGE 30

Entretien

Jean-Luc Mélenchon et la crise de la gauche

Le candidat à l'Élysée et président du groupe La France insoumise revient sur son engagement écologiste et croit pouvoir gagner en 2022

PAGE 12

Pandémie

Un rapport d'experts préconise une refonte de l'OMS

PAGE 6

Economie

La sortie de crise se profile dans l'Union européenne

PAGE 15

Cinéma

Le train magistral de Barry Jenkins pour échapper à l'esclavage

PAGE 22

Histoire

Avant le Vél' d'Hiv, la rafle oubliée du « billet vert »

Des clichés témoignant de l'arrestation, le 14 mai 1941, à Paris, de plus de 3 700 Juifs étrangers ont refait surface.

PAGES 26-27

Disparition

Jacques Bouveresse, philosophe

PAGE 34

À NOS LECTEURS

En raison de la non-parution du journal le 13 mai, « Le Monde des livres » est avancé à cette édition datée jeudi 13-vendredi 14 mai. Merci pour votre fidélité.

DÉCONFINEMENT PROGRESSIF PAR AMORIM (BRÉSIL)

CARTOONING FOR PEACE



Callimard

La grande illusion
D'un homme de l'ombre
1940-2010

MICHEL BARNIER
Journal secret du Brexit

« Du vote du leave au deal entre Londres et Bruxelles, c'est presque un thriller politique, 500 pages de rebondissements, d'avancées, de reculs, de coups tordus dans les coulisses d'une négociation hors normes. »
Nicolas Deshayes, France Inter

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CDC relaxes mask recommendations

46% Percentage of the U.S. population that has received at least one dose of vaccine

90% Effectiveness rate of vaccines against infection in a U.S. study of nearly 4,000 health-care workers

12+ Age range of the U.S. population for whom vaccine appointments are now available



ISRAEL has targeted buildings in Gaza City, above, and elsewhere in response to heavy rocket fire from Hamas militants since Monday.

ISRAEL PREPARES FOR GAZA INVASION

Despite Egypt's efforts for truce, slide toward all-out war continues.

By JOSEF FEDERMAN AND FARES AKRAM

JERUSALEM — Israel on Thursday said it was massing troops along the Gaza frontier and calling up 9,000 reservists ahead of a possible ground invasion of the Hamas-ruled territory, as the two bitter enemies plunged closer to all-out war. Egyptian mediators rushed to Israel for cease-fire efforts but showed no signs of progress.

The stepped-up fighting came as communal violence in Israel erupted for a fourth night, with Jewish and Arab mobs clashing in the city of Lod. The fighting took place despite a bolstered police presence ordered by the nation's leaders.

The four-day burst of violence has pushed Israel into uncharted territory — dealing with the most intense fighting it has ever had with Hamas militants while simultaneously facing the worst Jewish-Arab violence within the country in decades. A late-night barrage of rockets from Lebanon that landed in the sea threatened to open a new front along Israel's northern border.

[See Mideast, A3]



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

STEPHANIE POPESCU, shown with her son Dacian at Westchester Park, supports a councilman's proposal to make the park a safe spot for homeless people.

Homeless camps at beaches and parks? Idea stirs debate

By DAVID ZAHNISER

For nearly 20 years, Matt Stayner and his wife have been sending their children to Westchester Park — Easter egg hunts in the spring, swimming pool trips in the summer, the big community parade on the Fourth of July.

But after seeing dozens of tents go up across the park last year, Stayner decided he no longer wants his daughters going there unaccompanied. He grew even more alarmed after learning that the park is one of several recreation areas being consid-

ered for "safe camping," a program that allows homeless people to pitch their tents and get social services.

Now, Stayner is volunteering with a group looking to recall Los Angeles City Councilman Mike Bonin, who came up with the idea. And he's been asking neighbors to oppose Bonin's proposal.

"Parents are frustrated. We've lost our park," said the 54-year-old father of four. "We've lost our park, and I would like to see action."

L.A.'s struggle to get a handle on its growing homelessness crisis is running up against Angelenos' love of

their outdoor recreation spaces, which served as a lifeline for many during the stay-at-home orders of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many residents demanded, and are now receiving, a cleanup around Echo Park Lake, where nearly 200 tents and an assortment of furniture lined walkways and landscaped areas for much of last year. That effort drew hundreds of protesters, and for now the park remains closed.

On the Westside, Bonin has gone in a different direction, proposing that two parks, three beach parking

[See Bonin, A6]

Newsom proposes boost for business

Grant program for small firms would get additional \$1.5 billion.

By PATRICK MCGREEVY

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Gavin Newsom on Thursday proposed adding \$1.5 billion to a program providing grants of up to \$25,000 to small businesses harmed by the COVID-19 pandemic in California, allowing thousands more to get financial help.

The additional funds from federal COVID-19 aid to the state would bring the amount allocated in recent months for grants to \$4 billion, which Newsom told business leaders would make it the largest state program of its kind in the country.

"Small businesses intimately understand the pain and stress of the last year — directly understand it — and the struggle now to reopen with all of the dust settling around us," Newsom said during a virtual address to a meeting of the California Chamber of Commerce.

