



What's News

World-Wide

Biden called on House Democrats to hold off on voting on a roughly \$1 trillion infrastructure bill until after they reach agreement on a separate social-policy and climate measure, moving to again delay final passage of a central piece of his agenda in a bid to unify restive Democrats. A1, A4

◆ **Merck and partner Ridgeback said their experimental Covid-19 pill helped prevent high-risk people early in the course of the disease in a pivotal study from becoming seriously ill and dying. A1**

◆ **All eligible students in California will be required to get vaccinated against Covid-19, Gov. Newsom said, marking the first such mandate in a U.S. state. A6**

◆ **The Delta variant's deadly surge through the U.S. is leveling off, another sign that the nation's most recent wave has crested. A6**

◆ **The humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia's Tigray region continues to escalate, with only a fraction of needed aid allowed to enter, the United Nations said. A7**

◆ **German Catholic bishops and lay leaders called for their church to bless same-sex relationships, challenging a Vatican ban. A8**

◆ **Died: John Rigas, 96, Adelphia founder who went to prison for fraud. A9**

Business & Finance

◆ **Google is abandoning plans to pitch bank accounts to its users, marking a retreat from an effort to make the tech giant a bigger name in finance. A1**

◆ **China is struggling with widespread power shortfalls, dealing a blow to the recovery of the world's second-largest economy. A1**

◆ **For the second quarter in a row, Toyota has outsold GM in the U.S., illustrating how a continuing computer-chip shortage is upending the usual sales pecking order. B1**

◆ **The Biden administration is considering ways to impose bank-like regulation on the cryptocurrency companies that issue stablecoins. B1**

◆ **Consumer spending in the U.S. picked up in August, a sign that the economic recovery is gaining steam heading into the fall. A2**

◆ **U.S. stocks rose, with the Dow, S&P 500 and Nasdaq gaining 1.4%, 1.1% and 0.8%, respectively. B11**

◆ **OPEC's secretary-general warned of more energy shortages unless the world boosts investment in new oil-and-gas development. B10**

◆ **Consumer prices in the eurozone rose at the fastest pace in 13 years during September. A7**

NOONAN
Will Biden's Fall Be Worse Than His Summer? A13

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China Celebrates 72nd Anniversary of the People's Republic



SHOWING THE FLAG: Festivities at an aerospace achievement exhibition in Wuhan were among the celebrations across China on Friday for the country's National Day holiday. Beijing marked the occasion by sending fighter jets toward Taiwan. A8

Merck Covid-19 Pill Cuts Risks Of Hospitalizations and Death

BY JARED S. HOPKINS
AND BETSY MCKAY

Merck & Co. and its partner Ridgeback Biotherapeutics LP said their experimental Covid-19 pill helped prevent high-risk people early in the course of the disease in a pivotal study from becoming seriously ill and dying, a big step toward providing the pandemic's first easy-to-use, at-home treatment.

The pill cut the risk of hospitalization or death in study subjects with mild to moderate Covid-19 by about 50%, the companies said Friday. The drug, called molnupiravir, was performing so well in its late-stage trial that Merck and Ridgeback said they stopped enrolling subjects after discussions with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The results put molnupiravir on track potentially to be

authorized by the end of the year and to finally provide an option for doctors who have spent the pandemic seeking a drug that infected people could easily take at home to prevent them from becoming hospitalized. Merck plans to ask the FDA to authorize the drug's use in the coming weeks, Chief Executive Rob Davis said. If cleared by regulators, the drug would be the first oral

antiviral for Covid-19. Within five days of showing symptoms, people would take eight pills daily for five days, if they followed the same protocol used in the study. Molnupiravir would become a kind of Tamiflu for Covid-19. Please turn to page A6

◆ **California to require Covid-19 shots for eligible students... A6**

◆ **More airlines mandate vaccinations for workers... B3**

Google Drops Plan to Offer Bank Accounts to Its Users

Google is abandoning plans to pitch bank accounts to its users, marking a retreat from an effort to make the tech giant a bigger name in finance.

By Peter Rudegeair,
David Benoit
and Andrew Ackerman

The Alphabet Inc. unit announced almost two years ago that users of its Google Pay digital wallet would be able to sign up for enhanced checking accounts and debit cards at a handful of financial institutions large and small, including Citigroup Inc. and Stanford Federal Credit Union.

The new offerings, called

Plex accounts, would sync with Google Pay, carry both Google and bank branding and provide a digital dashboard of where and how users spent and saved. Plex was billed as a new way to bank, with an emphasis on simplicity and financial wellness and without monthly or overdraft fees. The project was initially expected to debut in 2020. A series of missed deadlines, along with the April departure of the Google Pay executive who championed the project, prompted Google to pull the plug on Plex, people familiar with the matter said. A Google spokeswoman said the company would now focus

primarily on "delivering digital enablement for banks and other financial services providers rather than us serving as the provider of these services." Google pushed into financial products alongside a number of Silicon Valley giants looking to deepen their ties to their legions of customers. Amazon.com Inc. considered offering checking accounts. Apple Inc. released a credit card that paired with the iPhone. Facebook Inc. announced it would create a new cryptocurrency that would facilitate money transfers and commerce. Many of those ex-

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the facebook files
Seventh in a series

Is Sheryl Sandberg's Power Shrinking? Ten Years Of Facebook Data Offers Clues

A10

China's Power Crunch Ripples Around World

HONG KONG—China is struggling with widespread power shortfalls, dealing a blow to the recovery of the second-largest economy and risking disruption to global supply chains and

By Stella Yifan Xie,
Sha Hua
and Chui-Wei Yap

heightened inflationary pressure around the world. The power crunch, on a scale unseen in more than a decade, highlights how Beijing's changing policy priorities, including its effort to limit emissions, can ripple through a global economy reshaped by the pandemic. "There'll be a cascading effect," said Mike Beckham, Okla-

homa-based co-founder and CEO of Simple Modern, which makes products such as insulated water bottles and backpacks. "As we started to comprehend the ramifications of what's happening, we realized that this is potentially bigger than anything we've seen in our business careers." Last week, one of Mr. Beckham's main suppliers, based in Quzhou city in eastern China, was told by the local government that it could only operate four days a week, instead of six. It also must adhere to a power-usage cap, which cuts the factory's capacity by about a third. Mr. Beckham anticipates U.S. retail prices for many products

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EXCHANGE



GAME ON
How Apple quietly became one of the world's biggest videogame companies. B1

