

What's News

Business & Finance

The Federal Reserve inched toward scaling back the easy money policies adopted at the start of the pandemic by signaling that the process could start later this year. **A1**

◆ Robinhood priced its IPO at \$38 a share, at the low end of expectations, after the popular trading platform met tepid demand for its highly anticipated debut. **A1**

◆ Facebook posted sharp growth in revenue and profit, fueled by robust digital ad spending, as it continues to face scrutiny over the size and influence of its platforms. **B1**

◆ Boeing reported its first quarterly profit in nearly two years and said it needs orders from China to participate fully in a stronger-than-expected recovery in air travel. **B1**

◆ Pfizer expects sales of its Covid-19 vaccine this year to reach about \$33.5 billion, up nearly 30% from its forecast three months ago. **B1**

◆ The Dow and S&P 500 slipped, losing 0.4% and 0.2%, respectively, while the Nasdaq added 0.7%. Treasury yields edged higher. **B1**

◆ Samsung Electronics offset relative weakness in smartphone shipments by capitalizing on another quarter of roaring demand for its memory chips. **B4**

◆ Ford Motor posted a surprise second-quarter profit and raised its earnings outlook for the year. **B3**

◆ Baxter International is in talks to buy medical equipment maker Hill-Rom, which has a market value well exceeding \$8 billion. **B3**

World-Wide

◆ A bipartisan group of senators struck an agreement on a roughly \$1 trillion infrastructure package after grinding months of talks, hammering out enough details to propel the deal past its first procedural hurdle just hours later. **A1**

◆ Biden was expected to announce that his administration will require federal employees to get vaccinated or be regularly tested for Covid-19, according to a person familiar with the discussions. **A3**

◆ The administration will continue to block migrant families from seeking humanitarian protections at the southern border, reversing course after initially planning to exempt families from the public-health measure known as Title 42. **A6**

◆ FTC chief Khan, appearing before a House committee, said online digital platforms are partly to blame for a surge in fraud reported by Americans during the pandemic. **A4**

◆ The Justice Department warned states they must comply with federal election laws, as some Republican-led states have passed new laws narrowing voting options. **A4**

◆ Remington Arms offered to pay nearly \$33 million to settle claims that its marketing practices were in part responsible for the 2012 Sandy Hook school massacre. **A6**

◆ China's new envoy to the U.S. struck a conciliatory note upon his arrival in Washington, pledging to repair the increasingly testy relationship between the countries. **A9**

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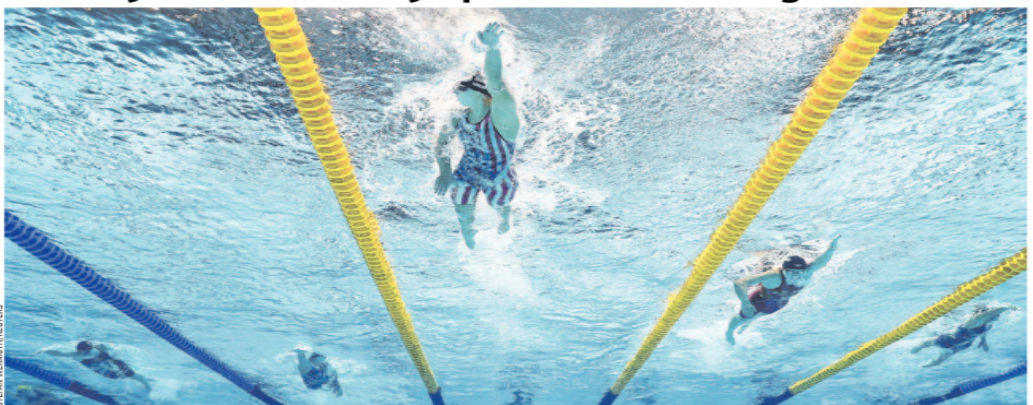
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Ledecky Gets Gold in Olympic Debut of Her Signature Event



BIG SPLASH: American Katie Ledecky, center, won her first gold medal of the Tokyo Games on Wednesday in the Olympic debut of the women's 1,500-meter freestyle. Her teammate, Erica Sullivan, finished second in the event. **A16**

Bipartisan Group of Senators Reaches Infrastructure Deal

WASHINGTON—A bipartisan group of senators struck an agreement on a roughly \$1 trillion infrastructure package Wednesday after grinding months of talks, hammering out enough details to propel the deal past its first procedural hurdle just hours later.

The Senate voted 67-32 to begin consideration of the bill, above the 60 required and reversing a failed effort a week earlier when many specifics of the deal were still under negotiation. Republican negotiators

said Wednesday they now had enough confidence in the details of the agreement to allow it to move forward. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R., Ky.) backed the motion.

Negotiators cast the agreement and vote as proof that bipartisanship was still possible in a deeply divided Washington. Lawmakers have for years tried and failed to put together a bipartisan agreement on the issue.

"Despite the popularity and the need for it, Washington hasn't been able to get it done. This time, we're going to get it done," said Sen. Rob Portman

(R., Ohio), the lead GOP negotiator in the talks.

Completing the infrastructure agreement, which lawmakers and aides said would provide for roughly \$550 billion in spending above projected federal levels, is the first step Democrats hope to take toward approving much of President Biden's agenda on Capitol Hill in the coming months. That includes Democrats' parallel \$3.5 trillion child care, education, health care and climate-change plan.

Mr. Biden supported the bipartisan approach and cheered the deal, calling it "the most

significant long-term investment in our infrastructure and competitiveness in nearly a century."

The bipartisan group of 10 senators has been working for weeks toward an agreement on the details of a loose framework for fresh spending on roads, bridges, water infrastructure and broadband access, among other measures.

The package still faces a long road to becoming law. Having cleared this first procedural hurdle, lawmakers will now need to navigate a potentially lengthy amendment process.

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Fed Hints At Slower Pace for Buying Assets

Central bank sees economy making progress on inflation, employment goals

By NICK TIMIRAOIS

WASHINGTON—The Federal Reserve inched toward scaling back the easy-money policies adopted at the start of the pandemic by signaling that the process could start later this year.

The Fed cut its benchmark interest rate to near zero in March 2020 and has been purchasing at least \$120 billion a month in Treasuries and mortgage bonds to provide extra stimulus to the economy. Officials since the end of last year said those purchases would continue until they see "substantial further progress" toward their goals of low unemployment and stable inflation.

Officials said in a statement Wednesday, at the conclusion of their two-day meeting, "the economy has made progress toward these goals" this year and indicated they would "assess progress in coming meetings."

