

## What's News

### Business & Finance

**Exxon and Shell** suffered significant defeats Wednesday as environmental groups and activist investors step up pressure on the oil industry to address concerns about climate change. **A1, A6**

◆ **Alphabet's Google** and hospital chain HCA have struck a deal to develop healthcare algorithms using patient records. **A1**

◆ **HSBC will stop** serving mass-market individual customers and smaller businesses in the U.S., amid a shift in focus to wealth management and international banking. **B1**

◆ **Amazon said it** agreed to acquire Hollywood studio MGM for \$6.5 billion, a deal the e-commerce giant is betting can jump-start its Prime Video platform. **B1, B2**

◆ **The EU is close** to opening its first formal antitrust investigation into Facebook, ramping up its enforcement over big tech firms. **B1**

◆ **Ford outlined** a tech-centric strategy to electrify much of its vehicle lineup and sharply grow its commercial truck and van business. **B1**

◆ **Federal prosecutors** in New York have requested information about Archegos from banks across Wall Street. **B3**

◆ **U.S. stocks rose**, with the Nasdaq, S&P 500 and Dow adding 0.6%, 0.2% and 0.03%, respectively. **B11**

◆ **Tesla said** all data generated from cars it sold in China will be stored in a new data center there. **B3**

### World-Wide

◆ **Biden ordered** a U.S. intelligence inquiry into the origins of Covid-19, following renewed scrutiny of the possibility that the outbreak of the virus might have started with a laboratory leak in China. **A1**

◆ **One year after** the movement to "defund" law enforcement began to upend municipal budgets, many U.S. cities are restoring money to their police departments or proposing to spend more. **A1, A8**

◆ **The CEOs of** the six largest U.S. banks drew fire from both Republicans and Democrats at a Senate hearing that highlighted challenges facing corporate leaders seeking to navigate hot-button issues. **A4**

◆ **The DOJ has** told casino mogul Steve Wynn to register as a lobbyist in connection with his 2017 efforts to obtain a diplomatic favor long sought by Chinese authorities. **A6**

◆ **Bayer said** it would evaluate whether to continue using the active ingredient in its Roundup weedkiller in the residential U.S. market after a setback in court. **A3**

◆ **The Pentagon is** expected to move the only aircraft carrier based in the Asia-Pacific region toward the Midwest to support the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan. **A12**

◆ **Biden is expected** to nominate veteran diplomat and Wall Street executive Thomas Nides to become the next ambassador to Israel and L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti as ambassador to India. **A12**

## Employee Opens Fire, Killing 8 at Rail Yard



**SECURED:** Law-enforcement officers move through the Valley Transportation Authority light-rail facility in San Jose, Calif., on Wednesday after an employee shot and killed at least eight people. Authorities said the shooter died in an apparent suicide. **A3**

## A Grand Plan to Vaccinate The World Unravels

Multibillion-dollar program meant to protect poor countries from virus

This spring, American epidemiologist Seth Berkley had to break some bad news to the world's poorest countries: millions of Covid-19 vaccine doses promised to them weren't coming.

By Gabriele Steinhauser, Drew Hinshaw and Betsy McKay

The nations were counting on getting shots from Covax—a multibillion-dollar program to immunize the world, led by Dr. Berkley and championed by the World Health Organization. But shipments from Covax's main sup-

plier in India, where Covid-19 cases were surging, suddenly weren't coming through. Tens of millions of hospital workers who had received one dose were unexpectedly no longer scheduled for a second. The prospects for quickly inoculating other front-line workers and vulnerable people were fading fast.

The Covax program, conceived in early 2020 as a kind of Operation Warp Speed for the globe, was supposed to be a model for how to vaccinate humanity, starting with those who needed it the most. The plan was

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◆ WHO delays decision on Sinovac vaccine.... A10

## Cities Reverse Police Defunding Amid Rising Crime

One year after the movement to "defund" law enforcement began to upend municipal budgets, many American cities are restoring money to their police departments or proposing to spend more.

By Zusha Elinson, Dan Frosch and Joshua Jamerson

In New York City, Mayor Bill de Blasio said he would reinstate \$92 million for a new precinct after scrapping the project last summer. The mayor of Baltimore, who led efforts as a city councilman to cut the police budget by \$22 million last year, recently proposed a \$27 million increase.

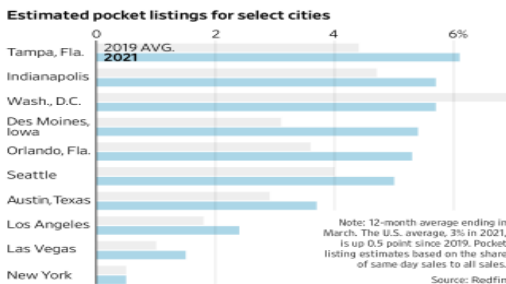
After attacks on Asian-Americans and a rise in homicides in Oakland, Calif., city lawmakers in April restored \$3.3 million of the \$29 million in police cuts, and the mayor is now proposing to increase the department's budget by \$24 million. Los Angeles's mayor has proposed an increase of about \$50 million after the city cut \$150 million from its police department last year.

In the nation's 20 largest local law-enforcement agencies, city and county leaders want funding increases for nine of the 12 departments where next year's budgets already have been proposed. The

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## Housing Market Feels Squeeze

'Pocket sales,' in which real-estate agents bypass the public market, are rising, putting pressure on the housing supply. **A3**



## You're in Florida. All Your Stuff Is on a Truck Somewhere.

Moving spree and shortage of drivers leave people waiting for belongings

By JESSE NEWMAN

Millions of Americans up and moved during the pandemic. For some, their stuff didn't follow.

Debra and Brian Roland last month handed the contents of their California home to a moving company that they said promised to meet them at their new house in Florida in six to 12 days.

Four weeks later, the Rolands are living out of suitcases in an empty house, which echoes when they walk and talk. Friends and neigh-

## Exxon, Shell Suffer Defeats On Climate

Oil companies lose pair of battles in sign of threat posed by activists and investors

By SARAH MCFARLANE AND CHRISTOPHER M. MATTHEWS

Exxon Mobil Corp. and Royal Dutch Shell PLC suffered significant defeats Wednesday as environmental groups and activist investors step up pressure on the oil industry to address concerns about climate change.

In a first-of-its-kind ruling, a Dutch court found that Shell is partially responsible for climate change and ordered the company to sharply reduce its carbon emissions. Hours later in the U.S., an activist investor won at least two seats on Exxon's board, a development that will likely require the oil giant to alter its fossil-fuel focused strategy.

The back-to-back decisions demonstrated how dramatically the landscape is shifting for oil-and-gas companies as they face increasing pressure from environmentalists, investors, lenders, politicians and regulators to transition to cleaner forms of energy.

"The events of today show definitively that many leaders in the oil-and-gas industry have a tin ear and do not understand that society's views and the legal and political environment in which they operate are changing radically," said Amy Myers Jaffe, a professor at Tufts University's Fletcher School who has advised energy companies.

Many oil companies have begun adopting comprehensive plans to reduce emissions, and some, especially in Europe.

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◆ Vote at Exxon comes after a costly proxy fight. A6

## Biden Orders Inquiry On Covid-19 Origins

By MICHAEL R. GORDON AND ALEX LEARY

WASHINGTON—President Biden ordered a U.S. intelligence inquiry into the origins of Covid-19, following renewed scrutiny of the possibility that the outbreak of the virus might have started with a laboratory leak in China.