Officials estimate the \$1.5 billion in additional funds, if approved by the Legislature, would provide grants to some 150,000 small businesses.

[See Grants, A7]

Momentous move applies to the fully vaccinated. Local governments will still make the final call.

By RONG-GONG LIN II AND HAYLEY SMITH

In a profound sign of America's progress against COVID-19, federal officials on Thursday announced a sweeping relaxation of face mask guidelines, which now suggest fully vaccinated people can stop wearing masks in most places — either outdoors or inside.

The move is a milestone moment in the pandemic, upending one of the most basic safety protocols to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. It comes as daily virus cases in California and most other parts of the United States are plummeting and more people are getting vaccinated.

"Today is a great day for America," President Biden said. "It's been made possible by the extraordinary success we've had in vaccinating so many Americans so quickly."

Though there has been growing pressure to end mask mandates, the sweeping changes stunned some people who had become used to wearing masks. Some experts expressed concern that the relaxation would make it easier for the unvaccinated to flout rules and shed masks inside stores and other businesses, putting people at greater risk who cannot be vaccinated, such as young children with preexisting health conditions.

But others hope it will encourage more people to get vaccinated.

The guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are only recommendations, however, and the final call will largely be decided by state and local governments.

California has strict mask rules consistent with the CDC's previous mask guidance and officials said they will remain in effect at least for now as they study the new recommendations.

The state and Los Angeles County will review the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendations in order to "make sensible adjustments to the orders that are currently in place," L.A. County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said.

The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health's mask-wearing requirements at businesses — including restaurants and supermarkets — remain in effect.

"Because it's still important to protect workers at all work sites, and all work sites must follow requirements set forth by the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health, we ask that everyone continue to adhere to required distancing."

[See Masks, A6]

UC considers tuition increase

Officials aim to stabilize finances, but student leaders oppose hike. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

LAPD shootings ruled improper

Panel finds officers violated policy in firing projectiles at protesters. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Scientists blame building designs

Experts say "paradigm shift" is needed to curb airborne diseases. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

Business inside

Disney+ growth trails expectations. **A8**

Weather

Cloudy, then sunny. L.A. Basin: 73/59. **B6**

COLUMN ONE

His great American pastime

Ex-hostage in Iran cherishes baseball's 'golden ticket'

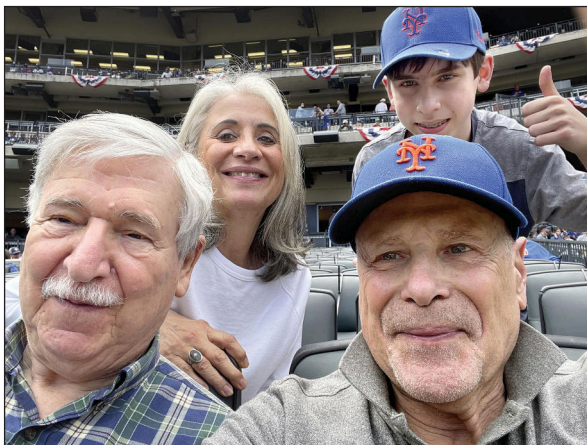
By DEL QUENTIN WILBER
REPORTING FROM WASHINGTON

The early April afternoon was perfect for baseball, sunny and cool. Even with the New York ballpark nearly empty, it all felt good and familiar to Barry Rosen: the food, the sounds, the smell, the hapless Mets, Jacob deGrom looking masterful on the mound even as fans warily eyed the bullpen.

As he took his seat, the 77-year-old felt a special joy at baseball's return, after its COVID year without fans. That's because, he says, the game saved him, not once, but twice.

Four decades ago, Rosen was one of 52 Americans held hostage for 444 brutal days in Iran. Not long after their release in January 1981, Rosen and the other hostages received a rare gift from Major League Baseball, a "golden ticket." Signed by then-Commissioner Bowie Kuhn, under the

[See Hostage, A7]



BARRY ROSEN

FORMER Iran hostages John Limbert, left, and Barry Rosen are joined by Barbara Rosen and Limbert's grandson Otto at a Mets game in April.

Fully Vaccinated Can Shed Masks, C.D.C. Says

Change in Guidance
Is Surprise to States
and Businesses

This article is by **Roni Caryn Rabin**, **Apoorva Mandavilli** and **Noah Weiland**.

Federal health officials on Thursday advised Americans who are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus that they could stop wearing masks or maintaining social distance in most settings, the clearest sign yet that the pandemic might be nearing an end in the United States.

The new recommendations caught state officials and businesses by surprise and raised a host of difficult questions about how the guidelines would be carried out. But the advice came as welcome news to many Americans who were weary of restrictions and traumatized by the past year.

“We have all longed for this moment,” Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said at a White House news conference on Thursday. “If you are fully vaccinated, you can start doing the things that you had stopped doing because of the pandemic.”

Masks had come to symbolize a bitter partisan divide. Setting them aside in restaurants and sidewalks, in museums and shops, would represent not just the beginning of the end of the pandemic but hope for a return to normalcy.

Permission to stop using masks also offers an incentive to the many millions who are still holding out on vaccination. As of Wednesday, about 155 million people had received at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine, but only about one-third of the nation, 119 million people, had been fully vaccinated.

