

What's News

Business & Finance

Intel is exploring a deal to buy GlobalFoundries, a move that would turbocharge the semiconductor giant's plans to make more chips for other tech companies. A deal could value GlobalFoundries at around \$30 billion. **A1**

◆ **Job openings** are at a record high, suggesting that employers are hiring like never before, but many businesses that laid off workers during the pandemic are predicting they will need fewer employees in the future. **A1**

◆ **Powell said** recent inflation is uncomfortably above the levels the Fed seeks, concluding two days of testimony in which he sounded somewhat less confident about the economic outlook than earlier this year. **A3**

◆ **The S&P 500 and Nasdaq** ended lower, losing 0.3% and 0.7%, respectively, while the Dow rose 0.2%. **B9**

◆ **TSMC said** it expects the chip shortage that has hampered car makers to start easing in the next few months after it ramped up production of auto chips. **B1**

◆ **Morgan Stanley said** second-quarter profit rose 10%, thanks to a boost in fees from deal making and advising wealthy clients. **B8**

◆ **When Robinhood shares** start trading, employees will be able to sell 15% of their holdings immediately, rather than after the traditional six-month lockup period. **B1**

◆ **Aurora plans** to go public with a blank-check company in a transaction that values the self-driving technology startup at \$11 billion. **B3**

World-Wide

◆ **Three large hospitals** said they wouldn't administer Biogen's new Alzheimer's treatment to patients, the latest rupture to emerge from the FDA's controversial approval of the drug last month. **A1**

◆ **The EU's top antitrust** regulator foresees greater alignment with the U.S. on competition enforcement, particularly in the tech sector, amid a broader policy reorientation under the Biden administration. **A8**

◆ **Disagreements over** expanding the IRS have snarled lawmakers' efforts to firm up their roughly \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure agreement before an initial vote next week gauging the deal's support. **A4**

◆ **Los Angeles County** will again require the use of masks indoors following a sharp rise in coronavirus infections since most Covid-19 restrictions were lifted in California a month earlier. **A3**

◆ **Canada could start** allowing Americans into the country for recreational or tourist activities starting in mid-August, Trudeau's office said. **A8**

◆ **A range of people**, including two former Colombian soldiers, met in recent months in the Dominican Republic and Haiti in a plot that led to the assassination of Haiti's president, Haitian and Colombian officials said. **A6**

◆ **Biden welcomed** Merkel to the White House for what is likely her final visit as Germany's chancellor, with both sides highlighting improving trans-Atlantic relations. **A8**

CONTENTS

Markets	M1-14
Arts in Review	A10-11
Markets	B9
Banking & Finance	B8
Opinion	A13-15
Business News	B3-4
Sports	A12
Crossword	A1
U.S. News	A2-4
Equities	B6
Weather	A11
Heard on Street	B10
World News	A6,8



Deadly Floods Sweep Western Europe After Days of Rain



INUNDATED: Firefighters stand on the roof of their vehicle to climb into a flooded house Thursday in Trier, Germany. At least 59 people were reported dead and about 1,300 were unaccounted for in western Germany following days of heavy rain. **A8**

Many Jobs Lost in Pandemic To Be Eliminated Permanently

By LAUREN WEBER

Job openings are at a record high, leaving the impression that employers are hiring like never before. But many businesses that laid off workers during the pandemic are already predicting they will need fewer employees in the future.

As with past economic shocks, the pandemic-induced recession was a catalyst for employers to invest in automation and implement other changes designed to curb hiring.

In industries ranging from hotels to aerospace to restaurants, businesses have reviewed their operations and discovered ways to save on labor costs for the long term.

Economic data show that companies have learned to do more with less over the last 16 months or so. Output nearly recovered to pre-pandemic levels in the first quarter of 2021—down just 0.5% from the end of 2019—even though U.S. workers put in 4.3% fewer hours than they did before the

health crisis.

"When demand falls, it's a natural time to retol or invest because you won't lose customers or sales while you tinker and shut things down," said Brad Hershbein, senior economist at the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. "You don't want to interrupt business when it's at its peak."

The changes will require many workers to adapt. Though the job market is strong right now for highly

paid professionals and low-wage service workers alike, not everyone can find a match for their skills, experience or location, creating a paradox of relatively high unemployment combined with record job openings. Economists said it can be a prolonged process for some laid-off workers to find jobs or acquire the skills needed for new careers.

Please turn to page **A2**

◆ **Jobless claims** decline as states end enhanced aid... **A2**

Investors Return to Oil, Gas As Prices Increase

By JOE WALLACE AND COLLIN EATON

Energy companies are raising money again from Wall Street at superlucrative borrowing costs, thanks in part to higher oil prices. The one thing most investors don't want them to do with it is pump more crude.

Speculative-grade energy companies, including oil producers, pipeline operators and refineries, have issued bonds in the U.S. at a record pace this year, raising about \$34 billion so far, according to LCD, a unit of S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Cash is primarily heading toward riskier borrowers in the shale patch, which by this time last year had raised about half as much from bond issuances.

Laredo Petroleum Inc. on Tuesday issued \$400 million of bonds due for repayment in 2029 with a coupon of 7.75%. The Oklahoma-based oil-and-gas producer plans to use the money in part to pay off other debts.

The willingness of investors to finance shale-oil producers marks a shift from 2019 and the first half of 2020, when years of poor returns and then the pandemic caused funding to dry up.

Wide-open capital markets introduce a new wrinkle into the debate about the direction of crude prices, which already have jumped about 48% this year to about \$72 a barrel in the U.S.

The ability to borrow at relatively low rates has put

Please turn to page **A4**



INSIDE

MANSON

Buyers find the wild market of the past year is finally starting to calm down. **M1**

U.S. NEWS

Infrastructure talks in the Senate stall over expanded powers for the IRS. **A4**

A Pool's Oldest Lifeguard Dives Headlong Into His Dream Gig

A 36-year-old rebounds from job loss, breakup; 'I'm starting all over'

By KRIS MAHER

DORMONT, Pa.—Joshua Vish, at age 36, is the oldest lifeguard at the Dormont Pool. The job pays \$15 an hour and is a dream come true, he said.

Maybe even a life-saver.

"It feels very much like, 'Finally!'" Mr. Vish said of his new work.

The pandemic triggered a national labor shortage, and the pool of lifeguards is especially shallow. The closing of beaches and pools last year sent many lifeguards—and potential recruits—to find new work. The line of empty lifeguard chairs this summer stretches from Newport, R.I., to Redondo Beach, Calif.

In May, officials

The Bid to Counter China On Global Infrastructure Aid

Rare bipartisan program dedicates \$60 billion for foreign projects

By STU WOO AND DANIEL MICHAELS

ELEFSINA, Greece—An aging shipyard here has a new suitor sizing it up for investment: the U.S. government.

To counter China's rising global economic influence, Washington has taken a new direction with foreign assistance. Rather than just lend money or promote trade, as in recent decades, the U.S. is now investing dollars overseas to advance American national security interests. It wants ports, cellular networks and other strategic assets to stay in friendly hands.

At the forefront of this effort is an agency Congress overhauled in 2019, the International Development Finance Corp., or DFC.

"It's a very significant investment tool that we have to compete" against China, said

Rep. Michael McCaul, the top Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

The Trump administration was quick to use the DFC, discussing purchasing the shipyard with Greek officials and offering loans to get Ethiopia to shun 5G cellular equipment from China's Huawei Technologies Co.

The Biden administration wants to go further, to offset Beijing's vaccine diplomacy and other efforts. The Group of Seven wealthy democracies last month announced a new initiative, called Build Back Better World, that they promised would unleash hundreds of billions of dollars for projects in needier countries. It was designed as an alternative to Chinese infrastructure offerings.