The White House has come under pressure to carry out its own investigation after China told the World Health Organization that it considered Beijing's part of the investigation complete, calling for efforts to trace the virus's origins to shift into other countries.

Mr. Biden, who wants a report within 90 days, said that U.S. intelligence has focused on two scenarios—whether the coronavirus came from human contact with an infected animal or from a labo-

ratory accident. He said that there is a divergence among officials in the U.S. intelligence community, or IC, on how the virus might have emerged.

"While two elements in the IC lean toward the former scenario and one leans more toward the latter—each with low or moderate confidence—the majority of elements do not believe there is sufficient information to assess one to be more likely than the other," Mr. Biden said in a statement Wednesday. He refrained from outlining the positions of specific intelligence agencies.

The Wall Street Journal reported Sunday on a previously undisclosed U.S. intelligence report that three researchers from China's Wuhan Institute of Virology became sick enough in November 2019 that

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## Google, HCA Set Healthcare Data Deal

By MELANIE EVANS

Alphabet Inc.'s Google and national hospital chain HCA Healthcare Inc. have struck a deal to develop healthcare algorithms using patient records, the latest foray by a tech giant into the \$3 trillion healthcare sector.

HCA, which operates across about 2,000 locations in 21 states, would consolidate and store with Google data from digital health records and internet-connected medical devices under the multiyear agreement. Google and HCA engineers will work to develop algorithms to help improve operating efficiency, monitor patients and guide doctors' decisions, according to the companies.

"Data is spun off of every patient in real time," said Jonathan Perlin, chief medical officer of HCA, which is based in Nashville, Tenn. "Part of what we're building is a central nervous system to help interpret the various signals."

The deal expands Google's reach in healthcare, where the recent shift to digital records has created an explosion of data and a new market for technology giants and startups. Data crunching offers the opportunity to develop new treatments and improve patient safety, but algorithm-development deals between hos-

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### JOURNAL REPORT

5G TECHNOLOGY: Moves against Huawei opened way for new players. **R1-12**

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**THE MIDDLE SEAT** Travelers are ready to go, but the travel ecosystem is playing catch-up. **A16**



**BUSINESS & FINANCE** Meme stocks like AMC that set the market abuzz earlier this year are rallying again. **B1**











Law enforcement officers at the site of the shooting at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority light-rail yard in San Jose, Calif.

## PRESIDENT ORDERS REPORT IN 90 DAYS ON VIRUS ORIGINS

U.S. Agencies to Look Deeper at Theory of Lethal Escape From Wuhan Lab

This article is by Michael D. Shear, Julian E. Barnes, Carl Zimmer and Benjamin Mueller.

WASHINGTON — President Biden ordered U.S. intelligence agencies on Wednesday to investigate the origins of the coronavirus, indicating that his administration takes seriously the possibility that the deadly virus was accidentally leaked from a lab, in addition to the prevailing theory that it was transmitted by an animal to humans outside a lab.

In a statement, Mr. Biden made it clear that the C.I.A. and other intelligence agencies had not yet reached a consensus on how the virus, which prompted a pandemic and has killed almost 600,000 Americans, originated in China. He directed them to report back to him in 90 days.

"I have now asked the intelligence community to redouble their efforts to collect and analyze information that could bring us closer to a definitive conclusion," the president said.

Mr. Biden's statement, his most public and expansive yet on the question of how the virus spread to humans, came as top health officials renewed their appeals this week for a more rigorous inquiry. And it followed mounting criticism of a report from an international team of experts convened by the World Health Organization that largely dismissed the possibility that the virus had accidentally escaped from a Chinese laboratory called the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Deep uncertainty remains about the origins of a virus that spread to every part of the globe over 17 months. The assessments of scientists are largely unchanged: Many believe that a so-called natural spillover from animal to human remains the most plausible explanation. While U.S.

intelligence agencies have collected some new evidence, the additional information is not enough to allow them to draw definitive conclusions about long-simmering theories regarding the lab in the city of Wuhan, the center of the outbreak.

But the president's carefully worded directive underscored a new surge in interest about the lab, which President Donald J. Trump and some of his top aides repeatedly blamed for the pandemic. Some scientists attributed the renewed focus on the lab to Mr. Trump's departure from the White House — and being less identified with the theory — while others said it reflected the deep frustrations with the recent W.H.O. report that was co-written by Chinese scientists.

Avril D. Haines, the director of national intelligence, has been working with various intelligence agencies, bringing together officials with divergent views to discuss them, to review the shifting science and to push for additional intelligence collection.

Still, Mr. Biden's order was an abrupt example of presidential intervention in the collection of raw

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## Activists Win Battle to Join Exxon's Board

By CLIFFORD KRAUSS  
and PETER EAVIS

HOUSTON — Big Oil was dealt a stunning defeat on Wednesday when shareholders of Exxon Mobil elected at least two board candidates nominated by activist investors who pledged to steer the company toward cleaner energy and away from oil and gas.

The success of the campaign, led by a tiny hedge fund against the nation's largest oil company, could force the energy industry to confront climate change and embolden Wall Street investment firms that are prioritizing the issue. Analysts could not recall another time that Exxon management had lost a vote against company-picked directors.

"This is a landmark moment for Exxon and for the industry," said Andrew Logan, a senior director at Ceres, a nonprofit investor network that pushes corporations to take climate change seriously. "How the industry chooses to respond to this clear signal will determine which companies thrive through the coming transition and which wither."

The vote reveals the growing power of giant Wall Street firms that manage the 401(k)s and other investments of individuals and businesses to press chief executives to pursue environmental and social goals. Some of these firms are run by executives who say they see climate change as a major threat to the economy and the planet.

Exxon's top five shareholders include Vanguard, BlackRock and Fidelity, large mutual fund companies. BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, and Exxon's second-largest shareholder with a 6.7 percent stake, has cast itself as a leader in efforts to reduce companies' carbon dioxide emissions. This year, BlackRock's chief executive, Laurence D. Fink, said that the coronavirus pandemic had "driven us to confront the global threat of climate change more forcefully."

BlackRock backed three of four candidates nominated by the activists. The vote was not fully tabulated at the end of Wednesday, and there were still two seats undecided on the 12-person board. Eight of the people Exxon's management nominated won seats.

The victory of the hedge fund leading this campaign, Engine

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## Transit Worker Kills 8 at a Rail Yard in San Jose

This article is by Thomas Fuller, Shawn Hubler and Kellen Browning.

SAN JOSE, Calif. — A municipal transit worker opened fire as the Wednesday morning shift was gathering for work at a San Jose rail yard, killing eight people in the latest of the mass shootings that have plagued the United States this year.

California law enforcement officials identified the gunman as Samuel James Cassidy, 57, a maintenance worker who had been with the Silicon Valley's regional transit agency for at least a decade. The authorities said he appeared to have killed himself at the scene.

It was unclear how many people were wounded, but at least one person was in critical condition at

## Latest in String of Mass Shootings in U.S. This Year

a hospital, officials said.

The gunman was an employee of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, which oversees bus, rail and paratransit service for commuters, said Sgt. Russell Davis, a spokesman for the county sheriff's office. He did not identify the victims or the weapon used, or offer a possible motive.

In an interview, Connie Wang, 58, Mr. Cassidy's former girlfriend, described him as someone

who was "not mentally stable."