Pandemic's Peloton Obsession Turns to Peloton Fatigue

Even die-hard riders are idling their web-linked bikes for fun outdoors

By JEN MURPHY

Meghan Rabbitt's Peloton bike sits unused for weeks at a time at her home office in Boulder, Colo. In the worst of the pandemic, she rode every day. "The workouts were such a mood boost," she said. Since getting vaccinated in spring, her indoor rides fell to once a week, then it was every three weeks. "I hit the Peloton so hard during the pandemic that I

craved variety," Ms. Rabbitt said. The 42-year-old multimedia freelancer prefers hiking up the nearby Mount Sanitas Trail and being back at the gym. "I glance at it and think, 'That was an expensive machine that I should probably use,'" Ms. Rabbitt said. The web-connected exercise bikes from Peloton Interactive Inc. start at \$1,495 with the option to pay \$39 a month for live-

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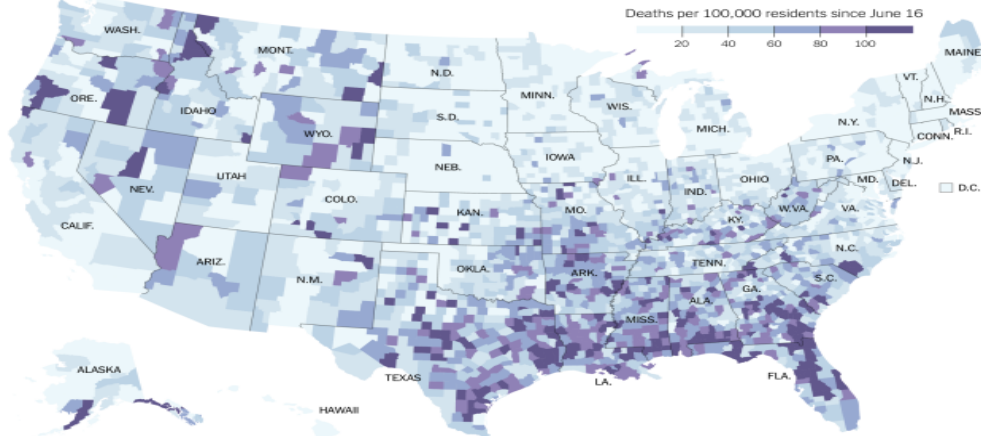
Stuck at home.

FT WEEKEND MAGAZINE SPECIAL

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Where Recent Covid Deaths Took Place

Covid deaths surpassed 700,000 on Friday. This map shows deaths since June 16, the day the United States reached 600,000 deaths, according to a New York Times database.



Source: New York Times database of reports from state and local health agencies. Data is as of Sept. 29.

LAUREN LEATHERBY AND BILL MARSH/THE NEW YORK TIMES

As Delta Variant Plows Through U.S., Death Toll Tops 700,000

By JULIE BOSMAN
and LAUREN LEATHERBY

The United States surpassed 700,000 deaths from the coronavirus on Friday, a milestone that few experts had anticipated months ago when vaccines became widely available to the American public. An overwhelming majority of Americans who have died in recent months, a period in which the country has offered broad access to shots, were unvaccinated. The United States has had one of the highest recent death rates of any country with an ample supply of vaccines.

The new and alarming surge of deaths this summer means that the coronavirus pandemic has become the deadliest in American history, overtaking the toll from the influenza pandemic of 1918 and 1919, which killed about 675,000 people.

"This Delta wave just rips through the unvaccinated," said Howard Markel, a medical historian at the University of Michigan. The deaths that have followed the wide availability of vaccines, he added, are "absolutely needless."

The recent virus deaths are distinct from those in previous chapters of the pandemic, an analysis by The New York Times shows. People who died in the last three and a half months were concentrated in the South, a region that has lagged in vaccinations; many of the deaths were reported in Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas. And those who died were younger: In August, ev-

ery age group under 55 had its highest death toll of the pandemic. That month, Brandee Stripling, a bartender in Cottondale, Ala., told her boss that she felt as if she had been run over by a freight train.

Ms. Stripling, a 38-year-old single mother, had not been vaccinated against the coronavirus, and now she had tested positive. Get some rest, her boss, Justin Grimbail, reassured her.

"I thought she would pull

Recent Victims Were Mostly Unvaccinated

through and get back to work and keep on living," Mr. Grimbail said. Last week, he stood in a cemetery as Ms. Stripling was buried in her family plot. A pastor spoke comforting words, her children clutched one another in grief and a country song, "If I Die Young,"

played in the background.

Her death came in the virus surge that gripped the country all summer, as the Delta variant hurtled through the South, Pacific Northwest and parts of the Midwest. Close to 100,000 people across the United States have died of Covid-19 since mid-June, months after vaccines were available to American adults.

The United States government has not closely tracked the vacci-

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The Pace of Covid's Toll

Despite months of vaccination efforts, deaths in the United States have accelerated.

Feb. 29, 2020:
First report of a U.S. death

89 days
to reach
100,000
U.S. deaths

118 days
to reach
200,000

83 days
to reach
300,000

36 days
to reach
400,000

34 days
to reach
500,000

114 days
to reach
600,000

107 days
to reach
700,000

Source: New York Times database of reports from state and local health agencies; data as of 8 p.m. Oct. 1.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Merck Says Antiviral Pill Is First To Effectively Cut Covid Danger

By REBECCA ROBBINS

The drug maker Merck said on Friday that its pill to treat Covid-19 was shown in a key clinical trial to halve the risk of hospitalization or death when given to high-risk people early in their infections.

The strong results suggest that a new wave of effective and easy-to-use treatments for Covid will gradually become available in the United States, though supply is likely to be limited at first. Merck said it would seek emergency authorization from the Food and Drug Administration for its drug, known as molnupiravir, as soon as possible. The pills could be available by late this year.

Merck's drug would be the first

Drug Maker Will Seek F.D.A. Authorization

pill to treat Covid-19; it is likely to be followed by a number of other antiviral pills that other companies are racing to bring to market. They have the potential to reach more people than the antibody treatments that are being widely used in the United States for high-risk patients.

"I think it will translate into many thousands of lives being saved worldwide, where there's less access to monoclonal antibodies, and in this country, too," said Dr. Robert Shafer, an infectious disease specialist at Stanford Uni-

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New York Fire Officials Acted After Racism Spread Last Year

By ASTEAD W. HERNDON
and ALI WATKINS

When his fellow cadets at the fire academy gave Kareem Charles a racist nickname in 2015, he said, he chose not to "escalate the issue." Black firefighters had warned him that speaking up about racism went against the culture at the New York City Fire Department.