U.S. officials say the DFC is the initiative's most powerful tool. Its \$60 billion invest-

Please turn to page **A9**

Intel Eyes \$30 Billion Purchase Of Chip Company

Tech giant explores GlobalFoundries deal amid push to expand its manufacturing

By CARA LOMBARDO AND DANA CIMILUCA

Intel Corp. is exploring a deal to buy GlobalFoundries Inc., according to people familiar with the matter, in a move that would turbocharge the semiconductor giant's plans to make more chips for other tech companies and rate as its largest acquisition ever.

A deal could value GlobalFoundries at around \$30 billion, the people said. It isn't guaranteed one will come together, and GlobalFoundries could proceed with a planned initial public offering. GlobalFoundries is owned by Mubadala Investment Co., an investment arm of the Abu Dhabi government, but based in the U.S.

Any talks don't appear to include GlobalFoundries executives, as a spokeswoman for the company said it isn't in discussions with Intel.

Intel's new chief executive, Pat Gelsinger, said in March that the company would launch a major push to become a chip manufacturer for others, a market dominated by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co.

Intel, with a market value of around \$225 billion, this year pledged more than \$20

Please turn to page **A4**

◆ **TSMC ramps up** output of auto chips amid shortage... **B1**

Three Large Hospitals Shun Alzheimer's Drug

By JOSEPH WALKER

Three large hospitals are declining to administer Biogen Inc.'s new Alzheimer's treatment, Aduhelm, the latest rupture to emerge from the Food and Drug Administration's controversial approval of the drug last month.

The Cleveland Clinic, Mount Sinai Health System in New York and Providence in Renton, Wash., said they wouldn't administer Aduhelm, which is also called aducanumab, to patients amid a debate about the drug's effectiveness and whether the FDA lowered its standards in approving the medicine.

The hospitals' moves come as some health insurers also restrict access to the therapy—unusual pushback against a drug targeting a devastating disease like Alzheimer's that has few effective treatments.

While some doctors have been eager to start prescribing the newly approved drug, oth-

ers have criticized the FDA for clearing the drug before studies proved it works. The critics have also expressed concerns about whether the drug's benefits, which appeared to be modest in studies, are worth the risks of side effects such as brain bleeding that require regular monitoring by physicians.

"Clinical studies failed to demonstrate the effectiveness of Aduhelm...while documenting significant risks, like brain swelling and bleeding," said a spokeswoman for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, which won't cover the drug for its commercially insured patients.

Federal officials recently began a monthslong review of whether Medicare will cover Aduhelm and under what circumstances. The vast majority of patients expected to get the drug are on Medicare, the federal insurance program for the elderly and disabled.

Please turn to page **A6**

The borrowers

How technology has reinvented ownership — JOHN THORNHILL, PAGE 17

Inside Tether

The man behind the crypto world's largest stablecoin — BIG READ, PAGE 15



Long Covid

Scientists struggle to solve the disease's mysteries — ANALYSIS, PAGE 2

Europe deluge Dozens killed in flash floods

People try to move through flood waters in the Belgian city of Liege yesterday.

Flooding across northern Europe has destroyed houses and left dozens dead, after rainfall that political leaders have linked to climate change and weather experts have called "unprecedented".

The downpours have caused rivers to burst their banks in parts of western Germany, disrupting rail services and leaving some areas completely cut off.

"We will be faced with such events over and over, and that means we need to speed up climate protection measures", said Armin Laschet, the conservative candidate to succeed Angela Merkel as German chancellor.

Weather devastation page 2
FT View page 16



Brexit Future/Getty Images

Revolut valued at \$33bn to emerge as UK's biggest private tech group

◆ Digital bank raises \$800m ◆ Worth swells sixfold in a year ◆ Boost for Britain as fintech hub

NICHOLAS HEGAW — LONDON

Revolut, the London-based digital banking start-up, has raised \$800m in a funding round that makes it the UK's most valuable private tech company ever.

The deal, led by SoftBank's Vision Fund 2 and Tiger Global Management, values the six-year-old company at \$33bn, six times more than at its last fundraising last year. The company is worth more than NatWest, one of the UK's biggest retail banks.

The rapid increase highlights insatiable demand from investors for fast-growing companies, which has renewed fears of overheating in private tech markets. Investors poured almost as much money into private start-ups in the first

half of this year as they did in all of 2020. Mikko Salovaara, Revolut's chief financial officer, said the company did not need to raise money but added that it had decided to take advantage of "a lot of investor interest". The company had denied it was fundraising as recently as last month but Salovaara said the deal was turned round in weeks after Revolut approached potential investors.

Nikolay Storonsky, chief executive, said the investment and high valuation illustrated "investors' confidence that we can deliver products that raise the bar for customers' expectations across the whole financial services industry".

Storonsky, a Russian-born former investment banker, founded Revolut in 2015 alongside its chief technology officer, Vlad Yatsenko. The 2020 fund-

raising made Storonsky Britain's youngest self-made billionaire and yesterday's investment lifts the value of his stake to more than \$6bn.

Revolut said it would use the cash to boost spending on marketing, particularly in the US and India, and on product development.

The company initially offered a pre-paid debit card for travellers but has expanded into areas from stock and cryptocurrency trading to consumer credit and business banking.

Net losses widened from £107m to £168m last year but it began to break even in the final two months of the year. Salovaara said it had been "strongly profitable" in the first quarter of 2021.

Revolut has acquired a banking licence in the eurozone but is still in the



The six-year-old start-up, headed by Nikolay Storonsky, is now worth more than NatWest, one of Britain's largest retail banks

process of applying for one in the UK.

The investment was welcomed as a vote of confidence in the UK as a hub for financial technology companies, following last week's successful direct listing of Revolut's rival Wise.

Rishi Sunak, the UK chancellor, said Revolut's fundraising was "great news", adding that "we want to see even more great British fintech success stories".

Revolut would be one of the most valuable companies ever to join the London Stock Exchange if it chose to follow Wise on to the UK market.

Salovaara said the company expected to go public "eventually" but added that "the new capital we've taken on does give us some cushion so we can be quite flexible about the timing".

Lex page 18

Briefing

► **Spac deal puts Aurora's value at \$11bn**
The Amazon and Uber-backed driverless car start-up has revealed plans to go public in a merger with a blank-cheque company, the industry's first top-tier participant to achieve a stock listing. — PAGE 6

► **China GDP rises 1.3% over past quarter**
The pace of the recovery in the world's second-biggest economy rose modestly in the second quarter after signs of sluggishness had earlier stoked expectations of greater policy support. — PAGE 4

► **Facebook thwarts Iran cyber campaign**
The site said that it had blocked a "sophisticated" online cyber espionage push by hackers in Iran who tried to gather data on 200 western military personnel via its platform. — PAGE 3



► **Morgan Stanley buoyed by M&A fees**
The Wall Street bank has become the latest US lender to say that higher fees from investment banking have helped take up the slack from a slowdown in trading as it posted an increase in revenues. — PAGE 8

► **Covax sets up platform to ease supplies**
The WHO-backed global Covid-19 vaccine programme has set up a marketplace to tackle supply-chain bottlenecks that are slowing down efforts to vaccinate the world. — PAGE 4

► **Deutsche Bank's Spain scandal widens**
The lender is thought to have potentially mis-sold foreign exchange derivatives to more than 50 groups in Spain, suggesting the scope of a scandal that has seen two bankers exit is wider than believed. — PAGE 6

► **Kazakhstan bitcoin power usage soars**
China's share of global electricity usage for bitcoin mining fell to under half for the first time this April while Kazakhstan has shot up to third place as its share of crypto mining soared sixfold. — PAGE 10

Datawatch

Overdose surge
US drug death estimates, 12-month rolling total



Fatal drug overdoses in the US surpassed an estimated 100,000 in 2020, a 30 per cent rise on the previous year. The socio-economic impact of Covid shutdowns, as well as the rapid spread of synthetic opioids, fuelled the record surge.

