



Is Mexico's President A Threat To Its Democracy?

REVIEW



A HAVEN IN HAWAII

WSJ. MAGAZINE

What's News

World-Wide

Facebook said it is suspending Trump's accounts for two years, formalizing a long-term penalty after its independent Oversight Board said the company was wrong to keep the ban open-ended. **A1**

◆ The average number of daily Covid-19 deaths in the U.S. has fallen to the lowest point in more than a year, a fresh sign that vaccinations are lessening the worst effects of the pandemic. **A1**

◆ A Senate Republican leading efforts to reach a compromise on infrastructure legislation proposed a \$50 billion spending increase from the latest GOP offer, a step Biden said fell short. **A4**

◆ Wray said the FBI was probing about 100 different types of ransomware, many tracing back to hackers in Russia, and compared the current state of attacks with the challenge posed by 9/11. **A3**

◆ Ex-White House counsel McGahn testified in a long-running Democrat-led congressional investigation into whether Trump obstructed justice while in office. **A5**

◆ A forthcoming U.S. report contains no evidence that unexplained objects moving through the skies and witnessed by Navy pilots are alien spacecraft, but offers no conclusive explanation. **A3**

Business & Finance

◆ U.S. employers boosted hiring in May, but not enough for the labor market to keep pace with an overall economy that is heating up as the pandemic continues to ease. **A1**

◆ The EU and the U.K. opened formal antitrust probes into Facebook's classified-ad service Marketplace, ramping up regulatory scrutiny for the firm in Europe. **B1**

◆ Shares of AMC, GameStop and other stocks popular with individual investors swung sharply again Friday. Major U.S. stock indexes ended the session with gains. **B13**

◆ AMC's chief has decided to run with the meme-stock bulls who helped his company avoid bankruptcy during the pandemic. **A1**

◆ Bitcoin, dogecoin and other cryptocurrencies skidded, extending their monthlong rout, following another cryptic tweet from Elon Musk. **B13**

◆ More than half a dozen websites that securities regulators alleged stole money from novice investors in the U.S., Canada and elsewhere all used Wirecard. **B12**

◆ The founder of China's Meituan has donated shares in the food-delivery giant worth more than \$2 billion to his own philanthropic foundation. **B3**

Hong Kong Moves to Blunt Tiananmen Vigil




BAN: Hong Kong on Friday blocked off Victoria Park, top, where a vigil commemorating the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre is traditionally held. Thousands in the city turned out in a bid to keep the observance alive, but the scene contrasted with events like the one in 2019. **A7**

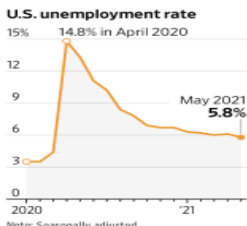
Hiring Rises, But It Trails Economy

BY AMARA OMEOKWE

U.S. employers boosted hiring in May, but not enough for the labor market to keep pace with an overall economy that is heating up as the pandemic continues to ease.

Payrolls grew by 559,000 last month, the Labor Department reported Friday, up from a revised 278,000 in April, which marked a sharp drop from March's figure. The unemployment rate fell to 5.8% in May from 6.1% the prior month.

While the gains marked an uptick from April, they were lower than economists predicted and reflected businesses struggling to fill job openings as potential workers remained on the sidelines. The labor recovery has slowed from earlier in the year—in March, the economy added 785,000 jobs—a development economists say could delay a full labor recovery to well into next year.



U.S. unemployment rate

Note: Seasonally adjusted
Source: U.S. Labor Department

◆ Heard on the Street: Employee shortage and economy... **B14**

Facebook Suspends Trump for 2 Years

BY PAUL ZIEMBO AND JEFF HORWITZ

Facebook Inc. said it is suspending Donald Trump's accounts for two years, formalizing a long-term penalty for the former U.S. president after its independent Oversight Board said the company was wrong to keep the ban open-ended.

The move immediately inflamed the long-running partisan debate over how much control tech companies should have over online speech. With

Mr. Trump also banned permanently from Twitter, Facebook's penalty closes one of his primary avenues for influencing the political discussion for an extended period.

Facebook said it would revisit the suspension two years from the date of its initial move to suspend him on Jan. 7, the day after a pro-Trump mob stormed the U.S. Capitol as

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◆ EU, U.K. open antitrust inquiries into Facebook... **B1**

U.S. Covid Deaths Fall To Lowest In a Year

BY JON KAMP AND TALAL ANSARI

The average number of daily Covid-19 deaths in the U.S. has fallen to the lowest point in more than a year, a fresh sign that vaccinations are lessening the worst effects of the pandemic.

The seven-day average for newly reported deaths fell to 432 on Thursday, according to a Wall Street Journal analysis of data from Johns Hopkins University. The figure hasn't been this low since late March 2020, in the early days of the pandemic, the data show.

This marks the lowest point for average daily deaths after any surge during the pandemic, falling below a prior low of about 520 daily deaths early last summer, the data show. It follows a sharp drop in newly reported Covid-19 cases, with the seven-day average falling below 20,000 this week for the first time since March 2020. On Thursday, the average was 15,030.

"This milestone reinforces that the U.S. is in the home stretch of the epidemic, thanks to vaccinations," said Andrew Brouwer, an assistant research

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EXCHANGE



WORK WEAR

Going back to the office? The dress code may have changed. **B1**

Solar Power's Land Grab Hits Snag: Environmentalists

Mojave Desert residents say they support clean energy, but not giant projects, citing threat to tortoises and recreation

BY JIM CARLTON

MOAPA VALLEY, Nev.—This windswept desert community is full of clean energy supporters including Suzanne Rebich, an airline pilot who recently topped her house with 36 solar panels. About 200 homes generate their own solar energy and a quarter of the local electricity supply comes from hydroelectric power.

All the same, many here are dead set against a planned solar plant atop the Mormon Mesa, which overlooks this valley 50 miles northeast of Las Vegas. Slated to be the biggest solar plant in the U.S., the Battle Born Solar Project by California-based Areva Power would carpet 14 square miles—the equivalent of 7,000 football fields—with more than a million solar panels 10 to 20 feet tall. It would be capable of producing 850 megawatts of electricity, or roughly one-tenth of Nevada's current capacity.

"It will destroy this land forever," Ms. Rebich, 33, said after riding her bicycle on the 600-foot high mesa.

Across the U.S., more than 800 utility-scale solar projects are under contract to generate nearly 70,000 megawatts of new capacity, enough to power more than 11 million homes, equivalent to Texas and then some. More than half this capacity is being planned for the American Southwest, with its abundance of sunshine and open land.

These large projects are increasingly drawing opposition from environmental activists and local residents who say they are ardent supporters of clean energy. Their objections range from a desire to keep the land unspoiled to protection for endangered species to concerns that their views would no longer be as beautiful.