At the rail yard, workers said, panic erupted as word spread of gunfire in two buildings. While bomb squads searched for explosives there, firefighters were responding to a blaze at Mr. Cassidy's empty home, about eight miles away.

Survivors of the shooting were led to a separate building in the municipal complex where some were reunited with family members, a scene that James Kostmayer, a local government employee, called "heartbreaking."

"You could hear the screams and cries of the families" from the

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Najibullah said his weapons against Taliban gunmen in Laghman Province included a slingshot.

## Afghan Bases Fall to Taliban as U.S. Heads Out

By DAVID ZUCCHINO  
and NAJIM RAHIM

MEHTAR LAM, Afghanistan — Ammunition was depleted inside the bedraggled outposts in Laghman Province. Food was scarce. Some police officers hadn't been paid in five months.

Then, just as American troops began leaving the country in early May, Taliban fighters besieged seven rural Afghan military out-

## Plunging Morale and a Wave of Surrenders

posts across the wheat fields and onion patches of the province, in eastern Afghanistan.

The insurgents enlisted village elders to visit the outposts bearing a message: Surrender or die. By mid-month, security forces

had surrendered all seven outposts after extended negotiations, according to village elders. At least 120 soldiers and police were given safe passage to the government-held provincial center in return for handing over weapons and equipment.

"We told them, 'Look, your situation is bad — reinforcements aren't coming,'" said Nabi Sarwar Khadim, 53, one of several elders who negotiated the surrenders.

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## Anti-Semitism Surges in Wake Of Gaza Clash

By RUTH GRAHAM  
and LIAM STACK

A brick shattering a window of a kosher pizzeria on Manhattan's Upper East Side. Jewish diners outside a sushi restaurant in Los Angeles attacked by men shouting anti-Semitic threats. Vandalism at synagogues in Arizona, Illinois and New York.

In Salt Lake City, a man scratched a swastika into the front door of an Orthodox synagogue in the early morning hours of May 16. "This was the kind of thing that would never happen in Salt Lake City," said Rabbi Avreimi Zippel, whose parents founded Chabad Lubavitch of Utah almost 30 years ago. "But it's on the rise around the country."

The synagogue has fortified its already substantial security measures in response. "It's ridiculous, it's insane that this is how we have to view houses of worship in the United States in 2021," Rabbi Zippel said, describing fortified access points, visible guards and lighting and security camera systems. "But we will do it."

The past several weeks have seen an outbreak of anti-Semitic threats and violence across the United States, stoking fear among Jews in small towns and major cities. During the two weeks of clashes in Israel and Gaza this month, the Anti-Defamation

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## Culture of Fear Said to Prevail At Gates's Firm

This article is by Anupreeta Das, Emily Fitter and Nicholas Kulish.

For 27 years, Bill Gates has entrusted the management of his enormous wealth and the endowment of his giant foundation to a single man: Michael Larson.

Mr. Larson has invested the Microsoft co-founder's money in farmland, hotels, stocks, bonds, even a bowling alley. Thanks in part to Mr. Larson and the soaring value of Microsoft's shares, Mr. Gates's fortune has gone from less than \$10 billion to about \$130 billion.

But Mr. Larson, 61, also engaged in a pattern of workplace misconduct at Mr. Gates's money-management firm, Cascade Investment, according to 10 former employees as well as others familiar with the firm.

He openly judged female employees on their attractiveness, showed colleagues nude photos of women on the internet and on several occasions made sexually inappropriate comments. He made a racist remark to a Black employee. He bullied others. When an employee said she was leaving Cascade, Mr. Larson retaliated by trying to hurt the stock price of the company she planned to join.

Over the years, at least six people — including four Cascade employees — complained to Mr. Gates about Mr. Larson, according to

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## California's Sinking City

The 21,960 residents of a farming community caused a costly problem by tapping groundwater.

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## Filibuster Showdown Looms

A Senate vote on a commission to investigate the Capitol assault may revive a fight over a bill-stalling tactic.

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## TRACKING AN OUTBREAK A4-7

### A Shot for a Shot at \$1 Million

States are offering big incentives to get residents to roll up their sleeves for a vaccine. Ohio announced the first winner of its Vax-a-Million lottery.

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### Immunity May Last, Data Says

Studies showed immune cells living in people who were infected with the virus or were inoculated against it.

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## INTERNATIONAL A8-10

### Adopt a Rainforest

An invitation by Brazil to have companies share the costs of conserving the Amazon has found few takers.

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## BUSINESS B1-7

### James Bond, Meet Jeff Bezos

Amazon said it would acquire Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer for \$8.45 billion, about 40 percent more than the value seen by other prospective buyers.

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### Russia Takes Aim at Big Tech

An internet crackdown leads a global wave of actions by governments trying to control online speech.

PAGE B1

## SPORTS THURSDAY B8-10

### Olympics Barrel Toward July

The Games must go on, organizers say, despite protests in Tokyo and warnings from global health experts.

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THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

## In 'Cruella,' Fashion Is Toxic

The new Disney movie is the latest in a long line of Hollywood films that demonize the industry. Why?

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### The 'Talking' Dog of TikTok

Bunny, a sheepadoodle, has brought attention to the use of assistive technology for language acquisition.

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## ARTS C1-6

### Tonys Set for September

Most of the awards will be announced on the Paramount+ service, followed by a starry concert on CBS.

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### They'll Be There For You

"Friends: The Reunion" is a sweet, shaggy special. A review by James Poniewozik.

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## OPINION A18-19

### Gail Collins

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## BIDEN STEPS UP PROBE OF VIRUS ORIGINS

Intelligence agencies will look at Wuhan lab accident theory, other possible causes.

BY CHRIS MEGERIAN AND EMILY BAUMGAERTNER

WASHINGTON — President Biden on Wednesday ordered U.S. intelligence agencies to intensify their effort to determine the origins of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, including whether the pandemic began with a lab accident in China.

The president's directive was a rare public statement about an ongoing classified initiative, and it escalated much-debated questions about whether negligence by scientists in Wuhan could have played a role in the spread of a disease that has caused the deaths of about 3.5 million people worldwide.

"I have now asked the intelligence community to redouble their efforts to collect and analyze information that could bring us closer to a definitive conclusion, and to report back to me in 90 days," Biden said in his statement. He asked intelligence officials to keep Congress updated and work closely with government laboratories.

The idea that the pandemic began at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which is in the Chinese city where the earliest cases of COVID-19 were detected, was frequently dismissed as a fringe theory pushed by former President Trump and his political allies.

But scientists have said the possibility cannot be ruled out, especially because China has refused to allow a more thorough international investigation into the [See Wuhan, A6]



PHILIP PACHECO/Getty Images

TACTICAL law enforcement personnel move through the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority yard where the shooting occurred.

## A morning of terror as gunman kills 8 at San Jose light rail yard

Attacker set his house on fire before shooting co-workers and killing himself, police say

BY RICHARD WINTON, MAURA DOLAN, HAYLEY SMITH AND MARIA L. LA GANCA

SAN JOSE — First, the gunman set his house on fire.

Then he drove to work Wednesday morning and shot eight co-workers to death in two separate buildings at a San Jose light rail yard, after possibly setting explosives.

As Santa Clara County sheriff's deputies ran onto the scene just moments after the first 911 calls came in, he apparently shot himself to death.

Witnesses said the gunman wiped out most of the early shift at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority facility in California's worst mass shooting of the year and one of the deadliest in the country in 2021.