Source: CDC



Investors put \$6bn in the tank for used car start-ups

The global used-car industry is firing on all cylinders after the pandemic created fertile conditions to tempt car buyers to look online for the first time, as well as for dealers to shift focus from the forecourt to the web. Start-ups have attracted \$6bn of capital this year as decades-old car trading groups race to build out the online platforms, brands and logistics infrastructure needed to tap a market that is worth almost \$1tn a year.

Analysis — PAGE 9

Poland's rift with Brussels deepens as court rules checks on judges breach law

JAMES SHOTTER — WARSAW
MARTON DUNAI — BUDAPEST

The EU's top court has ruled that a contentious Polish system for disciplining judges breaches European law, deepening the rift between Brussels and Warsaw over judicial independence.

With tensions increasing, the European Commission also launched separate legal challenges against Poland and Hungary over LGBT+ rights.

The ruling by the European Court of Justice caps a nearly six-year battle over a judicial overhaul launched by Poland's conservative-nationalist Law and Justice party (PiS), which has escalated into a challenge to the EU's legal order.

The ECJ said that a disciplinary chamber for judges set up by PiS violated EU law because it did not provide sufficient guarantees of impartiality and inde-

pendence and was not protected from the influence of Polish politicians.

The decision came the day after Poland's constitutional court, which critics say has been captured by the governing party, ruled that Poland did not have to apply a previous ECJ order to suspend proceedings in its disciplinary chamber.

Politicians from PiS have long argued that the EU has no right to intervene and that the government's judicial changes, which include an attempt to purge the Supreme Court and moves to give politicians power over the body that appoints judges, are necessary to shake up an inefficient system.

Critics argue that the moves are an attempt to curb independent judges and that this week's challenge by Poland's constitutional court of a fundamental element of the EU's legal system raises questions over the country's future in

the bloc. "We are constantly in the process of a legal 'Polenit', which is taking place step by step," said Adam Bodnar, Poland's outgoing ombudsman.

The European Commission said it was "deeply concerned" by the Polish court ruling.

The rule of law battle and the conflict over LGBT+ rights have strained ties between Brussels and Poland, where some municipalities have declared themselves free of so-called LGBT+ ideology.

It has also exposed tensions between Hungary and Brussels. Gergely Gulyas, chief of staff to Viktor Orban, Hungary's prime minister, said that Brussels' arguments for launching legal proceedings over LGBT+ rights in the country were "absurd" and forced.

Additional reporting by Valentina Pop in Brussels

World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				INTEREST RATES			
	Jul 15	prev	%chg		Jul 15	prev			price	yield	chg
S&P 500	4360.56	4374.30	-0.31	\$ per £	1.182	1.182	£ per \$	0.721	1.48	1.33	-0.02
Nasdaq Composite	14545.98	14644.95	-0.68	\$ per €	1.387	1.387	€ per \$	1.173	1.173	0.88	0.04
Dow Jones Ind	34939.05	34933.23	0.02	¥ per \$	0.052	0.052	¥ per \$	136.045	136.115	-0.03	-0.01
FTSE Euro Stoxx 300	1761.30	1777.58	-0.92	₩ per \$	110.035	110.090	₩ per \$	82.211	82.050	117.33	0.01
Euro Stoxx 50	4095.81	4099.50	-1.07	₹ per \$	152.564	152.651	₹ per \$	1.273	1.270	114.38	1.95
FTSE 100	7012.02	7091.19	-1.12	S\$ per \$	1.085	1.083					
FTSE All Share	4025.99	4040.96	-1.09	₹ per \$	0.846	0.846					
CAC 40	6493.39	6568.38	-0.99								
Nikkei 225	15629.09	15780.98	-1.01								
Hong Kong	27796.27	27797.48	-0.75								
MSCI World \$	3056.59	3056.28	-0.02	Oil WTI \$	72.51	73.13	-0.85				
MSCI EM \$	1336.13	1338.51	-0.19	Oil Brent \$	74.27	74.76	-0.66				
MSCI ACWI \$	726.09	726.33	-0.03	Gold \$	1823.20	1813.85	0.52				

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Late Edition

Today, partly sunny, hot, late-day thunderstorms, high 92. Tonight, cloudy, warm, low 76. Tomorrow, sunshine, thunderstorms afternoon, high 88. Weather map, Page B11.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Budget Aims At Reshaping An Economy

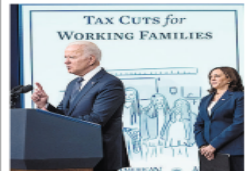
Democrats See Plan As Key to an Agenda

By JIM TANKERSLEY

WASHINGTON — The \$3.5 trillion budget blueprint that Democrats unveiled in the Senate this week promises to reshape the government's role in the economy, in ways President Biden and his party have called essential to rebuilding the American middle class, lifting people out of poverty and tackling the threat of climate change.

Its passage in Congress remains far from assured, with a series of hurdles in the coming months, including filling in key details on taxes and spending, and holding together a fragile Democratic coalition. But if the plan's central components become law, it would be the capstone achievement Democrats had promised when they won a pair of Senate elections in January to gain narrow control of Congress — and come with a reach that could exceed its cost.

The proposal could pave the way for legislation that fundamentally overhauls Americans' relationship with work, school and the federal government. It would put in place much of Mr. Biden's vision to add years of guaranteed public education to fight inequality, lift more women



Marking the first monthly payments to parents on Thursday.

into the work force with subsidized child care and paid leave, and send monthly checks to parents to alleviate poverty — a provision that Mr. Biden championed on Thursday at the White House.

It would expand Medicare in ways that go beyond Mr. Biden's own health care proposals this year, to include dental and vision coverage, and it would impose large taxes on corporations, high earners and the greenhouse gas emissions that drive climate change.

And all of those changes could fade quickly — or never even make it to Mr. Biden's desk — if Democrats' political calculus is off and they cannot muster the 50 votes they need in the Senate or suffer even a handful of defections from fiscal moderates in the House.

The blueprint reflects a deliberate choice by the president and his party to advance as many new spending programs and tax cuts as possible, but also allow

Continued on Page A14

Cuomo to Face Interrogation In State Case

By LUIS FERRÉ-SADURNÍ
and WILLIAM K. RASHBAUM

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo is expected to be questioned on Saturday by investigators from the New York State attorney general's office, signaling that a four-month-long inquiry into several sexual harassment accusations may be entering its final stages.

Joon H. Kim and Anne L. Clark, the two outside lawyers hired to lead the investigation that is being overseen by Letitia James, the state attorney general, are expected to interview the governor in Albany, according to two people familiar with the matter.

The lawyers have spent months gathering hours of testimony from several women who have accused Mr. Cuomo of sexual misconduct or harassment. The lawyers have also in recent weeks interviewed senior administration officials in preparation for questioning the governor.

They have subpoenaed and collected troves of records, including state documents, emails and text messages, as they scrutinize the women's accounts and examine whether Mr. Cuomo and his staff broke any laws in dealing with sexual harassment complaints. The governor, a Democrat, has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

Once their investigation is complete, Mr. Kim, a former senior federal prosecutor, and Ms. Clark, a prominent employment lawyer, are expected to issue their findings in a public report. Its contents could be politically devastating for Mr. Cuomo, who is navigating one of the most turbulent points of his decade-long tenure.

Continued on Page A19

Suspects in Haiti Plot Met to Plan a New Future

This article is by Anatoly Kurmanov, Frances Robles and Julie Turkewitz.

BOGOTÁ, Colombia — Several of the central figures under investigation in connection with the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse gathered in the months before the killing to discuss rebuilding the troubled nation once the president was out of power, according to the Haitian police, Colombian intelligence officers and participants in the discussions.