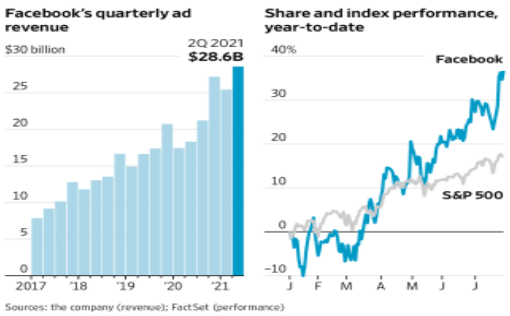
That is a clue the Fed could outline plans to start reducing, or tapering, the purchases, later this year. The central bank's next meetings are scheduled for Sept. 21-22 and Nov. 2-3.

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- ◆ Fixes urged to gird Treasury market..... **A2**
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Facebook Profit Doubles on Ads

Facebook's second-quarter profit doubled from a year earlier to \$10.39 billion, or \$3.61 a share, beating analysts' expectations. Revenue rose 56% to \$29.08 billion. **B1**



Robinhood Prices Its IPO At Low End of Forecasts

By CORRIE DRIEBUSCH AND PETER RUDGEAR

Robinhood Markets Inc. priced its IPO at \$38 a share, at the low end of expectations, after the popular trading platform met tepid demand for its highly anticipated debut.

The price chosen by the company and its underwriters is at the bottom of the range of \$38 to \$42 a share they had been targeting. It pegs Robinhood's valuation at about \$32 billion, far higher than the nearly \$12 billion it fetched in a funding round a year ago but below lofty prior expectations of some investors and bankers.

Robinhood has said it and

some executives would sell 55 million shares, so the offering should yield more than \$2 billion.

The price reflects both hesitation on the part of some investors, who bristled at what they saw as the high valuation Robinhood sought, as well as a conscious decision by the company and its underwriters to be conservative in order to help set up a successful first day of trading, according to people familiar with the matter.

Next up for Robinhood is its trading debut, which the company is scheduled to make Thursday on the Nasdaq stock exchange under the symbol

HOOD. It is a markedly different debut than the traditional IPO. While most companies only allocate a small amount of stock to individual investors at the time of their IPOs, Robinhood sold a big chunk of its IPO shares to individual investors over its new platform that gives users access to IPOs before they start trading.

That high individual investor allocation is a wild card for Thursday's debut. The large chunk in the hands of individual investors—as well as the buzz around Robinhood by

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- ◆ Heard on the Street: Walking a pricing tightrope..... **B12**

A Golden Age of Dino Nuggets Spawns Quirky Shape Boom

Spikes, breeding on chicken pose an art challenge; perfecting Baby Yoda's ears

By ELLEN BYRON

If Mark Tolbert could redesign his company's Tyrannosaurus rex chicken nugget, he would make the neck slightly slimmer and the head a bit bigger.

"The head slopes down a little too much," says Mr. Tolbert, a senior manager of the innovation center at Perdue Farms in Salisbury, Md. "But put some ketchup on it and you can't see it."

Mr. Tolbert speaks wistfully of the Triceratops, which consistently ranks as one of the most popular dinosaurs but has eluded nugget-makers. "We'd never be able to make a chicken nugget with three horns coming out of its head," Mr. Tolbert says. "That's a three-dimensional shape."

Major food com-

panies can see a dinosaur-nugget boomlet. Parents buy them to motivate picky youngsters to clean their plates. Young adults eat them to spark childhood nostalgia.

And rising sales during the pandemic have prompted companies to consider what other nugget shapes might catch on—beyond the T. rex, Stegosaurus and Brontosaurus.

Emily-Beth Williams, a 23-year-old in Charlotte, N.C., prefers dinosaur nuggets to traditional ones because she can get all of the edges extra crispy when she uses her air fryer for a fast cook at a high temperature.

She scrutinized dinosaur nuggets online and on her dinner plate to get the colors of her Stegosaurus and pterodactyl just right for the large

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Oil Lobby Shifted On Climate Policy, And Won Few Friends

American Petroleum Institute's green goals face skepticism from allies and foes

By TIMOTHY PUKE AND TED MANN

WASHINGTON—The American Petroleum Institute, Washington's biggest lobby for the oil-and-gas industry, spent decades leveraging its financial muscle to fight almost every green initiative in its path.

Then in March, the group signaled an about-face. It released its "Climate Action Framework," a set of new policy prescriptions to lower emissions and support cleaner fuels.

The core of the plan called for two policies API had opposed for years: more regulation on methane, a potent greenhouse gas that leaks from oil-and-gas operations,

and a price on carbon, a financial penalty levied on all carbon-dioxide emissions.

The challenge of climate change, it said, requires "new approaches, new partners, new policies and continuous innovation."

Even by the standards of Washington, it was a remarkable shift. And it made nobody happy.

Democrats' embrace of alternative energy and skepticism of the oil industry continue unchanged. Republican allies, long a bulwark for the industry, feel alienated. Congress is weighing hundreds of billions of dollars in spending—some of it to be raised from new fines and tariffs levied on oil-and-gas

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INSIDE



THE MIDDLE SEAT
Fliers who scored cheap fares are getting switched to longer, less convenient trips. **A12**



BUSINESS & FINANCE
Pfizer lifts its forecast for Covid-19 vaccine sales 30% to \$33.5 billion for the year. **B1**



Senator Mitt Romney said he supported the \$1 trillion infrastructure deal but not a more expansive \$3.5 trillion push by Democrats.

Mask Advisory Faces Defiance In Some States

By PATRICIA MAZZEI
MIAMI — Even before the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended this week that vaccinated Americans in coronavirus hot spots around the country go back to wearing face coverings indoors, a resistance had been building against any new masking requirements, no matter the resurgence of infections.

Hours before the C.D.C.'s announcement on Tuesday, the school board in Broward County, Fla., postponed a meeting on back-to-school protection rules after a small crowd of mask-less adults and children showed up to the lobby of the school district headquarters and got into a tense exchange with masked members of the local teachers' union.

In Missouri, where rampant Covid-19 has once again flooded hospitals, St. Louis County reinstated a mask mandate on Monday, ahead of the C.D.C.'s updated advice — only to face a lawsuit hours later from Eric Schmitt, the state's Republican attorney general, who accused the county of "unacceptable and unconstitutional" overreach.

By Tuesday night, the St. Louis County Council, meeting in a packed chamber where a woman was hoisting a sign that read, "STOP THE TYRANNY," had voted to overturn the mandate, though the measure's fate may ultimately be decided by the courts.