And the pace of vaccination has slowed: Providers are administering about 2.09 million doses per day on average, about a 38 percent decrease from the peak of 3.38 million reported in mid-April.

At the White House on Thursday, President Biden hailed the new recommendations as a “milestone” in the nation’s effort to beat back the pandemic and urged Americans to roll up their sleeves for vaccinations.

Still, Mr. Biden urged Americans not to turn on those who were not yet vaccinated. “Please treat them with kindness and respect,”

Continued on Page A6



TAMIR KALIFA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Damarcus Crimes, 13, getting the Pfizer vaccine, which was approved this week for children 12 to 15.

McMaster Was Said to Be Target
In Plot to Vilify Trump ‘Enemies’

By ADAM GOLDMAN and MARK MAZZETTI

WASHINGTON — A network of conservative activists, aided by a British former spy, mounted a campaign during the Trump administration to discredit perceived enemies of President Trump inside the government, according to documents and people involved in the operations.

The campaign included a planned sting operation against Mr. Trump’s national security adviser at the time, H.R. McMaster, and secret surveillance operations against F.B.I. employees, aimed at exposing anti-Trump sentiment in the bureau’s ranks.

The operations against the F.B.I., run by the conservative group Project Veritas, were conducted from a large home in the Georgetown section of Washington that rented for \$10,000 per month. Female undercover operatives arranged dates with the F.B.I. employees with the aim of secretly recording them making disparaging comments about Mr.

Trump.

The campaign shows the obsession that some of Mr. Trump’s allies had about a shadowy “deep state” trying to blunt his agenda — and the lengths that some were willing to go to try to purge the government of those believed to be disloyal to the president.

Central to the effort, according to interviews, was Richard Seddon, a former undercover British spy who was recruited in 2016 by the security contractor Erik Prince to train Project Veritas operatives to infiltrate trade unions, Democratic congressional campaigns and other targets. He ran field operations for Project Veritas until mid-2018.

Last year, The New York Times reported that Mr. Seddon ran an expansive effort to gain access to the unions and campaigns and led a hiring effort that nearly tripled the number of the group’s operatives, according to interviews and

Continued on Page A15

Rivals Thump
Front-Runners
In Mayor Race

By KATIE GLUECK

The two leading candidates in the New York City mayor’s race battled to protect their advantages in a hard-hitting Democratic debate on Thursday evening while their six rivals grasped for breakout moments, sought to redefine the stakes of the contest and put forth their own visions for the struggling city.

The contenders clashed over government experience, ideology and public safety in confrontations that sometimes devolved into acrid personal attacks.

They sketched out their plans on an array of city issues, taking divergent stances on policing, education and managing the city’s economic revival. Policing emerged as the most-talked about problem, with proposals ranging from reimagining plainclothes units to expanding the use of mental health professionals in traditional law enforcement situations.

Andrew Yang, one of the front-runners, was the target of an onslaught of criticism, which he sought to defuse by reaching for areas of common ground rather than engaging with equal force. But the sharpest direct clashes were between the other leading candidate, Eric Adams, the Brooklyn borough president, and Maya D. Wiley, a former counsel to Mayor Bill de Blasio.

Ms. Wiley sought to cast Mr. Adams as a conservative former Republican who embraced stop-and-frisk policing tactics, while Mr. Adams dismissed her criticisms as ill-informed.

“Every time you raise that question, it really just shows your failure of understanding law enforcement,” Mr. Adams said after she questioned how he could be trusted to “keep us safe from police misconduct.” Mr. Adams argued that he was a “leading voice against the abuse of stop-and-frisk.”

Ms. Wiley shot back that “having chaired the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board, I certainly understand misconduct.”

The debate arrived less than six weeks before the June 22 Democratic primary that is virtually certain to determine the next mayor. The contest is shaping up to be the most significant city election in decades, one that will determine how and whether New York will recover from the economic devastation of the pandemic as the city also confronts

Continued on Page A21

ISRAEL INTENSIFIES
ITS GAZA BARRAGE
FROM THE GROUND

Forces in South Fire on Militants Across
Border as Urban Unrest Surges

By DECLAN WALSH

Israeli ground forces carried out attacks on the Gaza Strip early Friday in an escalation of a conflict with Palestinian militants that had been waged by airstrikes from Israel and rockets from Gaza.

It was not immediately clear if the attack was the prelude to a ground invasion against Hamas, the Islamist militant group that controls Gaza.

An Israeli military spokesman, Lt. Col. Jonathan Conriscus, initially said that “there are ground troops attacking in Gaza,” but later clarified that Israeli troops had not entered Gaza, suggesting the possibility of artillery fire from the outside. He provided no further details.

The surge in fighting highlighted the unprecedented position Israel finds itself in — battling Palestinian militants on its southern flank as it seeks to head off its worst civil unrest in decades.

It followed another day of clashes between Arab and Jewish mobs on the streets of Israeli cities, with the authorities calling up the army reserves and sending reinforcements of armed border police to the central city of Lod to try to head off what Israeli leaders have warned could become a civil war.

Taken together, the two the-

aters of turmoil pointed to a step change in the grinding, decades-old conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. While violent escalations often follow a predictable trajectory, this latest bout, the worst in seven years, is rapidly evolving into a new kind of war — faster, more destructive and capable of spinning in unpredictable new directions.