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Louisiana Crawfish Boil Lands Rookies in Hot Water

Boxes of live crawfish ship overnight, but handling them flummoxes many buyers

BY RACHEL WOLFE

BRANCH, La.—As a rule, crawfish from the Frugé family never went far in life. This season, though, more of them are landing everywhere from San Francisco to New York City, including households with no clue how to handle the crustacean—which arrive still kicking—much less how to cook and eat them.



Overnight sensation

Courtney Frugé fields some of the calls. One Montana family dumped their 10-pound bag of mudbugs into a plastic kiddie pool without realizing their escape artistry.

"Crawfish are like walking Legos," Ms. Frugé said. "They link together, and they'll flip themselves up and out of anywhere. The family was running around chasing them."

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AMC Chief Aron Basks In Meme-Stock Light

BY ALEXANDER GLADSTONE AND ERICH SCHWARTZEL

Adam Aron, AMC Entertainment Holdings Inc.'s chief executive, has decided to run with the meme-stock bulls who helped his company avoid bankruptcy during the pandemic.

More than any CEO swept up in the meme-stock trade, Mr. Aron has come to represent the surrealism and opportunities of modern-day trading. He is a Harvard Business School graduate now known for sharing social-media memes of Reddit jokes. With AMC no longer controlled by a Chinese real-estate firm, Dalian Wanda Group, Mr. Aron has three million indi-

vidual investors he calls his community. He has promised the new shareholders dividends and free popcorn.

And it has helped the world's largest movie-theater chain emerge from its pandemic hole. AMC raised \$587 million Thursday through another stock sale effort, its seventh in nine months, adding up to more than \$2.2 billion total since it began its stock-sale efforts in August. The sale comes on the heels of a recent rally that

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◆ Meme stocks gyrate while S&P 500 waffles... **B13**

◆ Bitcoin slips after cryptic tweets by Elon Musk... **B13**

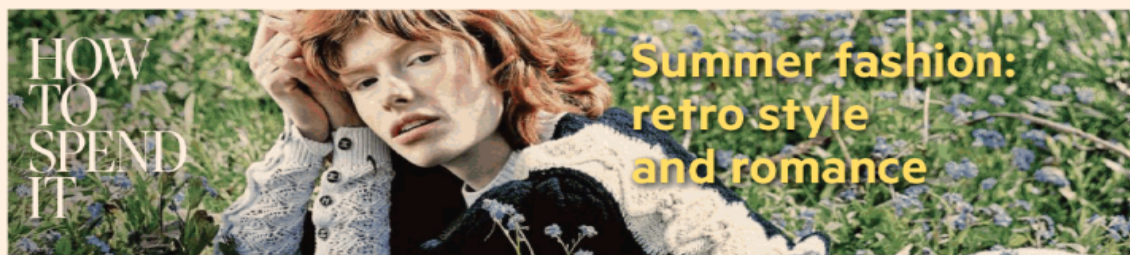
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HOW TO SPEND IT

Summer fashion: retro style and romance

Big economies set to unveil deal on taxing multinational profits

◆ First reform for a century ◆ Hopes of ending 'race to the bottom' ◆ US drives hard bargain

CHRIS GILES — LONDON

The leading advanced economies are set to strike a common position on taxing multinational companies today in a bid to end a three-decade race to the bottom in corporate taxation and raise extra revenue for governments.

Finance ministers were still haggling over details of the deal late yesterday, at a G7 meeting in London hosted by UK chancellor Rishi Sunak.

Delegates said the G7 would agree in principle to change the basis of global corporate tax law for the first time in a century. The historic plan aims to force the biggest companies to pay more tax in countries where they do business, not only where they are headquartered.

One person closely involved with the negotiations said they expected "a very good communiqué" when the talks wrap up today.

Countries have been negotiating to seek an international tax accord since 2015 and talks have been conducted at the OECD for the past couple of years. The US and European countries are at loggerheads, especially over the taxation of the big US tech companies.

The prospects for a deal rose substantially this year after Joe Biden replaced Donald Trump as US president and tabled fresh proposals.

G7 finance ministers were expected to release a statement setting out a common position and backing the Biden administration's call for a worldwide regime for the largest companies and a global minimum rate. Bruno Le



UK chancellor Rishi Sunak welcomes Janet Yellen, the US Treasury secretary, to the G7 meeting in London yesterday. *Steve Delaney/GETTY via Getty*

Maire, the French finance minister, told the BBC that the group was "just 1 millimetre away from a historic agreement".

German finance minister Olaf Scholz said he was "absolutely confident" that ministers would reach a deal. "We will have an agreement which will really change the world," he also told the BBC.

Issues that remain to be settled include whether any global minimum tax would be at the 15 per cent rate the US has proposed or whether it should be defined as "at least 15 per cent".

Two people with knowledge of the talks said the US was pushing a "hard bargain" on the question of when the

UK, France and Italy should get rid of their taxes targeting US-based tech giants when a deal is struck. The US wants this to be immediate, but France and the UK think this would be a non-starter because it would leave digital giants paying less tax than they are now on the basis of a commitment that the US will implement an agreement, but without laws passed in Congress where a deal might come unstuck.

The UK Treasury said there had been "progress" but allies of Sunak said there were still sticking points on which companies would be liable and how much of their global profits would be allocated.

The US wants this to be done quickly, but the European countries want Washington to implement its side of the bargain first — which will include pushing it through Congress.

The US, meanwhile, is keen on a global minimum rate, which would stop its tech giants shifting profits to low-tax jurisdictions.

Much of the tax raised is likely to come from US companies, which was why Janet Yellen, the US Treasury secretary, was "driving a hard bargain", said the person with knowledge of the negotiations yesterday.

Reluctant welcome page 2

Lunch with the FT

The crypto investor who shook the art world

LIFE & ARTS



James Daunt

An Englishman's quest to save American bookstores

LIFE & ARTS



Haunted houses

Hong Kong's mysterious abandoned buildings

LIFE & ARTS



Memories of Myanmar

One family and the cost of exile

LIFE & ARTS



Concrete show brings back hard cash to Las Vegas

The unlikely thrills of World of Concrete 2021 will mark the return of conventions to the US city renowned for hedonism. Las Vegas ended curbs on big gatherings on June 1, to the relief of events organisers who have spent 14 months struggling with online shows. Summer plans range from the Nightclub and Bar Show to the Water Quality Association convention. They all matter as Nevada estimates that the sector brings in \$11.5bn a year.

Analysis ■ PAGE 12

Olympics sponsors call for delay until vaccine drive allows more spectators

LEO LEWIS AND KANA INAGAKI — TOKYO

Big Japanese sponsors are calling privately for the Tokyo Olympics to be postponed for months so more spectators can attend, as businesses fret over the value of their marketing.

The proposal was made to organisers by some sponsors in recent weeks amid frustration among 47 Japanese companies that collectively paid more than \$3bn to back the games, according to people with knowledge of the situation.