"You asked us to stay home," Rita Heard Days, the council chairwoman, told the director of the county's public health department before voting to lift the mask mandate. "You asked us to put on masks. You asked us to stay six feet apart," she said. "We have followed your orders, and yet we are still in a predicament. So something is not working."

The virus has changed, Dr. Faisal Khan, the public health director, told her.

The surging virus, fueled by the more contagious Delta variant, has led the C.D.C. to respond with guidance that harked back to a year ago, when many state and local officials were imposing mask mandates. And on Thursday, President Biden is expected to announce that all civilian federal employees must be vaccinated or forced to submit to regular testing, social distancing, mask requirements and travel restrictions.

But after months of shutdowns

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Variant Has New Yorkers 'Scared All Over Again'

By SARAH MASLIN NIR
For a fleeting moment, New York was a city reveling in itself. Just a month ago officials declared it fully open for business; masks slipped to chins and restaurants packed in customers as vaccines rolled out. The virus seemed to be losing.

Today, the coronavirus has crept back, in a new, more infectious form that has driven up cases and hospitalizations, primarily among those still refusing vaccination, sending a city just staggering back to life into a tailspin.

For some New Yorkers, scarred from the thousands of deaths at the pandemic's painful peak, every new case, though few in comparison, comes with pit-of-the-stomach foreboding. For others, the spiking rates, and the fact that if infected, few vaccinated people fall gravely ill, portend a new reality of cohabiting with the virus

In City, a Shared Sense of Uncertainty as the Virus Creeps Back

— maybe indefinitely.

Perhaps the only shared emotion is uncertainty. As the variant known as Delta entrenches across the city, there are questions in its wake: Is this simply what the future looks like? Despite a mask-less, celebratory summer of social closeness, is the pandemic forever?

"It's like the flu, the flu never stops," said Nelson Lopez, 45, a resident of East Harlem, who said he still cannot walk down his block without tallying every neighbor he lost to the virus. "People will be afraid forever."

Over the weekend, Hua Cheng, 55, and her husband, Keith Hu, 60, both electrical engineers, drove in

from their home in Randolph, N.J., to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art in a city that suddenly once again felt precarious. When they got out of their car, they pulled on masks.

"I thought I was safe!" said Mr. Hu, at the foot of the museum steps. The couple are back to wearing masks, even though they are vaccinated, as the Delta variant has continued to spread. "Before this we didn't take it seriously," Mr. Hu said.

On Tuesday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended that vaccinated people should return to wearing masks in public indoor spaces in areas that have recorded more than 50 new infections per 100,000 residents over the previous week, or where more than 8 percent of tests are positive for infection over that period.

All of New York City's boroughs fall under those criteria. Mayor

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Ready or Not, Athletes Meet Their Moment

By JOHN BRANCH
TOKYO — The Olympics, for all their charm, are a rather cruel setup.

They are a four-year time bomb. The world's best athletes are assigned a date and a time to perform. They prepare, often in solitude and anonymity, for a single moment on the calendar. It gets closer with each tick of the clock.

As the countdown approaches zero, a sea of strangers expecting to be entertained turns its collective gaze in their direction, eager to dole out pass-fail grades. Reputations are made or broken. Lives are changed.

No sports event does it like the Olympics.

"The scale of everything is a bit hard," Naomi Osaka said after losing a third-round tennis match days after lighting the Olympic cauldron to open the Tokyo Games.

The schedule does not care if you are ready. Adam Ondra, regarded as the world's best climber, recognizes this even before he arrives to his Olympic moment, as sport climbing makes its debut next week.

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DOUBLE FEATURE Wang Zongyuan and Xie Siyi of China won gold in synchronized diving. Olympics coverage, Pages B7-13.

SENATE ADVANCES PUBLIC WORKS BILL WORTH \$1 TRILLION

Biden Hails Breakthrough — Bipartisan Deal Still Faces a Difficult Path

By EMILY COCHRANE and JIM TANKERSLEY
WASHINGTON — The Senate voted on Wednesday to take up a \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill that would make far-reaching investments in the nation's public works system, as Republicans joined Democrats in clearing the way for action on a crucial piece of President Biden's agenda.

The 67-to-32 vote, which included 17 Republicans in favor, came just hours after centrist senators in both parties and the White House reached a long-sought compromise on the bill, which would provide about \$550 billion in new federal money for roads, bridges, rail, transit, water and other physical infrastructure programs.

Among those in support of moving forward was Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican leader and a longtime foe of major legislation pushed by Democratic presidents. Mr. McConnell's backing signaled that his party was — at least for now — open to teaming with Democrats to enact the plan.

The deal still faces several obstacles to becoming law, including being turned into formal legislative text and clearing final votes in the closely divided Senate and House. But the vote was a victory for a president who has long promised to break through the partisan gridlock gripping Congress and accomplish big things supported by members of both political parties.

If enacted, the measure would

be the largest infusion of federal money into the public works system in more than a decade.

The compromise, which was still being written on Wednesday, includes \$110 billion for roads, bridges and major projects; \$66 billion for passenger and freight rail; \$39 billion for public transit; \$65 billion for broadband; \$17 billion for ports and waterways; and \$46 billion to help states and cities prepare for droughts, wildfires, flooding and other consequences of climate change, according to White House officials who detailed it on the condition of anonymity.

In a lengthy statement, Mr. Biden hailed the deal as "the most significant long-term investment in our infrastructure and competitiveness in nearly a century."

He also framed it as vindication of his belief in bipartisanship. "Neither side got everything

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Senators Mitch McConnell and Chuck Schumer voted yes.

Temporary Pandemic Safety Net Drives Poverty to a Record Low

By JASON DEPARLE

WASHINGTON — The huge increase in government aid prompted by the coronavirus pandemic will cut poverty nearly in half this year from prepandemic levels and push the share of Americans in poverty to the lowest level on record, according to the most comprehensive analysis yet of a vast but temporary expansion of the safety net.

The number of poor Americans is expected to fall by nearly 20 million from 2018 levels, a decline of almost 45 percent. The country has never cut poverty so much in such a short period of time, and the development is especially notable since it defies economic headwinds — the economy has nearly seven million fewer jobs

than it did before the pandemic.

The extraordinary reduction in poverty has come at extraordinary cost, with annual spending on major programs projected to rise fourfold to more than \$1 trillion. Yet without further expensive new measures, millions of families may find the escape from poverty brief. The three programs that cut poverty most — stimulus checks, increased food stamps and expanded unemployment insurance — have ended or are scheduled to revert soon to their prepandemic size.

While poverty has fallen most among children, its retreat is remarkably broad: It has dropped among Americans who are white,

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Poland's Solidarity Movement Is the Opposite of What It Was

By ANDREW HIGGINS

GDANSK, Poland — Solidarity, the independent Polish trade union that four decades ago started an avalanche of dissent that swept away Communism, has more modest ambitions these days. For a start, it wants its plywood boards back.