In Gaza, an impoverished coastal strip that was the crucible of a devastating seven-week war in 2014, Palestinian militants fired surprisingly large barrages of enhanced-range rockets — some 1,800 in three days — that reached far into Israel.

Israel intensified its campaign of relentless airstrikes against Hamas targets there on Thursday, pulverizing buildings, offices and homes in strikes that have killed 103 people including 27 children, according to the Gaza health authorities.

Six civilians and a soldier have been killed by Hamas rockets inside Israel.

Egyptian mediators arrived in Israel Thursday in a sooner-than-usual push to halt the spiraling conflict.

Most alarming for Israel, though, was the violent ferment on its own sidewalks and streets,

Continued on Page A12



DAN BAILITY FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Israeli artillery firing at the Gaza border on Thursday. Within Israel, unrest has quickly spread to several mixed cities.

Pipeline Said to Have Paid \$5 Million to Hackers

This article is by **Michael D. Shear**, **Nicole Perloth** and **Clifford Krauss**.

WASHINGTON — The operator of a critical fuel pipeline on the East Coast paid extortionists roughly 75 Bitcoin — or nearly \$5 million — to recover its stolen data, according to people briefed on the transaction, clearing the way for gas to begin flowing again but complicating President Biden’s efforts to deter future attacks.

Colonial Pipeline made the ransom payment to the hacking group DarkSide after the cybercriminals last week held up the company’s business networks with ransomware, a form of malware that encrypts data until the victim pays, and threatened to release it online. DarkSide is believed to operate from Eastern Europe, possibly Russia.

The company pre-emptively shut down its pipeline, which stretches from Texas to New Jersey and delivers nearly half of the transport fuels for the Atlantic Coast, setting off a cascading crisis that forced some airlines to make fuel stops on long-haul flights and led to emergency meetings at the White House, a jump in gas prices and panic buying at gas pumps.



LOGAN CYRUS/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

Gas lines in Charlotte, N.C. President Biden urged Americans against panic buying and warned stations about price gouging.

With Republicans blaming Mr. Biden for soaring fuel prices and scenes of panicked motorists swarming gas stations, the president on Thursday embraced news that the 5,500-mile pipeline was resuming service. But he cautioned it would take time to resolve shortages and warned gas stations not to engage in price gouging.

“They should be reaching full operational capacity as we speak,

as I speak to you right now,” Mr. Biden said in remarks from the Roosevelt Room. “That is good news. But we want to be clear: We will not feel the effects at the pump immediately. This is not like flicking on a light switch.”

Mr. Biden did not rule out the possibility that the administration would target the criminals with a retaliatory strike, saying that the United States would pursue “a

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TRACKING AN OUTBREAK A4-8

Pushing to Fully Open Schools

Randi Weingarten, the president of the nation’s second-largest teachers’ union, is aiming for a normal fall. PAGE A8

Shots Shield Pregnant Women

Studies suggest that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are safe and effective and may even protect infants. PAGE A4

NATIONAL A14-21

Strain on Stimulus Oversight

A sprawling system meant to police trillions of dollars in pandemic aid is being challenged as watchdogs warn of waste, fraud and abuse. PAGE A16

Falsehoods Fuel Voting Limits

Former President Donald J. Trump undermined confidence in elections. Republicans now cite that lack of confidence as they restrict voting. PAGE A18

Perks From Trump Scrutinized

A private school’s records are subpoenaed as investigators examine tuition payments made on behalf of the Trump Organization’s finance chief. PAGE A19

BUSINESS B1-6

McDonald’s to Increase Wages

The fast-food giant is raising pay only at its company-owned restaurants, and not up to \$15 an hour. PAGE B1

His Millions Are No Joke

A man went all in on Dogecoin, a spoof cryptocurrency, and turned memes into profits, Kevin Roose writes. PAGE B1

INTERNATIONAL A9-13

Awkward Pressure Campaign

David Cameron, a former British prime minister, begged officials to steer government business to a struggling company that employed him. PAGE A10



WEEKEND ARTS C1-12

Shows Plot Their Return

Some 23 productions have set Broadway reopening dates, and audiences will see some changes. PAGE C1

An Epic Vision on TV

In Barry Jenkins’s adaptation of “The Underground Railroad,” the pain is real, James Poniewozik writes. PAGE C1

SPORTSFRIDAY B7-10, 12

Shohei Ohtani Unleashed

He dominates as a hitter and a pitcher, and the Los Angeles Angels see no reason to limit him to one role. PAGE B7

A Troubling Track Record

Ahead of the Preakness Stakes, the credibility of horse racing may be down to the wire, Joe Drape writes. PAGE B8

OPINION A22-23

Jessica Valenti

PAGE A23



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What's News Business & Finance

Some of the biggest U.S. employers of entry-level workers are adding tens of thousands of new positions as the economy roars back from the pandemic. **A1**

◆ **U.S. stocks snapped** a three-day losing streak as the Dow, S&P 500 and Nasdaq gained 1.3%, 1.2% and 0.7%, respectively. **B1**

◆ **Walt Disney said** its Disney+ streaming service added fewer users than Wall Street had expected, after months of torrid growth. **B1**

