

## What's News

## Business &amp; Finance

**U.S. crude rose 1.5% to \$80.52 a barrel, closing above \$80 for the first time since late 2014 and bringing its climb since the end of last October to 125%. A1**

◆ **U.S. stocks fell amid worries about slowing growth and rising inflation, as oil prices rallied. The S&P 500 and Dow both retreated 0.7%, while the Nasdaq slipped 0.6%. B9**

◆ **U.S. businesses are panicking the Biden administration's new China trade policy, saying it fails to provide the tariff relief they expected for importers who lack cost-effective alternatives to Chinese products. A3**

◆ **Henry Kravis and George Roberts are stepping down as co-CEOs of KKR, as the founders of the private-equity firm pass the torch to handpicked successors. B1**

◆ **Two 27-year-old entrepreneurs are behind Puff Bar, the e-cigarette brand popular among teens that regulators have tried and failed to force off the U.S. market. A1**

◆ **Southwest Airlines canceled hundreds of flights as it continued to dig out from a weekend meltdown. B1**

◆ **Chinese property developer Modern Land asked investors for permission to defer repaying a \$250 million bond due later this month. B1**

◆ **Alan Horn, the longtime head of Walt Disney's studio operations, said he is retiring at the end of the year. B1**

◆ **Vanguard is restoring benefits for retirees after an attempt to phase them out triggered protests among former staffers. B1**

## World-Wide

◆ **Chinese President Xi is zeroing in on the ties that China's state banks and other financial stalwarts have developed with big private-sector players, expanding his push to curb capitalist forces in the economy. A1**

◆ **The executive board of the IMF said it has full confidence in Georgieva as its managing director, ending weeks of uncertainty while the board investigated her role in a data-manipulation scandal at the World Bank. A9**

◆ **Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr was poised to become Iraq's key political power broker after his movement won the largest share of seats in parliamentary elections. A8**

◆ **An Afghan interpreter who helped rescue then-Sen. Joe Biden in 2008 when his helicopter made an emergency landing in Afghanistan has escaped from the country. A1**

◆ **Merck and partner Ridgeback said they filed an application asking the FDA to authorize their Covid-19 pill, the next step toward adding a long-sought drug for use at home. A7**

◆ **Texas businesses and other private entities are now banned from requiring Covid-19 vaccinations for employees, Gov. Abbott said in an executive order. A7**

◆ **The Nobel in economics went to David Card, Joshua D. Angrist and Guido W. Imbens for their work on natural experiments, in particular their contributions to better understanding how the job market works. A3**

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## California 'Surf City USA' Beach Reopens After Pipeline Leak



**WAVES BECKON:** Huntington Beach, Calif., reopened its shoreline Monday after testing revealed no detectable levels of oil-associated toxins in the ocean. The beach was closed for more than a week because of a crude-oil leak from an undersea pipeline. California Attorney General Rob Bonta said that the state is opening an investigation into the spill. A2

## Xi Scrutinizes State Banks' Ties With Private Companies

By LINGLING WEI

President Xi Jinping of China is zeroing in on the ties that the country's state banks and other financial stalwarts have developed with big private-sector players, expanding his push to curb capitalist forces in the economy.

Mr. Xi, who started his campaign late last year with a regulatory assault on private technology giants, is launching a sweeping round of inspections of financial institutions. According to people with knowledge of

the plan, the inspections, made public in September with few details, focus on whether state-owned banks, investment funds and financial regulators have become too chummy with private firms, especially some that recently have landed in Beijing's crosshairs, such as property giant China Evergrande Group, ride-hailing company Didi Global Inc. and financial-technology firm Ant Group.

The examination, which is led by China's top anticorruption agency and centers on 25 financial institutions at the

heart of the Chinese economy, is the most extensive of a sector Mr. Xi has been suspicious of since coming to power nearly a decade ago. It is part of his broad effort to steer China's economic system away from Western-style capitalism in the run-up to a leadership transition late next year, when Mr. Xi is expected to sidestep convention and continue his rule beyond the usual two five-year terms.

