

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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Last week: DJIA 35120.08 ▼ 395.30 1.1% NASDAQ 14714.66 ▼ 0.7% STOXX 600 468.80 ▼ 1.5% 10-YR. TREASURY ▲ 11/32, yield 1.259% OIL \$62.32 ▼ \$6.12 EURO \$1.1701 YEN 109.79

What's News

Business & Finance

Ken Griffin's Citadel and Citadel partners are planning to redeem roughly \$500 million of the \$2 billion they put into Melvin Capital Management after Melvin got slammed by bad short bets on GameStop and other soaring stocks, said people familiar with the matter. **B1**

◆ **Grocery-store chains** are still battling supply challenges that some industry executives said are as bad as what they saw in spring 2020, when hoarding left holes in stocks of some staple products. **B1**

◆ **Rachel Maddow**, MSNBC's highly rated host, has signed a new deal that will keep her at the network for the next several years, according to people familiar with the matter. **B3**

◆ **Big steelmakers** in Europe and the U.S., like ArcelorMittal and Cleveland-Cliffs, are intensifying efforts to curb carbon emissions, hoping to entice customers and fend off growing pressure from investors and governments. **B3**

◆ **The FDA is nearing a** deadline for its process of deciding which e-cigarettes may remain on the market, rulings that already have begun to reshape the industry. **B3**

World-Wide

◆ **Biden said his administration** may extend an Aug. 31 deadline for withdrawing troops from Afghanistan, as the Pentagon enlisted the help of U.S. airlines to evacuate Americans and Afghan partners from the country. **A1**

◆ **The Taliban fought** deadly battles against resistance forces in northern Afghanistan, as political negotiations on a broader government moved ahead in Kabul and access to the city's U.S.-run airport remained difficult for thousands of Afghans trying to flee. **A1, A8, A9**

◆ **New York Gov. Cuomo** spent his final days in office signing bills and granting clemency to prison inmates. He was expected to relinquish office at 11:59 p.m. on Monday. **A3**

◆ **Centrist House Democrats** were locked in a week-end standoff with Pelosi over when to vote on a roughly \$1 trillion infrastructure bill. **A4**

◆ **Hospitals in the South and Midwest** say they are treating more children with Covid-19 than ever and are preparing for worse surges. **A6**

◆ **Malaysia's new prime minister** said that he would embrace the opposition in an effort to tackle the pandemic and revive the economy. **A18**

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Henri Brings Flooding, Havoc to East Coast



STORM-STRUCK: Tropical Storm Henri made landfall Sunday afternoon near Westerly, R.I., before it was downgraded to a tropical depression, bringing flooding to much of the East, including Helmetta, N.J., top, and beaching a sailboat in Jamestown, R.I. Separate storms in Tennessee caused flash floods over the weekend, leaving at least 21 people dead. **A2, A3**

A Farm-Tech Startup Stumbled, Then Revamped

Investor favorite Indigo Agriculture frustrated farmers; 'I got an earful'

By JACOB BUNGE

When a Boston-based tech startup showed John Creighton one of the best prices for his corn he'd seen in years, the farmer signed up to sell 75,000 bushels through its network.

What followed were months of headaches. The company's paperwork, which farmers rely on to track grain quality and deliveries, was a mess, Mr. Creighton said. Trucks sometimes arrived at the farm to make pickups in the middle of the night, and several loads of his grain went missing. Months passed without full payment on the grain, versus the 72-hour turnaround with local elevators. He was paid, he said, after threatening to complain to regulators.

"They had a great sales pitch," said Mr. Creighton, who farms in Illinois and dealt with Indigo in 2019. "It turned into a complete cluster."

The source of Mr. Creighton's frustration was Indigo Agriculture Inc., a startup that had set its sights on the U.S. Farm Belt with an idea to use cutting-edge technology to reshape the agriculture industry.

Instead of selling directly to local co-ops or to the handful of enormous companies that buy grain, farmers could use a platform to find buyers anywhere and pick the best price offered. Indigo would also market special microbes to make seeds more productive, and farmers could enter a program to sell

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Delays to the Office Set Bosses on Edge

By CHIP CUTTER

With the latest wave of return-to-office delays from Covid-19, some companies are considering a new possibility: Offices may be closed for nearly two years.

That is raising concerns among executives that the longer people stay at home, the harder or more disruptive it could be to eventually bring them back.

Many employees developed new routines during the pandemic, swapping commuting for exercise or blocking hours for

uninterrupted work. Even staffers who once bristled at doing their jobs outside an office have come to embrace the flexibility and productivity of at-home life over the past 18 months, many say. Surveys have shown that enthusiasm for remote work has increased as the pandemic has stretched on.

"If you have a little blip, people go back to the old way. Well, this ain't a blip," said Pat Gelsinger, chief executive officer.

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◆ For many Gen Z workers, office is elusive goal..... A12

U.S. Weighing Later Deadline Of Afghan Exit

President Biden said his administration may extend an Aug. 31 deadline for withdrawing troops from Afghanistan, as the Pentagon enlisted the help of U.S. airlines to evacuate

By Gordon Lubold, Nancy A. Youssef and Alison Sider

Americans and Afghan partners from the country.

"There's discussions going on among us and the military about extending" the Aug. 31 deadline, Mr. Biden told reporters at the White House Sunday. "Our hope is that we will not have to extend. But

Afghanistan Crisis

- ◆ U.S. banks tread carefully around Taliban..... A8
- ◆ Three news outlets leave after violent encounters... A9
- ◆ Karzai angles for key political role..... A9

there are going to be discussions I expect about how far along we are in the process."

The president spoke as U.S. airlines were positioning aircraft to comply with a Pentagon order, announced Sunday morning under a rarely invoked law, that compelled six

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Taliban Seek Allies As Clashes Erupt

The Taliban fought deadly battles with budding resistance forces in northern Afghanistan, as political negotiations on a broader government moved ahead in Kabul and access to the city's U.S.-run airport remained difficult for thousands of Afghans trying to flee.

By Yaroslav Trofimov, Saeed Shah and Ehsanullah Amiri

While most of Afghanistan's army and security forces collapsed, some of the Taliban's most dedicated foes have retreated to the Panjshir valley northeast of Kabul, pledging

to continue the fight from the country's only province not under Taliban sway.

They include the fallen Afghan republic's defense minister Bismillah Khan Mohammadi; Vice President Amrullah Saleh, who claims to be Afghanistan's legitimate leader after President Ashraf Ghani abandoned his duties and fled the country Aug. 15; and Ahmad Massoud, a son of famous Panjshiri commander Ahmad Shah Massoud.