A senior executive at one corporate backer said the organisers seemed "completely determined" to start on the scheduled date of July 24, despite the continued pandemic. "But it just makes much, much more sense from our perspective to hold the games when there are more vaccinated people, the weather is cooler and maybe public

opposition is lower," the executive said.

The prevalence of Covid-19 and slow rollout of vaccines have frustrated the Japanese public. Opinion polls show that up to 80 per cent of Japanese people want the Olympics cancelled or postponed, shigeru Omi, the doctor leading Japan's Covid response, said this week it was "not normal" to hold the games in the current environment.

Sponsors were told by the Japan Olympic Committee at a meeting in April that the decision on whether to allow local spectators to watch events could be left until June 24. Overseas fans have already been excluded.

Many companies had based substantial marketing campaigns around ticket giveaways and promotions at the venues. Banks, brokerages, insurance groups and big industrial sponsors had planned corporate entertainment.

Two people who attended the meeting said some companies decided that the money spent on Olympic sponsorship was effectively "worthless" but that a postponement would allow them to recover some value.

A senior executive at one sponsor said a delay until late September or October meant the company would consider paying a supplementary sponsorship fee. "If the games started a few months later, a much bigger part of the country would be vaccinated, there would be less uncertainty and we would certainly consider putting more money in as sponsors," he said.

Tokyo 2020 organisers said all their partners, including the national government and the International Olympic Committee, were "fully focused on hosting the games this summer".

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World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				INTEREST RATES			
	Jun 4	prev	%chg		Jun 4	prev	%chg		price	yield	chg
S&P 500	4220.34	4192.85	0.66	\$ per £	1.216	1.214		US Gov 10 yr	147.55	1.55	-0.07
Nikkei Composite	13798.57	13814.51	1.35	\$ per €	1.417	1.411		UK Gov 10 yr	8.79	-0.05	
Dow Jones Ind	34671.32	34577.54	0.27	€ per £	0.888	0.886		Ger Gov 10 yr	4.21	-0.03	
FTSE100	1742.12	1726.44	0.33	¥ per \$	105.515	110.175		Japan Gov 10 yr	118.56	0.00	0.00
Euro Stoxx 50	4090.02	4079.24	0.26	¥ per €	165.204	155.478		US Gov 30 yr	108.27	2.24	-0.06
FTSE 100	7069.04	7064.35	0.07	Sfr per €	1.094	1.090		Ger Gov 2 yr	105.90	-0.67	0.00
FTSE All-Share	4042.42	4039.19	0.08	€ per \$	0.822	0.824					
CAC 40	6515.06	6507.92	0.12								
Xetra Dax	15692.80	15632.87	0.39								
Nikkei	28941.52	29058.11	-0.40								
Hang Seng	28918.10	28966.03	-0.17								
MSCI World \$	2972.57	2965.97	-0.22								
MSCI EM \$	1380.57	1380.47	-0.35	Oil WTI \$	68.41	68.81	-0.57				
MSCI ACWI \$	711.38	714.42	-0.43	Oil Brent \$	71.75	71.51	0.32				
				Gold \$	1886.55	1902.75	-1.80				

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A Nikkei Company

Proms Are as Resilient as Teenagers Themselves



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MAGGIE SHANNON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

As U.S. Ditches Masks, Europe Stays Cautious

By BENJAMIN MUELLER
and MARC SANTORA

LONDON — Over Memorial Day weekend, 135,000 people jammed the oval at the Indianapolis 500. Restaurants across the United States were thronged with customers as mask mandates were being discarded.

The formula, which gained the Biden administration's blessing, was succinct: In essence, if you are fully vaccinated, you can do as you please.

But while the United States appears to be trying to close the curtain on the pandemic, across the ocean, in Britain and the European Union, it is quite a different story.

Despite plunging infection levels and a surging vaccine program, parts of Europe are maintaining limits on gatherings, re-imposing curbs on travel and weighing local lockdowns.

In Britain, the spread of a new highly contagious variant first detected in India has scrambled calculations just as the country planned to return to something more like prepandemic life on June 21.

Parts of Britain have decided to extend lockdown restrictions. This past week, the government tightened its travel rules, including for the fully vaccinated, by removing Portugal — the most popular remaining European tourist destination — from the list of places where Britons could fly without stringent quarantines.

And scientists are heatedly debating whether to go ahead with a

Continued on Page 6

Billions in Aid, but the Migrants Keep Coming

By NATALIE KITROEFF
and MICHAEL D. SHEAR

SAN ANTONIO HUISTA, Guatemala — An American contractor went to a small town in the Guatemalan mountains with an ambitious goal: to ignite the local economy, and hopefully even persuade people not to migrate north to the United States.

Half an hour into his meeting with coffee growers, the contractor excitedly revealed the tool he had brought to change their lives: a pamphlet inviting the farmers to download an app to check coffee prices and "be a part of modern agriculture."

Pedro Aguilar, a coffee farmer

Harris to Face a Stark Reality in Guatemala

who hadn't asked for the training and didn't see how it would keep anyone from heading for the border, looked confused. Eyeing the U.S. government logo on the pamphlet, he began waving it around, asking if anyone had a phone number to call the Americans and tell them what our needs really are.

"They've never helped me," Mr. Aguilar said after the training a few weeks ago, referring to American aid programs intended to

spur the economy and prevent migration. "Where does all the money go? Where's the aid? Who knows?"

As vice president, Joseph R. Biden Jr. led an enormous push to deter people from crossing into the United States by devoting hundreds of millions of dollars to Central America, hoping to make the region more tolerable for the poor — so that fewer would abandon it.

Now, as President Biden, he is doubling down on that strategy once again and assigning his own vice president, Kamala Harris, the prickly challenge of carrying out his plan to commit \$4 billion in a remarkably similar approach as

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ILYU NIKORICHEN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Amsterdam Is Crumbling

The city has begun a two-decade project to shore up its sagging bridges and canal walls. Page 12.

G7 Finance Leaders Reach a Deal to Curb Offshore Tax Havens

By ALAN RAPPEPORT

LONDON — The top economic officials from the world's advanced economies reached a breakthrough on Saturday in their yearslong efforts to overhaul international tax laws, unveiling a broad agreement that aims to stop large multinational companies from seeking out tax havens and force them to pay more of their in-

come to governments.

Finance leaders from the Group of 7 countries agreed to back a new global minimum tax rate of at least 15 percent that companies would have to pay regardless of where they locate their headquarters.

The agreement would also impose an additional tax on some of the largest multinational companies, potentially forcing technol-

ogy giants like Amazon, Facebook and Google as well as other big global businesses to pay taxes to countries based on where their goods or services are sold, regardless of whether they have a physical presence in that nation.