Starting this month, graft-busters from the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection

are fanning out through the offices of the 25 state institutions, reviewing files of their lending, investment and regulatory records and demanding answers to how certain deals or decisions related to the private firms were made, according to the people familiar with the plan.

These people said individuals who are suspected of having engaged in inappropriate

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◆ **U.S. tariff relief for China disappoints businesses..... A3**

## Amid Peril, Interpreter Escapes From Kabul

By DION NISSENBAUM

An Afghan interpreter who helped rescue then-Sen. Joe Biden in 2008 when his helicopter made an emergency landing in Afghanistan has escaped from the country.

After weeks in hiding, Aman Khalili said he and his family left Afghanistan last week, crossing the border into Pakistan, part of a slow exodus of Afghans trying to avoid living under Taliban rule.

Following a series of setbacks during the past six weeks, U.S. veterans waded with former Afghan soldiers and well-placed Pakistani allies to carry out a clandestine operation to drive Mr. Khalili and his family more than 600 miles across Afghanistan and get them to Pakistan, according to those involved in the effort.

"Aman helped keep me and other Americans safe while we were fighting in Afghanistan, and we wanted to return the favor," said Brian Genthe, a combat veteran and Purple Heart recipient with the Arizona National Guard who worked with

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## In Afghanistan, Strange Quiet Arrives After Decades of War

Residents return to battle-ravaged regions they haven't seen in years

By SUNE ENGEL RASMUSSEN

SANGIN, Afghanistan—Eighteen years after his bakery was destroyed in an American airstrike, 76-year-old Mohammad Nabi, assisted by six younger men, wrestled a brand-new clay oven off the back of a pickup truck. They placed it gingerly on the ground, amid the ruins of his old shop.

The houses in the bazaar around him were either bombed to piles of bricks and gravel, or disfigured by bullet holes. But Mr. Nabi was ready to start rebuilding his bakery now that he had finally returned home.

"This is my homeland," said Mr. Nabi, who spent most of the past two decades in the city of Kandahar, a 90-mile drive away. "God will-

ing, you can come back for bread this winter."

After the Taliban took control of Afghanistan on Aug. 15, an unfamiliar calm has settled over large swaths of the country that were the most active battlegrounds in the war between the U.S.-led coalition, the government it backed and the Taliban. Firefights and airstrikes ceased and improvised mines were defused or removed. The Taliban have returned to some of the practices imposed when they ruled Afghanistan in the late 1990s. So far, that has mostly changed life in the cities.

While the constant state of war that plagued the countryside has abated, sporadic deadly attacks by the Islamic State's regional affiliate have continued. A bombing at a

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## Two Childhood Friends Behind Top Teen Vape

By JENNIFER MALONEY

Two 27-year-old vaping entrepreneurs are the mystery men behind Puff Bar, the most popular e-cigarette brand among teens, which regulators have tried and failed to force off the U.S. market.

In interviews with The Wall Street Journal, the business partners discussed the brand's popularity among young people and Puff Bar's decision to reformulate its products with synthetic nicotine so they don't fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

"We're doing everything we can to prevent underage use," said Patrick Beltran, who identified himself as co-owner and co-CEO of Puff Bar with his business partner Nick Minas. Mr. Beltran and Mr. Minas said the rise of youth vaping is the result of lax enforcement of smoke shops that they said are selling e-cigarettes to mi-

nors. They added that counterfeiters have contributed to the problem by flooding the market with Puff Bar fakes.

Mr. Minas said he and Mr. Beltran are co-CEOs and sole owners of the Puff Bar brand. Their ownership couldn't be independently confirmed.