The boards, scrawled with demands for freedom and hoisted on a wall at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk in 1980, have been on display since 2014 at a museum built amid the ruins of a facility that laid off most of its workers years ago.

The museum, an oasis of shimmering modernity constructed with European Union funds, is

dedicated to the ideals that drove Solidarity in 1980 when it was a diverse, Western-looking opposition movement with 10 million members.

Today, that movement has shriveled to a narrow and deeply conservative force, but one that, while fiercely opposed to Communism, boasts of speaking up for those left behind by Poland's often painful transition to capitalism.

That shift has put the plywood boards, referred to with almost religious reverence as "the tablets," at the center of a bitter tussle over Poland's past and future.

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INTERNATIONAL A4-9

New Doubt on Nuclear Deal

"Trust in the West does not work," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei told Iran's president and cabinet. PAGE A7

Portraits of Rickshaw Pullers

Kolkata, India, is one of the few places left in the world where fleets of rickshaws still ply the streets. PAGE A9



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Lives Lost, Floor by Floor

All 98 victims of the Surfside, Fla., condo collapse have now been identified. A look at where they all were. PAGE A10

Parents Worry, Again

So far, there have been few Covid cases in New York City's summer school session, but some parents want a remote option for the fall. PAGE A15

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Bashful Bassist for ZZ Top

Dusty Hill, a quiet, precise musician with a long beard, helped the rock group sell over 50 million albums. He was 72.

BUSINESS B1-6

Rates Unchanged, for Now

The Federal Reserve kept its key policy supports intact, but gave a clear hint yet that it could soon begin to shift out of emergency mode. PAGE B1

How We Passed the Hours

A new survey offers a glimpse of how Americans adapted to a different way of living during the pandemic. PAGE B1

SPORTS B7-14

Playground to Medal Podium

The American women won the gold medal in the Olympic debut of three-on-three basketball. PAGE B11

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Debate Over Cosby Reversal

The decision to free the comedian has raised questions over whether a state Supreme Court went too far. PAGE C1

She's Looking Past 'Jaws'

A documentary follows Valerie Taylor, a passionate conservationist on behalf of endangered sharks. PAGE C1



THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

What Do Champions Wear?

The controversies over women's clothing in sports have set off a re-examination of the status quo. PAGE D5

TikTok Is for Revealing

Strippers have been sharing the hazards and joys of their profession on social media. PAGE D1

OPINION A18-19

Ross Douthat

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'BUILD BACK BETTER' MOVES AHEAD

Bipartisan portion of Biden's infrastructure plan clears procedural hurdle in the Senate.

By JENNIFER HABERKORN

WASHINGTON — The Senate cleared the first procedural hurdle Wednesday toward enacting an expansive proposal to build and repair the nation's roads, bridges and broadband internet networks. But significant challenges remain.

The Senate voted 67 to 32 to open formal debate on the bipartisan infrastructure proposal. The procedural motion, which needed 60 votes, had support from 17 Republicans as well as 48 Democrats and the two independents who caucus with them.

After weeks of negotiation, the vote is a decisive victory for the first portion of President Biden's \$4.1-trillion "Build Back Better" infrastructure proposal.

According to the White House, the proposal would amount to the largest-ever federal investment in public transit, the largest investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak and the largest bridge investment since the interstate highway system was constructed.

Despite wide bipartisan support for improving the nation's infrastructure, the bill, which is not yet completely written, will face further tests in the coming days as it goes through the Senate, and again when it moves to the House.

A separate, follow-on infrastructure bill that Democrats plan to push through without GOP support is expected to be even more difficult.

And Wednesday's successful vote to open debate on the bipartisan plan does not guarantee that it will pass.

In addition to the risk of losing support from Republicans who voted yes on Wednesday, a few Democrats have committed only to starting the process, saying they want to review the [See Infrastructure, A7]



U.S. BORDER PATROL Agents Ebenezar Oyemola, left, and Jaime Cavazos search for the remains of Honduran migrant Yoel Nieto Valladares, 25, on a ranch in Brooks County, Texas, in early June. GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

The Border Patrol embraces 'humanitarian aspect' of job

A U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent scrutinized video of a dying migrant on her cellphone, trying to match the background to the ranch she was searching for his body last month.

As 25-year-old Yoel Nieto Valladares lay on the sandy ground — shirtless and sweating, jeans cinched with a rectangular metal belt buckle — he was barely able to sip from a Coke as another man fanned him with a black cap. The dying man's hands twitched, a tattoo of his father and younger brother's initials visible on his arm. His eyes rolled. Moments later, in a second video, Nieto's black polo shirt was on and his arms lay atop it, limp. His eyes were open, staring.

Someone in the group had sent the videos to Nieto's family with GPS coordinates. "I really hope we find him," Agent

Agents rescue, recover and identify missing migrants using technology

By Molly Hennessy-Fiske
REPORTING FROM
FALFURRIAS, TEXAS

Nancy Balogh said.

Though the Border Patrol's primary mission remains apprehending those who cross into the U.S. illegally, the agency several years ago launched a Missing Migrant Program in Arizona — which has since expanded and evolved amid an uptick in migration and increase in heat-related deaths along the border.

The number of people arriving last month — 188,829 — was the largest in years. The busiest area for crossings was south Texas, where agents this month stopped 736 migrants in three groups near the Rio Grande. As of last month, they had helped recover more than 324 migrant remains and conducted 9,201 rescues nationwide, 89% more than all of last year. [See Migrants, A7]

UC faces intensifying capacity crisis

Campuses try to create more room as number of eligible students rises

By TERESA WATANABE

A troubling undercurrent belies the University of California's celebratory news that it has admitted the largest and most diverse class ever for fall 2021: There are not enough seats for qualified students at most campuses, a worsening capacity crisis that threatens to

break the California promise of a UC education for them.

The space crunch is projected to intensify in the coming years just as the state needs more skilled talent, prompting the new UC Board of Regents chair to announce this month that increasing student enrollment would be one of the board's top priorities.

UC admitted 132,353

freshman applicants for this fall, an 18% increase over last year. But it was harder to get in at seven of the nine undergraduate campuses compared with last year. More than 71,000 freshman applicants were denied admission, including nearly 44,000 Californians, the overwhelming majority of them eligible for UC admission if past trends are a guide.

The admission rates for California freshman applicants fell to a systemwide average of 65.7%, compared with 70.5% last year and, over a longer horizon, 83.5% in 1995.