The meetings, conducted in Florida and the Dominican Republic over the last year, appear to

Associates Say Group Boasted of Finances and U.S. Support

connect a seemingly disparate collection of suspects in the investigation, linking a 63-year-old doctor and pastor, a security equipment salesman, and a mortgage and insurance broker in Florida. All have been identified by the Haitian authorities as prominent players in a sprawling plot to kill the president with the help of more than 20 former Colombian

commandos and seize political power in the aftermath. It is unclear how the people under investigation could have accomplished that, or what powerful backers they may have had to make it possible.

But interviews with more than a dozen people involved with the men show that the suspects had been working together for months, portraying themselves in grandiose and often exaggerated terms as well-financed, well-connected power brokers ready to lead a new Haiti with influential American support behind them.

Haitian officials contend that Christian Emmanuel Sanon, a

Continued on Page A6



Unrest in South Africa

Relatives grieving the loss of Vusi Dlamini, 13, in the town of Vosloorus on Wednesday. Page A9.

Lethal Flooding in Germany

A train in floodwaters at a station in Kordel, Germany, on Thursday. Widespread flooding in Western Europe left at least 69 dead and hundreds missing. Page A4.

China Is Wary Of U.S. Pullout In Afghanistan

By STEVEN LEE MYERS

The Chinese government rarely passes up a chance to accuse the United States of military adventurism and hegemony. In the case of Afghanistan, though, it has changed its tone, warning that Washington now bears the responsibility for the hasty end to its two-decade war there.

"The United States, which created the Afghan issue in the first place, should act responsibly to ensure a smooth transition in Afghanistan," China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, said this month at a forum in Beijing. "It should not simply shift the burden onto others with the mess left behind unattended."

While China has not called on President Biden to reverse the military withdrawal he ordered, statements by senior officials made it clear that they would blame the United States for any insecurity that spreads in the region.

China's leader, Xi Jinping, and President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia — neither of them close friends of the American president — raised concerns about the withdrawal in a call the two leaders had in late June, citing "the increasingly complicated and severe security situation," according to the state news agency Xinhua.

An explosion and vehicle crash that killed nine Chinese workers in Pakistan on Wednesday has punctuated China's fears of regional instability in the wake of the final American military withdrawal from Afghanistan and the

Continued on Page A8

Boston Widens the Pathway Into Its Elite Schools

By ELLEN BARRY

BOSTON — Long into the night on Wednesday, parents and students waited in line to say their piece about Boston Latin School and who deserves to attend it.

Shirley Chen-Weng said she arrived in this country without speaking English, and believed in raising children to work hard and succeed. Why, she asked, should-

An Overhaul Aimed at Racial Inequalities

n't they get a spot?

Julia Mejia, a Latina city councilor, said she spent her school years working at a shoe store to help her mother pay the rent, without a spare minute for test

preparation. What about students like her?

And Gabby Finocchio, a 2019 graduate who is white, said she was admitted to the school because her parents had time and money to spend on the process. In a more equitable admissions system, she might not get in, she said, but "I'm OK with that."

After five and a half hours of emotional discussion on Wednesday

Continued on Page A17

Goodbye, Columbus: Exiles Return to Bay Area

By KELLEN BROWNING

SAN FRANCISCO — Last year, Greg Osuri decided he'd had enough of the Bay Area. Between smoke-choked air from nearby wildfires and the coronavirus lockdown, it felt as if the walls of his apartment in San Francisco's Twin Peaks neighborhood were closing in on him.

"It was just a hellhole living

Eager to Move Back to Tech's Hometown

here," said Mr. Osuri, 38, the founder and chief executive of a cloud-computing company called Akash Network. He decamped for his sister's roomy townhouse in the suburbs of Columbus, Ohio,

joining an exodus of technology workers from the crowded Bay Area.

But by March, Mr. Osuri was itching to return. He missed the serendipity of city life: meeting new people, running into acquaintances on the street and getting drinks with colleagues. "The city is full of that — opportunities that you may never have expected would come your way," Mr. Osuri

Continued on Page A13



NATIONAL A11-19

Wild Spaces, Full of People
Americans are flocking to national parks in record numbers, leading to long lines and big crowds. PAGE A11

Grim Lives of Gig Workers
Surveys of people who work for app-based services illustrate the hazards they have faced. PAGE A12

BUSINESS B1-7

Japan's Problem? Not Inflation.

If a bout of rising prices soon eases in the U.S., the economy could fall back into the same cycle of weak inflation that has afflicted Japan. PAGE B1

Where the Cars Aren't

A shortage of computer chips is keeping automakers from producing enough vehicles to meet rising demand. Used cars are scarce, too. PAGE B1

A Vocal Anti-Vaccine Cadre

A conflict among chiropractors has become more consequential as the Delta variant has spread and the pace of vaccinations has slowed. PAGE B1



SPORTSFRIDAY B8-10

The Patron Saint of Nylon

A New York man does what the city cannot: He keeps his neighborhood basketball hoops freshly netted. PAGE B8

Covid Halts Yanks and Sox

At least three Yankees tested positive despite being vaccinated, and Thursday's game was postponed. PAGE B10

INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Poland Escalates E.U. Fight

The government is in a six-year battle with Brussels over values and the oversight of judges. Hungary and Germany have their own arguments with the E.U. over the rule of law. PAGE A10

Israel Shelters Former Official

Tomás Zerón, who is accused of torture and evidence tampering in Mexico, is not being extradited because of his country's criticism of Israel, according to an Israeli official. PAGE A7

OPINION A20-21

Binyamin Appelbaum PAGE A20



WEEKEND ARTS C1-12

Art With a Southern Sound
An exhibition in Virginia turns an embracing eye on Black artists. Holland Cotter has the review. Above, El Franco Lee II's "DJ Screw in Heaven 2." PAGE C1





AFTER 12 MONTHS in the sea, bottles of wine are retrieved off Santa Barbara by the company Ocean Fathoms. The jury is out whether underwater aging makes for better wine — or is just a marketing gimmick.

Aging wine in the sea? Hard to fathom

STEVE LOPEZ

Even in a state known for wine innovation and a willingness to embrace new fads, it was a quirky idea: aging bottles of wine at the bottom of the ocean, about a mile off Santa Barbara.



But that is exactly what the four founders of Ocean Fathoms were doing. The company filled iron cages the size of washing machines with wines that sell in the \$70-to-\$200 range, and lowered the bottles into the Pacific to a depth of about 70 feet. A year later, this "truly remarkable" wine, transformed by the "patented ocean aging process," as the company's marketing pitch says, was pulled up from the "sea cellar," and one of the owners told me the going rate was \$350 a bottle.

Or at least that is what they were doing until the California Coastal Commission got wind of the business.

The basic idea is that storage in a place without oxygen or light, at a perfect temperature with a gentle swaying motion and a "galvanic current," can improve [See Lopez, A12]



HILTON CEO Christopher Nassetta chose to forgo his base pay for much of 2020, but the salary waived represented just 6.5% of his compensation.

CEOs took salary cuts — and got paid more

Some waived paychecks amid shutdowns but saw their total compensation grow

BY HUGO MARTÍN

As the financial blow of the pandemic became a reality in the spring of 2020, Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc. furloughed thousands of workers and eliminated 2,100 corporate positions.

The cuts also appeared to hit the C-suite: Chief Executive Christopher Nassetta opted to forgo his entire base salary for the rest of the year, and five other top executives cut their base salaries by 50% for four months.

Despite the salary cut, Nassetta's compensation package more than doubled to \$55.9 million in 2020, compared with \$21.4 million in 2019, according to a report filed by Hilton with the

Securities and Exchange Commission. His five top executives also took in higher earnings in 2020 — as much as double — compared with the previous year, the SEC filings show.