Puff Bar's vaporizers are similar in shape to the market-leading e-cigarette brand Juul, sold by Juul Labs Inc., but Puff Bars are disposable and come in a wider array of flavors, including Watermelon, Lemon Ice and Blue Razz. They are sold online and in stores for as little as \$9 apiece. Juul for several years was the leading brand among children and teens. Its popularity among young people dropped this year after it halted sales of its sweet and fruity flavors and took other steps to prevent youth use of its products.

Puff Bar voluntarily halted its sales in July 2020, amid a

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## Oil Price Tops \$80 For First Time Since '14

Increase is outpacing other commodities by the widest margin in more than a decade

By AMRITH RAMKUMAR

The extended climb in oil prices is leaving some other industrial commodities behind, a divergence that reflects bets that energy supply shortages will offset any slowdown in the global economy.

U.S. crude rose 1.5% to \$80.52 a barrel on Monday, closing above \$80 for the first time since late in 2014 and bringing its climb since the end of last October to 125%.

Oil is on track to outpace copper this year by the largest amount since 2002 and is topping an index of raw materials by the biggest margin in more than a decade, according to Dow Jones Market Data. Like oil, natural gas is also far outpacing other commodities.

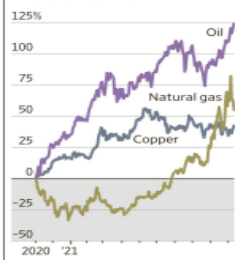
Copper prices are about 8% below a May record, while rallies in some other materials such as zinc and lead have largely stalled.

Some industrial metals have fallen due to fears of softening growth in China, the world's biggest commodities consumer and largest oil importer. Economic fallout from the impending collapse of indebted property developer China Evergrande Group could magnify the slowdown caused by the Delta variant of the coronavirus, traders said. That is because the Chinese economy relies heavily on real-estate developers for growth and jobs.

Crude's persistent rise amid those growth concerns shows the extent to which many traders

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## Performance since November 2020



\*Most actively traded futures for all commodities. Source: FactSet

◆ **Worries over inflation, slowing growth hit stocks. B9**

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## INSIDE



**SPORTS**  
Jon Gruden steps down as Raiders coach amid email scandal. A14



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## Wall St flowers

Banks are not cool enough for the crypto party — EVA SZALAY, PAGE 9

## Strait talking

Time for clarity over superpowers' Taiwan tussle — GIDEON RACHMAN, PAGE 15



## The big fight

Odey vs Hohn as funds battle over the planet — PATRICK JENKINS, PAGE 5

## Supply shakes US oil price at 7-year high

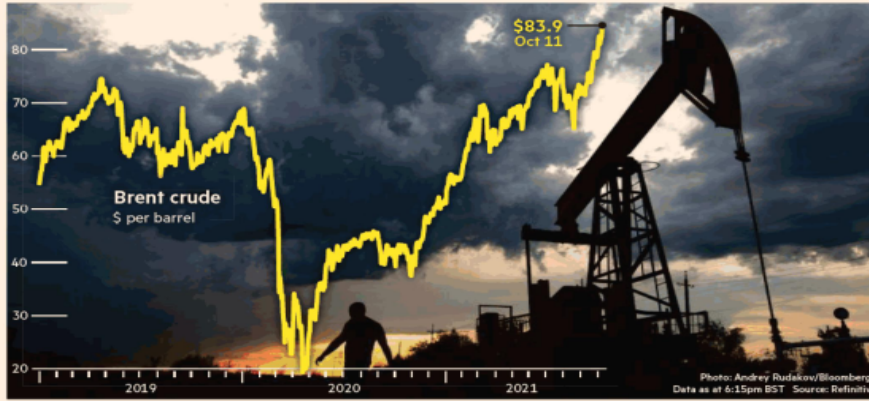
US crude oil continued to rise yesterday, hitting a seven-year high following concerns that fuel demand was outstripping supply.

At one point, West Texas Intermediate was trading up 2.2 per cent at more than \$81 a barrel, the highest since 2014 for the US benchmark price.