The future is even more troubling.

The number of students who meet UC and California State University admission [See Admission, A12]

EDUCATION: UC regents chair Cecilia Estolano discusses her plan to expand enrollment. CALIFORNIA, B2

COLUMN ONE

Water + height + velocity = pain for divers

Physics and gravity explain why Olympic diving is a 'contact sport' with serious injury a mistake away.

By DAVID WHARTON
REPORTING FROM TOKYO

Olympic divers look at the pool a little differently than the rest of us. They see angles and molecular attractions and cohesive forces. They recognize the unfortunate circumstances that can make entering the water feel like "slamming into the floor."

This is the science of their sport. A human body plummeting from a 10-meter platform, head-first, reaching speeds of approximately 32 miles an hour. The sudden jolt from water's relatively high surface tension of 72 millinewtons per meter.

"People have no idea," says Kassidy Cook, a veteran of the U.S. national team and past Olympian. "When you hit the water, it's as hard as concrete for a split-second before you break through."

So, as the diving competition proceeds at the Summer Games over the next week, the competitors [See Diving, A6]



A JAPANESE diver enters the water in the 3-meter springboard event at the Olympics. "Gravity brings you down and the water is stopping you all of a sudden," says a surgeon about the risks. WALLY SEALIE Los Angeles Times

TOKYO OLYMPICS: Photos, results, analysis and more in Sports, D1, and at latimes.com/olympics

Delta variant creates state of urgency

Amid worsening virus surge, California's vaccination pace has been ticking upward.

By LUKE MONEY

With California's summer coronavirus surge worsening, officials are unveiling new rules, redoubling efforts to get more people to wear masks and even employing some pointed remarks as part of an urgent campaign to boost vaccinations and slow the rapid spread of the highly infectious Delta variant.

The state Wednesday urged everyone — even those fully vaccinated against COVID-19 — to wear masks indoors while in public, joining a renewed national push to increase protection amid a spike in cases.

But the ultimate goal is to convince those who have not been vaccinated to get their shots, which experts say is vital to reverse the surge.

And there are some early signs of movement among Californians who, to this point, have remained on the fence.

From July 18 to 24, providers throughout the state administered an average of just over 64,000 vaccines a day — about 3,100 more daily doses than the week before.

At first glance, a 5% increase doesn't seem that significant. But officials say any uptick is welcome.

"Our sense of urgency to increase vaccination amongst residents remains very high, and we're glad for any signs of increased vaccine uptake," L.A. County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said.

About 53% of Californians are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, according to data compiled by The Times.

A bigger slice of the state, about 61%, has received at least one vaccine dose. But officials emphasize that it's vital for anyone who received their first shot of Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson to complete their vaccine regimen so they can be as protected as possible. [See Surge, A9]

Masks are back at White House

The executive mansion has become a high-profile showcase for the nation's struggles to end the pandemic. NATION, A4

Britain easing quarantine rules

Starting Monday, fully vaccinated U.S. travelers and many from Europe won't have to self-isolate for 10 days on arrival. WORLD, A3

Anti-camping law is finalized

L.A. City Council passes measure billed as a way to humely clear public spaces. CALIFORNIA, B1

A perception of 'two USCs'

A broad review has found troubling incidents of racial profiling by campus police. CALIFORNIA, B1

Weather Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 85/65. B6



CDC mask guidance confuses, frustrates

New recommendations, local mandates have some feeling whiplashed

BY DEREK HAWKINS
AND BRYAN PIETSCH

They thought the worst of the coronavirus pandemic was behind them. Vaccines were here, the masks could come off. A summer slowly returning to normal seemed within reach. Then came the hyper-transmissible delta variant — and with it, this week, a call from health officials for everyone to start masking up indoors again in places where viral transmission is high.

Across the country, people said they felt whiplashed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation that even vaccinated people should resume wearing face coverings indoors under specific circumstances. The frustration felt by some Americans at the changing guidance comes as officials try to persuade a pandemic-weary public to again embrace health measures many believed no longer applied.

"I feel like the government keeps changing what they want us to do," said Aubrey Garner, who lives in Conroe, Tex., and owns a residential cleaning service. "I'm not sure they know what

SEE MASKS ON A9

Experts ask to see data behind new CDC policy

BY JOEL ACHENBACH,
YASMEEN ARIFALAI,
BEN GUERIN
AND CAROLYN Y. JOHNSON

New recommendations from federal health officials this week on when vaccinated Americans should don face masks came with a startling bolt of news: People who have had their shots and become infected with the delta variant of the coronavirus can harbor large amounts of virus just like unvaccinated people. That means they could become spreaders of the disease and should return to wearing masks indoors in certain situations, including when vulnerable people are present.

But the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention did not publish the new research. In the text of the updated masking guidance, the agency merely cited "CDC COVID-19 Response Team, unpublished data, 2021."

Some outside scientists have

SEE VIRUS ON A10

House mandate: Mask order in Capitol rankles some in GOP. A8

D.C.-area decision time: Indoor mask-wearing could come back. B1



PHOTO BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

'I can't do it again'

Survivors of Paradise fire watch as flames close in on their new lives not far away

BY MARIA LUTKA PAUL, HANNAH KNOWLES
AND FRANCES STAD SELLERS

Stacey Hoffman has barely slept the past week, as the Dixie Fire edged closer to her new home in Chester, Calif. She spent nights by the window, haunted by her hellish escape from the fire that razed thousands of houses, killed at least 85 people and destroyed her community of Paradise in 2018.

She left briefly — for a motel in Paradise, where she thought she might be safer. But work quickly brought Hoffman back to Chester, she said. She sobbed the whole ride home.

"I didn't want to have to run for my life again," the 39-year-old said Tuesday, as the Dixie Fire burned across the lake from her town. "I can't do it again."

Dozens of families forced from Paradise and surrounding communities have resettled in small towns around Lake Almanor, about 40 miles away, finding comfort in stunning wilderness and shared pain among survivors. But as Califor-

SEE PARADISE ON A7



TOP: A firefighter watches the Dixie Fire south of California's Lake Almanor, near where many Paradise survivors live. ABOVE: Survivor Desiree Maurer said of neighbors fighting the fire: "I seen all that and just started crying."

Arrest made in child's shooting that shook D.C.

BY PETER HERMANN,
PAUL DUGGAN
AND JULIE ZANZMER

D.C. police arrested a suspect in the fatal shooting of a 6-year-old girl in Southeast Washington and said they are investigating whether the late-night burst of gunfire was linked to a suspected drug crew authorities say has terrorized the neighborhood with unrelenting violence.