"What the hell's going on in the United States of America?" Gov. Gavin Newsom asked at an afternoon briefing after meeting with members of the victims' families. "What the hell's wrong with us? ... When are we going to put down our arms, literally and figuratively?"

Law enforcement sources identified the gunman as Samuel Cassidy, a 37-

year-old maintenance worker who had been employed at the VTA for at least eight years.

Authorities are still searching for a motive in the shooting, although early indications point to a work-related issue that did not involve riders on the Silicon Valley's light rail system. Investigators said Cassidy targeted only co-workers during the attack and did not fire at police.

Cassidy's body was found at the scene, which was swarmed throughout the day by police officers, sheriff's deputies, FBI agents and bomb experts, human [See Shooting, A9]



SANTIAGO MEJIA/San Francisco Chronicle

FAMILY members of a worker at the rail facility await word on whether their relative is safe.

## Amazon-MGM deal a watershed moment

Buying the studio's huge library positions the retailer to better compete with Netflix.

BY RYAN FAUGHNDER AND WENDY LEE

After years of speculation about the merging of Big Tech and Hollywood, Amazon.com Inc. said Wednesday that it is acquiring Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios for \$8.45 billion — snapping up a library of more than 4,000 movies and storied franchises including James Bond, "Rocky" and "The Pink Panther" — in a watershed moment for the entertainment industry.

The deal, subject to regulatory approval, would be

the Seattle online retail giant's second-largest purchase ever, following its \$13.7-billion acquisition of Whole Foods in 2017.

It comes at a pivotal time as competition ramps up among streaming services such as Netflix, Disney+ and HBO Max, where hit shows are key to driving consumers to subscribe. The rapid changes are fueling a wave of consolidation in the media landscape. Just last week, AT&T Inc. said it would spin off WarnerMedia in a \$43-billion deal with Discovery, a remarkable retreat for the telecommunications giant only three years after it bought the assets.

For Amazon, the principal attraction is MGM's valuable library, which includes 17,000 episodes of TV [See Amazon, A11]



FRANCINE ORR/Los Angeles Times

VALERIE CUELLO and Damian Michel, both 17, dance at Lynwood High School's nontraditional prom held on the campus futsal court last week.

## Masks, social distancing and joy: It's prom night

BY MELISSA GOMEZ

It's spring 2021. It's Friday at dusk. Gaggles of curious teenagers are gathering for an unfamiliar event designed to salvage a high school year that hardly was and pump an unaccustomed feeling into their final weeks as juniors and seniors — joy.

Call it prom-ish. In the early weekends of California's

phased reopening, teenagers, school leaders and perhaps most of all, parents, have seized on a sliver of an opportunity to try to make up for 14 months of missed dances, homecomings, sports award ceremonies and winter formal by mobilizing eleventh-hour proms like none before them.

Depending on the school, parking lots replaced fancy indoor venues. Promposals, the highly orchestrated ask for a date, [See Prom, A8]

COVID-19 vaccination gaps remain: Despite overall progress, vast gulfs in inoculation rates have opened among the state's 58 counties. CALIFORNIA, B3

## Sheriff's Dept. is accused of fraud

City of Compton alleges it was regularly charged for patrols that didn't happen.

BY ALENE TCHERKEDYAN

The city of Compton accused the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department of "rampant" fraud on Wednesday, claiming that the agency routinely charges for patrol work that is not done.

The allegations were made in a legal claim filed with the county, which is a precursor to a lawsuit. In it, Compton attorneys said the alleged deception has led to "major understaffing" and "a lack of responsiveness" to calls for service in the city. Compton pays the Sheriff's Department more than \$22 million a year to police the city, and in exchange sheriff's deputies are obligated to spend a certain amount of time patrolling Compton's streets each month.

"What is happening is [See Sheriff, A8]

### Clippers' season on the brink

A failure to dig out from this playoff hole could be worst flop yet, Bill Plaschke writes. SPORTS, B10

### Reset of Trump's Midwest policy

In talks with four Arab and Israeli leaders, Biden officials attempt to rebalance U.S. ties in the region. WORLD, A3

Weather  
Morning clouds.  
L.A. Basin: 75/59. B6

### Ex-Sen. John Warner dies

Virginia Republican, Elizabeth Taylor's sixth husband, was a popular centrist. OBITUARIES, B5





# The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

M2 V1 V2 V3 V4



Mostly sunny 86/66 • Tomorrow: Rain, t-storm 76/57 BS

Democracy Dies in Darkness

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021 • B2

## Biden asks for report on virus's origins

Shift to U.S. agencies signals less deference to WHO on lab leak theory

BY ANNIE LINSKEY,  
YASMEEN ABUTALEB,  
SHANE HARRIS  
AND DAVID WILLMAN

President Biden said Wednesday that he had asked U.S. intelligence agencies to "redouble their efforts" to determine the origin of the coronavirus, an abrupt departure from the previous White House position of relying on the World Health Organization to uncover how the contagion started.

The new message reflects a notable shift in some prominent scientists' assessments that the virus all but certainly jumped from an animal species to humans. The theory that has more recently gained traction is that the pandemic — which has killed more than 3.4 million people worldwide — may have accidentally escaped from the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China, though that is far from conclusive. Biden ordered intelligence officials to deliver a report within 90 days "that could bring us closer to a definitive conclusion."

Some Republicans pushed the idea early on that the Wuhan lab, rather than a natural transmission from animals to humans, was at fault. Among them was former president Donald Trump, who often used inflammatory language to describe the virus's origins in China.

SEE BIDEN ON A7

## Group's legal blitz deters vaccine mandates

BY ISAAC STANLEY BECKER

The Americans lodging complaints against coronavirus vaccine mandates are a diverse lot — a sheriff's deputy in North Carolina, nursing home employees in Wisconsin and students at the largest university in New Jersey.

But their resistance is woven together by a common thread: the involvement of a law firm closely tied to the anti-vaccine movement.

Attorneys from Siri & Glimstad — a New York firm that has done millions of dollars of legal work for one of the nation's foremost anti-vaccination groups — are co-counsel in a case against the Durham County Sheriff's Office. They've sent warning letters to officials in Rock County, Wis., as well as to the president of Rutgers University and other schools.

SEE MANDATES ON A6

**Pfizer:** Russia suspected in plot to pay influencers to tar vaccine. **A11**

## Worker fatally shoots 8 at Calif. rail yard



Law enforcement officers at the scene Wednesday of a shooting rampage at a Valley Transportation Authority facility in San Jose. The crime scene includes two VTA buildings and, elsewhere, a house possibly linked to the gunman where a fire occurred.

### SAN JOSE ASSAILANT TAKES HIS OWN LIFE

At least some victims were killer's co-workers

BY FAIZ SIDDIQUI,  
BRITANY SHAMMAS,  
DEREK HAWKINS  
AND MARK BERMAN

SAN JOSE — A transit system employee in San Jose opened fire Wednesday morning at a light-rail facility, killing at least eight people before shooting himself, officials said.

Investigators confirmed little about the attacker Wednesday, saying they were still searching for a possible motive. They declined to say whether they thought any of the victims had been targeted.

Authorities fanned out on multiple fronts Wednesday, with a bomb squad scouring the facility after a dog indicated potential explosives, while other law enforcement officials gathered at a San Jose house that was on fire and was believed to be linked to the gunman.