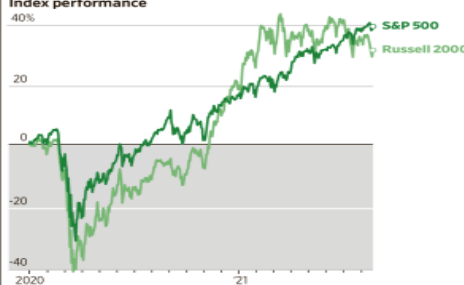
Video posted on social media showed casualties and fighting between Taliban forces and anti-Taliban militias in the Andarab valley of

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Small-Cap Value? It's Complicated

The sector's benchmark can skew how pricey small stocks, which have lagged behind the broader market, really are. **B1**

Index performance



Source: FactSet

Blue-Light Glasses Might Not Work—but Sure Look Cool

Many are wearing their computer lenses as a fashion accessory

By AYDALI CAMPA

Josiah Peña spent many hours staring at a computer screen for online classes during his senior year at San Jose State University, and he was facing even more screen time when he landed a remote internship in 2020.

That's when he decided to order blue-light-blocking eye-glasses on Amazon. They soothe eye fatigue, some reviews said. They are snake oil, some doctors warned. At least most everyone agrees on one thing: They make you look really hot.

As soon as Mr. Peña, 24, got a wide pair with black frames to complement his self-described "big face," co-workers and friends started pointing out how great he looked in them and asking, "Where did you get those?"

Mr. Peña thinks the glasses help with screen fatigue, but even if that's all psychological and not backed by science, the glasses are worth the \$25 price.

"I still use them quite of-

ten," says Mr. Peña. "Sometimes I wear them when I go out because I like the look."

Almost a year and a half after the pandemic shut offices and schools, people are starting to return to normal routines and reducing screen time. Even if they are ready to trade sweatpants for work slacks, many don't want to let go of their blue-light glasses.

Fans are keeping them on or

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Private groups seek stellar reward in fusion energy — ANJANA AHUJA, PAGE 17

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Afghans waving their documents at U.S. Marines standing guard at the walls of Hamid Karzai International Airport on Sunday.

U.S. Passed on Taliban Surrender, and 20 Years of War Followed

By ALISSA J. RUBIN

Taliban fighters brandished Kalashnikovs and shook their fists in the air after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, defying American warnings that if they did not hand over Osama Bin Laden, their country would be bombed to smithereens.

The bravado faded once American bombs began to fall. Within a few weeks, many of the Taliban had fled the Afghan capital, terrified by the low whine of approaching B-52 aircraft. Soon,

they were a spent force, on the run across the arid mountain-scape of Afghanistan. As one of the journalists who covered them in the early days of the war, I saw their uncertainty and loss of control firsthand.

It was in the waning days of November 2001 that Taliban leaders began to reach out to Hamid Karzai, who would soon become the interim president of Afghanistan: They wanted to make a deal.

"The Taliban were completely defeated, they had no demands,

AFGHANISTAN MEMO

except amnesty," recalled Barnett Rubin, who worked with the United Nations' political team in Afghanistan at the time.

Messengers shuttled back and forth between Mr. Karzai and the headquarters of the Taliban leader, Mullah Omar, in Kandahar. Mr. Karzai envisioned a Taliban surrender that would keep the militants from playing any significant role in the country's future.

But Washington, confident that the Taliban would be wiped out forever, was in no mood for a deal.

"We don't negotiate surrenders," Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld said in a news conference at the time, adding that the Americans had no interest in leaving Mullah Omar to live out his days anywhere in Afghanistan. The United States wanted him captured or dead.

Almost 20 years later, the United States did negotiate a

Continued on Page A10

CHAOS AT AIRPORT AS TALIBAN WORK ON CREATING STATE

Former Afghan President and Russians
Take On Mediator Roles

By ROGER COHEN

As lethal mayhem persisted outside Kabul airport, with thousands of terrified Afghans trying to flee, the Taliban have reached out to a former Afghan president, Hamid Karzai, and to Russia in an attempt to fulfill their pledge to form an "inclusive" government and defeat holdouts against their rule.

Little in the Taliban's history suggests readiness to compromise on their harsh Islamist principles or to share power, but the United States has warned the militant group that going it alone will result in continuous conflict and isolation. In this context, Mr. Karzai, who led the county between 2001 and 2014, appears to have emerged as a possible mediator.

Mr. Karzai, 63, a wily maneuverer who as president fell out with the United States over American drone attacks, corruption allegations and other issues, has stepped into the void left by the flight a week ago of President Ashraf Ghani. He has met with Taliban leaders, including Khalil Haqqani, who has been designated as a terrorist by the United States, and is working closely with Abdullah Abdullah, the head of the former Afghan's govern-

ment's peace delegation. A Taliban leader described as the acting governor of Kabul, Mullah Abdul Rahman Mansour, talked over the weekend with Mr. Karzai and Mr. Abdullah. A growing number of senior Taliban have been seen in Kabul in recent days to discuss the shape of the next government, among them Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Taliban's chief diplomat and a senior official in the group's government in the 1990s.

A deputy within the Taliban's cultural affairs committee, Ahmadullah Waseq, said Saturday that although the Taliban officials were mostly talking among themselves to prepare for more formal negotiations, "we will talk with other parties to form an inclusive government acceptable to all Afghans."

A delegation of Taliban leaders also visited the Russian Embassy in Kabul, asking officials there to pass along an offer of negotiations to a group of Afghan leaders holding out in northern Afghanistan, the Russian ambassador, Dmitri Zhirinov, told a Russian television interviewer on Saturday.

How the United States will view Mr. Karzai's re-emergence was

Continued on Page A8

BAD OPTICS Democrats fear the pandemic or the Afghan chaos may turn off the moderate swing voters who helped them win. PAGE A11

ALARM OVER ISIS President Biden's national security adviser warned of an "acute" threat of an attack amid U.S. evacuation efforts. PAGE A9

Hospital Data Reveals Secrets Behind Billing

By SARAH KLIFF
and JOSH KATZ

This year, the federal government ordered hospitals to begin publishing a prized secret: a complete list of the prices they negotiate with private insurers.

The insurers' trade association had called the rule unconstitutional and said it would "undermine competitive negotiations." Four hospital associations jointly sued the government to block it, and appealed when they lost.

They lost again, and seven months later, many hospitals are simply ignoring the requirement and posting nothing.

But data from the hospitals that have complied hints at why the powerful industries wanted this information to remain hidden.

It shows hospitals are charging patients wildly different amounts for the same basic services: procedures as simple as an X-ray or a pregnancy test.

And it provides numerous examples of major health insurers — some of the world's largest companies, with billions in annual profits — negotiating surprisingly unfavorable rates for their customers. In many cases, insured patients are getting prices that are higher than they would if they pretended to have no coverage at all.

At Massachusetts General, in Boston, different insurers pay between \$877 and \$4,140 for a basic knee M.R.I. At Baylor Medical Center, in Dallas, an emergency-room foot X-ray costs \$971 for United enrollees, \$1,727 for Blue Cross Blue Shield enrollees and \$832 for someone not using insurance.

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ANDREW NELLES/THE TENNESSEAN, VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

In Waverly, Tenn., residents described a "tidal wave" of water strong enough to carry cars away.

Flooding Ravages Tennessee, Killing at Least 22

By RICK ROJAS
and MICHAEL LEVENSON

WAVERLY, Tenn. — In one moment, Rickey Larkin saw the creek running behind his home spill over its banks. The next, he said, he was engulfed by an ocean. His pickup was carried away by the currents. Then, the water came surging into his home and rose shoulder high, forcing him, his wife and their cat to cling to a mattress as a life raft.