Why? The base salary that Nassetta waived represented only 6.5% of his total 2020 compensation, while most of his earnings were paid in stock and option awards, among other compensation, such as a 401(k) match and personal use of company aircraft. For the company's other executives, base salaries represented about 19% of their total compensation.

This was not an isolated case. The financial crisis created by the pandemic prompted [See Compensation, A9]

Infections up, L.A. County to require masks indoors again

Health order begins this weekend for all people, regardless of vaccination status.

BY LUKE MONEY, RONG-GONG LIN II AND MELISSA HERNANDEZ

Just a month ago, Los Angeles County and the rest of California celebrated a long-awaited reopening, marking the tremendous progress made in the battle against COVID-19 by lifting virtually all restrictions on businesses and other public spaces. Now, the coronavirus is resurgent, and the nation's most-populous county is scrambling to beat back the pandemic's latest charge.

Starting Saturday night, residents will again be required to wear masks in indoor public spaces, regardless of their vaccination status.

The latest order not only puts the county further at odds with both the California Department of Public Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — both of which continue to maintain that vaccinated people need not cover their faces indoors — but puts officials in the precarious position of asking the inoculated to forfeit one of the benefits recently enjoyed. "This is an all-hands-on-deck moment," said Dr. Muntu Davis, the county's health officer.

Vaccinated people are, in essence, being asked to make a sacrifice to help slow coronavirus spread among the unvaccinated.

Officials have stressed that those who have been inoculated have an excellent chance of being protected, even from the easily spread Delta variant, believed to be twice as transmissible as the conventional coronavirus strains.

Between Dec. 7 and June 7, the unvaccinated accounted for 99.6% of L.A. County's coronavirus cases, 98.7% of COVID-19 hospitalizations and 99.8% of deaths. The new order, which comes a little more than two weeks after the county recommended the same protocols as a precaution, will go into effect at 11:59 p.m. Saturday — and Davis said it will be similar to the mask-

Education chief on challenges ahead

Cardona sees "a lot of fear" but says schools can give communities a lift. CALIFORNIA, B1

ing requirements that were in place before the June 15 reopening.

"We're not where we need to be for the millions at risk of infection here in Los Angeles County, and waiting to do something will be too late given what we're seeing now," he told reporters Thursday.

The order will continue to allow indoor restaurant dining, although people will [See Masks, A7]

UC ISSUES VACCINE MANDATE FOR FALL TERM

Policy would bar most unvaccinated students from in-person classes, events and housing.

BY TERESA WATANABE AND COLLEEN SHALBY

The University of California announced Thursday that COVID-19 vaccinations will be required before the fall term begins for all students, faculty and others, making it the nation's largest public university system to mandate the vaccines even though they don't have full federal approval.

As the highly contagious Delta variant spreads amid lower vaccination rates among younger people, unvaccinated students without approved exemptions will be barred from in-person classes, events and campus facilities, including housing — and not all classes will be offered online, a UC memo outlining the mandate said. Physical distancing and mask wearing are expected to continue.

"Vaccination is by far the most effective way to prevent severe disease and death after exposure to the virus and to reduce spread of the disease to those who are not able, or not yet eligible, to receive the vaccine," UC President Michael V. Drake said in a letter to the system's 10 chancellors.

He said the final policy [See UC, A6]

Jenner's campaign can't get a foothold

Her candidacy started with a bang last spring, but Republicans aren't exactly thrilled.

BY JULIA WICK

When Caitlyn Jenner launched her bid for governor in late April, the Olympic gold-medal-winning decathlete and reality television star's website had just two options: "Shop" and "Donate."

The gubernatorial candidate wouldn't stake out her first policy position until a week later, when a camera-wielding paparazzo in the parking lot of an upscale Malibu strip mall asked Jen-

ner for her opinion on legislation in various states that would ban transgender girls from playing girls' sports in school.

The most prominent transgender candidate in American political history paused to shepherd her dog Baxter into her Cadillac Escalade, turned back to the camera and said she opposed "biological boys who are trans competing in girls' sports in school." Jenner's position put her in diametric opposition to LGBTQ advocacy groups around the country, who have been battling a record number of anti-trans bills pushed by conservatives in more than 30 states.

"It would be comical if it [See Jenner, A6]



FRANCOIS WALSCHAERTS AP/GETTY IMAGES

SEVERE FLOODING IN EUROPE

Heavy rains inundated Germany and Belgium on Thursday, leaving dozens dead and many people missing. Above, the Belgian city of Verviers. WORLD, A3

Staff and inmates injured at jail

Seven workers and two detainees are hospitalized after an altercation at Pitchess Detention Center. CALIFORNIA, B1

U.S. firm under scrutiny in Haiti

The owner of a Miami security company faces questions about its possible role in president's slaying. NATION, A12

Oosthuizen leads at British Open

South African soars to the top in a tournament that has a pre-COVID feel. SPORTS, B9

Weather

Morning clouds. L.A. Basin: 80/65, B6



In Haiti probe, a financial element

Man held in deadly plot sought contracts with financier, security firm

BY SHAWN BOBURG,
ANTHONY FAOLA,
SAMANTHA SCHMIDT
AND DALTON BENNETT

In a spacious meeting room overlooking the courthouse in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., a vision to “save Haiti” took shape. The \$85 billion effort would reinvent the Western Hemisphere’s poorest nation, lavishing it with roadways, electricity grids, seaports and airports.

Haiti’s new dawn, attendees at the May 12 meeting were told, would be led by Christian Emmanuel Sanon — a 63-year-old Haitian American and self-described pastor and physician now detained in Haiti in connection with the investigation into the audacious assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse.

Sanon’s stated mission during that gathering: to turn “Haiti into a free and open society,” said Patrick Duverger, 70, a retired professor who attended the Fort Lauderdale presentation and had drafted the redevelopment plan pitched by Sanon.

Those arrested around Sanon included Walter Veintemilla, a Florida financier who invests in infrastructure projects, and Antonio

SEE HAITI ON A16

Assassination probe: Head of the presidential guard is detained. **A17**

Jury finds Annapolis shooter liable for killing 5

BY EMILY DAVIES
AND KATIE METTLER

Three years after Jarrod Ramos’ deadly, calculated rampage at the Capital Gazette newsroom, the family and friends of the five people he killed huddled together in an Annapolis courtroom Thursday afternoon, waiting to hear the 41-year-old’s fate.

They had sat through three weeks of testimony from dueling expert doctors in the man’s sanity trial, and they had relived the horrors of June 28, 2018, when Ramos acted on his years-long grudge against the newsroom and gunned down Gerald Fischman, Rob Hlaasen, John McNamara, Rebecca Smith and Wendie Winters.

Before his sanity trial, Ramos had pleaded guilty to the murders.

Now the jury would decide whether he had the mental and emotional capacity to be held criminally responsible for the mass shooting — and spend his

SEE RAMOS ON A21



Clayton Reed listens as Paula Ayres, a community health advocate for the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, talks about a free coronavirus vaccine event in Springfield. Reed said he has not been vaccinated and isn't worried about it.

Virus rages where hesitancy hardens

BY FENET NURAPPEL

SPRINGFIELD, MO. — The worst of the pandemic seemed behind Mercy Hospital, those weeks last winter when the coronavirus wards were full of people struggling to breathe.

But after months of reprieve, the virus has come roaring back, sending unvaccinated young adults and middle-aged patients from across southwest Missouri there in droves as the highly transmissible delta variant tears through the region. The hospital has been treating more than 130 covid-19 patients each day since Sunday — more than the winter surge — and had to open a sixth ward. It came close to running out of ventilators earlier this month.