Officials described the pact as a historic agreement that could reshape global commerce and solidify public finances that have been eroded after more than a year of

combating the coronavirus pandemic. The deal comes after several years of fraught negotiations and, if enacted, would reverse a race to the bottom on international tax rates. It would also put to rest a fight between the United States and Europe over how to tax big technology companies.

Rishi Sunak, Britain's chancellor of the Exchequer, announced

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Dept. of Justice Was Pressured By Trump Aide

Emails Reveal Push on False Election Claims

By KATIE BENNER

WASHINGTON — In Donald J. Trump's final weeks in office, Mark Meadows, his chief of staff, repeatedly pushed the Justice Department to investigate unfounded conspiracy theories about the 2020 presidential election, according to newly uncovered emails provided to Congress, portions of which were reviewed by The New York Times.

In five emails sent during the last week of December and early January, Mr. Meadows asked Jeffrey A. Rosen, then the acting attorney general, to examine debunked claims of election fraud in New Mexico and an array of baseless conspiracies that held that Mr. Trump had been the actual victor. That included a fantastical theory that people in Italy had used military technology and satellites to remotely tamper with voting machines in the United States and switch votes for Mr. Trump to votes for Joseph R. Biden Jr.

None of the emails show Mr. Rosen agreeing to open the investigations suggested by Mr. Meadows, and former officials and people close to him said that he did not do so. An email to another Justice Department official indicated that Mr. Rosen had refused to broker a meeting between the F.B.I. and a man who had posted videos online promoting the Italy conspiracy theory, known as Italygate.

But the communications between Mr. Meadows and Mr. Rosen, which have not previously been reported, show the increasingly urgent efforts by Mr. Trump and his allies during his last days in office to find some way to undermine, or even nullify, the election results while he still had control of the government.

Mr. Trump chose Mr. Meadows, an ultraconservative congressman from North Carolina, to serve as his fourth and final chief of staff last March. A founder of the hard-right Freedom Caucus, Mr. Meadows was among Mr. Trump's most

Continued on Page 22

BACK ON STAGE Diminished but still with sway, Donald Trump adjusts to a new role. PAGE 22

Medicine for Alzheimer's Poses A Dilemma for U.S. Regulators

By PAM BELLUCK
and REBECCA ROBBINS

The Food and Drug Administration is on the verge of announcing one of its most contentious decisions in years: the fate of an Alzheimer's drug that could be the first treatment approved after nearly two decades of failed efforts to find ways to curb the debilitating disease.

On Monday, the agency will rule on the drug, aducanumab, which aims to slow progression of memory and thinking problems early in the disease. If approved, it would be the first new Alzheimer's medication since 2003 and the first treatment on the market that attacks the disease process rather than just easing symptoms.

It would become a blockbuster drug within several years, analysts predict, costing tens of thousands of dollars annually per patient and bringing a windfall to its manufacturer, Biogen.

Patient groups, desperate for treatments, are pushing for approval. But greenlighting the drug would fly in the face of objections from several prominent Alzheimer's experts and the

'HISTORIC' SHIFT IN LABOR FORCE FAVORS WORKERS

RECORD JOB VACANCIES

Employers Offer Better Pay, Training and Opportunities

By NEIL IRWIN

The relationship between American businesses and their employees is undergoing a profound shift: For the first time in a generation, workers are gaining the upper hand.

The change is broader than the pandemic-related signing bonuses at fast-food places. Up and down the wage scale, companies are becoming more willing to pay a little more, to train workers, to take chances on people without traditional qualifications, and to show greater flexibility in where and how people work.

The erosion of employer power began during the low-unemployment years leading up to the pandemic and, given demographic trends, could persist for years.

March had a record number of open positions, according to federal data that goes back to 2000, and workers were voluntarily leaving their jobs at a rate that matches its historical high. Burning Glass Technologies, a firm that analyzes millions of job listings a day, found that the share of postings that say "no experience necessary" is up two-thirds over 2019 levels, while the share of those promising a starting bonus has doubled.

People are demanding more money to take a new job. The "reservation wage," as economists call the minimum compensation workers would require, was 19 percent higher for those without a college degree in March than in November 2019, a jump of nearly \$10,000 a year, according to a survey by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Employers are feeling it: A survey of human resources executives from large companies conducted in April by the Conference Board, a research group, found that 49 percent of organizations with a mostly blue-collar workforce found it hard to retain workers, up from 30 percent before the pandemic.

Continued on Page 19



DANIEL DREIFUSS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dewayne Nash said he favors approval for the trial drug.

F.D.A.'s independent advisory committee.

In November, the committee voted overwhelmingly against recommending approval, saying data failed to demonstrate persuasively that aducanumab slowed cognitive decline. Three advisory committee members later wrote a point-by-point critique of the evi-

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INTERNATIONAL 4-14

Mystery Ailment Grips Canada

Six years after its discovery, a debilitating neurological disease has shaken the province of New Brunswick. PAGE 8

Japan Blocks Rights Bill

Old prejudices have stalled a measure meant to protect gay and transgender people as the Olympics near. PAGE 11

ARTS & LEISURE

Stardom on His Own Terms

This could be the summer of Brooklyn-born Anthony Ramos, thanks to his exuberant performance in the film version of "In the Heights." PAGE 8



SUNDAY STYLES

The Silence of the Looms

After nearly a century, Karastan's North Carolina factory closed, marking the end of "the wonder rug of America." PAGE 1

Sharing a 'Global Language'

Khaby Lamé, a former factory worker in Italy, has become a wildly popular content creator on TikTok. PAGE 1

NATIONAL 15-22

Weapons Ban Overturned

A federal judge in California overturned the state's assault weapons ban at a time when pro-gun advocates are seeking to push cases to the conservative-majority Supreme Court. PAGE 18

Ocasio-Cortez Backs Wiley

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez endorsed Maya D. Wiley for mayor of New York, calling Ms. Wiley the "progressive" choice in a race currently led by moderates. PAGE 16

SUNDAY REVIEW

Tom Hanks

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SPORTS 27-29

Advantage, Navratilova

At 64, the Grand Slam champion is still delivering commentary on issues and sports with blistering power. PAGE 27

Covid Test Sidelines Golfer

Jon Rahm was forced to withdraw from the Memorial Tournament, which he was leading by six strokes. PAGE 29

SUNDAY BUSINESS

A Hurtful Kind of Blindness

In many workplaces, Asian American employees face slights and inequities, partly because some colleagues sometimes fail to tell them apart. PAGE 1

MAGAZINE

Who Will Stop the Nets?

Long an N.B.A. afterthought, it is possible that the Brooklyn team, led by Kevin Durant, is the greatest ever built?



'I can now say with certainty that upon my death, the Earth will be in more trouble than it was in when I was born.'