"We prayed and we prayed it would go down," Mr. Larkin recalled a day later, sitting outside a shelter on Sunday, his voice barely registering above a whisper. "We came about a foot from drowning. I thought we were gone."

At least 22 people have been

'No One Could Get Out' as Wave of Water Hit a Vulnerable Area

killed and more than 20 dozen others remain missing on Sunday after a catastrophic flash flood swept through a rural area of rivers, creeks and rolling woods about 90 minutes west of Nashville, the authorities said. The floodwater vanished as quickly as it arrived, and left in its wake was a bewildering display of its fury and strength in a collection of rural communities in and around Humphreys County.

Homes had been picked up off

their piers and dropped across the street. Bridges and roads were crumbling. Cars were mangled and trucks had been turned upside down. Chain-link fences were clogged with debris, evidence of when they were a dredge for a spontaneous river.

At a news conference on Afghanistan and extreme weather on Sunday, President Biden said, "I want to begin by expressing my deepest condolences for the sudden and tragic loss of life due to this flash flood." He added that he has encouraged federal emer-

Continued on Page A13

HENRI SLAMS NORTHEAST The storm prompted flood watches in several states. PAGE A12

NEWS ANALYSIS

Science of Virus Keeps Evolving And Frustrating

By APOORVA MANDAVILLI

When the coronavirus surfaced last year, no one was prepared for it to invade every aspect of daily life for so long, so insidiously. The pandemic has forced Americans to wrestle with life-or-death choices every day of the past 18 months — and there's no end in sight.

Scientific understanding of the virus changes by the hour, it seems. The virus spreads only by close contact or on contaminated surfaces, and then turns out to be airborne. The virus mutates slowly, but then emerges in a series of dangerous new forms.

As early as Monday, the Food and Drug Administration is expected to formally approve the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, which has already been given to scores of millions of Americans. Some holdouts found it suspicious that the vaccine was not formally approved yet somehow widely dispensed. For them, "emergency authorization" has never seemed quite enough.

Americans are living with science as it unfolds in real time.

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GABBY JONES FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Suburban workers may not want to return to commuting.

Delta Cripples Fall Recovery For New York

This article is by Nelson D. Schwartz, Nicole Hong and Patrick McGeehan.

For New York City and its trillion-dollar economy, September was supposed to mark a return to normal, a moment when Broadway theaters reopened, stores and restaurants hummed, and tourists and office workers again filled the streets.

But that long-awaited milestone has been upended by the Delta variant of the coronavirus. One big company after another has postponed plans to come back to Manhattan's soaring towers. Trade shows have been canceled. Some small businesses have had orders evaporate.

It is a setback for a city that has lagged behind the rest of the country in its economic recovery, with a 10.5 percent unemployment rate that is nearly twice the national average. Now, rather than seeing the fuller rebound it was counting on, New York is facing fresh challenges.

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INTERNATIONAL A4-11

The World's Last Samaritans

In the West Bank, several hundred villagers practice an ancient Israelite religion while maintaining an ambiguous national identity. PAGE A4

A Pantheon Burial for Baker

Josephine Baker will be the first Black woman to be entombed at the renowned monument in Paris, a symbolic move amid racial tensions in France. PAGE A4

Saving an Ancient Tree

Experts, with the help of residents, are trying to revive an ancient olive tree in a village in Sardinia that was engulfed by a catastrophic wildfire. PAGE A7

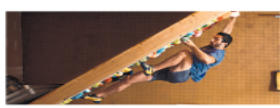
SPORTS D1-7

Cabrera Joins 500-Homer Club

The Tigers' Miguel Cabrera became the 28th player to hit the milestone. There may be a long wait for a 29th. PAGE D2

One Word, Seven Stories

Sportswriters were given a theme: freedom. One told about Vinny Marciano, who reset his life. PAGES D3-D6



NATIONAL A12-17, 20

Surprising Vaccine Opposition

When a Staten Island hospital implemented a decree that employees either get vaccinated or submit to testing, staff members staged protests. PAGE A17

House Democrats at Odds

Fractures in the party are starting to show as the House returns Monday to protect a bill from a filibuster. PAGE A16

OBITUARIES B6-7

100-Year-Old Inspiration

Before Rosa Parks, Lucille Times fought with a Montgomery, Ala., driver and then boycotted the buses. PAGE B6

ARTS C1-6

Turning Hopelessness to Hope

Antoinette Chinonye Nwanda's "Pass Over" about Black men in peril, which drew high praise from Jesse Green. PAGE C1

Larger Patrons, Fewer Seats

Theaters have been making sitting more comfortable recently. Below, the Opera House in San Francisco. PAGE C1



BUSINESS B1-5

More Eyes on Tesla

As the carmaker deals with regulators over its driver-assistance technology, an add-on kit draws attention. PAGE B1

Inside a Silicon Valley Divorce

A couple are heading to court to decide who is entitled to a fortune started in the earliest days of Google. PAGE B1

OPINION A18-19

Ryan C. Crocker

PAGE A19



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7 Afghan civilians killed in chaos at airport

Biden says military is working to ease access. U.S. orders commercial carriers to assist in evacuations.

BY NABIH BULO

KABUL, Afghanistan — The pandemonium around Kabul's airport turned deadly Sunday, with seven people killed in the chaotic, thousands-strong scrum to reach evacuation flights out of Afghanistan.

"Our sincere thoughts are with the families of the seven Afghan civilians who have sadly died in crowds in Kabul," the United Kingdom's Defense Ministry said in a statement. "Conditions on the ground remain extremely challenging but we are doing everything we can to manage the situation as safely and securely as possible."

The deaths came as the U.S. Embassy warned its citizens to stay away from Hamid Karzai International Airport unless specifically instructed otherwise, citing risks of attack by Islamic State militants operating in Afghanistan, who are avowed enemies of the Taliban.

But rather than Islamic State, the more immediate danger has been the chaos around the airport, where thousands gather daily at the gates in an increasingly frantic attempt to escape Afghanistan with the Taliban now in control.

The Taliban entered Kabul eight days ago in the culmination of a blitz offensive that saw it take — with seemingly little effort — almost all of the country. The group has exhorted people to stay, promising amnesty for officials of the former government. Its armed forces as well as those who worked with its international allies. It has also spoken of reconciliation and the promise to grant women a role in state affairs.

Yet few seem willing to gamble on the Taliban's sincerity, amid reports of door-to-door searches and compilation of lists of its now-defeated adversaries in the security and intelligence services — signs that hint at retribution to come.

Latifa Ainy, a women's rights activist in Kabul and [See Afghanistan, A5]



A HORSE grazes in a blue agave field in San Martin de las Canas, outside the town of Tequila, Mexico. Photographs by GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

The tequila trade's big shots

Celebrities reshape a signature Mexican industry

BY KATE LINTHICUM

TEQUILA, Mexico — People in the tequila industry call it the "Clooney effect."

In 2017, actor George Clooney announced he was selling his 5-year-old Casamigos tequila brand to a British beverage company for the staggering sum of \$1 billion.