“We’re just very disheartened. This was all pretty avoidable,” said Wanda Brown, a nurse unit man-

In Springfield, Mo., covid-19 wards are again filling, and experts fear tensions to come as people refuse to be vaccinated



Amy Gann cuts Joe Ladd's hair and Jim Fortner cuts Jack Francka's hair at the Walnut Street Barber Shop in Springfield, Mo. They avoid discussing vaccines.

ager. “Last year, we were looking forward to the vaccine coming out because we really thought that that was going to be helpful for our community. We feel like we’ve taken giant leaps backward.”

Springfield, a city of 170,000 nestled in the Ozarks, has become a cautionary tale for how the more transmissible delta variant, now estimated to account for half of all new cases nationwide, can ravage poorly vaccinated communities and return them to the darkest days of the pandemic.

Missouri has reported one of the nation’s highest per capita increases in new coronavirus cases in recent weeks. Freeman Health System in Joplin, about 70 miles west of Springfield, announced the full

SEE VIRUS ON A8

Booster shots: CDC weighs extra dose for immunocompromised. **A5**

Another killing: ‘No, not Quee’

Trans women face rising toll, and attackers are often someone familiar

BY SAMANTHA SCHMIDT,
BRITTANY RENEE MAYES
AND NIA DECALLE

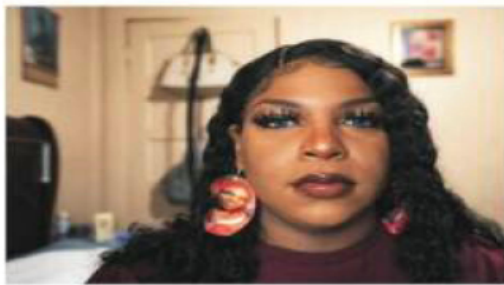
Da’Laja White planned to spend the afternoon as she often did, in the salon chair of her best friend, Queasha Hardy.

Around midday, the two friends talked on the phone about what they would wear that July night to a mutual friend’s birthday party. Queasha, a 24-year-old hairstylist who was known around Baton Rouge for her sleek bob and booty-shaking dance videos on Instagram, planned to wear a new pair of short shorts.

Da’Laja asked her friend if she could touch up her curls.

Things were falling into place for the two transgender women.

SEE TRANS WOMEN ON A8



Da’Laja White lost her close friend Queasha Hardy to violence in Baton Rouge last year. She often wears her image in remembrance.

Book details Trump’s inaction on Jan. 6 riot

BY PHILIP RUCKER
AND CAROL D. LEONNIG

Part two of an excerpt from “*7 Alone Can Fix It: Donald J. Trump’s Catastrophic Final Year*.”

As the sun rose over Washington on Jan. 6, electricity hung in the air. The big day had come. Thousands of President Trump’s supporters began gathering on the Ellipse to stake out a good spot from which to see the president, who was scheduled to address the “Save America” rally around noon. Organizers had obtained a federal permit for 30,000 people, but it looked as if the crowd would be even larger than that. Thousands more prepared to make their way toward the Capitol to protest the certifi-

cation of Joe Biden’s election.

At the White House, Trump set the tone for the day with an 8:17 a.m. tweet: “States want to correct their votes, which they now know were based on irregularities and fraud, plus corrupt process never received legislative approval. All Mike Pence has to do is send them back to the States, AND WE WIN. Do it Mike, this is a time for extreme courage!”

Many of Trump’s advisers knew this would never actually happen. They chalked the president’s tweet up to those Vice President Pence could have the courage of a lion, but there was no doubt that he would fulfill his constitutional duty and preside over the pro forma certification of Biden’s win. As one senior official

SEE BOOK ON A12

IN THE NEWS



Devastating floods: At least 67 people died in Germany and Belgium amid torrential rain not seen in some areas for a century. **A10**

Big firm, big breaks: With the federal government doing far fewer corporate audits, unapproved tax maneuvers have soared. **A1B**

THE NATION

The Biden administration has announced protections for Alaska’s Tongass National Forest, including a proposal to bar road development on more than 30 million acres. **A3**

Young Cuban activists believe they can win the fight for freedom started by their parents and grandparents. **A4**
State legislators from Texas arrived on Capitol Hill to push voting rights as members of Congress had set their focus on President Biden’s economic agenda. **A6**

In a continuing restoration of U.S. ties with Europe, President Biden

hosted German Chancellor Angela Merkel over an agenda of heavy global concerns. **A7**
A paralyzed man is able to communicate using technology that deciphers impulses generated by his brain. **A22**

THE WORLD

The World Health Organization said it would fix several “unintended errors” in a joint report with China on the origins of the coronavirus. **A15**
Dutch crime reporter

Peter R. de Vries died after being shot in the head this month. **A17**

THE ECONOMY

Blue Origin said an 18-year-old will join Jeff Bezos on the company’s first crewed spaceflight after the winner of a \$28 million auction postponed. **A31**
A 7-year-old boy from Ohio died in a home elevator accident in North Carolina just days after regulators demanded a recall from another manufacturer. **A22**

THE REGION

Theresa Ann Walker, who was married to the Rev. Wyatt Walker, was beaten and arrested during her time as a Freedom Rider. **B1**
An Idaho man involved in the Capitol riot pleaded guilty to felony obstruction of Congress. In a separate case, prosecutors are seeking an 18-month sentence. **B1**
Experts are urging people to get inoculated as new data reveals that the unvaccinated make up the majority of new infections. **B1**
Metro board members backed a temporary ban for riders after an arrest for a sex or firearms offense. **B3**
The Fairfax County schools superintendent will exit after the coming academic year after a contract extension. **B5**

INSIDE



WEEKEND Business is blooming

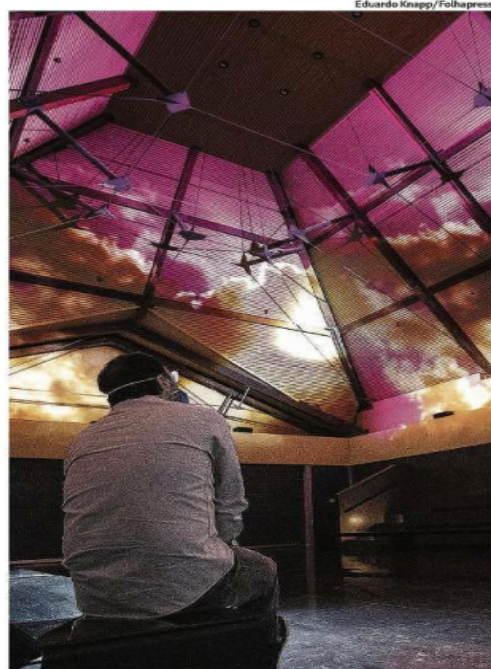
The Lotus and Water Lily Festival brings an explosion of pink, white and yellow to Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens.

STYLE

#FreeBritney rally On the National Mall, the singer’s fans turn up the heat on conservatorship issues. **C1**

BUSINESS NEWS	A3B
COMICS	C1
OPINION	A2A
LOTTERY	B3
ENTERTAINMENT	B4
WORLD NEWS	A3B





Visitante no espaço 'Praça da Língua', que foi mantido

Guia B16 e B17

A volta do museu

Depois de passar quase seis anos fechado devido a um incêndio, o Museu da Língua Portuguesa, na capital paulista, reabre para o público em 1º de agosto com novidades.

Congresso aprova fundo de R\$ 5,7 bi para pleito de 2022

Montante é quase o triplo do destinado em 2020; Economia vê valor 'altíssimo'

Em plena pandemia, o Congresso aprovou o projeto de Lei de Diretrizes Orçamentárias para 2022 com previsão de elevar os recursos destinados à campanha eleitoral para R\$ 5,7 bilhões —no pleito municipal de 2020, o fundo foi de R\$ 2 bilhões. O texto segue para sanção ou veto de Jair Bolsonaro.