— JIM CORNETT



COLUMN ONE

Imagine no Joshua trees in Joshua Tree National Park

STEVE LOPEZ

If you have any questions about how the plants and animals of Southern California's deserts are faring as the Earth gets hotter and drier, Jim Cornett is a good bet to have the answers. Road-runners, palm trees, snakes, Joshua trees — Cornett has studied them all and written more than 40 books.

But the 72-year-old ecologist, who fell in love with the desert as a schoolboy and is still on his honeymoon 60 years later, was stumped one day in April near the southern entrance to Joshua Tree National Park. It was just past noon when Cornett came upon a rat's nest built into the base of an ocotillo, a spindly, long-stemmed plant with Kelly-green leaves and lip-



Photographs by GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

ECOLOGIST Jim Cornett, top, surveys Joshua trees in Death Valley's Lee Flat, one of the few places they are thriving. Above, an ocotillo in Joshua Tree National Park has had its bark removed by thirsty animals trying to reach the moisture beneath, a result of California's deserts getting hotter and drier due to climate change.

[See Lopez, A12]



FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

BARBARA FERRER, L.A. County's public health director, works a weekend shift in March at a vaccination site in Downey at the county Office of Education.

Facing hard COVID calls

Ferrer grieves lost lives, wondering if she did enough

BY JACLYN COSGROVE

The pandemic was spreading fast across Los Angeles County. Barbara Ferrer was trying to stop it, but her moves were turning many against her.

Business owners lamented her lockdown orders, preachers ignored indoor worship bans, and politicians pressured her to

loosen mandates. Social media lit up with hate and, in a few cases, death threats against the county's director of public health.

When L.A. County hit its worst moment in the pandemic during the winter surge, the barrage of anger was hurled from right outside her front door.

Protesters, screaming through bullhorns and carrying signs echoing conspir-

acy theories, had begun gathering regularly outside her home in Echo Park. They went without face coverings and confronted her masked neighbors.

"You are a traitor to all the people of Los Angeles!" one man shouted from Ferrer's driveway.

It was the kind of high-pressure churn of threats and challenges that claimed [See Ferrer, A14]

Arizonan tries to talk sense to GOP

BY MELANIE MASON

PHOENIX — Mike Broomhead talks for a living, but for a moment last week, all he could do was sigh.

With that flash of wordless exasperation behind him, he continued with his work: delivering the latest update on the Maricopa County election recount to listeners of his eponymous morning talk radio show. That day's news was of a forthcoming conspiracy-

theory-riddled documentary on what organizers call an audit — but Broomhead soon turned his attention to the officials overseeing this unfolding spectacle.

"You're turning this into the clown show that you've been accused of ... You're turning this into the sideshow at the state fair," he said.

This is the type of criticism one might expect from Democrats, who opposed the recount effort from the [See Talk, A15]

ASSAULT WEAPONS RULING PROMPTS OUTRAGE

Gun control backers fault judge's reasoning in overturning state's 30-year-old ban.

BY ALEX WIGGLESWORTH AND THOMAS CURWEN

Families of mass shooting victims, gun control advocates and California officials condemned a federal judge's decision to overturn California's 30-year-old ban on assault weapons, largely because of the manner in which he justified his ruling.

In declaring the ban unconstitutional late Friday, U.S. District Judge Roger Benitez compared the AR-15 semiautomatic rifle to a Swiss Army knife, calling it "good for both home and battle."

Benitez, who was nominated by former President George W. Bush and serves in the Southern District of California, issued a permanent injunction against the law's enforcement but stayed it for 30 days to give the state a chance to appeal. California is one of seven states, plus Washington, D.C., that ban assault weapons, according to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

In his 94-page ruling, Benitez wrote that it was unlawful for California to prohibit its citizens from possessing weapons permitted in most other states and allowed by the U.S. Supreme Court. Advocates for the right to bear arms hailed the ruling.

"This is by far the most fact-intensive, detailed judicial opinion on this issue ever," said Dave Kopel, an adjunct professor of constitutional law at the University of Denver and adjunct scholar at libertarian think tank the Cato [See Ruling, A10]

G-7 moves to deter tax dodging

Wealthy democracies agree to support a 15% global minimum corporate levy. **WORLD, A4**

Catastrophic toll on sequoias

August's Castle fire destroyed up to 10,600 trees, a revised report says. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather

Partly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 75/61. **B10**



FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

STREET EATING

Danny Munguia prepares a wood-fired Naples-style pizza, among the many offerings at the Avenue 26 night market in Lincoln Heights. **FOOD**

Germany faced its horrible past. Can the United States do the same? **PAGE A21**



COVID-19
Evidence still mostly points to the virus coming from nature, virologists say **OUTLOOK**



Business
Crocs have surged during pandemic as the brand extends its reach **BUSINESS**

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Weather
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Onslaught of ransomware is derailing everyday life

Cyberattacks have led to fuel shortages, fears about U.S. food supply

BY HEATHER KELLY

SAN FRANCISCO — It can feel abstract: A group of organized but faceless criminals hijacking corporate computer systems and demanding millions of dollars in exchange for their safe return. But the impact of these ransomware attacks is increasingly, unavoidably, real for everyday people.

These crimes have resulted in missed chemotherapy appointments and delayed ambulances, lost school days and transportation problems. A ransomware attack on Colonial Pipeline in May led to gas shortages and even dangerous situations caused by panic buying. This past week, hackers compromised the JBS meat processing company, leading to worries about meat shortages or other key food providers being at risk. Last fall, the Baltimore County Public Schools system was hit with ransomware and forced for two days to halt classes, which were being held virtually.

As recently as Wednesday, ransomware attacks were causing problems across the country. In Martha's Vineyard, the ferry service transporting people to and from the Massachusetts island said it had been hit by a ransomware attack that disrupted its ticketing and reservation process. Ferries continued operating all week, but the ticketing system was still affected, causing delays, on Friday.

The recent spate of high-profile ransomware incidents is exactly what cybersecurity professionals have been warning about for years. But it's partially the impact on everyday people — far from the executive suites, cybersecurity companies or government agencies that regularly fret about the criminal enterprise — that has made the risk more visible. The ripple effects of ransomware can result in everything from mild inconvenience to people losing their lives, and it's only increased

SEE RANSOMWARE ON A11



JASON LEE/MYRTLE BEACH SUN NEWS/ASSOCIATED PRESS



ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES



MATTHEW DUSCH FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Bikers ride past the SkyWheel in Myrtle Beach, S.C., on May 29. Visitors walk through the Fremont Street Experience in Las Vegas on Monday. Patrons dance at the Sagebrush honky-tonk bar in Austin on Thursday.

‘Like the end of Prohibition’

American life is roaring back as a slew of states eased or dropped pandemic restrictions in time for Memorial Day weekend and are preparing to lift the few remaining coronavirus control measures, from mask mandates to restaurant capacity limits, in the coming weeks.

In large swaths of the country, the holiday weekend that traditionally marks the unofficial start of the summer also kicked off a post-vaccine return to normalcy.