The shooting rampage shook this city in the heart of Silicon Valley and reverberated across a country painfully familiar with devastating gun violence. The bloodshed came just weeks after recent massacres in Indianapolis, the Atlanta area and Boulder, Colo., in which people were killed while doing their jobs.

"This is a horrific day for our city," said San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo.

SEE SAN JOSE ON A9

## Stockholders, court deliver reckoning to Big Oil

BY STEVEN MUFSON

ExxonMobil stockholders voted Wednesday to install at least two new independent directors to the company's board, a resounding defeat for chief executive Darren Woods and a ratification of shareholders' unhappiness with the way the company had been addressing climate change and its lagging financial performance.

The votes were part of a day of reckoning for an oil and gas

Exxon, Chevron, Shell face climate-conscious demands for change

industry already struggling over how to deal with climate change. In Europe, a Dutch court ordered Royal Dutch Shell, considered one of the more forward-thinking companies in the industry, to make deeper-than-

planned cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. And in the United States, Chevron lost a shareholder vote directing the company to take into account its customers' emissions when planning reductions.

The balloting at the storied oil giant ExxonMobil "sends an unmistakable signal that climate action is a financial imperative, and leading investors know it and are demanding change," said Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund. "This is a

watershed moment for the oil and gas industry. It's no longer tenable for companies like ExxonMobil to defy calls to align their businesses with decarbonizing the economy."

Woods tried to muster votes until the last minute but failed to win backing for all of his proposed directors. In addition to the election of two new independent directors, the votes over one other from the dissident slate was too close to call and one was declared a loser several hours after voting halted.

SEE EXXON ON A16

## Amazon expands its Hollywood ambitions

Tech giant buys MGM, gaining rights to a wealth of classic film properties

BY STEVEN ZEITCHIK

Across several decades of Hollywood filmmaking, "RoboCop," James Bond and "Legally Blonde" have become some of the most beloved titles on the big screen.

Could they also be the centerpiece of a new empire?

On Wednesday, the wealthy tech giant Amazon announced it will buy the owner of those properties, the embattled studio MGM, for \$8.45 billion. It is a move that aims to create a new power player in Hollywood with a raft of big-budget entertainment built around existing fan favorites, marketed to a large customer base and bankrolled by one of the world's richest companies.

"MGM has a vast, deep catalogue of much beloved intellectual property," Amazon chief executive Jeff Bezos told shareholders at the company's annual meeting. "We can reimagine and develop that IP for the 21st century."

SEE AMAZON ON A17

JOHN W. WARNER 1927-2021

## 5-term senator from Va. often went his own way

BY DONALD P. BAKER

John W. Warner, the five-term U.S. senator from Virginia who helped plan the nation's 1976 bi-centennial celebrations, played a central role in military affairs and gained respect on both sides of the political aisle for his diligence, consensus-building and independence, died May 24 at his home in Alexandria, Va. He was 94.

His former chief of staff Susan Magill announced the death and said the cause was a heart ailment. Because of his willingness to buck his increasingly conservative party, Mr. Warner became the Republican whom many Virginia independents and Democrats respected and voted for. By the time he retired in 2009, he held the second-longest tenure of any senator from Virginia.

As a former secretary of the



Sen. John W. Warner (R-Va.) in 1996. The former Navy secretary first ran for Senate in 1978, with the help of wife Elizabeth Taylor.

Navy and, in later years, one of only a handful of World War II veterans in the Senate, Mr. Warner held considerable authority in military matters. His consensus-building on many critical issues led him to be known as one of the Senate's more influential members. He also brought a touch of glamour to the political world through his six-year marriage to film star Elizabeth Taylor.

As chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Mr. Warner provided critical support for President George W. Bush's handling of the war in Iraq, beginning in 2003. During debate on a Democratic call for the withdrawal of American troops from Iraq in 2007, Mr. Warner led the Republican opposition, saying, "What we have on the line is the credibility of the United States of America."

SEE WARNER ON A18

## IN THE NEWS



MARY ALTAPFER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Author, illustrator dies at 91** Eric Carle created "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and other classic picture books. **B6**

**A complex role** Vice President Harris has drawn criticism over her response to the pandemic devastation in India. **A13**

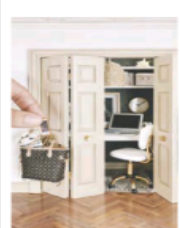
**THE NATION** Two measures introduced in Congress could overhaul the way the Department of Veterans Affairs cares for former service members who were exposed to toxic substances. **A3**  
**A college student** who said she was raped invoked a rare vestige of frontier justice that allows Kansans to summon a grand jury if prosecutors won't pursue charges. **A4**  
**The Biden administration** will seek \$52.2 billion for the Department of Homeland Security for the coming fiscal

year, leaving the budget unchanged. **A4**  
**THE WORLD** A thick substance known as "sea snout" is wreaking havoc on Turkey's coast. **A10**  
**Belarus's leader**, facing retaliation after diverting a plane and arresting two passengers, defended it and accused the West of a "hybrid attack." **A11**  
**President Bashar al-Assad's** control over the electoral process and his certain win deliver a rebuke to efforts for a transition to democracy in Syria. **A12**

**Russia is still** the largest producer of disinformation, according to a Facebook report. **A20**  
**THE ECONOMY** Facebook is rolling out a new feature that lets anyone on Facebook or Instagram hide like counts from posts. **A14**  
**GOP lawmakers** are set to present President Biden with their latest budget counter-offer: as much as \$1 trillion for infrastructure. **A14**  
**THE REGION** Glenn Youngkin, the GOP nominee for Virginia governor, is staying mum on guns and abortion, issues that threaten to turn off

needed swing voters. **B1**  
**A Chantilly** high school outfoxed the pandemic to stage its spring musical, turning a parking lot into an airy stage. **B1**  
**Police** are searching for a suspect in the fatal shooting of a husband and wife outside their Springfield home. **B1**  
**Milton V. Peterson**, one of the D.C. area's most successful real estate developers and the creator of National Harbor, has died at 85. **B1**  
**Howard University** renamed its College of Fine Arts after the late actor Chadwick Boseman, who graduated from the school in 2000. **B2**

## INSIDE



**LOCAL LIVING** "Cloffice" space Convert even a small closet into a stylish workstation for the pandemic and beyond.  
**STYLE** March of progress New appointments to the Fine Arts Commission give the design group more diversity and a chance to expand its scope. **C1**

**BUSINESS NEWS** .....A14  
**COMICS** .....C5  
**OPINION PAGES** .....A21  
**LOTTERIES** .....B3  
**OBITUARIES** .....B5  
**TELEVISION** .....C5  
**WORLD NEWS** .....A10

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The Washington Post / Year 144, No. 173





## Boca disfrutó de una noche en paz en la Copa

Con goles de Almendra, Villa (foto) y Valverde, en contra, goleó 3-0 a The Strongest y se aseguró el pasaje a los octavos de final de la Libertadores. Deportes



## “ACÁ DESCANSA DIOS”: HISTORIAS DE LA TUMBA DE DIEGO MARADONA

—sociedad

Quién es Hugo Gómez, el cuidador del cementerio Jardín Bella Vista, donde están los restos del Diez; el mural y los comerciantes que recuerdan al ídolo. Página 21

## EL ARRIBO DE HBO MAX CAMBIA EL TABLERO DEL CINE EN CASA

—espectáculos

Este servicio de streaming estará disponible a partir del 29 de junio; ofrecerá películas como *Duna* y la esperada reunión de *Friends*. Amazon compra MGM y la saga de Bond.