Niyah Courtney's parents were both wounded in the July 16 shooting in Congress Heights, along with three others. Police said her father is a suspected member of the crew and may have been targeted.

Police arrested the wounded father the next day as part of an indictment filed against more



MICHAEL BLACKBURN, THE WASHINGTON POST

D.C. Police Chief Robert J. Contee III speaks at a news conference July 17, a day after the shooting that left Niyah Courtney, 6, dead.

than a dozen people facing federal drug and firearms charges. Court papers described them as affiliated with the MLK Crew, named after the street where they are allegedly based, and on which Niyah was fatally wounded: Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE.

"The prayers of the community have been answered," D.C. Police Chief Robert J. Contee III said at a news conference Wednesday, recalling a child remembered for her energy and enthusiasm, who had braided her hair to look like her grandmother.

"I'm here to announce today that we got our man," Contee said.

Markwan Hargraves, 22, was charged with murder. Authorities said he is from Maryland; court documents also show an address

SEE ARREST ON A15

Senate advances \$1 trillion proposal

INFRASTRUCTURE BILL CLEARS HURDLE

Bipartisan backing spurs hope, but debate remains

BY TONY ROMM

Senate Democrats and Republicans banded together on Wednesday to advance a roughly \$1 trillion proposal to improve the country's aging infrastructure, overcoming months of political deadlock on one of President Biden's signature economic policy priorities.

The day of breakthroughs began with news of a deal, as a bipartisan bloc of 10 negotiators coalesced around a package to upgrade the nation's roads, bridges, pipes, ports and Internet connections. The announcement from some of the group's leaders, including Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.), capped off a series of frenetic talks that nearly collapsed amid behind-the-scenes battles about the new spending and how to pay for it.

With that once elusive agreement finally in hand, the Senate hours later took its first formal legislative step. Lawmakers voted 67 to 32 to put themselves on

SEE INFRASTRUCTURE ON A4

TOKYO OLYMPICS

Gymnasts understand Biles's battle with 'twisties'

BY EMILY GIAMBALVO

TOKYO — Imagine flying through the air, springing off a piece of equipment as you prepare to flip on one axis while twisting on another. It all happens fast, so there's little time to adjust. You rely on muscle memory, trusting that it will work out because, with so much practice, it usually does.

But then suddenly you're upside down in midair and your brain feels disconnected from your body. Your limbs that usually control how much you spin have stopped listening, and you feel lost. You hope all the years you spent in this sport will guide your body to a safe landing position.

When Simone Biles pushed off the vaulting table Tuesday, she entered that terrifying world of uncertainty. In the Olympic team final, Biles planned to perform a 2½-twisting vault, but her mind chose to stall after just 1½ twists.

"I had no idea where I was in

SEE OLYMPICS ON A11

Sally Jenkins: For Simone Biles, abuse remains a current event. D1

Dressel golden again: U.S. swimming star wins 100 free. D1

IN THE NEWS



Nats on hold: A game against the Phillies is postponed as team deals with its second coronavirus outbreak of the season. D1

Larry Nassor: Prison officials have allowed him to pay little to victims while spending thousands on himself, a court filing says. A6

THE NATION
Top Democrats are getting advice on selling the Biden agenda from an outside group, according to a confidential memo. A2

President Donald Trump called his acting attorney general almost daily at the end of 2020 to urge probes into voter-fraud claims. A3

A spike in coronavirus cases has shelved U.S. plans to phase out the controversial law used to expel just-arrived migrants to Mexico. A4

THE WORLD
Evangelical leaders in

Haiti who opposed President Jovenel Moïse are facing a backlash after his assassination and the arrest of a preacher in the plot. A12

The United States will give India \$25 million for vaccinations. Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced on a visit to New Delhi. A13

The deaths of five generals in nine days come as the revolutionary vanguard that has led Cuba for six decades hands power to a new generation. A15

THE ECONOMY
Robinhood disclosed that regulators are probing the actions of company executives, ahead of the online broker's massive initial public offering. A16

A shortage of computer chips has hobbled output at more than a dozen North American and European auto plants, with losses looming. A17

in-person employees as the delta variant drives up cases nationwide. A18

THE REGION
A historic marker unveiled in Lafayette Square is the first formal recognition of the role of slavery in the construction and maintenance of the White House. B1

D.C.'s problems with vacant and blighted properties haven't gone away, residents and officials say. B1

INSIDE



LOCAL LIVING
Little Pinocchio's kids are it's true. Especially under stress and anxiety. We look at why, and when to worry.

STYLE
The memory hole: Pressure is on to make 2021 forgettable. But memory is a tricky thing. Can you make memories? The answer is... maybe. C1

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Sergio Rinaldi/Folhapress

ONDA DE FRIO INTENSO PODE PREJUDICAR DIFERENTES PLANTAÇÕES NO PAÍS

Para atenuar efeitos da geada prevista na região, o produtor de hortaliças José Lourenço Cordeiro, de Mandaguari (PR), começou ontem a cobrir com TNT sua área plantada Mercado A18

tóquio 2020

PIRUETAS MENTAIS

Maior estrela da ginástica artística, Simone Biles evoca sua humanidade e sanidade para explicar resistência p.1

+ TROPEÇO DO BRASIL
Russo dribla restrição ao uso do nome e brilham ao colecionar medalhas p.6

+ FALTOU COMBINAR
Russo dribla restrição ao uso do nome e brilham ao colecionar medalhas p.6

AGENDA DOS JOGOS

- VÔLEI FEMININO
- 7h40 Brasil x Japão
- GINÁSTICA ARTÍSTICA
- 7h50 Final individual*
- VÔLEI DE PRAIA FEMININO
- 9h Brasil x Canadá
- VÔLEI DE PRAIA MASCULINO
- 10h Brasil x Holanda
- HANDEBOL MASCULINO
- 21h Brasil x Argentina
- NATAÇÃO
- 22h Finais
- JUDÔ
- 23h Eliminatórias*
- VÔLEI MASCULINO
- 23h05 Brasil x EUA
- BOXE MASCULINO
- 1h24 Brasil x Grã-Bretanha
- FUTEBOL FEMININO
- 5h Brasil x Canadá
- BOXE FEMININO
- 5h Brasil x Taipé
- JUDÔ
- 5h Finais

*Realização

População com 18 anos ou mais*

| | ao menos uma dose | totalmente vacinada |
|--------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Brasil | 63,3% | 24,5% |
| MS | 75,8% | 43,3% |
| RS | 70,9% | 32,8% |
| SP | 74,9% | 27,2% |

Totalmente vacinada



| | 1ª | 2ª | única |
|--------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Brasil | 98,2 mi | 35,8 mi | 3,7 mi |
| 1ª SP | 25,9 mi | 8,7 mi | 1,1 mi |
| 2ª MG | 9,6 mi | 3,3 mi | 367,3 mil |
| 3ª RJ | 7,5 mi | 2,9 mi | 259,6 mil |

Dados das 20h de 28 jul *Ao menos uma dose; tomou dose única ou 1ª dose. Totalmente vacinada: tomou dose única ou 2ª dose **Em relação a 14 dias

SP suspenderá maioria das restrições em 17 de agosto

Doria prevê que todos os adultos sejam parcialmente vacinados até dia 16

São Paulo planeja acabar com todas as restrições de horário e público no comércio a partir de 17 de agosto, anunciou o governador João Doria. Com empresas sem limitações e escolas retornando às aulas presenciais diárias, os paulistanos retomam quase todas as atividades do mundo pré-pandemia.