Almost overnight, it seemed that every A-list celebrity was debuting a tequila label — from Arnold Schwarzenegger to LeBron James, Nick Jonas and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

The flood of celebrity brands has helped fuel record growth in the industry. Mexico, the source of all tequila, last year produced 60 million gallons — 800% more than two decades ago.

The boom is visible here, a city [See Tequila, A4]



GUADALUPE RAMOS SANTOS uses a tool called coa to cut away blue agave leaves from the core, or pina, in El Arenal, in Jalisco state.

A new way to lower rent in luxury housing

State agencies use property tax subsidies to help middle class get better apartments.

BY ANDREW KHOURI

In hopes of plugging the state's affordable housing shortage, some California government agencies are purchasing buildings, usually luxury ones, and doing

the opposite of most real estate buyers. They're lowering the rent.

The programs are geared toward middle-income workers — including police officers, teachers and nurses — who make too much to qualify for most traditional subsidized housing but still struggle to afford a place near their work, according to government authorities and the private partners involved.

They hinge on a unique fi-

nancial model that involves local property tax subsidies. Proponents say the approach makes thousands of units across the state more accessible to those who aren't high earners — serving the so-called missing middle excluded from other affordable housing programs and left behind by a runaway real estate market.

At least three government agencies have launched these programs, bringing rents down by dou-

ble-digit percentages in places such as Long Beach and Pasadena. In all, the government agencies — known as joint powers authorities — have bought more than 20 buildings, totaling more than 6,000 units.

Questions remain about the long-term consequences and underlying economics — including whether the cities, which must approve the deals and help underwrite the rent reductions, will [See Luxury rentals, A9]

Experts call for a shift in fire defense

Forest management is not enough, some say. To save communities, they urge direct focus on homes themselves.

BY HAYLEY SMITH AND ALEX WIGGLESWORTH

As he stood amid the rubble of the town of Greenville this month, Gov. Gavin Newsom vowed to take proactive steps to protect California's residents from increasingly devastating wildfires.

"We recognize that we've got to do more in active forest management, vegetation management," Newsom said, noting that the region's extreme heat and drought are leading to "wildfire challenges the likes of which we've never seen in our history."

Yet despite a universal desire to avoid more destruction, experts aren't always in agreement about what should be done before a blaze ignites.

Forest management has long been touted as essential to fighting wildfires, with one new set of studies led by the University of Wisconsin and the U.S. Forest Service concluding that there is strong scientific evidence to support the effectiveness of thinning dense forests and reducing fuels through prescribed burns.

But some ecologists say that logging, thinning and other tactics that may have worked in the past are no longer useful in an era of ever hotter, larger and more frequent wildfires.

"The fact is that forest management is not stopping weather- and climate-driven fires," said Chad Hanson, a forest and fire ecologist and the president of the John Muir Project.

Many of California's most devastating recent fires — including 2018's deadly Camp fire and the Dixie fire, now the state's second largest on record — seared straight through forests that had been treated for fuel reduction and fire prevention purposes, Hanson said.

But reimagining well-worn approaches to forest management will require a reckoning with what is and [See Wildfires, A12]

COLUMN ONE

Son's tragic story turned upside down

He lived in shame about his birth; then he got a DNA test



JOSEPH ARRIAGA, left, sent a message last fall to Robert "Bobby" Parker reading in part: "I think you might be my biological father."

BY MARISA GERBER

One evening last fall, after his three young children went to bed, Joseph Arriaga sat at his laptop and sent a Facebook message to a stranger.

"Hello Robert. My name is Joseph," it began. "I was born in 1992."

So many of Arriaga's defining memories had built toward this message. There was the time, around third grade, when a cousin blurted out that Arriaga wasn't truly part of their family. The strained follow-up conversations with his mother. His recent gamble in mailing a sample of saliva to Ancestry.com.

In launching his search, Arriaga, 29, was trying to sort out truth from family folklore, attempting to verify or disprove a story about his paternity — a story that had filled him with anger and shame for years. Would a DNA match lead him to a dead man or a felon, or perhaps [See Discovery, A7]



AFP/Getty Images

JOSEPHINE BAKER

The entertainer's remains will be moved to the Panthéon — France's highest honor. **WORLD, A3**

Torrance team is halfway to final

The Little League's beat Hamilton, Ohio, 9-0 to advance in World Series. **SPORTS, D1**

Weather

Low clouds, then sun. L.A. Basin: 79/63. **B6**

Caldor fire tops 100,000 acres

Winds fanning flames east of Sacramento are expected to weaken. **CALIFORNIA, B1**



The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.



T-storm 90/76 • Partly sunny, hot 94/75 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2021 • B2

Tennessee floods kill at least 21 as search for missing continues



MARK HUMPHREY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman looks at debris washed up against a bridge Sunday in Waverly, Tenn. Historic rain swept the state's central region the day before, with one observation site recording 17 inches in 24 hours. Some people were left yelling for help from their rooftops, while others found themselves trapped in vehicles. **Story, A2**

Biden to expand safe zone around airport in Kabul

COMMERCIAL AIRLINES TO AID EVACUATIONS

President aims to speed exit of stranded Americans

BY KAROUN DEMIRJIAN,
JOHN HUDSON,
DAN LAMOTHE
AND ADIELA SULIMAN

President Biden said Sunday that the U.S. military is "executing a plan" to move stranded American citizens to the Kabul airport in greater numbers, including through an expansion of a safe zone around the facility and by creating conduits for people to access the compound "safely and effectively."

"Our first priority in Kabul," Biden said in remarks at the White House, "is getting American citizens out of the country as quickly and as safely as possible." The president would not say how the plan for "increased ra-

tional access to the airport" is being carried out or whether U.S. troops have expanded their perimeter outside the airport and further into Kabul, which could put them at heightened risk of attack from Taliban factions manning security checkpoints and Islamic State operatives who, U.S. officials warn, pose a serious threat.

In recent days, the Qatari ambassador to Afghanistan has escorted small groups of Americans into the airport, according to two people familiar with the effort who, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive operation. American citizens have been instructed to meet at rally points in SEE AFGHANISTAN ON A8

Facing compounding crises, president projects confidence

BY MATT VISER

President Biden, beset by challenges to his credibility and facing the biggest foreign policy crisis of his administration, sought on Sunday to reassert his claim to competent governance while looking ahead to twin crises in coming days: the emergency evacuation of Americans in Afghanistan and a tropical storm pummeling the Northeast.

Speaking at the White House after a weekend meeting with advisers instead of traveling to Delaware, Biden touted the recent success of U.S. forces in ramping up evacuations, suggesting the military might make

additional efforts to retrieve Americans and allowing for the possibility of extending the Aug. 31 deadline for the pullout.

The president also gave a more direct response to criticism that he is showing little empathy for vulnerable Afghans while potentially paving the way for dangerous refugees to enter the United States. He emphasized that all refugees would be fully vetted, and he made a point of voicing compassion for those seeking to flee.