# LA NACION

JUEVES 27 DE MAYO DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

## El Gobierno se retiró de una demanda por violaciones de los DD.HH. en Venezuela

**LA HAYA.** Había sido presentada por el Grupo de Lima por crímenes atribuidos a Maduro

El gobierno argentino retiró su apoyo a la demanda impulsada ante la Corte Penal Internacional de La Haya por crímenes de lesa humanidad en Venezuela atribuidos al régimen de Nicolás Maduro.

La noticia trascendió ayer, pero, según la Cancillería, la decisión fue una “consecuencia directa” de la salida de la Argentina del Grupo de Li-

ma, en marzo pasado. Al día siguiente de la oficialización de esa ruptura, el gobierno de Alberto Fernández le envió una nota a la Corte Penal Internacional de La Haya, en la que argumentó las razones para excluirse de la demanda por las violaciones de los derechos humanos. Muchas de esas denuncias formaban parte del informe de la alta comisionada de la

ONU para los Derechos Humanos, Michelle Bachelet.

La carta fue enviada el 25 de marzo, tras la formalización de la renuncia de la Argentina al Grupo de Lima, un foro regional de 13 países que lideró las condenas internacionales contra el chavismo y al cual había adherido el gobierno de Mauricio Macri. Página 15

### GRABOIS

El gobierno colombiano justificó la expulsión del dirigente Juan Grabois por no tener los documentos en orden. Página 15

## Fernández le pidió apoyo a Merkel por la deuda con el Club de París

**NEGOCIACIÓN.** El lunes vence un pago por US\$2400 millones

El presidente Alberto Fernández le pidió ayer a la canciller alemana, Angela Merkel, respaldo en el Club de París, para postergar el pago de US\$2400 millones que vence el lunes, y en la negociación con el FMI.

Fuentes del Gobierno informaron que la canciller alemana “se comprometió a seguir apoyando a la Argentina en su planteo al FMI”. Desde Alemania se limitaron a sostener que ambos presidentes “intercambiaron puntos de vista sobre cuestiones económicas y regionales”. Alemania es uno de los principales acreedores en el Club de París y quedó fuera de la gira que hizo Fernández por Europa hace diez días. Página 12

## El mismo ruego de Cristina, 15 años atrás

Martín Rodríguez Yebra  
Página 12

## El desempleo podría haber sido más alto, según la UCA

**TRABAJO.** El desaliento extremo en el peor momento de la cuarentena del año pasado —provocado por las limitaciones para circular o por la creencia de que era imposible conseguir un trabajo en esa situación— fue un factor que evitó que el desempleo se disparara en 2020. La Universidad Católica Argentina estimó que, sin ese efecto, la desocupación habría trepado al 28,5% el año pasado. El desempleo, calculó, fue del 13,9% en 2020, frente al 11% del Indec.

La diferencia se debe a que quienes no están empleados, pero no buscan activamente un trabajo son registrados como inactivos, no como desempleados. Este fenómeno también fue registrado por el Indec. Página 18



Controles, multas y embotellamientos

**coronavirus**— En el primer día hábil desde que rigen las restricciones duras, se desplegaron ayer operativos de control en todos los accesos a la ciudad. La imagen, de las 18 en la autopista Riccheri, refleja los “embudos” que provocaban los retenes. Se labraron 1000 actas en cuatro días. Página 3

## Donación de vacunas: EE.UU. priorizará a América Latina y sus países más golpeados

**AYUDA.** El plan incluye 80 millones de dosis; ya hay gestiones de la Casa Rosada

WASHINGTON (De nuestro corresponsal).— El gobierno norteamericano anticipó que en su programa de donación de 80 millones de vacunas hará un esfuerzo especial para América Latina, sobre todo

para los países más golpeados. En esa línea, el gobierno de la Argentina —por la crítica situación sanitaria que atraviesa el país en estos días— espera ser uno de los beneficiarios del envío que dispondrá

Estados Unidos. En una reunión, esta semana, el canciller Felipe Solá y funcionarios de la administración de Joe Biden avanzaron en el análisis de aspectos logísticos de la entrega de vacunas. Página 2

## Biden ordenó un informe de inteligencia sobre el virus

Pidió a las agencias que presenten una “conclusión definitiva” sobre su origen

Página 8



## SP estende restrições; país tem mais UTIs lotadas

O governo João Doria (PSDB) recuou na flexibilização das regras de isolamento social e, ante o agravamento da pandemia de Covid no estado e no país, prorrogou a fase de transição do Plano São Paulo, prevista para terminar dia 31, até 14 de junho.

Levantamento da Folha indica que o total de capitais pelo Brasil com UTIs acima de 90% de lotação foi de 7 para 10. Saúde B1 e B2

## SP anuncia vacinação de 45 a 54 anos para agosto, se houver dose B1

## Saúde reduz previsão de imunizantes para junho em 8,4 milhões B1

### Vacinação no Brasil

% da população vacinada\*

| Brasil | 2ª dose | 1ª dose |
|--------|---------|---------|
| Brasil | 13,3    | 27,0    |
| MS     | 16,9    | 35,7    |
| RS     | 15,7    | 33,4    |
| ES     | 13,1    | 30,8    |

### Cobertura da primeira dose\*



### Números da pandemia

| Total       | Casos    | Óbitos |
|-------------|----------|--------|
| 26.mai**    | 65,8 mil | 1.823  |
| Variação*** | 8,2%     | -6,2%  |
| Em 24 h     | 79,5 mil | 2.399  |



Dados das 20h de 26.mai \*Acima de 18 anos \*\*Média móvel de 7 dias \*\*\*Em relação a 24 dias

## Consumidor paga por térmicas que não geram energia

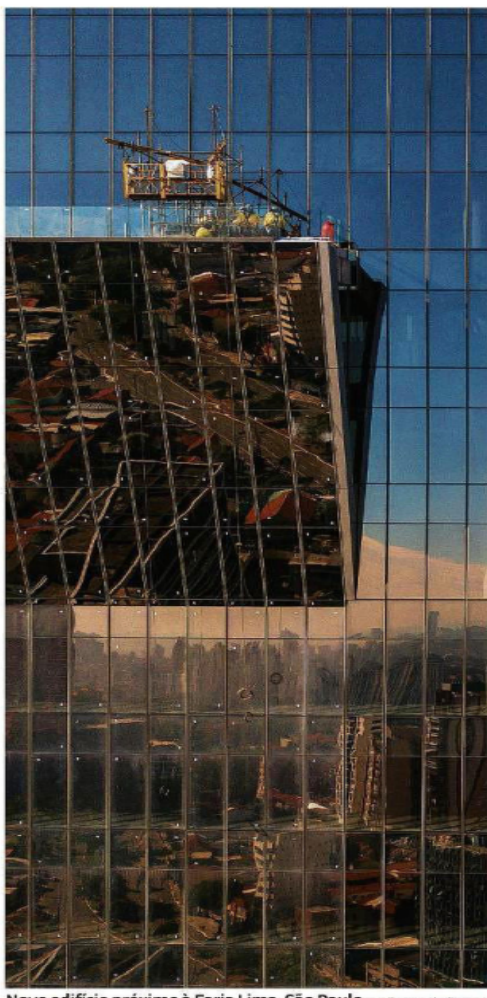
O consumidor brasileiro tem pago, na conta de luz, para bancar usinas térmicas que entregam menos energia do que o esperado ou até se recusam a operar. A conta já chega a R\$ 8,7 bilhões por ano, estima o Idec. Mercado A17