Last call in Kentucky bars stretched into the wee hours of Saturday after the governor lifted a

With many restrictions relaxed or lifted, Memorial Day weekend offered a glimpse of post-covid America

BY FENIT NIRAPPI AND BRITTANY SHAMMAS

curfew. Gamblers on a Boston casino floor counted down to 12:01 a.m. Saturday when Massachusetts restrictions ended, chanting “It’s all over” as they ripped off their masks, sipped Champagne and watched workers remove plexiglass slot machine dividers. Jersey Shore revelers rushed to reopened dance floors.

The home arenas of NBA teams including the Boston Celtics, New York Knicks, Miami Heat, Philadelphia 76ers and Milwaukee Bucks have recently been filled to near or full capacity. Most

SEE REOPENING ON A13

DOJ ends pursuit of media sources

VOWS TO DROP TOOL USED IN LEAK CASES

Outrage at targeting of reporters under Trump

BY MATT ZAPOTOSKY

The Justice Department on Saturday announced that it will no longer use subpoenas or other legal methods to obtain information from journalists about their sources — a major policy shift that came just a day after the New York Times revealed that the department had prohibited the newspaper’s lawyers and executives from disclosing an effort to seize email records of four reporters.

“Going forward, consistent with the President’s direction, this Department of Justice — in a change to its long-standing practice — will not seek compulsory legal process in leak investigations to obtain source information from members of the news media doing their jobs,” Anthony Coley, the department’s top spokesman, said in a statement.

President Biden said on May 21 that he would not allow the Justice Department to seize journalists’ phone and email records after the department disclosed two instances in which it had tried to do so during Donald Trump’s administration. But the department had not issued a public statement echoing Biden’s decree.

“The Department strongly values a free press, protecting First Amendment values, and is committed to taking all appropriate

SEE SUBPOENAS ON A9

G-7 countries reach agreement on 15% floor for global tax rate

BY JEFF STEIN AND ANTONIA NOORI FARZAN

The Group of Seven assembly of advanced economies announced a historic accord on Saturday to set a minimum global corporate tax rate, taking a first step to reverse a four-decade decline in the taxes paid by multinational corporations.

The deal reached at the G-7 meeting in London by Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States is a major breakthrough for the Biden administration’s efforts to enact a floor on the taxes paid by corporations worldwide.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has been adamant that the United States needs to work with other countries to prevent firms seeking lower tax obligations from simply moving elsewhere. Corporate tax rates across the globe have fallen dramatically over the past four decades.

“The G-7 Finance Ministers have made a significant, unprecedented coordinated effort today that provides tremendous momentum toward achieving a robust global minimum tax at a rate of at least 15 percent,” Yellen, who led negotiations on behalf of the United States, said in a statement.

SEE TAX ON A17

Yellen’s warning: Temporary rise in inflation may be on the horizon. **A6**

Birders grapple with complicated past linked to slavery, white supremacy

Calls grow to rename birds and reshape a racist legacy

BY DARRYL FEARS

Corina Newsome is a Black ornithologist, as rare as some of the birds she studies.

When she joined Georgia Audubon last year, the group’s executive director called her hiring a first step to “begin working to break down barriers” so that people from all communities can fully enjoy birding and the outdoors.

But overcoming those barriers will be daunting. As with the wider field of conservation, racism and colonialism are in ornithology’s DNA, indelibly linked to its origin story. The challenge of how to move forward is roiling. White ornithologists as they debate whether to change as many as 150 eponyms, names of birds that honor people with connections to slavery and supremacy.

The Bachman’s sparrow, Wall’s hut dove and other ringed creatures bear the names of men who fought for the Southern



The Jameson’s firefinch is named for a British naturalist who in 1888 purchased a girl in Africa as “a joke.”

cause, stole skulls from Indian graves for pseudoscientific studies that were later debunked, and bought and sold Black people. Some of these men stoked violence and participated in it without consequence.

Even John James Audubon’s name is fraught in a nation embroiled in a racial reckoning.

SEE BIRDS ON A12

For Israel, a break with the past

Naftali Bennett poised to be first prime minister to identify as religious

BY GRIFF WITTE, STEVE HENDRIX AND SHIRA RUBIN

BEIT ARYEH-OFARIM, WEST BANK — Much like her country, Nirit Weinberg has been on a journey from secular to religious, from centrist to right wing.

Once a resident of Israel’s crowded coastal plain, she now lives in the hills, where her comfortable family home, set amid mango and fig trees, perches on a limestone bluff with panoramic views of Tel Aviv and the sea beyond. The schools are good, the community is tight-knit and, while the Palestinians in the nearby village may seethe over what they say is stolen land, violence is rare.

And now there’s another benefit. Weinberg, a scientist and 45-year-old mother of two, says she feels a special connection to the man likely to become Israel’s next prime minister, possibly within days. He was a settler just like her. “He’s lived here in this community,” Weinberg said. “It’s very comforting.”

Naftali Bennett may, in some respects, be little different from the man he is set to replace, Benjamin Netanyahu. Both are politicians of the Israeli right, determined to take a hard line in dealing with the Palestinians and committed to their

SEE ISRAEL ON A26



CORINNA KERN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Nirit Weinberg, in the Israeli settlement of Beit Aryeh-Ofarim in the West Bank, feels a connection to Naftali Bennett, who also lived there.

HUGO MOYANO, AL FRENTE DE UN CLAN QUE SUMA PODER

el berlinés.



LOS SECRETOS DE COLÓN, EL GRAN CAMPEÓN

—deportes

Sin estrellas, superó a los grandes con juego, estructura y convicción; detrás del Pulga Rodríguez, historias que marcan la esencia del grupo.

GRACIELA BORGES CUENTA SU VIDA EN UN PODCAST

—espectáculos

"He cumplido los suficientes años como para saber que detenerse está bien", dice la actriz, una verdadera leyenda del cine.

LA NACION

DOMINGO 6 DE JUNIO DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

En modo electoral, acelera el Gobierno el gasto público en obras, planes y subsidios

RUMBO A NOVIEMBRE. El ministro Guzmán hizo caja en estos meses y ahora quedó expuesto a las presiones del kirchnerismo; ya se nota en la ejecución presupuestaria el cambio de ritmo

La estructura del Gobierno ya se puso en modo campaña y la estrategia también se refleja en el modo de gestionar los recursos. En la ejecución presupuestaria se nota una aceleración en la utilización de partidas focalizadas especialmente en obras públicas, planes asistenciales, subsidios y atención sanitaria.

En parte, esta mayor erogación proyectada es posible porque el ministro de Economía, Martín Guzmán, engrosó las arcas públicas por una mayor recaudación, pero después debió ceder a las presiones del kirchnerismo para volcar recursos destinados a facilitar las perspectivas electorales del oficialismo.