SEE BIDEN ON A10

Comparing words and actions
Taliban assurances are familiar, but Afghans are unconvinced. **A9**

Rifts imperil swift vote on Democrats' budget plan

BY TONY ROMM

House Democrats are preparing to take the first steps Monday toward adopting a roughly \$3.5 trillion spending plan that would enable sweeping changes to the nation's health care, education and tax laws, but new rifts among party lawmakers threaten to stall the package's swift advance.

The budget blueprint encom-

passes many of Democrats' most cherished policy promises from the 2020 campaign, including pledges to expand Medicare, rethink immigration and spend new sums to combat climate change. Its adoption this week would inch Congress closer to delivering on President Biden's broader economic agenda.

But the fate of that vote appears in doubt, as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) continues

to grapple with persistent political divides among her own fractious caucus. Despite wide-ranging support for some of the new spending, the party's liberal and centrist wings remain at odds over how exactly to proceed, raising the potential for defections that Democrats cannot afford in a chamber where they hold only a slim advantage.

The tensions have played out over what should have been a

routine process to bring the budget to a final vote. Nine centrists, led by Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-N.J.), have signaled they could vote against the proposal unless Pelosi first permits a vote on a bipartisan, roughly \$1.2 trillion bill to improve the country's infrastructure. The Senate adopted both packages before its recess this month.

The moderate lawmakers' SEE BUDGET ON A14

In race to vaccinate, U.S. turned to army of consultants

Millions of taxpayer dollars spent with few clear results

BY ISAAC STANLEY BECKER

When Gavin Newsom out-sourced key components of California's vaccine rollout to the private sector during the pandemic's darkest days last winter, the Democratic governor promised the changes would benefit the most vulnerable.

His "number one" reason for handing the reins to Blue Shield of California, an Oakland-based health insurance company, was "equity" — delivering vaccine doses to those at greatest risk, many in communities of color, he said in February.

But the \$15 million contract with Blue Shield, plus another

\$13 million for McKinsey, did not deliver on that promise, according to state and county officials, as well as public health experts.

"Equity is a useful catchphrase, but the work was either nonexistent or completely nontransparent," said Kim Rhoads, a health advocate and physician researcher at the University of California at San Francisco. About 45 percent of eligible Black residents and Latino residents are fully vaccinated in California, according to state data, compared with nearly 60 percent of the eligible White population. "The numbers speak for themselves," Rhoads said.

California wasn't alone in using private contractors to manage the vaccination campaign. At least 25 states, along with federal agencies and many cities and counties, hired consulting firms, according to a Washington Post tally. The American vaccination drive came to rely on global behemoths such

SEE VIRUS ON A4

For Appalachian Trail, a pandemic of popularity

BY LIZZIE JOHNSON



AMANDA ANDRACE/RHODES FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A view on the Appalachian Trail's Roller Coaster in Bluemont, Va. Hikers have taken a toll on the trail.

The beautiful days are the worst at the Roller Coaster.

When the skies are blue and the weather is cool, day hikers descend on this rolling 13.5-mile section of the Appalachian Trail, which cuts from Ashby Gap to Snickers Gap in Virginia. By 9 a.m., the gravel lots are crammed with cars. And by noon, the stragglers — anxious to get on the trail — park on the highway shoulder, or illegally on residential streets.

Sometimes the day-trippers carry loud stereos in their backpacks, or discard paper coffee cups, dog poop bags and other trash on the trail. When they run out of food and water or get lost, the paramedics are summoned.

Even before the worst public health crisis in a century, more than 3 million people a year hiked parts of the 2,200-mile Appalachian Trail, which runs

SEE TRAIL ON A12

IN THE NEWS



Henri swamps East Coast The storm left more than 120,000 homes without power and triggered flash-flood warnings. **A3**

'Opportunity' at U-Md. A year in, President Daryl J. Pines remains optimistic despite institutional challenges old and new. **B1**

THE WORLD
In China, where succulents have been growing in popularity for nearly a decade, hundreds of thousands of people are now logging on daily to admire the plants via live-streaming. **A6**

THE ECONOMY
Artificial intelligence gave actor Val Kilmer his voice back after a surgery for throat cancer, but critics worry the digital cloning technology could be misused. **A15**

THE REGION
The Washington region's local govern-

ments, schools and police are among institutions vulnerable to cyberattacks, experts warn. **B1**

A Maryland man turned to arson, threatening messages and eventually a murder-for-hire plot while trying to collect money from a Baltimore County restaurant owner and his business partner, prosecutors say. **B1**

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) said he had received a third dose of a coronavirus vaccine and argued that Maryland is ready to start doling out booster shots

almost immediately, not a month from now. **B4**

OBITUARIES
Don Everly, 84, influenced generations of rock performers as one-half of the Everly Brothers duo. **B6**

THE WEEK AHEAD
MONDAY
Vice President Harris visits Singapore. **The House** returns from its August recess.

TUESDAY
Vice President Harris visits Singapore and Vietnam. **Second gentleman** Doug Emhoff is in Tokyo for the Paralympic Games.

New York Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul (D) becomes governor.

WEDNESDAY
President Biden meets with others to discuss improving the nation's cybersecurity. **Durable-goods** orders for July are expected to decrease by 0.2 percent.

THURSDAY
Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett visits the White House. **Jobless claims** for the week ended Aug. 21 are estimated at 340,000.

FRIDAY
Personal income for July is expected to show a gain of 0.3 percent.

INSIDE



STYLE
A pageant's pivot
The competition for Miss America 1984 was business as usual — until everyone got a look at Vanessa Williams. **C1**

On a sour note
Tropical Storm Henri cut short New York's big "Homecoming Concert," thwarting a pandemic-era show of optimism. **C1**

BUSINESS NEWS	A15
COMICS	C8
CRIME/PAGES	A16
LOTTERIES	B3
OBITUARIES	B6
TELEVISION	C4
WORLD NEWS	A6



Se complica el éxodo desde Afganistán

Biden pidió ayuda a las aerolíneas comerciales para facilitar la salida de Kabul; crece la desesperación por huir del régimen talibán. **Página 2**



OPINIÓN

¿Y SI LOS CARPINCHOS NO MILITAN EN EL KIRCHNERISMO?

Luciano Román

—LA NACION—

Página 25

TERMINÓ EN UNA TRAGEDIA UN VUELO A PUNTA DEL ESTE

—seguridad

El avión había partido de San Fernando con dos tripulantes; se estrelló en territorio uruguayo; las víctimas tenían 22 y 27 años. **Página 26**

LA NACION

LUNES 23 DE AGOSTO DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

Alerta por las dificultades para reunir autoridades de mesa

ELECCIONES. Fueron devueltos más de la mitad de los telegramas enviados en la provincia de Buenos Aires; lo atribuyen a los temores por la pandemia y a la apatía

Más de la mitad de los telegramas enviados para convocar a autoridades de mesa en la provincia de Buenos Aires volvieron rechazados. La negativa encendió luces de alerta ante las dificultades para fiscalizar los comicios en el contexto de los resquemores por la pandemia.

La provincia de Buenos Aires, que tiene bajo su órbita el padrón electoral más grande del país, fue la primera en enviar los telegramas.

De 74.000 girados inicialmente, alrededor de 35.000 debieron ser reenviados ante los rechazos, y en un nuevo intento de completar las autoridades en los comicios.