Dividida entre os partidos, essa verba é o principal mecanismo de financiamento público dos candidatos. O relator, deputado Juscelino Filho (DEM-MA), alterou a proposta enviada pelo governo em abril, criando um patamar mínimo do fundo —que, na conta de técnicos, chega aos quase R\$ 6 bilhões.

O Ministério da Economia queria manter o montante em torno de R\$ 1,8 bilhão. Integrantes da pasta classificaram o aumento como "altíssimo", mas se esquivaram de falar sobre a estratégia que será tomada a partir de agora e se o ministro Paulo Guedes vai defender ou não o veto a esse dispositivo.

Novo, PSOL, Cidadania e Podemos foram as legendas que se manifestaram na Câmara contra a ampliação do gasto eleitoral, mas houve pouca resistência nas votações do projeto. Para o relator, a medida é "importante para o exercício da democracia dos partidos políticos". Poder A10

Bolsonaro faz tratamento para evitar cirurgia

Embora Jair Bolsonaro tenha praticamente descartado ontem nova cirurgia e sinalizado chance de alta hoje, cirurgiões dizem que as próximas 48 horas ainda inspiram cuidados. O presidente tem evolução satisfatória, segundo boletim médico, e as chances de o caso se resolver apenas com tratamento clínico são de 80%. Poder A4 e A5

Vendedor relata negociação paralela de doses com Saúde

O empresário Cristiano Carvalho relatou ontem à CPI da Covid como foi a negociação de doses da AstraZeneca, sem aval da fabricante, com a cúpula do Ministério da Saúde e a intermediação de militares e de uma ONG evangélica. Ele confirmou que foi avisado sobre suposto pedido de propina.

Detalhes da frustrada operação, dados pelo representante da Davati Medical Supply, fortaleceram as investigações da cúpula e chegaram a constar senadores da base de Jair Bolsonaro. Líder do governo, Fernando Bezerra (MDB-PE) apontou "desconforto" com o depoimento. Poder A7

Intenção não era vender, mas ser facilitador, diz dono da Davati A8

População com 18 anos ou mais*

	ao menos uma dose	totalmente vacinada
Brasil	56,0%	20,3%
MS	71,3%	38,3%
RS	63,9%	26,7%
ES	61,3%	22,5%

Números da pandemia

	Casos	Óbitos
Total	19,3 mil	539,1 mil
Méd. móvel	42,7 mil	1.244
Varição**	-21,1%	-20,2%
Em 24 h	52,7 mil	1.552

Brasil

Desacelerado

Dados das 20h de 15 jul. *Ao menos uma dose; tomou dose única ou 1ª dose. Totalmente vacinada: tomou dose única ou 2ª dose. **Em relação a 14 dias.

Doria pega Covid pela segunda vez e afirma estar bem

Saúde B6

Premiê haitiano é suspeito de mandar matar presidente

O premiê interino do Haiti, Claude Joseph, é investigado como suspeito de mandar matar o presidente Jovenel Moïse para tomar o poder, diz a mídia da Colômbia —mais de 20 ex-militares do país estão envolvidos no crime. A polícia haitiana nega. Mundo A11

ANÁLISE

Mathias Alencastro África do Sul expõe revolta social por crise pandêmica

Leituras a quente da explosão de violência olham para a recente prisão do ex-presidente Jacob Zuma como ponto de partida. Mas a revolta vem também da crise sanitária e do agravamento da desigualdade no país africano. Mundo A13



Anderson Coelho/Folhapress

CASAS EM SC FICAM COBERTAS POR DUNAS, E MORADORES RESISTEM A SAIR APESAR DO RISCO

Construções na praia dos Ingleses, em Florianópolis; segundo estudos, estruturas têm se deslocado pela faixa de areia sob influência dos ventos. Cotidiano B2

Esporte B7

Tóquio muda regra de isolamento para atletas em contato próximo com o vírus

Ilustrada B9

Cantora Linn da Quebrada lança seu segundo álbum com linguagem suavizada

Minirreforma trabalhista entra em MP de cortes

Relator da MP que cria o novo programa de redução de salário e jornada, Christino Azeiteiro (PP-RJ) incluiu no texto uma minirreforma trabalhista que havia sido proposta por Paulo Guedes (Economia) em 2019 e perdeu validade no Congresso. Mercado A14

Brasil tem alta de homicídios em 2020 após 2 anos de queda

As mortes violentas, principalmente homicídios dolosos, subiram 4% em 2020, para 50.033, interrompendo 2 anos de queda. A alta foi puxada pelo Nordeste. Os dados são do Fórum Brasileiro de Segurança Pública. Cotidiano B1 e B2

Quase metade vê piora financeira na pandemia, aponta Datafolha A17

Magazine Luiza compra empresa de e-commerce KaBum! por R\$ 1 bi A20

EDITORIAIS A2

O papel da CPI

Sobre atuação e desafios da comissão de inquérito.

Cultura bolsonarista

A respeito de aparelhamento ideológico da pasta.

ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje





El descenso de los contagios hizo que disminuyese la presión en las UTI

Con stock al límite, Gobierno apura llegada de más vacunas

Borba va a EEUU para negociar que en agosto llegue todo el lote comprado a la Pfizer. Canciller dice que el próximo mes estarían llegando 1.950.000 dosis

PÁGINAS 2 y 4

Covax reapareció para seguir con sus promesas

PÁGINA 3

El déficit agotará las reservas en 5 años
Hacienda prepara ley para evitar colapso de Caja Fiscal con el aporte de los jubilados

PÁGINA 12

Ante noticias falsas y "recetas milagrosas"
Desde Salud aconsejan acudir a los medios fiables y de trayectoria para informarse

PÁGINA 28

Itaú ajusta al 4,5% el alza del PIB para este 2021

PÁGINA 14

Los cubanos siguen sin acceso a las redes sociales

PÁGINA 44

Riesgoso empate



No pudo en casa. Olimpia no pudo doblegar a Inter Nacional en Asunción y la clasificación la definirá jugando de visitante

PÁGINA 56

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

L'ÉTÉ
DU FIGARO



VOYAGES TOQUÉS
LISBONNE CULTIVE
SES RACINES ET
S'OUVRE AU MONDE
PAGE 16

TOURISME
À PARIS, LE RETOUR
DES VISITEURS SE FAIT
ATTENDRE PAGES 24 ET 25



MA SŒUR,
MON MIROIR
ÉLÉONORE
ET ADELINÉ
GUERARD, UNE
TRANSMISSION
QUI COULE
DE SOURCE
PAGE 22

JEUX D'ÉTÉ PAGE 18

DROITE
Présidentielle 2022 :
Laurent Wauquiez
réfléchit PAGE 4

EXÉCUTIF
Entre apaisement
et fermeté,
Macron cherche
le bon ton face
aux « antivaccins »
PAGE 4

JUSTICE
Dupond-Moretti :
une audition
sur des charbons
ardents PAGE 5

EUROPE
Bruxelles sévit
contre les textes
anti-LGBT PAGE 6

PATRIMOINE
La Cour des
comptes épingle
l'Institut de France
et les académies
PAGE 10

CHAMPS
LIBRES

- En Grèce, le
nouvel âge d'or
de l'archéologie
- La chronique
de Luc Ferry
- La tribune de
Jean-Éric Schoettl

PAGES 20 ET 21

FIGARO OUI
FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question
de mercredi :
Faut-il interdire,
comme le demande l'UE,
les moteurs essence
et Diesel à partir de 2035 ?