But after the murder of George Floyd more than a year ago touched off protests against racism and violence in policing, the culture inside New York City's firehouses deteriorated beyond repair, Mr. Charles and other Black firefighters said.

White firefighters shared racist messages and memes on their

Nine Suspensions, but 'a Long Way to Go'

phones mocking Mr. Floyd's dying moments. They gloated about how the police could "legally shoot Black children." And lieutenants discussed turning fire hoses on protesters, prompting debates about whether the tactic would work, because "wild animals like water."

After several Black firefighters saw the messages and complained, the department quietly suspended nine firefighters without pay, for periods ranging from a few days to six months. One of the

Continued on Page A13

Biden Tells Democrats Infrastructure Hinges On a Social Policy Bill

'We're Going to Get This Done,' He Says, Despite Divisions in the Party

By JONATHAN WEISMAN and EMILY COCHRANE

WASHINGTON — President Biden, facing an intraparty battle over his domestic agenda, put his own \$1 trillion infrastructure bill on hold on Friday, telling Democrats that a vote on the popular measure must wait until Democrats pass his far more ambitious social policy and climate change package.

In a closed-door meeting on Capitol Hill, Mr. Biden told Democrats for the first time that keeping his two top legislative priorities together had become "just reality." And he conceded that reaching a deal between the divided factions on his domestic agenda could take weeks.

"I'm telling you, we're going to get this done," Mr. Biden told reporters Friday afternoon, appearing hand-in-hand with Speaker Nancy Pelosi after he left the gathering with Democrats. He added: "It doesn't matter when. It doesn't matter whether it's in six minutes, six days or six weeks. We're going to get it done."

The decision was a blow to his party's moderate wing, the driver behind efforts to separate the measures and score a quick victory on the traditional roads-and-bridges bill its members badly wanted to begin campaigning on. It was a win for the liberal flank, which has blocked any action on that bill until Senate Democrats

unite around an expansive bill to confront climate change, expand the frayed social safety net and raise taxes on the rich.

And it amounted to something of a gamble, since the president was effectively delaying final action on the part of his economic agenda he has nearly secured in hopes of unifying his razor-thin Democratic majorities around the larger social policy and clean energy measures that have clearly divided them.

"If we get it done, it'll be a victory. The question is: When do we get that victory?" said Representative Henry Cuellar of Texas, one of nine centrist Democrats who extracted a promise from Ms. Pelosi for an infrastructure vote

Continued on Page A10



President Biden and Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Friday.

Inflation Surges Amid Signals That It's Not Going Away Soon

By JEANNA SMIALEK

The Federal Reserve's preferred gauge of inflation climbed in August at the quickest pace in 30 years, data released on Friday showed, keeping policymakers on edge as evidence mounts that rapidly rising prices are poised to last longer than practically any of them had expected earlier this year.

The numbers come at a pivotal moment, as inflationary warning signals abound. Used car prices show signs of picking up again, costs for raw goods like cotton and crude oil are increasing, and companies continue to experience pain from persistent supply chain disruptions.

That is stoking fears in Washington and on Wall Street that although rapid price gains will

eventually fade, the adjustment could drag on for months. A longer burst of inflation raises the chances that consumers will change their expectations and behavior, paving the way for more permanent price increases.

It is a high-stakes juncture for policymakers. The Fed is preparing to withdraw some of its support for the economy soon, but it would prefer to do so only gradually, given the millions of Americans who remain out of work. The White House is trying to pass two big policy packages at the core of President Biden's economic agenda, and Republicans have begun wielding every new inflation data point as an argument against more federal spending.

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Ozy Media Closes as Advertisers And Silicon Valley Investors Flee

By BEN SMITH
and KATIE ROBERTSON

Ozy Media, the digital media company that came under intense scrutiny for its business practices in recent days, announced on Friday that it was shutting down, following a sudden flight of investors and advertisers and bringing to a close a strange chapter in the annals of online journalism.

It was a precipitous fall for a company that was once a darling of Silicon Valley investors who believed in the vision of its leader, the former MSNBC anchor Carlos Watson. Mr. Watson had aimed to create a sparkling multiplatform media company that would appeal to a diverse generation of younger readers looking for the kind of

Swift Unraveling After a Week of Scrutiny

content not provided by establishment news organizations.

When the end came, it came swiftly, five days after The New York Times published an article that raised questions about the company and its leadership team. The report detailed an episode in which a top executive at Ozy appeared to have impersonated a YouTube executive during a conference call with Goldman Sachs bankers in February while the company was trying to raise \$40 million.

In a statement on Friday, the

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BUSINESS B1-8

Eying Greenland's Riches

The island has rare elements needed for green energy, but residents are wary of efforts to mine them.

PAGE B1

American Auto Sales Suffer

Several manufacturers reported recent declines amid problems in the global supply chain.

PAGE B1

INTERNATIONAL A4-8

Evoking the Czars

A century after the fall of the Romanovs, a collection of Europe's noble families gathered to celebrate a Russian royal wedding.

PAGE A7

An Admiral's War on Covid

Portugal's vaccine program, once in shambles, became a success story with the help of a former submarine squadron commander.

PAGE A4

Devoted to Helping Migrants

The Rev. Daniel Alliet of Brussels has made it his life's mission to fight for the undocumented, to the chagrin of some other clergy members.

PAGE A6

NATIONAL A9-17

Trouble on Fraternity Row

At big universities where the groups are a dominant feature of campus, sexual assault accusations have soured many students on Greek life.

PAGE A9

Vaccine Mandate for Students

Children in California's public and private schools will be required as soon as next fall to be inoculated against the coronavirus.

PAGE A14

Sparing Patients From a Fight

A new Biden White House rule on surprise medical billing will guide arbiters in how to settle price disputes between providers and insurers.

PAGE A17



ARTS C1-7

City Ballet's Fall Fashion Gala

New works, by Sidra Bell and Andrea Miller, dressed in designer clothing for a night of fast dance. A review.

PAGE C1

Hollywood and Oscars on View

The new Academy Museum of Motion Pictures focuses on good intentions, our critic Manohla Dargis writes.

PAGE C1

SPORTS B9-11

Abuse Claims Halt Season

The top U.S. women's soccer league removed its commissioner amid allegations from players.

PAGE B9

No Agent, No Problem

Lamar Jackson, the Baltimore Ravens' quarterback, is representing himself as he negotiates a new contract.