Además de la pandemia, las dificultades para convocar a las autoridades que deben controlar los comicios aparecen, también, en un contexto en que los encuestadores advierten sobre un alto nivel de apatía de cara a las próximas elecciones. **Página 8**

EL ESCENARIO

Cinco indicadores que obsesionan al oficialismo

Claudio Jacquelin

—LA NACION—

Página 9

EL PULSO DEL CONSUMO

Una sociedad aturrida y encriptada

Guillermo Oliveto

—PARA LA NACION—

Página 17

La variante delta, un enigma: no se sabe cuántos contagios hay

COVID. El último informe es del 9 de agosto; murió el "caso cero" de Córdoba

Tras confirmarse el primer caso mortal asociado con la variante delta en Córdoba, ayer se desconocía la cifra total de contagios detectados hasta el momento en el país con esa variante de coronavirus e incluso qué proporción representan en los

positivos que se van informando.

El último reporte oficial sobre muestras secuenciadas corresponde al 9 de agosto, cuando habían sido confirmados 125 casos de delta. Al ser consultado, ayer el Ministerio de Salud de la Nación

volvió a remitir a ese documento.

En tanto, los especialistas no descartan que ya haya circulación comunitaria y coinciden en la necesidad de reforzar la vigilancia, aumentar los tests y la secuenciación, y acelerar la vacunación. **Página 22**

Pechito López, héroe en las 24 Horas de Le Mans

deportes—"Ser parte de esto es increíble. Sinceramente, es un sueño hecho realidad", confesó José María "Pechito" López, que, con Toyota, ganó la mítica carrera, como Froilán González en 1954.



Pechito López, con la bandera, festeja junto al británico Mike Conway y al japonés Kamui Kobayashi. **AFP**



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LOS ACCIONISTAS DE BANCO SANTANDER RÍO S.A. NO RESPONDEN EN EXCESO DE SU INTEGRACIÓN ACCIONARIA.

Santander

Queimadas no Pantanal alcançam o nível recorde

Sob o terceiro ano seguido de seca e o impacto de geadas, o Pantanal já registra o mesmo patamar de área destruída pelo fogo do ano passado, quando viveu o pior desastre ambiental da história, relatam **Fabiano Maisonnave** e **Lalo de Almeida**.

De janeiro até sábado (21), 261.800 hectares haviam sido atingidos pelas chamas, quase duas cidades do Rio, diz o Lasa, laboratório da UFRJ. **Ambiente B5**

PAINEL

Doria decide que Paulista em 7/9 é de bolsonaristas

O governador de São Paulo, João Doria (PSDB), definiu que a avenida Paulista será ocupada apenas por movimentos bolsonaristas no feriado de 7 de Setembro. Eles teriam solicitado antes, segundo o governo paulista. Já os grupos contrários ao presidente Jair Bolsonaro poderão utilizar a via no dia 12. **Poder A4**

Governador de SP dá verba à base pró-pacote fiscal

Poder A5

Estrangeiros ficam presos em limbo na porta da Europa

Lituânia, Letônia e Polônia vetam a entrada de 4.000 estrangeiros vindos da Belarus, relata a enviada **Ana Estela de Sousa Pinto** à capital lituana, Vilnius.

São pessoas barradas em uma "zona de ninguém". Desde o último dia 3, quando a Lituânia proibiu a chegada de egressos da Belarus, mais de 1.500 foram impedidos de entrar no país báltico. **Mundo A10**

Ronaldo Lemos

País vive onda de sequestros de dados online

Está em curso uma pandemia de ataques de ransomware, sequestros de dados com exigência de resgates. Com ação muito profissional, há até call centers para falar com quem ataca. **A16**

mpme A18

Negócios no litoral de SP têm impulso com trabalhadores em home office

Ilustrada C1

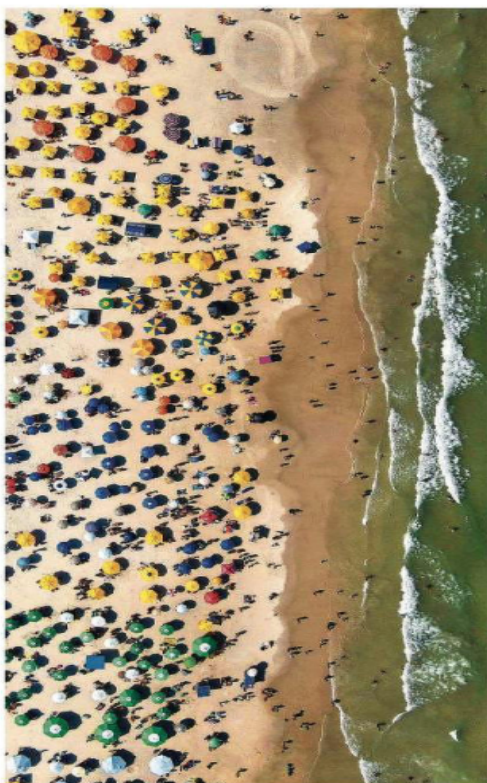
Em Bilbao, mostra no Guggenheim celebra os anos 1920 e como ainda ecoam



@prefdefranco no Twitter

INCÊNDIO ATINGE ÁREA DE CERRADO NA GRANDE SP, E FULIGEM CHEGA À CAPITAL

Fogo no Parque Estadual do Juqueri, em Franco da Rocha, que começou após queda de balão, diz prefeitura; tempo seco ajuda a alastrar chamas **Ambiente B5**



Eduardo Arizelli/Folhapress

NA PRAIA, NO BAR, NA AVENIDA

Banhistas na praia da Enseada, em Guarujá; no primeiro fim de semana sem restrições de horário nos bares em SP, público lotou restaurantes, parques, a Paulista e o litoral **Cotidiano B3**

EDITORIAIS A2

Avanço trabalhista
Em defesa de revisão de texto votado na Câmara.

Morticínio impune
Acerca de caso de violência policial em 1994, no Rio.

ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje



Bia Braune

Como não amar as palavras do dicionário?

Eu me apaixonei por "inconstitucionalissimamente", achando ser a maior da nossa língua. Até que descobri a recordista e suas 46 letras que mal cabem numa linha única do dicionário. Lá vai: "pneumotramicroscopossilicovolcanoconítico". **Ilustrada C7**

Juíza rejeita denúncia contra Lula no caso do sítio de Atibaia

Justiça do DF aponta falhas na acusação da Procuradoria, fruto da Lava Jato, e declara punição extinta; cabe recurso

A juíza Pollyanna Kelly Maciel Medeiros Martins Alves, da 12ª Vara Federal Criminal de Brasília, rejeitou denúncia rerepresentada pelo Ministério Público Federal contra o ex-presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (PT) no caso do sítio de Atibaia, fruto da Operação Lava Jato.

A magistrada afirmou que a Procuradoria deixou de fazer "a adequação da peça acusatória" às recentes decisões tomadas pelo Supremo. Ela ainda extinguiu punição a Lula em razão de prescrição de pena. O Ministério Público não comentou a decisão. Cabe recurso.