## Vírus se alastra, e Argentina vê colapso na saúde

Pela primeira vez, a Argentina registra casos de pessoas que morrem de Covid sem ter atendimento por causa do sistema sobrecarregado. Sob lockdown, o país passa por segunda onda e já ultrapassou 75 mil mortos. Mundo A14

## Por US\$ 8,45 bi, Amazon acerta compra do estúdio MGM

Mercado A22



Novo edifício próximo à Faria Lima, São Paulo Danilo Verpa/Folhapress

## Caderno Mercado Imobiliário estreia com tendências do setor

Mensal, nova seção da Folha trará reportagens e colunas sobre os horizontes para os imóveis e o urbanismo, passando pelas mudanças de comportamento do consumidor

# CPI da Covid decide convocar para depor nove governadores

Comissão também quer ouvir ministro Queiroga e seu antecessor Pazuello, mais uma vez; Doria não está na lista

Governadores de nove unidades federativas onde houve operações da Polícia Federal para apurar suspeitas de irregularidades no combate ao coronavírus (Amazonas, Amapá, Distrito Federal, Pará, Piauí, Rondônia, Roraima, Tocantins e Rio de Janeiro) serão convocados a depor na CPI no Senado que apura a gestão da pandemia no Brasil.

A comissão ainda pediu novas audiências com o ex-ministro da Saúde Eduardo Pazuello e seu sucessor na pasta, Marcelo Queiroga. Ambos já depuseram. Serão chamados também o assessor internacional da Presidência, Filipe Martins, o ex-assessor Arthur Weintraub e o empresário Carlos Wizard, todos atuantes na condução federal da crise.

A convocação dos gestores estaduais causou atrito no grupo majoritário da comissão, e parte dele defende postergar as oitivas ou espalhá-las, temendo afetar o ritmo das investigações, que hoje focam o presidente Jair Bolsonaro. Governistas tentaram incluir na lista o governador de São Paulo, João Doria (PSDB), mas não houve aprovação. Poder A4 e A5

## Contra Bolsonaro, FHC e Lula vivem novo capítulo

Recente encontro, que rendeu elogios pela civilidade, mas também críticas de petistas e tucanos, acrescentou um lance na montanha-russa da relação dos ex-presidentes. Na terça, Fernando Haddad propôs a Geraldo Alckmin compromisso para o 2º turno em 2022. Poder A8 e A6

## Presidente abre ponte ao lado de reserva de nióbio

A obra inaugurada por Jair Bolsonaro hoje, na região de São Gabriel da Cachoeira (AM), é vizinha ao maior depósito mundial de nióbio, localizado em áreas protegidas. Alardeado por ele na campanha eleitoral de 2018, o minério tem sido pouco citado em seu governo. Mercado A17

## Madeireira usou telefones ligados ao Ibama, diz PF

Suspeita de exportação ilegal, uma madeireira usou números do Ibama para contatar autoridades europeias, diz a PF. Empresa nega ilícito, e órgão vê falsa no inquérito. Ambiente B8

## Mata atlântica perde 18 mil campos de futebol de floresta nativa B6 e B7

## Papa brinca e diz a padre que Brasil não tem salvação

Mundo A15

**Vocês não têm salvação. Muita cachaça e nada de oração**

Papa Francisco ontem (26), após audiência geral no Vaticano

## Escola pública se mantém fechada em 14 estados

Passados 14 meses de pandemia no Brasil, 14 estados e o Distrito Federal continuam sem aula presencial nas escolas públicas. Só as particulares têm recebido estudantes, segundo levantamento da Folha. Não há plano do governo federal para auxiliar as redes estaduais. Cotidiano B5

## Erro em repasses do Fundeb atinge 1,6 mi de inscrições

O governo distribuiu dinheiro para a educação básica com base num cálculo com erro de 1,6 milhão de matrículas. Não se sabe ainda o número de municípios afetados. Cotidiano B4

## Ministério demite militar responsável por organização do Enem B4



Pierre Duarte/Folhapress

## ANTES DE REGRA RÍGIDA, MORADORES DE RIBEIRÃO PRETO LOTAM MERCADOS

Na véspera de entrar em vigor a proibição do serviço presencial de supermercados, centenas foram ontem às lojas para fazer compras, no dia em que a cidade do interior paulista bateu recorde de pacientes com Covid internados em UTIs Saúde B1

### Esporte B9

## Um capitão pela Champions

Contestado na seleção, o meio-campista Fernandinho, capitão do Manchester City, tenta no sábado (29) ser o primeiro brasileiro a erguer a taça da Liga dos Campeões.

### Ilustrada B11

Cruella, a assassina de dalmatas, é vilã para a família em novo filme da Disney

### Ilustrada B15

Tony Goes 'Friends' já foi ousada Jairo Malta Série é imitação pálida

### Fernanda Torres

## Eis o jeito brasileiro

Pazuello protegeu o chefe com a desculpa de que é tudo da boca para fora. É o jeito do Jair. O lado sombrio do homem cordial age, agora, segundo o jeito brasileiro. Ilustrada B14

Passa a escrever às quintas-feiras

### Maria H. Tavares

## A estabilidade perversa da pandemia

Opinião A2

### EDITORIAIS A2

Vacina para o mundo Em defesa da doação de doses aos países pobres.

Estado policial Acerca de sigilo relativo ao morticínio do Jacarezinho.







**Fatídica incompetencia: Se entregó una insignificante cantidad de biológicos**

## Apenas se recibió el 5,8% de las vacunas adquiridas

El Estado compró más de 8 millones de dosis, pero llegaron hasta ahora solo 484 mil unidades. Se pagaron unos USD 31 millones, incluido el millonario anticipo a Covax.

PÁGINA 2

En tres meses debe saberse  
**EEUU investiga la  
posible fuga del  
Covid de laboratorio  
chino de Wuhan**

PÁGINA 46

Exigen asistencia económica  
**El Gobierno recula,  
pero empresas solo  
aceptarán fase 0 si  
hay plan de ayuda**

PÁGINAS 4 y 18

La AFD redujo las  
tasas en dólares  
al nivel más bajo  
en una década

PÁGINA 17



## Set magistral del Decano

**Resultado tenístico.** Olimpia goleó 6-2 a Táchira en infartante partido y pasó a octavos en la Libertadores. Consiguió la diferencia de cuatro tantos que necesitaba.

PÁGINA 56

## Diputados da primer paso para auditar binacionales

PÁGINA 7

**ETIOS**  
MÁS POR DESCUBRIR



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MÁS BAJO DEL MERCADO



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# LE FIGARO

« Sans la liberté de blâmer, il n'est point d'éloge flatteur » Beaumarchais



**LOUVRE**  
LAURENCE DES CARS, PREMIÈRE  
FEMME À LA TÊTE DU PLUS GRAND  
MUSÉE DU MONDE **PAGE 30**

**FÊTE DES MÈRES**  
CE QUE LES CADEAUX DISENT  
DE NOTRE ÉPOQUE **PAGES 28 ET 29**

Jonc Dune de Poiray.