PAGE B9

OPINION A18-19

Amy Butcher

PAGE A18



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KENT NISHIMURA Los Angeles Times

"IT DOESN'T MATTER whether it is six minutes, six days or six weeks. We're going to get it done," President Biden said after urging House Democrats to trim safety net spending to help pass infrastructure plans.

Democrats face scaling back Biden's social safety net plan

Options for major cuts to appease 2 centrists promise to upset others in the party.

BY JENNIFER HABERKORN AND NOLAN D. MCCASKILL

WASHINGTON — Congressional Democrats eager to make progress on President Biden's "Build Back Better" plan are beginning to confront the harrowing challenge of squeezing their

ambitious remodeling of the nation's social safety net programs into the much smaller package needed to win over key centrists. For a second day, Democratic leaders and White House officials gathered on Capitol Hill in hopes of reaching agreement on a framework for the social investment package, which was intended to establish paid family leave and subsidies for child care, elder care and community college, and to fortify health programs, among other progressive

ambitions.

Biden met behind closed doors at the Capitol with rank-and-file House Democrats on Friday to rally their support. He urged them to compromise on a \$2-trillion price tag for the 10-year plan, down from the \$3.5 trillion party lawmakers have been considering for months.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) hoped that agreeing on a framework would unleash support from a group of progressives who refuse to vote for the first portion of Biden's plan — a

bipartisan bill to repair roads and bridges and upgrade other infrastructure — until they are assured that centrist Democratic Sens. Joe Manchin III of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona will support the second portion — the social safety net bill.

Pelosi had said earlier Friday that the House would vote on the \$1-trillion infrastructure plan, after delaying the vote twice already this week. But by the evening, the vote was canceled [See Democrats, A8]

State is first to mandate shots in K-12

Rule hinges on full FDA approval of COVID-19 vaccines for various age groups.

BY HOWARD BLUME, RONG-GONG LIN II AND TARYN LUNA

SAN FRANCISCO — California on Friday became the first state to announce a COVID-19 vaccination requirement for all public and private schoolchildren, a move that will affect millions of students and once again places the state at the forefront of strict pandemic safety measures.

The mandate would take effect for grades seven through 12, starting with the school term following the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's full approval of the vaccine for children ages 12 and older, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced. Students in kindergarten through sixth grade would be phased in after the vaccine has been approved for their age group.

Students 12 and older could be affected as early as January 2022 if there is federal approval for a COVID-19 vaccine for that age range before the end of this year, the governor said in remarks at James Denman Middle School in San Francisco. "There's still a struggle to

get to where we need to be," Newsom said about the effort to contain the pandemic. "And that means we need to do more, and we need to do better."

Adolescents ages 12 to 15 are eligible to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine under emergency authorization. The vaccine has been fully approved by the FDA for those 16 and older.

Unlike with other vaccines required for schoolchildren, the plan would allow parents to cite personal beliefs in refusing to inoculate their children against COVID-19. Under state law that has applied to similar circumstances in the past, the exemption for personal beliefs would have to be granted because the new vaccination requirement is being imposed through a regulatory process, rather than through the Legislature. [See Students, A5]

Merck says pill reduces COVID deaths

Convenient antiviral cuts rates of fatalities and hospitalizations in half, drugmaker says.

BY MELISSA HEALY

Could a bullet-shaped pill change the trajectory of the pandemic?

Drugmaker Merck said Friday that its experimental antiviral pill cuts rates of severe disease and death in half for newly diagnosed COVID-19 patients at high risk of becoming seriously ill.

If cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and other drug safety agencies around the world, molnupiravir would become the first effective treatment for COVID-19 that can be taken in pill form.

As such, it would plug a yawning gap between prevention strategies — masking, social distancing and vaccination — and available treatments, all of which require skilled medical care and costly facilities to deliver.

Molnupiravir is intended to be started soon after a patient develops mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19. In clinical trials, the drug appeared to shorten the duration of illness and reduce the severity of symptoms that can lead to hospitalization and death.

Merck and its partner, Ridgeback Biotherapeutics, said they would seek emergency use authorization from the FDA "as soon as possible." If it meets the agency's standards for safety and effectiveness, millions of Americans could be using it at home by the end of the year.

Health experts from Dr. Anthony Fauci on down have long called for a convenient pill that patients could take when COVID-19 symptoms first appear, much the way the decades-old Tamiflu helps fight influenza. Such medications are seen as key to controlling future waves of infection and reducing the impact of the pandemic. [See Pill, A10]

COLUMN ONE

Signs of a nation's troubles en route to a dying friend

Fresno-to-Maine trek offers a life lesson: Just keep moving

BY DIANA MARCUM

I was driving cross-country to visit my friend who has a farmhouse in Maine. She was dying. She told me I needed to accept that fact before I got there so we could get on with enjoying our visit.

I set a route that would carry me through wide open places and small towns. I was going to write about the parts of America I saw along the way. I worried I might be too raw, too unsettled, to try to understand the country stretching before me. Then I decided that was the right state of mind for a summer of vaccines, variants, disaster, division, reckoning, rage and floundering forward. I woke up on a Monday morning and headed east from Fresno.

Outside of Yosemite National Park, I waited in a line that didn't move.

I had my car parked in the shade, windows down. Murphy, my Lab, was in the back seat.

Each time his nostrils flared, I tensed, even though I told myself it was someone eating pizza and not wildfire he was smelling. A heatwave was building, with a week of record-breaking temperatures predicted across the West.

"Where ya going?" asked a ranger who laughed as she gave Murphy a biscuit.

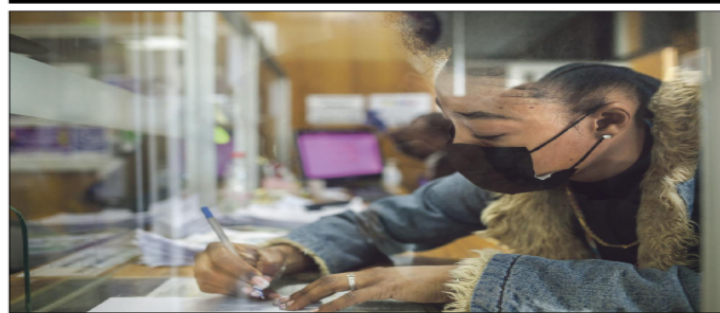
Did I make note of these little encounters before pandemic masks and distance?