◆ **Some big U.S. banks** will participate in an initiative aimed at making it easier for people who have traditionally lacked borrowing opportunities to get credit cards. **B1**

◆ **Coinbase Global's** profit surged in the first quarter, driven by a rally in bitcoin and other digital assets. **B1**

◆ **Canadian National** took the lead in the race to acquire Kansas City Southern, which declared its roughly \$30 billion takeover bid superior to a rival proposal. **B1**

◆ **Alibaba posted** its first-ever quarterly loss since it went public after being hit by a record antitrust fine in China. **B4**

◆ **DoorDash's revenue** tripled in the first quarter, showing sustained demand for food-delivery services. **B1**

◆ **Boeing received** approval from U.S. regulators for fixes to an electrical problem that has grounded more than 100 of its 737 MAX jets. **B2**

◆ **Airbnb reported** more than \$10 billion in bookings for the home-sharing company's latest quarter. **B3**

World-Wide

◆ **Fully vaccinated people** don't need to wear a mask or physically distance in most cases, federal health officials said, the broadest easing of pandemic recommendations so far. **A1**

◆ **Colonial Pipeline paid** a ransom to the criminal hackers who caused the company to shut the country's largest conduit of fuel, people familiar with the matter said. **A1**

◆ **Israel's military said** it had begun ground operations against Hamas in Gaza, escalating its offensive against the militant group. **A8**

◆ **Biden asked** a group of Republican senators to flesh out their \$568 billion infrastructure proposal with additional details, including how they would pay for it. **A3**

◆ **A sweeping overhaul** of the military-justice system earned the backing of 61 senators from both parties, clearing a critical threshold needed to advance the legislation. **A4**

◆ **New York prosecutors** have subpoenaed a Manhattan private school as they seek the cooperation of the Trump Organization's finance chief in their investigation of Trump and his company. **A4**

◆ **Former U.K. Prime Minister** Cameron, testifying before a parliamentary committee, said he didn't break any rules in his lobbying for Greensill Capital. **A16**

◆ **Canada's Trudeau** didn't violate conflict-of-interest laws when his government awarded a contract to a charity with financial ties to his family, an inquiry found. **A8**

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New York



Stamford, Conn.



Denver



McKinney, Texas

Clockwise from top left, eased guidelines for people who are fully vaccinated were enjoyed Thursday at the 'Ghost Forest' art installation in New York City; in a Stamford, Conn., park; at a golf tournament in McKinney, Texas; and at the Denver Zoo.

U.S. Gets Closer to Full Reopening

By MELANIE GRAYCE WEST

The return to a pre-pandemic normal in the U.S. is gaining speed.

The New York City subway a week ago hit its highest daily ridership since March 13, 2020, with some 2.2 million riders. On Sunday, more than 1.7 million people traveled through the nation's airports, the most since the start of the pandemic. And early this week, seated diners at reopened restaurants reached 100% of 2019 levels on the reservation platform OpenTable.

"We're absolutely heading to a time that's going to feel more like normal than it's go-

ing to feel like the pandemic," said Jay Varma, a physician and senior adviser to New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio. That said, "I think just like Sept. 11 changed the way we think about physical security, I don't think we're ever going to feel the same way about health security," he said.

The steady—even if incremental—progress on the road back to normal life for many people across the U.S. comes as Covid-19 cases decline and as the vaccination push shifts to a more targeted phase.

The seven-day average of newly reported cases has dropped below 40,000, levels last seen in September, ac-

cording to data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Modeling used by the CDC shows the number of newly reported cases will likely decrease over the next four weeks.

More than 58% of people over the age of 18 in the U.S. have received at least one dose of Covid-19 vaccine, according to CDC data. Children ages 12 to 15 are now eligible for the vaccine from Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE and have started to get the shots, giving an expected boost to the U.S. vaccination campaign just as the pace of vaccinations has slowed somewhat.

A new federal goal to pro-

vide at least one dose of vaccine to 70% of people by July 4 moved into a new phase Tuesday, as President Biden announced funding for enhanced on-the-ground efforts, including phone banking, door-to-door canvassing and pop-up vaccination sites in workplaces and churches. Already, states, municipalities and healthcare providers have been trying new strategies to encourage people to get the shot.

The increased vaccinations are bolstering reopening efforts. On Monday, Michigan hit a vaccination rate of 55% among those 16 and older, a

Please turn to page A7

CDC Says It's Time To Relax Guidance On Masks

Social distancing no longer urged in most cases for those who are fully vaccinated

By BRIANNA ABBOTT

Fully vaccinated people don't need to wear a mask or physically distance during outdoor or indoor activities, large or small, federal health officials said, the broadest easing of pandemic recommendations so far.

The fully vaccinated should continue to wear a mask while traveling by plane, bus or train, and the guidance doesn't apply to certain places like hospitals, nursing homes and prisons, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday.

The fully protected can, however, resume doing many of the things they had to give up due to the pandemic, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said.

"We have all longed for this moment, when we can get back to some sense of normalcy," Dr. Walensky said. "That moment has come for those who are fully vaccinated."