**FIGARO LITTÉRAIRE**

Quand les écrivains s'essayaient au roman policier  
**NOTRE CAHIER SPÉCIAL**

**EELV**  
Les Verts face à l'éternel dilemme de l'ouverture aux centristes **PAGE 6**

**RWANDA**  
Un long et douloureux chemin vers la réconciliation avec la France **PAGE 8**

**CHAMPS LIBRES**

- Aggressions, incivilités : les maires à l'école de la gendarmerie
- Les chroniques d'Éric Zemmour et de Luc Ferry
- Le tête à tête de Charles Jaigu
- Les tribunes de Michel Bouton et de Jean-Pierre Chevènement et Benjamin Morel
- L'analyse de Laure Mandeville

**PAGES 14 À 17**

**FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON**

**Réponses à la question de mercredi :**  
Covid-19 : approuvez-vous l'obligation de décliner votre identité à l'entrée des restaurants ?

**OUI 43% NON 57%**

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 107 996

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Pensez-vous que l'épidémie aura disparu cet été ?

ALAIN JOCARD/AFP - POIRAY

## Covid : l'épidémie est-elle enfin derrière nous ?

À mesure que la vaccination progresse et que les indicateurs épidémiologiques s'améliorent, la perspective d'une sortie durable de la crise sanitaire n'a jamais semblé aussi réaliste.

Nouveaux cas, hospitalisations, décès... Tout semble montrer que la décrue est réelle, et la météo comme le rythme des vaccinations ajoutent à

l'espoir de voir bientôt se dissiper la crise sanitaire. Mais il est trop tôt pour baisser la garde : d'abord parce que la France peine encore à suivre efficace-

ment les variants. Mais aussi parce que, pour être gagnée, la bataille devra l'être dans le monde entier. Or l'accès à la vaccination est loin d'être ga-

ranti dans les pays pauvres. Plusieurs questions restent par ailleurs en suspens : faudra-t-il une troisième dose de vaccin ? Les enfants devront-ils

être vaccinés ? La vaccination devra-t-elle devenir obligatoire ? Autant de sujets délicats sur lesquels les autorités vont devoir trancher.

→ LES VARIANTS SUD-AFRICAIN, BRÉSILIEN ET INDIEN PROGRESSENT TOUT DOUCEMENT → LES TROIS SCÉNARIOS POSSIBLES POUR L'AVENIR DU SARS-COV-2  
→ LES CINQ GRANDS ENJEUX DE LA CAMPAGNE VACCINALE → L'UNION EUROPÉENNE ATTAQUE ASTRAZENCA SUR SES RETARDS DE LIVRAISON PAGES 2 À 4, 17 ET L'ÉDITORIAL



**Syrie : présidentielle sans suspense au milieu des ruines**

Bachar el-Assad sera réélu pour un quatrième mandat de sept ans à l'issue du scrutin qui s'est tenu mercredi dans les deux tiers du pays sous son contrôle, dix ans après le début de la guerre civile qui a tué près de 400 000 Syriens. **PAGE 9**

**L'appétit de la Chine fait flamber les prix des matières premières**

Blé, soja, or, cuivre, palladium, minéral de fer... Les cours des matières premières s'envolent avec la reprise économique partout dans le monde, entraînant des pénuries de puces électroniques et un surcoût du fret maritime. Avide de produits agricoles et de minéraux, la Chine en accapare à elle seule une partie de plus en plus importante. En France, cette flambée ne s'est pas encore répercutée sur les prix à la consommation. **PAGES 20 ET 21**

**ÉDITORIAL** par Laurence de Charette ldecharette@legifaro.fr

### Le goût des autres

Ce doit être, et c'est tant mieux, un signe de cet irréductible savoir-vivre à la française : c'est à l'aune des tables dressées et de terrasses ouvertes que se mesure vraiment, chez nous, le niveau de l'épidémie de coronavirus. Depuis quelques jours, les taux d'incidence et de positivité ont - enfin ! - cédé la place aux images de Français joyeusement attablés ensemble - sous la pluie s'il le faut - aux quatre coins de France et de Navarre. Comment ne pas se réjouir profondément de ce frisson de vie, après une année passée à compter les assiettes et à remplir des attestations ? Force est pourtant de constater que la célébration reste un peu chiche, voire un brin avaricieuse : c'est sous le régime de liberté surveillée que s'opère ce déconfinement « progressif » si plein de conditionnel et de mises en garde. L'épidémie est-elle définitivement finie ? Rien ne permet de l'assurer complètement. Au contraire : on trouvera, c'est certain, encore quelques variants à se mettre sous la dent. Prenons garde cependant à ce que le virus ne

continue de galoper dans nos têtes quand il aurait ralenti sa course sur la planète. Car, tandis que nous nous étions collectivement retirés, tous drapeaux baissés, s'est produit une sorte de glissement du monde, auquel il nous faut bien nous confronter. Les mois écoulés ont mis en lumière les défis majeurs auxquels est soumise l'éducation, si vite asservie par les écrans quand ils tiennent à la fois lieu de réalité et d'obstacle à la pensée. Les confinements successifs ont émollié les contours du travail, et les barrières hérissées de la « distanciation », usé les derniers fils des solidarités qui fondent la cohésion sociale. À moins qu'il ne faille comprendre l'inverse : c'est la désagrégation de nos fondamentaux et de nos liens qui peut faire de nous, dans l'épreuve, des esclaves. C'est pourquoi il nous faut vite renouer avec le goût des autres et l'appétit du monde, retrouver le sens de la fête et avec lui celui de la conquête... Pour que le brûlant désir de vivre supplante le vain espoir de ne jamais mourir... ■

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## So close Man United lose Europa final on penalties



## Fury of the Hillsborough families as trial collapses

News



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● Cummings on Hancock: 'He lied to everyone on multiple occasions'

● On Johnson as prime minister: 'I regarded him as unfit for the job'

● On Covid: 'When the public needed us most, the government failed'



Bereaved families hit out after former aide claims dysfunction at the heart of No 10 and reliance on deadly 'herd immunity' strategy

**Heather Stewart**  
**Peter Walker**

Boris Johnson is unfit to be prime minister after presiding over a chaotic and incompetent pandemic response that caused many thousands of unnecessary deaths, his former chief aide Dominic Cummings claimed in an excoriating attack.

In a seven-hour hearing before MPs in Westminster yesterday, Cummings gave a damning account of the government's approach, laying much of the blame on Johnson and the health secretary, Matt Hancock.

The ousted aide said the prime

minister had failed to grasp the gravity of the situation and held out against lockdowns meaning "tens of thousands of people died who didn't need to die". He portrayed Johnson as obsessed with the media and making constant U-turns "like a shopping trolley smashing from one side of the aisle to the other".

Asked whether the prime minister was a fit and proper person to lead the country through the pandemic, Cummings replied simply: "No." Apologising for what he said were his own failings, he added: "The truth is that senior ministers, senior officials, senior advisers like me fell disastrously short of the standards

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that the public has a right to expect of its government in a crisis like this."

Other allegations in Cummings' testimony included:

● Hancock lied repeatedly to colleagues, causing the cabinet secretary - and Cummings - to urge Johnson to sack him, though the prime minister was told that "he's the person you fire when an inquiry comes along".

● Cummings heard Johnson say he would rather see "bodies pile high" than impose a third lockdown - something the prime minister has denied in the House of Commons.

● The government was woefully underprepared for the pandemic, with no sense

▲ Dominic Cummings giving evidence to MPs yesterday  
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