The road swirled up, past the blinding white granite of Olmstead Point, past Tuolumne Meadows, and then, like always, a split-second of shock as I came out of Tioga [See Trip, A6]



MARK CROSSER For The Times

MUSHTAK and Musab Bireh watch their mother, Foom, get a henna manicure in Postville, Iowa.



WILSON GAJARDO BLACKWOOD For The Times

WIDENSKA ANDRE, 21, works at a migrant aid agency in Santiago, Chile. Like many Haitians living in Chile, she has considered the 4,000-mile trek to the U.S.

A diaspora uproots again

BY PATRICK J. McDONNELL AND JORGE POBLETE

SANTIAGO, Chile — Seven years ago, Widenska Andre's father sent her a plane ticket to relocate to his adopted homeland — Chile, where he was among a fast-growing population of Haitian immigrants.

Andre, 21, today has permanent residence in the South American nation and a steady job helping migrants in Santiago, the capital. Still, she contemplated joining an ongoing exodus of fellow Haitians from Chile to the United States.

"Who doesn't want to live the American dream?" Andre, who has six siblings living in Chile, said recently.

Because she is doing well, Andre ultimately decided to remain in Chile when three of her cousins, also in their 20s, embarked on the more than 4,000-mile journey north.

Chile, a country of 19 million people, was previously home to many, if not most, of the thousands of Haitian migrants whose presence at a [See Haitians, A4]

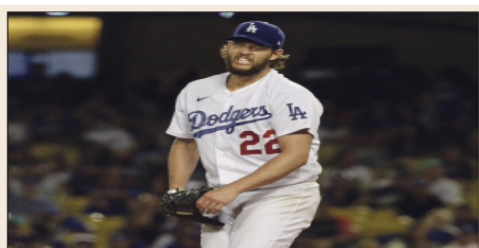
Mom to be taken off life support

Mona Rodriguez's family wants Long Beach school officer charged in her shooting. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Kavanaugh tests positive for virus

Supreme Court justice is vaccinated and has no symptoms. It's unclear if he'll make term opening. **NATION, A5**

Weather
Mostly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 90/67. **B10**



GINA FERRAZZI Los Angeles Times

KERSHAW EXITS EARLY

Dodgers rally to win 8-6, but their ace leaves in the second inning with forearm discomfort. **SPORTS, B14**



Merck sees good results in testing of covid-19 pill

Risks of hospitalization, death nearly cut in half; early end of trial backed

BY CAROLYN Y. JOHNSON

The United States moved a major step closer Friday to having an easy-to-take pill to treat covid-19 available in the nation's medicine cabinet, with encouraging results released about an experimental drug.

Pharmaceutical giant Merck announced that in an international clinical trial, its drug, molnupiravir, reduced the risk of hospitalization and death by nearly half among higher-risk people diagnosed with mild or moderate illness. The company said it would seek regulatory approval as soon as possible, meaning the United States could have its first anti-coronavirus pill in a matter of months.

An independent board of experts monitoring the trial recommended the Merck study be stopped early because of the positive results, a significant and telling development in a pharmaceutical study.

Merck and partner Ridgeback Biotherapeutics said in a news release they would apply for emergency use authorization for the drug.

A simple, easy-to-prescribe pill that prevents mild and moderate cases of covid-19, the illness caused by the coronavirus, from turning into dire episodes has been one of the missing pieces of the medical armamentarium to

SEE VIRUS ON A4

Mandates: California to require students to get covid vaccine. A5

Messy, patchy data has U.S. 'flying blind' in pandemic

BY JOEL ACHENRACH AND YASMEEN ABUTALEB

The contentious and confusing debate in recent weeks over coronavirus booster shots has exposed a fundamental weakness in the United States' ability to respond to a public health crisis: The data is a mess.

How many people have been infected at this point? No one knows for sure, in part because of insufficient testing and incomplete reporting. How many fully vaccinated people have had breakthrough infections? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention decided to track only a fraction of them. When do inoculated people need booster shots? American officials trying to answer that have had to rely heavily on information from abroad.

Critically important data on vaccinations, infections, hospitalizations and deaths is scattered among local health departments, is often out of date and hard to aggregate at the national level, and is simply inadequate for the

SEE DATA ON A4

Biden urges Democrats to be patient



PHOTOS BY JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST



TOP: President Biden met with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other Democrats on Capitol Hill on Friday. ABOVE: Rep. Pramila Jayapal said she remained confident the liberal bloc would hold its ground.

The latest

At stake: President Biden's domestic agenda is on the line as Democrats struggle to find unity over a \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill and a separate package that would expand Medicare benefits, broaden access to child care and community college and aim to slow climate change, among other goals.

In Congress: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) tried to gain the support of liberals to advance the infrastructure bill, but they refused without an agreement for the Senate to pass the second package. In the Senate, moderate Democrats Joe Manchin III (W.Va.) and Kyrsten Sinema (Ariz.) say they want the second package's

spending level to be far lower than the \$3.5 trillion proposed by Biden.

Biden: The president went to Capitol Hill on Friday in an effort to ease tensions between the moderate and liberal wings of the party, urging them to take more time if needed to reach an agreement. He suggested it could take weeks.

What's next: Liberal and moderate leaders in the House and Senate will continue to negotiate with each other — and the White House — in search of a deal that would allow both efforts to proceed. Also looming is the federal cap on borrowing, which the Treasury Department says must be raised by Oct. 18 or the United States could default on some of its obligations.

PARTY FACTIONS CLASH ON SPENDING

Officials attempt to revive economic agenda

BY TONY ROMM, MIKE DEBONIS AND MARIANNA SOTOMAYOR

President Biden attempted to quell an internal Democratic rebellion on Friday, pleading with lawmakers to compromise and stay patient as he tried to revive a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure proposal and salvage his broader economic agenda from imminent collapse.

Biden made the overture during a rare meeting on Capitol Hill in the midst of an intense, acrimonious fight over two pieces of legislation that Democrats were struggling to untangle. The first bill would fix the nation's roads, bridges, pipes, ports and Internet connections. A second package would authorize roughly \$3.5 trillion to expand Medicare, combat climate change and boost a wide array of federal aid programs.

Democrats did not appear to have an immediate way to advance either tranche of spending, stymied by internecine conflicts among their own divided liberal and centrist ranks. For the second time in as many days, party leaders also delayed a planned House vote on the measure to improve the nation's infrastructure.