Há exceção: casas noturnas, shows médios e grandes e jogos esportivos com público seguem vetados até o resultado de eventos-testes. Em todos os casos, serão mantidos o uso de máscara e o distanciamento de 1 metro. Domingo (1º), o comércio pode ampliar a ocupação para 80% e funcionar até 0h.

Passados 17 meses do início da pandemia e com uma variante mais transmissível circulando, a decisão, diz o tucano, se dá com a queda de internações e a antecipação da imunização no estado, que agora prevê aplicar a primeira de duas doses contra Covid em todos os maiores de idade até 16 de agosto.

Dois dias depois, adolescentes com 12 anos ou mais passam a ser vacinados. Até agora, no estado, 75% dos adultos receberam ao menos uma dose, e 27% foram totalmente imunizados. Saúde B1

Médicos temem repique de Covid se população ignorar protocolos B1

Novo Ministério do Trabalho priorizará economia digital

Ressurreto por meio de uma medida provisória publicada ontem, o Ministério do Trabalho e Previdência, sob o comando de Onyx Lorenzoni, dará atenção à economia digital, como a regulamentação de prestadores de serviço por aplicativos de celular. Uma hipótese é alterar as normas do MEI (microempreendedor individual) para enquadrá-los.

A pasta passa a abarcar dez atribuições e sete órgãos até então sob a Economia, como o conselho do FGTS. Técnicos que vinham trabalhando sob Paulo Guedes esperam assim que a área trabalhista ganhe relevo. Mas Onyx, até então à frente da Secretaria-Geral da Presidência, deve deixar o cargo em abril para disputar o governo gaúcho. Mercado A17

STF desmente Bolsonaro sobre agir na pandemia

Em mensagem postada ontem em uma rede social, o Supremo reafirmou que a corte não impediu o governo federal de agir contra a Covid-19. "Uma mentira contada mil vezes não vira verdade!", dizia o texto. Jair Bolsonaro declarou reiteradas vezes que não teve como combater a pandemia por causa de decisão do STF. Poder A9

Ciro Nogueira vai coordenar ações do Planalto na CPI A4

Conrado H. Mendes Sua liberdade está despencando A8



Reprodução Secom

GOVERNO EXALTA PRODUTOR ARMADO

A secretaria de comunicação da Presidência compartilhou ontem, nas redes, foto de homem armado em alusão ao Dia do Agricultor; mais tarde, apagou a publicação Mercado A19

No Peru, Castillo toma posse com partido dividido

O presidente Pedro Castillo tomou posse no Peru sem anunciar ministros. A demora se deve a uma divisão no partido governista entre ter um gabinete de esquerda ideológico ou moderado. Mundo A12

Ilustrada C1 e C2
Cauã Reymond volta às telas, de dono de cine pornô a d. Pedro

Turismo C8
Olimpia (SP) amplia atrações 'extra-água' para reter visitantes

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Partido do Governo
Sobre ascensão do PP na administração Bolsonaro.

Hesitação vacinal
Acerca de resistência a imunizantes nos EUA.

ATMOSFERA



Presidente atacou imprensa 87 vezes no 1º semestre

Jair Bolsonaro promoveu ataques à imprensa ao menos 87 vezes no 1º semestre de 2021, aumento de 74% ante o 2º semestre de 2020, revela levantamento da organização Repórteres Sem Fronteiras. Poder A6

Michelle é condecorada pelo marido com medalha

Jair Bolsonaro concedeu a sua mulher, Michelle, a Medalha do Mérito Oswaldo Cruz na categoria ouro. A condecoração reconhece atuações destacadas pela saúde dos brasileiros. A6

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CONVOCATORIA AGOSTO

LO QUE QUERES SER

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Interior admite incapacidad para verificar contenedores de puertos privados

Central crece como epicentro de megatráfico por tibios controles

En un lapso de nueve meses se incautaron dos cargas con más de 6 toneladas de cocaína de alta pureza que iban a ser embarcadas para Europa. Narcos avanzan en áreas urbanas.

PÁGINA 48

Rezagados coparon vacunatorios a última hora

Covid. Se agotaron vacunas para los que no recibieron primera dosis. En dos semanas tendrán otra oportunidad. Hoy se retoma para segunda dosis.

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Blanquean a planilleros vip de Justicia Electoral

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LE FIGARO

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

L'ÉTÉ
DU FIGAROUN CHÂTEAU EN FAMILLE
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Des vacances
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Israël en opération
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FIGARO NONRéponses à la question
de mercredi :Le passe sanitaire vous
dissuade-t-il d'aller
au cinéma, au musée ou
dans les parcs de loisirs ?OUI
43% NON
57%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 150 739

Votez aujourd'hui
sur lefigaro.frÊtes-vous favorable
à la vaccination
obligatoire pour tous ?

FRANÇOIS BOUCHON / LE FIGARO

Hausse spectaculaire des violences en France

Selon les statistiques dévoilées par « Le Figaro », les homicides, les agressions et la délinquance sexuelle dépassent, de janvier à juin, le niveau d'avant la crise sanitaire sur la même période.

La crise sanitaire n'aura pas contribué à apaiser le climat de violence qui règne en France. Bien au contraire. Des statistiques portant sur les six premiers mois de l'année, dévoilées en exclusivité par *Le Figaro*, dressent

un tableau saisissant de l'accroissement des violences dans le pays. Les atteintes à l'intégrité physique ont augmenté de 16 % par rapport aux six premiers mois de l'an dernier, marqués il est vrai par deux mois de confine-

ment. Mais les chiffres montrent également une hausse de 10 % si on les compare à la même période de 2019. Homicides, tentatives d'homicide, agressions, délinquance sexuelle : la tendance est mauvaise sur tous les

fronts. Hors outre-mer, dont cinq départements sont particulièrement frappés, ce sont les zones rurales et périurbaines qui accusent les plus fortes augmentations d'infractions caractéristiques de ces violences.