Alves refutou a denúncia contra os demais envolvidos no caso, então sob o comando de Sérgio Moro. Ela não se manifestou sobre o mérito das acusações — se Lula é culpado ou não de suposto favorecimento às empresas OAS e Odebrecht em troca de reforma no sítio. **Poder A6**

Total da população vacinada

	ao menos uma dose*	totalmente vacinada*
Brasil	59,9 %	26,0 %
MS	71,2%	40,7%
SP	73,5%	32,4%
RS	65,3%	31,9%

Totalmente vacinada



	1ª	2ª	única
Brasil	122,8 mi	51 mi	4,1 mi
1ª SP	32,9 mi	13,9 mi	1,1 mi
2ª MG	11,8 mi	4,7 mi	471,6 mil
3ª RJ	9,6 mi	4,1 mi	315,9 mil

Números da pandemia

	Casos	Óbitos
Total	20,6 mi	574,6 mil
Méd. móvel	29,5 mil	765
Variação***	-9,3%	-15,2%
Em 24 h	14,2 mil	331

Estágios



Brasil

Desacelerado
Dados das 20h de 22 ago
* Tomou dose única ou 1ª dose
** Tomou dose única ou 2ª dose
*** Em relação a 14 dias

Crise fiscal e clima eleitoral ameaçam novas privatizações

Com a deterioração do ambiente fiscal e econômico, em boa parte motivada pela antecipação da disputa eleitoral do ano que vem, investidores estrangeiros passaram a rever o apetite por projetos no Brasil.

Fundos de investimento, de pensão e operadores internacionais estudavam participar das concorrências, mas decidiram esperar pelo próximo presidente.

O grupo se ampara em projeções que indicam um crescimento da economia em patamares baixos.

Um dos motivos é a reforma tributária: sem mudanças nesse campo, o governo terá que aumentar impostos, já que pelo lado das despesas não houve avanços.

Diante desse quadro, os certames deverão atrair principalmente grupos que já atuam no país. **Mercado A14**

TCU investiga seguro de vacinas por R\$ 24 milhões

O Tribunal de Contas da União investiga se há irregularidades na contratação do Ministério da Saúde, sem licitação, de seguro internacional de R\$ 24 milhões para cobrir responsabilidades por eventos adversos das vacinas da Janssen e da Pfizer. O contrato foi fechado sem licitação e com pagamento antecipado por consultores que não têm cargo no governo. **Cotidiano B1**

ENTREVISTA DA 2ª

Julio Croda

Terceira dose da vacina nos idosos é para ontem

A vacinação ainda lenta e a circulação da variante delta, mais contagiosa, impõem a aplicação de dose de reforço nos mais vulneráveis, diz o infectologista Julio Croda, da Fiocruz. "A questão da idade é para ontem, porque já vemos um aumento de hospitalizações, principalmente nessa faixa etária." **B2**



En 16 casos identificados, sueldos totalizan mensualmente G. 534 millones

Militares de oro retirados ganan millonadas en las binacionales

Aparte de percibir sus jubilaciones, reciben jugosos salarios en Itaipú y Yacyretá, que rondan entre G. 15 millones y G. 53 millones. En primer ente citado también cobran por alimentación.

PÁGINA 6

En Capital, 38 de 45 son funcionarios

En su gran mayoría los presidentes de seccionales ocupan cargos en el Estado

PÁGINAS 4 y 5

Relajamiento de las medidas sanitarias

Las fiestas clandestinas y los desmanes ponen en riesgo control de pandemia

PÁGINA 2

Expertos de Gafilat inician evaluación

Paraguay afronta desde hoy prueba clave antilavado

PÁGINA 10

Teniendo en cuenta informes de la SET

Caso OGD: Está pendiente investigar evasión fiscal

PÁGINA 36



Fuego devora áreas protegidas



Amambay. El incendio en el Parque Cerro Corá cortó ayer el tránsito en la ruta PY05. Reservas de Caazapá y Concepción también fueron afectadas.

PÁGINAS 11, 15 y 17

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LE FIGARO

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



INNOVATIONS
CES TECHNOLOGIES DE
DEMAIN POUR DÉCARBONER
L'ÉCONOMIE PAGE 22

JOSÉPHINE BAKER
LA STAR ET RÉSISTANTE
FRANCO-AMÉRICAINE
ENTRE AU PANTHÉON PAGE 13



L'ÉTÉ
DU FIGARO

CES ÉCRIVAINS
QUI AIMENT
LA FRANCE

PAULE CONSTANT
ET AIX-
EN-PROVENCE
PAGE 20

LES GRANDES
ERREURS
ÉCONOMIQUES
L'AGRICULTURE,
FAIBLESSE
DE L'EMPIRE
ROMAIN
PAGE 24

JEUX D'ÉTÉ PAGE 16

PRÉSIDENTIELLE
Quand le couple
devient
un argument
de campagne
PAGE 7

AFGHANISTAN
Le mollah Baradar,
nouveau visage
des talibans
PAGE 8

ÉDUCATION
Blanquer veut une
rentrée « la plus
normale possible »
PAGE 10

CHAMPS LIBRES
• À Étretat,
à la pêche
à la tête
• Un entretien
avec Pierre
Lellouche
• La tribune
d'Andrzej Duda
et Volodymyr
Zelensky
PAGES 18 ET 19

FIGARO OUI
FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question
de samedi :
Approuvez-vous
les maires qui s'engagent
à accueillir des réfugiés
afghans dans leur ville ?

OUI
28% **NON**
72%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 212 027

Votez aujourd'hui
sur lefigaro.fr
Approuvez-vous l'entrée
de Joséphine Baker
au Panthéon ?

STUDIO HARCOURT/RMN-GRAND
PALAIS VIA AFP-PETRMALINAK/
SHUTTERSTOCK

L'Ukraine tente de sortir la Crimée de l'oubli

Kiev organise un sommet international pour remettre la pression sur la Russie, sept ans après l'annexion de la péninsule. Un affichage qui a aussi des visées électorales pour le président Zelensky.

Rattachée à la Russie en à peine quelques semaines lors du conflit de 2014, la Crimée « a quitté l'agenda politique international », déclare au Figaro Oleksiy Reznikov, vice-premier ministre ukrainien. Le

sommet qu'organise Kiev sur la péninsule ce lundi, baptisé « Plateforme de Crimée », vise à accroître la pression internationale sur Moscou, notamment par le biais de sanctions. Une quarantaine de

délégations y participeront, alors que l'Ukraine fête en grande pompe mardi le trentième anniversaire de son indépendance. Mais le Kremlin campe sur ses positions et traite l'événement par le mé-

pris. Le faible impact attendu de cette mobilisation tranche avec la volonté du président Volodymyr Zelensky de remobiliser son électorat face au blocage des négociations sur le Donbass.