To try to break the logjam, Biden channeled his political roots as a seasoned legislator, huddling with Democrats in an attempt to coalesce them around a shared policy vision. But he also made clear that both of the party's primary factions had no choice but to compromise equally, as they aim to deliver on the electoral promises that helped them secure Washington majorities in the first place.

In comments that appeared dis-

SEE CONGRESS ON A7

Debt ceiling: Biden aides explored making payments despite limit. A7

In Yemen, a pivotal battle takes a brutal toll

Soldiers, civilians endure growing casualties, trauma as Houthi rebels fight to seize Marib province

BY SIOBHAN O'GRADY AND ALI AL-MUJAHED

MARIB, YEMEN — The young men pour into the hospital straight from the front lines, their limbs broken or missing, their skin burned by missiles and drones, bullet wounds in their heads and necks. Their relatives follow, keeping vigil next to their cots or producing permission slips to carry those who have succumbed to the cemetery across town, where row after row of identical headstones now stretch out in the sand.

This grim flood has been relentless over recent months because of the unceasing determination of the two main sides in Yemen's civil war to win what could be the pivotal battle of the seven-year conflict.

In harsh desert terrain on the outskirts of Marib, Iran-backed Houthi rebels are fighting the internationally recognized government, backed by a Saudi-led military coalition, for control of its strategic stronghold in the country's north.

SEE YEMEN ON A10



LORENZO TUGNOLI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Family members of soldiers Ibrahim al-Qamhi and Abdo al-Kahlil gather at the morgue of the Marib General Hospital in Yemen this summer. Al-Qamhi was killed in a strike by a missile or drone, fellow fighters said. Al-Kahlil was killed by a planted explosive, his relatives said.

NWSL leader resigns, play is halted after alleged abuse

BY MOLLY HENSLEY-CLANCY

For years, they did not speak about what they endured, at least not publicly. They were afraid of losing their spots on the field, losing their jobs, maybe losing the entire league — one they were repeatedly told was the best women's soccer league in the world.

But over the past several months, the players of the National Women's Soccer League started to speak up in a season of reckoning over abuse and mistreatment that led Friday to the league's commissioner being ousted and to players successfully pressuring the league to scrap its matches this weekend.

The players used the moment to call attention to what they said were "systemic" failures by the

SEE SOCCER ON A14

Buckner: Women's sports still bring more pain than empowerment. D1

IN SUNDAY'S POST



PETE RYAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

<< Revelations Liberals are fighting for a foothold in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to help shape the future of the faith. The church is fighting back. **Magazine**

Chasing Chagall Saint-Paul de Vence, on the French Riviera, drew some of the 20th century's most renowned artists. **Travel**



THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK © 2021 JASPER JOHNS

<< Reflections on Jasper Johns The seminal artist's career is celebrated with a mammoth exhibition at the Whitney in New York and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, revealing a brilliant but bleak legacy. **Arts & Style**



INSIDE

REAL ESTATE Should you refinance? Factors include interest rates, an assortment of fees and income obstacles that can crop up.

THE REGION No relief for toll avoiders Toll lanes planned for the Beltway and I-270 wouldn't help congestion in the regular lanes, study says. **B1**

THE NATION Most migrants thwarted A majority of the border-crossers in Del Rio, Tex., have been sent to Haiti or Mexico, DHS figures show. **A2**

STYLE Dancer's pandemic pivot Jessica Pinkett achieved her dream at the Alvin Ailey dance company. Now she's taking a creative turn. **C1**

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ideas

Julio María Sanguinetti

“La conspiración flota como un fantasma en la Argentina”

ENTREVISTA — por Pablo Sirvén



EL CINE PERDIÓ EN UN AÑO Y MEDIO EL 14% DE SUS PANTALLAS

—espectáculos

Antes de la pandemia, en febrero de 2020, había 883 y hoy funcionan solo 752; la industria cifra sus esperanzas en la ampliación del aforo al 100%. **Página 8**

VOLVIERON LOS HINCHAS: ADIÓS A LOS SONIDOS DEL SILENCIO

—deportes

Tras 18 meses sin concurrencia, regresaron los aficionados a las canchas; en Primera, Aldosivi recibió el apoyo de 4000 personas, pero cayó con Unión.

LA NACION

SÁBADO 2 DE OCTUBRE DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

El Gobierno anunció que vacunará a chicos de 3 a 11 años con Sinopharm

COVID. El fármaco chino fue autorizado por la Anmat; para los expertos, el producto es confiable

En medio del impacto por el final de las restricciones por la pandemia, el Gobierno anunció ayer que comenzará a vacunar a chicos de 3 a 11 años sin comorbilidades con el fármaco chino Sinopharm.

“La Anmat nos confirma que estamos en condiciones de usar la Sinopharm en chicos de entre 3 y 11 años. Tenemos casi 10 millones de

dosis de Sinopharm y estaremos recibiendo entre el 4 y el 11 de octubre más. Tendremos dos millones para fines de octubre. Es para esto que guardamos las vacunas”, señaló Vizzotti en una conferencia de prensa.

Las autoridades sanitarias indicaron a LA NACION que pasado mañana en el encuentro del Consejo Federal de Salud se decidirá cuándo empezará la

inscripción y si estarán incluidos los chicos con comorbilidades. Los expertos consultados sostuvieron que la vacuna china es segura, según los estudios publicados en la revista científica *The Lancet*. Sin embargo, China es uno de los países que mayores cuestionamientos han recibido por su falta de transparencia en el manejo de datos de la pandemia. **Página 31**

DOSIS

► Hay entre 5,5 y 6 millones de dosis para chicos de estas edades

► El Gobierno informó que hay 10 millones de dosis



SIN BARBIJO AL AIRE LIBRE. Diecisiete provincias recomendaron no usar el barbijito en los espacios exteriores —la ciudad de Buenos Aires no adhirió—, siempre y cuando se circule a dos metros de distancia de otras personas. Sin embargo, los distritos aclararon que su utilización es aún obligatoria en los lugares cerrados y cuando hay aglomeraciones. Ayer, ya se empezó a ver la flexibilización en la calle, como en Mar del Plata (foto). **Página 32**

Procesaron a un fiscal por el robo de 500 kilos de cocaína

FUEROS. Claudio Scapolan está suspendido, pero libre

La jueza federal Sandra Arroyo Salgado procesó ayer y embargó por \$2000 millones al fiscal Claudio Scapolan, quien está imputado como supuesto jefe de una banda integrada por funcionarios judiciales, abogados y comisarios. Según los investigadores, ese grupo

robó, por lo menos, 500 kilos de cocaína que habían sido decomisados en 2013.