The CDC considers people fully vaccinated either two weeks after receiving their second dose of an mRNA vaccine, such as the one from Pfizer Inc. and partner BioNTech SE or Moderna Inc., or two weeks after getting the

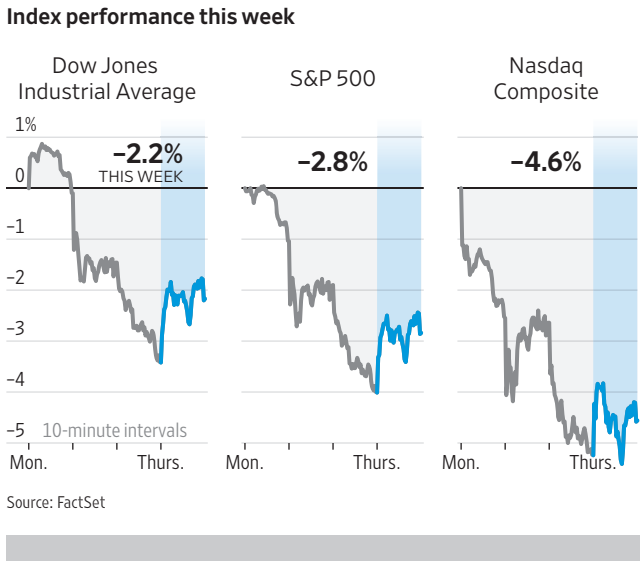
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◆ **Blood expert says he found vaccine clots' cause**..... A7

◆ **Teachers union head calls for in-person classes**..... A7

Stocks Regain Ground

U.S. stocks climbed Thursday, chipping away at losses following their worst three-day decline since late October. **B1**



Workers With Low Wages Are Now in High Demand

By SEBASTIAN HERRERA AND HEATHER HADDON

The fight is on for lower-wage workers.

Some of the biggest U.S. employers of entry-level workers are adding tens of thousands of new positions as the economy roars back from the coronavirus pandemic. Many are raising wages or adding perks to entice workers from other jobs or off the sidelines of the labor market.

Amazon.com Inc. said Thursday that it would hire 75,000 more workers and offer

\$1,000 signing bonuses in some locations, its latest hiring spree in a year of tremendous job growth. McDonald's Corp. said it wants to hire 10,000 employees at company-owned restaurants in the next three months and that it would raise pay at those locations. Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc., Applebee's and KFC are among other chains seeking to hire tens of thousands of workers as they restore indoor seating and seek to bolster staffing.

Many companies have struggled to find enough avail-

able workers, though there are signs that more are entering the labor market to take some of those open positions. The Labor Department said Thursday that jobless claims had continued a several-week slide to new pandemic lows.

Demand for workers is so high that wages are rising, too. Average hourly earnings for private-sector employees rose by 21 cents to \$30.17 last month, according to a recent

Please turn to page A2

◆ **Jobless claims keep trending lower**..... A2

Colonial Pipeline Paid Off Hackers

Colonial Pipeline Co. paid a ransom to the criminal hackers who caused the company to shut the country's largest conduit of fuel, people familiar with

million at the time of the transaction, one of the people familiar with the matter said.

The company restarted pipeline operations on Wednesday and said it was resuming service throughout its entire system on Thursday after a cyber-attack last week forced it to shut it down, leading to regional gasoline shortages and higher prices. It couldn't be learned whether the ransom payment directly enabled Colonial to restart its 5,500-mile conduit, which runs from Texas

to New Jersey.

Some energy analysts said it would likely take days before gasoline supplies are returned to normal in affected states in the Southeast.

Bloomberg reported earlier Thursday that Colonial had paid the hackers a sum of nearly \$5 million, and that the decryption tool ultimately wasn't effective in restoring operations. Instead,

Please turn to page A6

◆ **TSA's pipeline oversight faces scrutiny**..... A6

Chip Crisis Throws Wrench Into Car Business

America's car-buying boom has one big problem: too few cars

Americans are shopping for cars in near-record numbers, but the world's computer-chip shortage has left dealers with the fewest offerings in decades.

By Mike Colias, Ben Foldy and Nora Naughton

The market mismatch is driving up prices, and many buyers expecting to drive new cars off the lot have to wait weeks or months for their vehicles to arrive. Some showroom models sell for thousands of dollars over the sticker price.

"We may just be in the greatest new-car market of our existence," Philadelphia-area car dealer David Kelle-

her said, "and we're doing it with no cars."

He recently woke up at 3:30 a.m. in a cold sweat and scrolled an iPad to check on his inventory of Jeeps and Ram trucks. After posting his best months ever in March and April, Mr. Kelleher was heading into the busy summer sales season with 98 vehicles on his lot instead of the usual 700.

"That really shook me up in a bad way," he said. "This is going to be longer and more difficult than most people think."

Auto makers have been forced to cut production of more than 1.2 million vehicles in North America because they can't get enough

Please turn to page A9

Centuries-Old 'Mad Sailor Shop' Sunk by Lockdowns

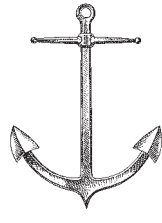
London's Arthur Beale, famed for window displays, supplied explorers

By ALISTAIR MACDONALD

Dan Barker had barely finished rejoicing that London's "mad umbrella shop" had survived the pandemic when his wife broke some bad news: The "mad sailor shop" had not.