In other energy markets yesterday, European gas contracts for November delivery stood at €83.75 per megawatt hour, around double the level traded in August. Brent crude, the main international benchmark, was just shy of \$84, its highest since October 2018.

American consumers are paying more for fuel at the pump than they have in years, adding to soaring inflation.

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# Buyout adventurers Kravis and Roberts hand over helm at KKR

Private equity firm pioneered leveraged deals Next chiefs inherit \$60bn corporation

ANTOINETTE GARA AND SUJEET INDAP  
NEW YORK

Henry Kravis and George Roberts, whose swashbuckling leveraged buyouts of the 1980s made them the face of the private equity industry, are stepping down as co-chief executives of KKR, the eponymous firm they founded in 1976.

The firm's longtime co-presidents, Scott Nuttall and Joe Bae, will together take the helm, KKR said yesterday. Kravis and Roberts will remain executive chairs of the board of directors and maintain relationships with investors and offer counsel on the firm's strategy.

KKR arch-rivals, including Carlyle Group, Apollo Global Management and TPG, have in recent years seen their long-standing founders pass the torch to a younger generation as the \$4tn private

equity industry matures and moves beyond debt-fuelled corporate deals.

"We could not be more excited about this moment in time," said Kravis, 77, and Roberts, 78. "There is such a huge need for private capital to support businesses, and KKR still has so much potential even 45 years later."

Kravis and Roberts, cousins who studied together at Claremont Men's College in the late 1960s, would go on to work together at investment bank Bear Stearns before departing with their mentor, Jerome Kohlberg, to form Kohlberg, Kravis, Roberts & Co.

The firm took off the following decade with the advent of the junk bond market, acquiring household names such as Safeway and Duracell. But KKR's \$25bn conquest of RJR Nabisco in 1989,

immortalised in the book *Barbarians at the Gate*, would come to symbolise a new scorched-earth finance that created billionaires but left carnage among busted-up companies and communities. Kohlberg left in 1987 and died in 2015.

Kravis and Roberts have remained intimately involved in the firm despite its size. KKR has almost 2,000 employees and manages \$429bn in assets spread across private equity, property, insurance and credit investing.

Roberts has maintained his base in San Francisco, while Kravis has been one of the most visible members of New York's business community.

This year, KKR closed the \$5bn acquisition of Global Atlantic, a life insurance company that expands its reach into fixed income investing and corporate



George Roberts, left, and Henry Kravis came to symbolise scorched-earth finance after their depiction in 'Barbarians at the Gate' on the Nabisco buyout

lending. KKR was listed in New York in 2010. Its shares have risen 150 per cent since the start of 2020, giving it a market capitalisation of more than \$60bn.

As KKR and its peers have come to manage hundreds of billions of dollars and have evolved from insular partnerships into large listed companies, they have carefully had to balance the controlling impulses of their founders with the need to attract public market investors. KKR has reorganised itself as a corporation, paying a higher tax rate, while announcing plans to have a one-share, one-vote structure.

Kravis and Roberts are KKR's top two shareholders, which entitled them to \$90m each in dividend payouts in 2020. **Formidable KKR page 7**  
**Lex page 16**

### Briefing

► **Inflation alert spurs bets on UK rate rise**  
British government bond yields have reached their highest in two years after rate setters sounded the inflation alarm over the weekend. Investors now expect a rate increase in December. — PAGE 5

► **Moldova caught in European gas squeeze**  
The tiny ex-Soviet state wedged between Romania and Ukraine has requested emergency supplies from EU countries after Russian exporter Gazprom slashed shipments. — PAGE 2; BIG READ, PAGE 13

► **US-based economists take Nobel Prize**  
David Card, Joshua Angrist and Guido Imbens have shared this year's award for work that challenged received ideas and "revolutionised empirical research" on issues including immigration. — PAGE 3

► **EU targets light-touch branch bank rules**  
Insiders have said Brussels is preparing a sweeping overhaul of the regime that allows foreign banks to use lightly regulated branches to operate across the EU. — PAGE 6