Scapolan está suspendido en su cargo de jefe del Área de Investigaciones Criminales de San Isidro, pero mantiene fueros, que evitaron su arresto. **Página 37**

Bolsonaro. El deterioro de Brasil lo aleja de la reelección

El presidente dejó de ser el favorito para 2022

Janaina Figueiredo
PARA LA NACION

RÍO DE JANEIRO.—La tapa del diario *Extra* del miércoles pasado causó impacto en un Brasil arrasado por la pandemia y en el que crecen las dudas sobre las reales posibilidades

de reelección de Jair Bolsonaro. “El dolor del hambre”, resumió el periódico, ilustrando lo que algunos analistas ya llaman “crisis humanitaria” con una foto de personas que acuden a camiones que distribuyen huesos de cortes de carne tirados por supermercados. **Continúa en la página 6**

Sorpresivo llamado a indagatoria a Macri por espionaje

ARA SAN JUAN. Fue citado a declarar por presuntas tareas de la AFI sobre familiares de la tripulación

En forma sorpresiva, el expresidente Mauricio Macri fue citado a declarar como acusado en una causa sobre presunto espionaje ilegal a familiares de los tripulantes del submarino ARA San Juan, que se hundió el 15 de noviembre de 2017. Así lo resolvió ayer el juez federal de Dolores, Martín Bava, que además le prohibió la salida del país y procesó a la cúpula de la Agencia Federal de Inteligencia (AFI) durante su gestión. **Página 12**



Radiografía del poder que construyó Manzur

PERFIL. Los indicadores de su gestión en Tucumán no son exitosos. **Página 18**

Texto **Indalecio Sánchez**

Dólar “pisado”: fuerte brecha con los precios mayoristas

ANCLA. La estrategia oficial de “pisar” el dólar para restarle uno de los impulsos a la inflación generó en los últimos 12 meses una brecha de 28,4 puntos con los precios mayoristas. Mientras el billete subió a un ritmo del 32,1% en ese lapso, el índice mayorista lo hizo al 60,5%. **Página 24**

Pílula reduz risco de morte por Covid em 50%, diz estudo

O molnupiravir, remédio experimental contra Covid do grupo farmacêutico MSD, reduziu em cerca de 50% a chance de hospitalização ou morte, segundo resultados preliminares.

A MSD e sua parceira Ridgeback Biotherapeutics querem obter autorização para uso emergencial da pílula nos EUA o quanto antes. A fabricante afirmou que o medicamento se mostrou efetivo contra todas as variantes do coronavírus. **Saúde B1**

Esvaziada, ANS vê 4 vagas de diretor abertas na crise

Saúde B2

Cientes da Prevent temem ser afetados e fazem manifesto

Diante de denúncias contra a Prevent Senior, clientes temem sair prejudicados. Um grupo fez abaixo-assinado pedindo "maior responsabilidade nas apurações e divulgação" em respeito a pessoas que podem ser afetadas. **Saúde B2**



Elenco da série 'Seinfeld', que volta ao streaming. Divulgação

Guia C7

O essencial de 'Seinfeld'

Com a chegada do seriado à Netflix, jornalistas indicam e comentam os melhores episódios para gular os novatos que não viram e ajudar os nostálgicos a matar a saudade.

Esporte B8

Inquérito expõe ligação entre Diego Costa e chefe de esquema de apostas

Ilustrada C1

Escritora Sally Rooney reclama de seu sucesso com 'Pessoas Normais'

Eduardo Bolsonaro ofereceu ajuda para blogueiro deixar país

Em mensagens de junho de 2020, deputado pede dados a Allan dos Santos, que é investigado e se mudou para os EUA

Mensagens interceptadas pela Polícia Federal mostram que o deputado federal Eduardo Bolsonaro (PSL-SP) ofertou ajuda ao blogueiro Allan dos Santos, investigado pelo Supremo, para deixar o Brasil em junho de 2020, relatam Constança Rezende e Renato Machado. O dono do site Terça Livre, alvo de dois inquéritos sobre fake news, saiu do país no mês seguinte.

Nos diálogos, o filho de Jair Bolsonaro pede dados do passaporte de Santos e sua família e pergunta do que ele precisa. O blogueiro diz que só o documento dele está válido e cita reunião do presidente com Donald Trump, então na Casa Branca.

O deputado passa a acompanhar o processo. Na época, havia restrição à entrada de brasileiros nos Estados Unidos devido à pandemia.

Procurado, o deputado Eduardo Bolsonaro não respondeu à reportagem.

Santos, que hoje vive nos EUA, disse não haver ilegalidade em sua amizade com o deputado. "A nova da @folha é focar sobre mensagens privadas entre dois amigos, onde um já foi policial federal e diz ao outro o status do protocolo que qualquer pessoa faz", escreveu em rede social. **Poder A4**

Conter preços de combustíveis vira prioridade do Planalto A23

Marcos Nogueira

Ossos e pelancas imundos para o jantar dos pobres

Folha Corrida B10

PAINEL S.A.

Demanda por inventários cresce 40% em agosto

Mercado A24

MPF investigará se Michelle facilitou crédito a amigos

Poder A10

PF quer que Abin veja segurança de votos eletrônicos

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Quanto mais centrista Lula for, melhor, diz Dino

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Sobre ação de empresários por agenda ambiental.

Passaporte ético

Acerca de exigência de imunização em eventos.

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Acervo Pessoal

NOVA TEMPESTADE DE POEIRA PROVOCA ESTRAGOS EM CIDADES DO OESTE PAULISTA

Nuvem registrada ontem em Guararapes; conhecido como haboob, fenômeno assustou moradores e causou destelhamentos e quedas de árvores **Cotidiano B5**

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LE FIGARO

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



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**FIGARO OUI
FIGARO NON**

**Réponses à la question
de vendredi :**
Souhaitez-vous
que le gouvernement
prolonge le passe
sanitaire au-delà
du 15 novembre ?

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CHINA DAILY / VIA REUTERS

Crudivorisme, respirianisme, jeûne hydrique... Après le Covid, les dérives des médecines parallèles

Les mois de contraintes sanitaires ont renforcé la quête de bien-être et la méfiance envers la médecine conventionnelle. Les pratiques alternatives explosent, les dérives aussi.