➔ LA DRÔME FACE À UN BOOM DES AGRESSIONS SEXUELLES ET INTRAFAMILIALES
➔ EN LOIRE-ATLANTIQUE, L'INQUIÉTANTE MULTIPLICATION PAR DEUX DES TENTATIVES D'HOMICIDE
PAGES 2, 3 ET L'ÉDITORIAL



En Russie, la campagne de vaccination patine, l'épidémie s'envole

En dehors de Moscou et de Saint-Petersbourg, la province russe se montre toujours réticente à la vaccination, tandis que le variant Delta représente plus de 70 % des cas de Covid dans le pays. Une méfiance qui vise aussi le gouvernement. PAGE 8

Emmanuel Macron reporte la grande réorganisation d'EDF

L'exécutif juge que le projet Hercule en discussion avec la Commission européenne depuis des mois avance, mais qu'il n'est pas en mesure pour autant de déposer un projet de loi avant la fin du quinquennat. Avec cette réforme, il s'agit de trouver la bonne formule pour restructurer en profondeur EDF, en l'adaptant notamment aux réalités du marché ouvert de l'électricité. PAGE 22

ÉDITORIAL par Vincent Trémolet de Villers vtremolet@lefigaro.fr

Autorité liquide

Tolérance zéro ! Le citoyen qui, entre deux doses de vaccin, viendra, en plein mois d'août, s'asseoir à la terrasse d'un café de village sera hors la loi. Quelle peine pour ce délinquant et le complice qui aurait choisi de le servir ? Pendant une semaine, le Parlement s'est enflammé sur des amendes mirobolantes, la prison en cas de récidive : dormez tranquille, l'État s'occupe de tout. Mais comment dormir tranquille quand il est de plus en plus d'endroits en France où l'État ne contrôle plus rien ? Assez des coups de menton pour les coups de fourchette : prenons la mesure de la violence ordinaire qui se déploie dans les centres des grandes métropoles comme dans les petites villes de campagne. L'enquête chiffrée que nous publions aujourd'hui en fait le saisissant panorama. Aucune région de France n'est épargnée. L'agressivité comme pratique sociale, la disparition du civisme, la progression galopante du sentiment d'impunité se vérifient désormais à l'œil nu. Une minorité surveillée s'affranchit de toutes les règles, une majorité silencieuse oscille entre peur, résignation et colère froide face à cette intimidation.

Que fait la police ? Ce qu'elle peut pour protéger les règles qui fondent la vie en société. Prise en tenaille entre la surveillance vigilante des ligues de vertu et l'arrogance victimaire des petits délinquants, elle s'efforce d'incarner, dans ce chaos de basse intensité, la force du droit, la loi commune. Elle n'y parviendra jamais seule. L'effacement de toute fermeté au profit d'une autorité liquide caractérise ce moment adolescent. Quand parents, profes-

Une progression galopante du sentiment d'impunité

seurs, gendarmes, magistrats, élus tentent, malgré tout, d'en faire usage, c'est à contre-courant d'un laisser-aller généralisé. Le resenti plutôt que l'effort, l'excuse plus que le mérite, l'instinct plus que la culture, l'émotion plus que la raison, la violence plutôt que l'ordre. En retour, l'État faible se fait tatillon, arbitraire. Il s'abîme, de lois inapplicables en réglementations sanitaires à faire pâler de jalousie et Kafka et Gogol. Au sentiment prégnant d'insécurité s'ajoute inévitablement celui d'une profonde iniquité. ■



BLAYE, BOURG, FRONSAC, GRAVES, MÉDOC, SAUTERNES
L'Union Européenne est dirigée par la santé, à l'exception des pesticides

The burger revolution

The case for meat grown in a lab

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Queen's lawyers secretly lobbied ministers for climate law waiver

Exclusive Special access used to gain exemption from emissions initiative

Rob Evans
Severin Carrell
David Pegg

The Queen's lawyers secretly lobbied Scottish ministers to change a draft law to exempt her private land from a major initiative to cut carbon

emissions, documents reveal. The exemption means that the Queen, one of the largest landowners in Scotland, is the only person in the country not required to facilitate the construction of pipelines to heat buildings using renewable energy.

Her lawyers secured the dispensation from Scotland's government five months ago by exploiting an obscure parliamentary procedure known as Queen's consent, which gives the monarch advance sight of legislation. The arcane mechanism has been borrowed from

Westminster, where it has existed as a custom since the 1700s.

In a series of reports into Queen's consent in recent months, the Guardian revealed how the Queen repeatedly used privileged access to draft laws to lobby ministers to change UK legislation to benefit private interests or reflect her opinions between the late 1960s and the 1980s.

The new documents, uncovered by Lily Humphreys, a researcher for the Scottish Liberal Democrats using freedom of information laws, disclose how the monarch used her

'It should prompt concerns about the practice's existence'

Adam Tucker
Constitutional law expert

special access to Scottish legislation to intervene in the parliamentary process as recently as February.

The documents also suggest Nicola Sturgeon's government failed to

disclose the monarch's lobbying this year when a Scottish politician used a parliamentary debate to query why the Queen was securing an exemption from the green energy bill.

The move appears at odds with the royal family's public commitment to tackling the climate crisis.

Sturgeon's government heralded the bill as key legislation to combat the climate emergency. It said the law, known as the heat networks bill, would help cut emissions, reduce fuel poverty and create green jobs. The

Liverpool fan is 97th victim of 1989 crush

David Conn and Robyn Vinter

A coroner has ruled that Andrew Devine, who has died 32 years after suffering severe and irreversible brain damage at Hillsborough in 1989, was unlawfully killed, and that therefore he is legally the 97th victim of the disaster.

In a statement on Liverpool football club's website announcing the news, Devine's family, who have cared for him ever since he suffered devastating crushing injuries at Hillsborough, said they welcomed the coroner's ruling.

"It is with great sadness and a sense of immense loss that we can confirm that Andrew Devine passed away [on Tuesday] at the premature age of 55," they said.

"Our collective devastation is overwhelming but so too is the realisation that we were blessed to have had Andrew with us for 32 years since the Hillsborough tragedy.

"We welcome the conclusion of the coroner, Mr



Super six: Dujardin rides into a league of her own

Charlotte Dujardin has become Britain's most successful female Olympian, winning her sixth medal with a bronze in the dressage yesterday. Dujardin, 36, said: 'I'm so, so happy.' **News Page 4** →

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDY STENNIS/GETTY IMAGES

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