► **Isis 'finance minister' captured in Iraq**  
Security forces in Baghdad have announced the capture of Sami Jassim Mohammad al-Jubouri, who was said to have managed the finances of the Islamist terror organisation. — PAGE 2

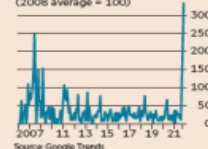
► **Co-head of German far-right party quits**  
Jörg Meuthen, who was seen as the moderate face of the party, has announced he is standing down from the leadership of Alternative for Germany after losing a power struggle with hardliners. — PAGE 2

► **Kim demands boost to living standards**  
The dictator has demanded that officials boost the quality of life in North Korea as it grapples with sanctions, border closures with China and Russia, and a poor harvest. — PAGE 3; NOTEBOOK, PAGE 14

### Datawatch

#### 70s classic

UK Google searches for 'stagflation' (2008 average = 100)



A term reminiscent of 1970s Britain has made a comeback. Internet searches point to rising concern over 'stagflation' — low growth at the same time as inflation. Searches are three times higher than during the financial crisis



## Pacific islanders set off early for Scotland summit

Covid-19 travel curbs are making the journey to Scotland for the COP26 summit a tortuous trek for delegates from some of the nations affected most by climate change. Those from Pacific islands on the opposite side of the world from Glasgow would face difficulties in normal times. But they now face a four-day journey, which, ironically, worsens their environmental impact. The Palau delegate will go via Guam, Hawaii, Texas and Frankfurt. **Island nations — PAGE 4**

## UK's early herd immunity strategy was 'public health failure', Covid report finds

CLIVE COOKSON AND LAURA HUGHES  
LONDON

The British government and scientists made a fatalistic decision by backing a "herd immunity" strategy in the early stages of the coronavirus pandemic, costing many thousands of lives in "one of the most important public health failures the United Kingdom has ever experienced", a parliamentary inquiry has concluded.

The report, agreed unanimously by 22 MPs from the Conservative, Labour and Scottish National parties, is the first authoritative investigation of the UK's response to the pandemic ahead of a full public inquiry promised by Boris Johnson, prime minister. The MPs accused the government and its scientific advisers of "group think" that failed to take account of effective action to tackle

Covid-19 taken elsewhere in the world. The report said that despite the UK having "some of the best expertise available anywhere in the world", it had delayed lockdowns and social distancing in the early weeks of the pandemic.

Covid has been associated with more than 150,000 deaths in the UK, one of the world's highest tolls although, as the report notes, global comparisons of mortality rates are not straightforward.

The country was slower to lock down in March 2020 than several other European nations and made an "inexcusable oversight" by failing to launch a successful test and trace operation. Another oversight was failing to impose strict border controls early.

Greg Clark, chair of the science and technology committee, said it cleared scientific advisers of "deliberately following a policy of 'herd immunity' but

there was a degree of fatalism that made it an inevitable outcome, given the limited testing capacity at the time and a widespread view that the public would not accept a lockdown for a significant period".

The government said it had been "guided by scientific and medical experts and we never shied away from taking quick and decisive action to save lives and protect our NHS".

The MPs pointed out that of the 87 people listed as having participated in at least one Sage meeting, all but one were from UK institutions. "A degree of group think... meant we were not as open to approaches being taken elsewhere — such as earlier lockdowns, border controls and effective test and trace — as we should have been."