OUI
27% **NON**
73%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 115 215

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LUX : 3 € - NL : 3,40 € - PORT-CROIX : 3,30 € - MAR : 23 DH - TUN : 4,40 DT - ZONE CFA : 2,400 CFA ISSN 0182-5852



Xavier Bertrand : « Je refuse le naufrage et le sabordage de la société française »

Dans un entretien au *Figaro*, le président de la région Hauts-de-France donne le ton de sa candidature à l'élection présidentielle. Xavier Bertrand, qui dénonce « le laxisme migratoire » et « l'offensive de l'islamo-gauchisme », veut fédérer la droite républicaine derrière lui. « Mon devoir est de rassembler sur une ligne claire », dit-il. PAGES 2 ET 3

POLITICS VERTICAL STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHY

Trottinettes, vélos... Le grand désordre urbain

Aussi ludiques et faciles à conduire que dangereux, ces nouveaux modes de mobilité envahissent les rues, bien souvent au mépris du code de la route.

Vélos électriques de location, trottinettes en « free-floating », gyropodes, overboards... La liberté retrouvée et le beau temps revenant, de drôles de véhicules envahissent les villes de France. Bien souvent conduits sans aucun respect des règles de circulation, ils filent à toute allure, em-

pruntant indifféremment les trottoirs et la chaussée. Conséquence, une hausse des accidents : aux urgences de l'hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, à Paris, on en recense un par jour, avec des blessures graves et, parfois, la mort. Comment maîtriser cette nouvelle forme de mobilité dite « douce » ? Tout à sa vo-

lonté de faire la chasse aux voitures, la ville de Paris tente timidement de mettre un terme à l'anarchie. Mais il faudra plus qu'une limitation de la vitesse dans les zones piétonnes pour répondre à la colère des victimes. Elles se sont fédérées et plaident pour un encadrement strict de ces engins.

→ PHILIPPE JUVIN : « NOUS RECEVONS UNE PERSONNE ACCIDENTÉE PAR JOUR » → UNE ASSOCIATION MOBILISÉE CONTRE CES INCIVILITÉS QUI PEUVENT TUER → À PARIS, MOLLE TENTATIVE DE REPRENDRE LE CONTRÔLE → À NANTES, LES OPÉRATEURS D'ENGINS EN LIBRE-SERVICE N'ONT PAS DROIT DE CITE PAGES 8, 9 ET L'ÉDITORIAL



Les inondations font des dizaines de morts en Allemagne

Les conséquences de pluies diluviennes ont fait une cinquantaine de morts en Europe, dont plus de 50 pour la seule Allemagne, pays le plus durement touché. Ces inondations sont les plus meurtrières sur le continent depuis vingt ans. Les précipitations exception-

nelles se sont concentrées sur la Rhénanie, où des villages ont été engloutis pendant la nuit. La Belgique, où les intempéries ont fait au moins huit morts, a également subi d'importants dégâts, tout comme le Luxembourg et les Pays-Bas. PAGE 12

ÉDITORIAL par Laurence de Charette ldecharette@lefigaro.fr

Les mobilités dangereuses

Joe Dassin chanterait-il aujourd'hui la gloire des trottinettes comme il a célébré les joies de la bicyclette ? « À Paris, à vélo, on dépasse les autos », entonnait-il, et, dans sa bouche, le vélo, déjà, apparaissait, plus qu'un simple moyen de transport, comme une manière d'être, un pied de nez. La ritournelle, alors, était joyeuse, et la complainte, moqueuse. C'est peu de dire que les nouvelles « mobilités douces » qui ont envahi chaussées et trottoirs avec l'impérialisme triomphant des ligues de vertu ne remplissent pas le même office. Certes, à Paris, et dans de nombreux centres-villes, le trottinettiste dépasse aisément les automobilistes englués dans des bouchons qui enflent de jour en jour. Il s'offre des pointes de vitesse dont rêvent ses pauvres voisins - tellement archaïques ! - en quatre-roues. Tandis que les primitifs roulent, ensemble, sur ce qu'il reste des voies prévues à cet effet, en répondant globalement aux injonctions du code de la route, il glisse, lui, où bon lui semble et en tous sens, sur les voies comme sur les trottoirs, sans souci des règles qui s'appliquent au commun des mortels. Il est libre, Max. C'est ainsi, que, tout à son monde à lui, il lui arrive

de percuter - parfois même mortellement - les piétons, qui imaginaient encore que le bas-côté leur était réservé. Écouteurs vissés dans les oreilles, écran à la main, l'homme nouveau engendré par les start-up californiennes navigue enfermé dans sa bulle ; il surfe avec une sorte d'indifférence, sans contrainte et sans sac (l'intendance suivra, il se fera livrer à son arrivée). Ignore-t-il vraiment que, pour que la grande glisse continue, il faut qu'à la nuit tombée, des dizaines de précaires s'attellent à ramasser et à recharger - au besoin avec des générateurs à essence - les « engins de déplacement personnel » désarticulés jetés au hasard des rues ? Symbole de l'individualisme contemporain, adepte d'un monde « fluide », l'homme « agile » entend consommer la ville à sa guise. Drapé dans un alibi écologique, il asservit avec puérilité l'espace public à son désir ; seul au monde, mais toujours prêt à « liker » la planète pour la protéger... ■

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Dozens dead as heavy rain brings catastrophic flooding to Europe

Philip Oltermann
Berlin

Many areas of western Europe were inundated with record rainfall that brought devastating floods yesterday, leading to at least 58 deaths in Germany and dozens of people missing.

As the country reeled from the sight of wrecked buildings, upended cars and people stranded on rooftops, the environment minister declared: "Climate change has arrived in Germany".

Weather experts said rain over the previous 24 hours was unprecedented, as a near stationary low-pressure weather system also caused sustained downpours in France, the Netherlands and Belgium, where media reports said eight people had died.

Angela Merkel expressed shock at the scope of the flooding. "I grieve for those who have lost their lives in this disaster," the German chancellor said during a visit to Washington DC. "We still don't know the number. But it will be many."

Everything would be done to find those still missing, she said, adding that "heavy rain and flooding" doesn't capture what happened.

In the town of Schuld in the Eifel mountains 70 people were reported missing



▲ Residents of Liège, Belgium, struggle through flood water several feet deep after relentless rain hit large areas of western Europe PHOTOGRAPH: BRUNO FAHY/AVALON

Exclusive Documents show Putin plan to back 'unstable' Trump in 2016 US election

Luke Harding
Julian Borger
Dan Sabbagh

Vladimir Putin personally authorised a secret spy agency operation to support a "mentally unstable" Donald Trump in the 2016 US presidential election during a closed session of Russia's national security council, according to what are assessed to



▲ Putin and Trump met at the G20 summit in Hamburg in July 2017

be leaked Kremlin documents. The meeting took place on 22 January 2016, the papers suggest, with the Russian president, his spy chiefs and senior ministers all present.

They agreed that a Trump White House would help secure Moscow's strategic objectives, among them "social turmoil" in the US and a weakening of the American president's negotiating position.

Russia's three spy agencies were ordered to find practical ways to support Trump, in a decree appearing to bear Putin's signature.

By this point Trump was the front-runner in the Republican party's nomination race. A report prepared by Putin's expert department recommended Moscow use "all possible force" to ensure a Trump victory.

Western intelligence agencies are understood to have been aware of the documents for some months and to have carefully examined them.

The papers, seen by the Guardian, seem to represent a serious and highly unusual leak from within the Kremlin.

The Guardian has shown the documents to independent experts who say they appear to be genuine. Incidental details come across as accurate. The overall tone and thrust is said to be consistent with Kremlin security thinking.

The Kremlin responded dismissively. Putin's spokesman, Dmitri Peskov, said the idea that Russian leaders had met and agreed to support Trump at the meeting was "a great pulp fiction"

Covid chaos

Up to 1.6m people told to isolate in a single week

News Page 12 →