Los últimos refuerzos presupuestarios demandarán unos \$480.000 millones (equivalente al 1,3% del PBI) durante este año, según precisó el jefe de Gabinete en su último informe al Senado. Entre

ellos, se encuentran la ampliación de la Tarjeta Alimentar, el Repro II, la ampliación de la Asignación por Hijo (AUH) y del Potenciar Trabajo. Además, en el primer cuatrimestre se destinaron \$152.856 millones a subsidios energéticos y los planes de obras públicas mostraron un incremento de casi un 500% respecto del año pasado, con transferencias de capital a las provincias por \$43.355,5 millones durante el primer cuatrimestre. **Página 20**

ANÁLISIS

Jorge Fernández Díaz

Lo que esconde la diplomacia de Cristina

Página 38

Joaquín Morales Solá

Un presidente contra el capitalismo

Página 39

EL ESCENARIO

Una campaña en medio de una tragedia

Martín Rodríguez Yebra

—LA NACION—

Alberto Fernández suele decir que su vida como presidente ha sido como "caminar en un terremoto" porque "el piso se te está moviendo permanentemente". Es su forma de retratar lo que significa gobernar en pandemia, pero algo del subconsciente se cuela en la metáfora elegida por un líder que sufrió en un año y medio un incomparable desgaste. Los desafíos a su autoridad moldearon una gestión imprevisible e ineficiente para responder a un presente trágico. Continúa en la página 22

Un sábado con un cierre estricto a medias

—coronavirus

El clima colaboró para que mucha gente saliera a pesar de la vigencia de las medidas más duras previstas para este fin de semana, luego de cinco jornadas de flexibilidad fijadas en el DNU. **Página 11**



La calle Alvear, en Martínez, fue una muestra de lo que ocurrió en distintas zonas del AMBA

ALEJANDRO GUYOT

Acuerdo global para gravar a corporaciones

G-7. La tasa sobre las multinacionales será del 15%

WASHINGTON (De nuestro corresponsal).— El G-7 (que agrupa a Estados Unidos, Canadá, Japón, Francia, Alemania, Italia y Gran Bretaña) selló ayer un histórico acuerdo para fijar las bases de un nuevo

esquema fiscal global mediante un impuesto mínimo universal del 15% para grandes corporaciones, con el que podrían recaudar miles de millones de dólares para hacer frente al impacto de la pandemia. **Página 15**

EL ESCENARIO

¿Cuándo llegará el alivio?

Inés Capdevilla

—LA NACION—

El coronavirus cumple un año y medio y no deja de acechar al mundo y de crear desigualdades. Las genera incluso cuando no las esperamos. Gran Bretaña

tiene un 39% de su población vacunada con las dos dosis y deja atrás la pandemia a tal punto que el martes no registró ningún muerto por Covid-19. Continúa en la página 14

Trotta justificó el cierre de las escuelas por el impacto de la segunda ola

EDUCACIÓN. Admitió que la pandemia profundizó la desigualdad. **Página 8**



ilustrada
Ilustríssima C4

Arquivos de Zuzu Angel

No centenário da estilista, baú de memórias ilumina carreira da mineira que vestiu estrelas de Hollywood e causou a ira da ditadura ao denunciar morte do filho por militares.

Nascida há 80 anos, Atlântida inventou a produção de massa no cinema do país

Diretor do Festival de Cannes fala sobre retomada presencial do evento

Esporte B6
Tite irrita presidente da CBF por mostrar apoio aos jogadores, e não à entidade

Mercado A19
Influenciadores expandem atuação publicitária na rede durante a pandemia

ENTREVISTA
Gilberto Gil
Distribuição de riquezas é chave para o futuro

Atento ao desenvolvimento tecnológico desde os anos 1960, Gilberto Gil vislumbra um futuro em que as capacidades e a extensão da vida do ser humano serão ampliadas pelo avanço científico, mas vê riscos de distribuição desigual das conquistas. O músico faz palestra na quinta (10) em evento sobre democratização da tecnologia. Mercado A18

PAINEL S.A.
Via aposta em treinar pequenos varejistas A16

Na pandemia, igreja pede auxílio emergencial do fiel

Genro do líder da Universal afirma em vídeo que entidade está em dificuldades

Em meio à pandemia, o genro do líder da Igreja Universal do Reino de Deus pediu em um vídeo de março que seus fiéis doem à instituição de auxílio emergencial. "Vocês preferem o auxílio emergencial ou o auxílio providencial?", questionou o bispo Renato Cardoso, terceiro na hierarquia da igreja do sogro, Edir Macedo.

Durante seu discurso, relata Julio Wiziack, Cardoso afirma que as ofertas voltarão aos fiéis como na proliferação bíblica de pães e peixes promovida por Jesus Cristo. A igreja tem perdido fiéis com restrições da pandemia. O auxílio emergencial de R\$ 300 mensais é o único instrumento federal específico desta etapa da crise.

Na oração, o religioso culpa o governador João Doria (PSDB-SP), sem nomeá-lo, pela situação difícil dos fiéis. O tucano é adversário de Jair Bolsonaro, apoiado por denominações como a Universal, Igreja Internacional da Graça de Deus (do missionário RR Soares) e Associação Vitória em Cristo (do pastor Silas Malafaia).

Todas essas igrejas criticam medidas de contenção do coronavírus, como as paulistas, e apoiam o tratamento precoce ineficaz, preconizado por Bolsonaro. A assessora da Igreja Universal afirmou que o bispo Cardoso só quis incentivar os seguidores a não depender apenas do auxílio do governo federal. Mercado A15

Marilene Felinto Uma terceira onda de tortura

Torturados pelo medo de que falte ar, de que falte UTI, de sermos acometidos por uma febre, de perdermos nossos entes queridos pela falta de imunização. Somos torturados todo dia pelo presidente Bolsonaro e seu governo criminoso. Ilustríssima C10

Na rede, vacinados encaram 'fiscais de comorbidades'

Brasileiros que se vacinaram por terem alguma doença que possa agravar quadro da Covid-19 viraram alvo de insinuações de que teriam furado a fila. Ação dos "fiscais de comorbidades" pode gerar relutância em quem precisa se imunizar. Saúde B1



De moderadores a tutelados, militares perdem influência

Considerados moderadores do governo Jair Bolsonaro em seu princípio, os militares agora se veem perdendo influência e passando à condição de tutelados na gestão do capitão reformado do Exército. O episódio Eduardo Pazuello simboliza essa mudança.