Next month, Arthur Beale Ltd., a nearly 500-year-old business that sells maritime

supplies from central London, is set to close a store famed for its elaborate window displays and eccentric interior. After surviving great fires, bubonic plague and Nazi bombing raids, successive Covid-19 lockdowns and a huge repair bill have



Up-anchor

sunk a store that was already listing from changing shopper habits, its owners said.

London is emerging from its third lockdown, and locals are casting nervous glances to see which of their favorite stores have survived the pandemic. The fate of Arthur

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Partly sunny 72/52 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 76/54 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2021 • \$2

Fully vaccinated Unvaccinated Fully vaccinated Unvaccinated Fully vaccinated Unvaccinated

Attend a crowded outdoor event Go to an indoor movie theater Eat at an indoor restaurant or bar

Updated guidelines: A full list of activity recommendations and their risk levels. A6

CDC says fully vaccinated can shed masks

BY YASMEEN ABUTALEB AND LAURIE MCGINLEY

Americans who are fully vaccinated can go without masks or physical distancing in most cases, even when they are indoors or in large groups, federal officials said Thursday, paving the way for a full reopening of society.

The change represents a huge shift symbolically and practically for pandemic-weary Americans,

Relaxation of rules an incentive for shots, paves way for full reopening

millions of whom have lived with the restrictions for more than a year. A growing number have complained they cannot do more even after being fully vaccinated

and criticized the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for being overly cautious. More than 154 million Americans have had at least one shot and 117 million are fully vaccinated, about 35 percent of the population.

"We have all longed for this moment when we can get back to some sense of normalcy," CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said at a briefing. "Based on the continuing downward trajectory of cases,

the scientific data on the performance of our vaccines and our understanding of how the virus spreads, that moment has come for those who are fully vaccinated."

Walensky cited a growing body of real-world evidence demonstrating the efficacy of the coronavirus vaccines and noted the

SEE MASKS ON A6

J&J vaccine: Shipments to states will halt amid production snags. A7



SARAH L. VOISIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Nurse Maria Docal administers a dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine to Samara Al Hinawi, 13, at Children's National Hospital in D.C. Now that the two-dose regimen has been cleared for a younger group, children ages 12 to 15 are stepping up. Story, B1

Amid excitement and trepidation, Biden notes win — and work ahead

BY MATT VISER AND ANNIE LINSKEY

President Biden on Thursday afternoon strolled out of the White House with a triumphant demeanor — notably without wearing a mask — and declared the country on the precipice of defeating a pandemic that has killed more than 580,000 Americans, damaged the economy and

been the single-most dominant issue of his young presidency.

The occasion was the surprise announcement by federal health officials that Americans who are fully vaccinated can go without masks or physical distancing in most cases — marking a crucial milestone in the nation's battle against the pandemic.

"I've said many times: As tough

SEE BIDEN ON A6

Can we start talking about the end of the pandemic? Sure, but . . .

BY JOEL ACHENBACH

For more than a year, everyone has wondered when this dreadful pandemic will end. The answer has always been "not for a long time." That answer, however, has been overtaken by events — at least in the United States.

The end of the pandemic may not be near, exactly, but it's no longer rash, impolitic or scientifi-

cally dubious to broach the topic.

New coronavirus infections in the United States have dropped to their lowest rate since mid-September and, if trends continue, will within days be lower than they have been in nearly 11 months. The numbers are good across the coronavirus data dashboard. More than half of adults have had at least one shot of

SEE FINISH LINE ON A4

Israel escalates assault on Gaza, readies troops

HAMAS ROCKETS CONTINUE UNABATED

Clashes between Jewish, Arab Israelis enter 4th night

BY STEVE HENDRIX, SHIRA RUBIN AND MICHAEL E. MILLER

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military escalated its campaign against the Hamas militant group in Gaza late Thursday as artillery, tanks and warplanes combined in a withering assault on the Palestinian enclave, and the Israeli military readied at least three brigades of troops for action, raising the prospect of a ground invasion.

Just after midnight, the Israeli military announced that air and ground forces were attacking in the Gaza Strip, but the extent of the operation remained unclear. A military spokesperson initially said, "There are ground troops in Gaza." But another spokesman for the Israel Defense Forces later issued a "clarification," saying, "There are currently no IDF ground troops inside the Gaza Strip."

Residents of Gaza City said almost continuous airstrikes began to pound the northern Gaza Strip around midnight in the most in-

tense attacks in four nights of aerial bombardments. They said the airstrikes lasted about half an hour.

For most of Thursday, the air war between Israelis and Palestinians had raged unabated, with casualties continuing to climb on both sides amid rocket fire and airstrikes.

Violence also continued to spread within Israel as officials braced for a fourth night of street unrest that has seen Arab Israelis and right-wing Jewish Israelis fight one another in towns across the country. Israeli politicians from across the ideological spectrum condemned attacks by "vigilantes" on both sides, and commentators warned that the communal upheaval may be harder to stop than the military conflict between Israel and the Hamas militant group, which governs Gaza.