Les médecines alternatives n'ont pas manqué de faire leur beurre avec la crise sanitaire. Les confinements et la morosité des mois passés ont vu exploser le recours à ces pratiques non réglementées, et le plus souvent non encadrées. Sur pas moins de quatre cents méthodes aujourd'hui recensées, seule une quinzaine sont scientifiquement évaluées en France. Naturopathes, maîtres reiki, experts en soins holistiques ou énergétiques, kinésithérapeutes, réflexologues, sophrologues, auriculothérapeutes... 40 % des Français y font aujourd'hui appel. Or la galaxie du bien-être, au business juteux, draine des kyrielles de charlatans et de gourous. Les autorités sont de plus en plus saisies pour des dérives sectaires, avec des dossiers parfois d'une grande gravité. Comme cette jeune femme, morte cet été pendant un « stage » où elle avait jeûné durant 21 jours.

→ EN FRANCE, 400 PRATIQUES MÉDICALES NON CONVENTIONNELLES RÉPERTORIÉES, UNE QUINZAINE SCIENTIFIQUEMENT ÉVALUÉE → GEORGES FENECH : « CETTE PANDEMIC EST UNE AUBAINE POUR LES CHARLATANS DE TOUT POIL » → PIERRES, FEUILLES, SIROPS... LA GRANDE NÉBULEUSE DES NATUROPATHES PAGES 2 À 4 ET L'EDITORIAL



Tempête Alex : la lente reconstruction des vallées dévastées
Un an après le déluge qui s'y est abattu, les vallées de la Roya, de la Tinée et de la Vesubie sont toujours ravagées. Malgré les millions d'euros versés par l'État, le quotidien des habitants reste difficile et l'avenir incertain. PAGE 17

Ces fonctionnaires territoriaux qui refusent de travailler 35 heures

Certaines villes, comme Paris, Marseille, Strasbourg et quelques autres, dont les agents travaillent moins que les 1 607 heures annuelles légales, n'ont pas l'intention de se plier à la loi d'août 2019, qui leur donne jusqu'au 1^{er} janvier 2022 pour négocier et mettre en place une nouvelle organisation de travail, sous peine d'astreintes financières. PAGES 22 ET 23

ÉDITORIAL par Laurence de Charette ldecharette@lefigaro.fr

Trompeuses espérances

Dis-moi comment tu te soignes et je te dirai qui tu es. Se rendre au sanctuaire d'Asclépios ou miser sur les projets transhumanistes... Depuis la nuit des temps, l'homme se soigne comme il se conçoit, selon le regard qu'il porte sur lui-même et sur le monde. De nos jours, un observateur extérieur pourrait bien s'étonner : mais de quel bois est donc fait cet humain capable de verrouiller la planète et de s'enfermer sur ordonnance, stupéfié par un nouveau virus, pour ensuite remettre aveuglement son destin, loin des médecins cette fois - loin de la médecine traditionnelle dont l'aura tend à s'effriter malgré ses formidables progrès, mais aussi des médecines « douces » déjà plus ou moins installées -, entre les mains des néo-chamans de tout poil qui fleurissent à tous les coins de rue ? Une constatation s'impose : cet homme-là est un peu perdu... Après deux années corps et âme vouées au grand ordre sanitaire ; phagocyté, selon le mot d'André Comte-Sponville, par le « pan-médicalisme », cette idéologie qui fait de la santé non pas un bien hautement désirable mais le graal et le sommet de toute existence, le voici pris dans les filets de la dictature du

bien-être, nouvelle espérance de ces temps qui n'en comptent plus - et prêt pour elle à s'abandonner sans discernement à toutes sortes de gourous et de pratiques « feel good ». Désormais dépourvu de la culture des grandes traditions et privé des racines qu'elles offrent, voici notre homme errant dans le grand supermarché des fausses spiritualités narcissiques pleines de cette religiosité du soi qui est le reflet de la société individualiste ; en quête d'un « bonheur » qui pourrait s'acquiescer quelque part, à l'extérieur de lui-même, dans le vaste bazar du développement personnel - quitte à piocher au fil des rayons de quoi composer la soupe néopaganiste dont il prétend se nourrir. Las... Les statistiques médicales et l'explosion ininterrompue de la consommation de psychotropes montrent que ces tentatives constituent autant de fausses réponses à un vrai mal des temps modernes : la négation de l'intériorité. « Ce monde a acquis une épaisseur de vulgarité qui donne au mépris de l'homme spirituel la violence d'une passion », écrivait Baudelaire. L'avenir ne lui donne pas tort. ■

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SATURDAY

TABLET WEEKLY OCTOBER 2021



BURNING DOWN THE HOUSE

Jeremy Strong on becoming Succession's firestarter

PLUS: Inside the series

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Lady Hale judges this season's brooches
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MEMOIR
I swapped L.A. for life in a desert cave
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FROM PAGE 35

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Brexit visa U-turn in bid to save Christmas

Immigration rules relaxed and army will deliver petrol to forecourts from Monday

Rajeev Syal

Boris Johnson's government has embarked upon a dramatic U-turn in a bid to save Christmas with a raft of extended emergency visas to help address labour shortages that have led to empty shelves and queues at petrol stations.

New immigration measures will allow 300 fuel drivers to arrive immediately and stay until the end of March, while 100 army drivers will take to the roads from Monday, the government announced last night.

Around 4,700 further food haulage drivers will arrive from late October and leave by the end of February.

The rules mean that the government has relented to lobbying from the fuel and food industries

and extended some temporary visa schemes beyond Christmas Eve and into the new year.

Ministers had previously insisted that they would not relax immigration rules in response to the crisis.

It comes as Sir Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, demanded that parliament should be recalled to sort out the fuel and food shortages.

Almost 200 military personnel, including 100 drivers, will be deployed from Monday to provide temporary support to address the shortage of heavy goods vehicle (HGV) drivers amid pressure on petrol stations. To help increase fuel stocks, military personnel are now being trained at haulier sites across the country.

In addition, drivers from abroad will be allowed to work in the UK immediately, and will not be subjected to previous barriers, a Cabinet Office release said.

The shortage of up to 100,000 HGV drivers - exacerbated by the pandemic and Brexit

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'Music is a superstar industry'
How streaming rescued the big record labels

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Plus
half-price book offer
Voucher Page 43



Women face 'epidemic' of indecent exposure

One in 10 women have been subjected to indecent exposure, according to the ONS, with police recording more than 10,000 cases last year but taking fewer than 600 to court. **Page 6** →

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Barack Obama
Why history matters



Ottolenghi's brunches

→ Feast



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