O general e ex-ministro da Saúde acabou poupado pelo Exército de punição após participar de ato político com o presidente no Rio. Mas o desgaste vinha de antes, como prova a demissão do ministro da Defesa e dos três comandantes de Forças em abril. Poder A4

Janio de Freitas A velha lenda das desordens

Militares do Exército pulverizaram o que houvesse de positivo no seu conceito público. Uns, por conduta degenerada em termos éticos, cívicos e profissionais. Outros, por omissão solidária, ou comodismo carreirista, ou imaginada correção. Poder A5

Governista da CPI trabalha para ser candidato no RS

Poder A10

Partido dividido ideologicamente espera Bolsonaro

Poder A8

G7 anuncia acordo que mira gigantes da tecnologia

Líderes do G7, que reúne as maiores economias do mundo, anunciaram acordo com foco em gigantes da tecnologia, como Apple, Google e Facebook. O objetivo é acabar com a tributação de lucros apenas onde as empresas têm presença física. Mercado A20

Fusões batem recorde, mas só 1/3 deve prosperar

Mercado A16



Aline Abovsky, 48, foi alvo dos 'fiscais de comorbidades' após postar foto comemorando vacina da Covid. Eduardo Krapp/Folhapress



EDITORIAIS A2
Recuperar o ensino
Sobre imperativo de reduzir perda da pandemia.

O erro chinês
Acerca de efeito negativo do controle de natalidade.

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Llegaron dosis contra Covid para embarazadas. Ejecutivo mantiene medidas

Retraso de la vacunación da lugar a un virus más agresivo

Cuanto más tiempo haya una población susceptible, esas personas pueden coinfectarse de diferentes variantes mutagénicas, según infectólogo. Ayer se registraron 130 fallecidos.

PÁGINAS 2, 3 y 6

Unos USD 56.000 millones se movieron con las operaciones electrónicas en 2020

PÁGINA 15

La Coordinadora de Abogados impulsa 35 casos emblemáticos de corrupción ante la CSJ

PÁGINA 8

Cae el supuesto asesino del hombre asaltado tras retirar préstamo para pagar por su internación

PÁGINA 56



“Lograremos salir adelante”

Esperanza. “En estos días debemos sortear obstáculos que quizás nunca pensamos enfrentar, pero lograremos salir adelante”, dice el hermano Valentim Pesente, OFM.

PÁGINA 5

DOMINGO

Entrevistas

Manuel María Cáceres, director de Itaipú

“Acuerdo por notas reversales es el camino para fiscalizar”

PÁGINAS 10 y 11

Julio Borba, ministro de Salud

“El sistema sanitario ya está bastante estresado”

PÁGINA 4

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- REVISTA PUNTA
- Fascículo COLECCIÓN RITA AZUÑO 8



COMPRA OPCIONAL

GRANDES BATALLAS DE LA GUERRA CIVIL 6



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LE FIGARO

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

Richard Gasquet.



JARDINS
LA ROSE OU LE SUCCÈS
ÉTERNEL DE LA REINE
DES FLEURS PAGES 30 ET 31

TENNIS
LES RAISONS DU NAUFRAGE
DES JOUEURS FRANÇAIS
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Baroin s'engage
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L'avenir
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En ex-RDA, le parti
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Haim Korsia
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Des pistes pour
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Le boom
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de la livraison à
domicile et suscite
des vocations
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CHAMPS LIBRES

- L'interminable cauchemar d'Agen, légende du rugby
- Un grand entretien avec Fabrice Hadjadj
- La chronique de Mathieu Bock-Côté
- La tribune de Marine Le Pen

PAGES 17 À 19

FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question
de vendredi :
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pour gérer les urgences ?
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Covid-19 : êtes-vous
convaincu par la thèse
d'un accident
de laboratoire en Chine ?

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Origine du Covid : la piste du labo chinois se précise



JOHANNES EISELE / AFP

Des enquêteurs américains traquent les mensonges de Pékin et pointent la possibilité d'une « fuite de laboratoire » survenue à l'automne 2019 à l'Institut de virologie de Wuhan. PAGES 2 À 4 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

Régionales : les électeurs adhèrent de moins en moins au front republicain

Des Républicains à la gauche en passant par LREM, les divergences sur la stratégie à adopter divisent au sein même de chaque parti. Quant aux Français, sommés par le passé de

faire barrage au Front national, ils semblent, dans la dernière vague du baromètre de la « protestation électorale » de la Fondapol pour Le Figaro, lassés de la consigne. PAGES 6 À 9



ÉDITORIAL par Philippe Gélie pgelie@lefigaro.fr

Mensonge d'État

La seule chose dont la Chine ne s'est jamais cachée depuis l'apparition du coronavirus, c'est son refus absolu de la transparence et de la vérité. « Vous ne devez révéler à personne cette nouvelle pneumonie ! », fut le premier ordre donné à la directrice des urgences de l'hôpital de Wuhan. Depuis, Pékin consacre tous ses efforts à se dédouaner, à effacer les traces, à rejeter le blâme sur d'autres et à redorer son image à coups de masques et de vaccins, en ignorant les questions légitimes d'une planète qui a perdu au bas mot 4 millions de vies. Une obsession de l'esquive illustrée par ce tweet l'an dernier de Zhao Lijian, porte-parole de la diplomatie chinoise: « L'armée américaine pourrait avoir apporté l'épidémie à Wuhan. Soyez transparents ! Les États-Unis nous doivent une explication ! »

Ils sont en passe d'en donner une, qui ne sera pas du goût de Xi Jinping. Les enquêteurs du Département d'État et des services de renseignement américains ont établi qu'au moins trois employés de l'Institut de virologie de Wuhan avaient été hospitalisés avec les symptômes du Sars-CoV-2 dès novembre 2019, plusieurs semaines avant l'alerte of-

ficielle. La thèse d'un « accident de laboratoire » s'en trouve relancée – et la crédibilité de Pékin encore affaiblie. Militarisation des programmes de recherche, mise à l'écart d'experts français, expériences risquées de « gain de fonction » par lesquelles on dope la puissance d'un virus: une à une, les pièces du puzzle se mettent en place. Joe Biden n'a pu que reprendre à son compte le défi lancé par Donald Trump à « l'empereur rouge ».

Les pièces du puzzle de Wuhan se mettent en place

La preuve irréfutable d'un mensonge d'État sera difficile à obtenir tant que le régime chinois ne fait pas sa « glasnost », si cela arrive un jour. Mais on peut d'ores et déjà en tirer une leçon: les laboratoires de virologie, même civils, où des Docteur Mabuse jonglent avec la mort devraient être surveillés d'aussi près par la communauté internationale que les arsenaux nucléaires ou chimiques. Quant aux Chinois pressés de supplanter le modèle occidental, leur montée en puissance réputée inexorable risque de trainer longtemps comme un boulet la dissimulation géante de Wuhan. ■

Orange sur la défensive après la panne des numéros d'urgence

Cinq décès sont potentiellement liés à la défaillance des numéros d'urgence. Plusieurs enquêtes sont ouvertes pour déterminer le rôle de la panne dans ces drames. Le gouver-

nement a annoncé un audit complet du réseau et des services de l'opérateur Orange, dont le PDG, Stéphane Richard (photo), a vécu une véritable semaine noire. PAGE 12



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