Soon after sunset on Thursday, clashes between Jewish and Arab

SEE GAZA ON A12

Gaza's rockets: Projectiles are newer and can travel farther. A13

Communal violence may lead to irreparable rifts

BY MIRIAM BERGER

LOD, ISRAEL — As bands of Jewish and Arab citizens fought one another and police in towns across Israel for a third night early Thursday, Israelis worried that the battle inside the country may be harder to stop than the air war being waged with Gaza.

Chaos erupted in Israeli cities with mixed Jewish-Arab populations on Wednesday night, marking an escalation in the country's worst communal violence in two decades. The Israeli media and local residents alike have warned about the threat of civil war in the country, even as Israel and Hamas have been engaged in the most intense exchange of rockets and bombs since the 2014 Gaza war.

In some cases, Arab Israelis

protesting in support of Palestinians in Gaza and Jerusalem have squared off against right-wing Jewish Israelis and police, and these confrontations have sparked riots and looting. In other cases, groups of vigilante Jews have marched through Arab areas, targeting shops and individuals with violence. And in yet other cases, Arabs have attacked Jews passing through Arab neighborhoods.

Video filmed in the central Israeli town of Bat Yam showed Jewish nationalists pulling a man, whom they believed to be Arab, from a car and brutally beating him on the street. The Israeli media described the incident as "an attempted lynching in prime time." The man was admitted to a Tel Aviv hospital with

SEE ISRAEL ON A14

For U.S., cyberattack is 'a wake-up call'

BY AARON GREGG, SEAN SULLIVAN AND STEPHANIE HUNT

A major East Coast fuel pipeline lurched back to life Thursday as the nation continued to deal with the fallout from the biggest known cyberattack on U.S. energy infrastructure, but the Biden administration warned it would take time for fuel shortages to ease and pledged to take additional action to prevent a similar crisis.

Colonial Pipeline, which suspended operations last Friday after a "ransomware" attack on the

As pipeline restarts, leaders face questions on energy infrastructure

company's computer systems, said Thursday that its pipeline connecting Texas to New Jersey has been fully reactivated and that fuel shipments have resumed. But significant shortages continued across numerous states, and drivers again complained of being stuck in long lines and encounter-

ing empty gas stations.

President Biden and top aides sought to ease growing political fallout over the fuel shortages, as Republicans accused the White House of failing to defend the importance of American-made energy and responding inadequately to the hack.

Transportation Secretary Pete

SEE PIPELINE ON A5

Running on empty: Stations in Northern Virginia had no fuel. B1

Shortage in the 1970s: Motorists faced rationing at the pump. B5

For legendary trainer Baffert, success has not been a straight line



JONATHAN NEWTON/THE WASHINGTON POST

The Hall of Fame trainer of Kentucky Derby champ Medina Spirit, shown working out at Pimlico on Thursday in advance of Saturday's Preakness Stakes in Baltimore, has won — and left controversy in his wake — wherever he has been.

Story, D1

IN THE NEWS

Mueller probe

Former White House counsel Donald McGahn, right, is to testify before a House panel on whether President Donald Trump obstructed justice. A7

Return to schools

The two largest teachers unions support full-time in-person learning in the fall. A2



BILL O'LEARY/THE WASHINGTON POST

THE NATION

A judge delayed until March the trial for three former Minneapolis police officers charged in the killing of George Floyd. A3

A court entry implies that an associate of Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) will plead guilty in his own federal case. A3

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called for an inquiry into Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene's "verbal assault" on Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. A9

THE WORLD

Uruguay, a model of coronavirus contain-

ment in the early days of the pandemic, is struggling with a deadly surge in cases. A10

The rising fortunes of Germany's Green Party as elections approach could mean trouble for a nearly completed gas pipeline between Russia and Germany. A11

The Islamic State carried out chemical experiments on Iraqi prisoners as part of efforts to manufacture a weapon of mass destruction, U.N. investigators found. A14

THE ECONOMY

Target said it will stop selling trading cards

after a dispute outside one of its locations turned violent. A17

St. Croix's Limetree Bay Refining halted operations after its most recent incident showered oil on residents for the second time in just over three months. A18

Inflation is rising and the stock market is down, but experts say there is no need to panic, Michelle Singletary writes. A22

THE REGION

Metro board members heard evidence at a meeting that the pandemic has shifted commuting patterns away from public transit. B1

Hackers posted infor-

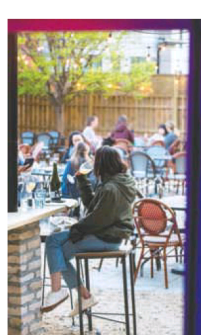
mation that purports to be D.C. police intelligence material as talks over a ransom payment stalled. B1

Montgomery County schools could achieve greater diversity and ease crowding if the district were to rezone fewer than 10 percent of students, a study found. B1

In coming weeks, the D.C. jail will ease coronavirus restrictions and end a nearly round-the-clock lockdown that had drawn criticism from lawmakers. B2

Defeated Virginia gubernatorial candidate Amanda F. Chase lost her bid to overturn her censure by the state Senate. B4

INSIDE



WEEKEND Imbibing alfresco

The bar scene beckons anew, and recently arrived outdoor spots are among the area's best offerings.

STYLE

Weighty viewing

"The Underground Railroad" is traumatic, unflinching and relentless. It is also beautiful, must-see TV. C1

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