→ MOSCOU « N'ABANDONNERA JAMAIS » LA PÉNINSULE
MAIS CRAINT LES SANCTIONS
→ LA CRIMÉE ASSÈCHÉE
PAR LA GUERRE DE L'EAU
ENTRE KIEV ET MOSCOU
PAGES 2, 4 ET 19



La flotte s'est élancée dimanche en fin de journée de Saint-Nazaire pour une première étape longue de 627 milles, direction Lorient, où les premiers skippers devraient franchir la ligne d'arrivée jeudi. PAGE 12

Trente-quatre
skippers
à l'assaut
de la Solitaire
du Figaro

Sandrine
Rousseau,
la nouvelle
tentation
radicale
des Verts

Depuis des mois, elle ne cesse de le répéter : elle sera la surprise de la primaire des écologistes, dont les deux candidats favoris sont Yannick Jadot et Éric Piolle. Pour se démarquer, Sandrine Rousseau n'hésite pas à s'afficher comme la plus radicale des cinq concurrents. Elle se définit elle-même comme « écoféministe ». Son entourage parie que ce choix de la radicalité fera mouche auprès des militants d'EELV, par tradition ancrés à gauche. PAGE 6 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

ÉDITORIAL par Yves Thérard yththread@lefigaro.fr

Verts de rage

On n'est jamais déçu avec les écologistes français. Depuis 1974 et la candidature de René Dumont, ils assurent le spectacle des campagnes présidentielles. À défaut de bien figurer à la sortie des urnes, ils savent faire parler d'eux, malheureusement pas pour le meilleur. Ils ont le génie de l'extravagance, comme si la défense de l'environnement était un passeport pour l'inconséquence. La preuve en a encore été apportée à l'occasion de leur université d'été, organisée ces jours-ci à Poitiers. Entre décroissance et intersectionnalité, l'événement a donné lieu à un concours Lépine de propositions plus invraisemblables les uns que les autres.

Sans doute est-ce Sandrine Rousseau qui a remporté la palme. L'écoféministe revendiquée semble bien partie pour gagner la primaire qui doit choisir, en septembre, le candidat des écologistes à l'élection suprême. Car ces derniers font toujours de la radicalité une condition de la sélection de leur champion : il faut qu'il soit vert de rage contre à peu près tout le monde. C'est ainsi qu'Eva Joly avait été préférée à Nicolas Hulot pour les représenter en 2012. Sandrine Rousseau,

veut en finir avec notre « société patriarcale », notre « époque de souillure ». Elle en appelle à la « révolution » pour mettre à bas « notre système économique, social et sociétal fondé sur le triptyque : nous prenons, nous utilisons et nous jetons. Le corps des femmes, le corps des plus précaires dans la société, le corps des racisés. Nous ne voulons plus de ce système-là ». On le voit : la clarté du propos n'est pas l'essentiel, beaucoup plus importante est l'expression d'une colère, même sans rapport avec le dérèglement climatique.

Le concours
Lépine des
écologistes

À côté, les « gentils » prêches de Yannick Jadot paraissent évidemment bien fades et naïfs. Ses discours pour une écologie de gouvernement, un tantinet réalistes, ont peu de chances d'être entendus. C'est en cela que les écologistes français, indépassables idéologues, sont très différents de leurs homologues allemands, qui, eux, pourraient monter sur la plus haute marche du pouvoir à l'automne, après le départ d'Angela Merkel. ■



PASSEZ L'ESPOIR
ET SAUVEZ LA VIE
D'UN ENFANT

Les enfants ont tous le même langage pour dire « l'espoir ».

Depuis toujours, d'où qu'ils viennent, ils le dessinent, rond comme un soleil, ils savent le faire rayonner par-delà les frontières pour le partager avec ceux qui ont le plus besoin de soins. Oui, comme les enfants, nous pouvons tous passer l'espoir et c'est cette Chaîne de l'Espoir qui, chaque année, soigne, opère et sauve 235 000 enfants dans 27 pays.

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No 10 plea to Biden after Taliban show of strength

Labour sets out plan for benefits overhaul

Patrick Butler
Social policy editor

Labour will pledge a major overhaul of the universal credit system today by allowing low-income workers to earn more without having welfare payments cut, in a move potentially costing billions of pounds annually.

The shadow work and pensions secretary, Jonathan Reynolds, is expected to promise to "make work pay" as part of a wider strategy to create "jobs you can raise a family on".

The pledge is the first element of what is expected in time to be a significant overhaul of the work and social security system, including the universal credit scheme currently used by about 6 million people, as part of a "new deal" for working people.

The party will also step up calls for the retention of the £20-a-week uplift to universal credit, introduced as a Covid measure in April 2020. The government intends to remove the uplift in October, leaving claimants about £1,000 a year worse off.

Reynolds is to propose a reduction in the universal credit taper rate, now set at 63%. This means that for every £1 earned above a claimant's work allowance, 63p

2 →



PM will voice anxiety amid fears over the pace of evacuation

Dan Sabbagh
Peter Beaumont
Peter Walker

Boris Johnson will personally lobby Joe Biden at the G7 leaders summit, No 10 said last night, pleading with him to keep US troops at Kabul airport beyond the end of August, after a weekend of tension between the UK and its closest ally.

With the Taliban tightening their grip at the airport, Downing Street confirmed the prime minister would lobby the president tomorrow. The news came as Taliban forces sought to assert their authority, blaming the

US for the "anarchy" at the airport and insisting they were the only ones capable of restoring order. Throughout the day, Taliban fighters fired their guns into the air and used batons to force people into orderly queues in an attempt to halt the desperate scenes in which at least 20 people have died.

No 10 confirmed last night that Johnson would ask the US president to maintain a presence after 31 August. It is feared thousands of people with British connections could miss the chance to escape.

At a press conference last night, Biden suggested that the date for ending evacuations could be pushed back, saying discussions were ongoing, though he added: "Our hope is we will not have to extend."

A British minister said the flow of people outside the airport had improved as a result of the group's intervention, allowing the pace of the

▲ A Taliban guard at the airport in Kabul as Afghans gather to flee

PHOTOGRAPH: BASHIR DARWISH/UP/REX

UK evacuation to increase. The Times reported last night that the RAF had already extended its own evacuation deadline. It was planned to end tomorrow but would now be Friday or Saturday, the paper said.

James Heappey, the armed forces minister, said the Taliban were "marshalling people into separate queues for the US evacuation and the UK evacuation, and that is making a big difference to the size of the crowds outside the UK gate and allowing us to process people much more quickly".

The Taliban accused the US, which is holding the airport with 5,200 troops, of failing to keep control properly - though it is Taliban fighters who have beaten and shot at those trying to access the site.

Amir Khan Muttaqi, the chief of the Taliban's guidance council, said: "All Afghanistan is secure, but the airport, which is managed by the Americans, has anarchy. The US should not defame itself, should not embarrass itself to the world and should not give this mentality to our people that [the Taliban] are a kind of enemy."

In his press conference Biden said the US had expanded its perimeter around the airport to accelerate the evacuations. He said the Taliban had cooperated with those efforts.

It remains unclear how long the US will remain at the airport, though it emerged yesterday that Britain had previously been desperately lobbying the Biden administration for it to consider staying on past its previously announced deadline - to no avail.

Heappey said that the foreign secretary, Dominic Raab, under fire for his own



Don Everly
Tributes to pop legend

Stars salute music pioneer after his death in Nashville this weekend, aged 84

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