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World Markets									
STOCK MARKETS					CURRENCIES				
	Oct 11	prev	%chg		Oct 11	prev	%chg		
S&P 500	4409.99	4391.34	0.42	\$ per £	1.157	1.157	0.734	0.733	
Nasdaq Composite	14650.99	14579.54	0.49	£ per \$	0.868	0.868	1.178	1.176	
Dow Jones Ind	34820.95	34746.25	0.50	¥ per \$	131.105	129.674			
FTSE100	1773.47	1771.00	0.09	€ per \$	113.290	112.040			
Euro Stoxx 50	4099.69	4073.29	-0.09	₹ per \$	154.376	152.795			
FTSE 100	7146.85	7095.55	0.72	S\$ per \$	1.072	1.072			
FTSE All-Share	4299.12	4246.71	0.53	₱ per \$	0.084	0.084			
CAC 40	6925.54	6959.99	0.16						
Xetra Dax	15199.14	15206.13	-0.05						
Nikkei	29498.20	29049.94	1.60						
Hang Seng	25252.09	24837.85	1.96						
MSCI World \$	3043.74	3046.57	-0.09	Oil WTI \$	81.32	79.35	2.40		
MSCI EM \$	1257.04	1253.28	0.30	Oil Brent \$	83.98	82.39	1.93		
MSCI ACWI \$	717.49	717.83	-0.05	Gold \$	1773.25	1762.10	0.63		
INTEREST RATES									
		price	yield	chg			price	yield	chg
US Gov 10 yr		146.71	1.81	0.01	Fed Funds Eff		0.08	0.09	-0.01
UK Gov 10 yr			1.09	0.03	US 3m Bill		0.05	0.05	0.00
Ger Gov 10 yr			-0.12	0.03	Euro Liber 3m		-0.57	-0.57	0.00
Japan Gov 10 yr		115.24	0.09	0.01	UK 3m		0.09	0.09	0.00
US Gov 30 yr		112.97	2.16	0.00					
Ger Gov 2 yr		105.14	-0.68	0.02					

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BRENT McDONALD/THE NEW YORK TIMES

## Costly Battle With a Megafire

To fight the giant Dixie fire, California launched a military-style operation. Experts wonder if the approach is sustainable. Page A10.

## Pair Got Sitter Before Arrests In F.B.I. Sting

This article is by Julian E. Barnes, Brenda Wintrod and JoAnna Daemmrich.

WASHINGTON — On July 28, Diana Toebe posted a Facebook message looking for a babysitter on the coming Saturday morning for five to six hours.

Later the post, visible only to friends, was updated with the word "FOUND." And on that Saturday, Ms. Toebe accompanied her husband, Jonathan, to south-central Pennsylvania.

Unbeknownst to Ms. Toebe, she and her husband were being watched by the F.B.I. as they left their home in Annapolis, Md. And the bureau's agents continued to watch in Pennsylvania as Jonathan Toebe removed from his shorts pocket a 32-gigabyte memory card hidden in a sealed Band-Aid wrapper, which he then, according to court papers, placed in a container set up by an undercover F.B.I. operative.

The Toebees, accused by the U.S. government of trying to sell some of America's most closely guarded submarine propulsion secrets to a foreign government, are scheduled to appear in federal court in West Virginia on Tuesday. They will face charges related to violating the Atomic Energy Act's prohibition on sharing nuclear know-how.

For now, the big questions surrounding the couple — what country they are accused of trying to sell the nuclear secrets to, and what motivated them to take the risk — remain unanswered.

Mr. Toebe was described by acquaintances as a diligent and organized grad student in nuclear physics who was commissioned in

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## Years of Abuse Claims, but Doctor Kept Working

By RONI CARYN RABIN

All Tanisha Johnson wanted was for the pain to go away.

Doctors had offered little hope for her intractable migraines. But at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York, Ricardo Cruciani, who had a reputation as a brilliant pain physician, was warm and charming, and prescribed powerful opioids, Ms. Johnson recalled in an interview.

When he put his arm around her, she thought, "Finally, a doctor who cares."

Over the next few months, the doctor increased the doses and added medications. As Ms. Johnson became dependent on the drugs, he became more aggressive, groping her and mastur-

## 'A Culture of Silence' at Hospitals as Women Reported Assaults

bating in front of her, she said. Then he forced her to perform oral sex.

When she resisted, he withheld refills of her prescriptions. "The first week of opioid withdrawal feels like death," Ms. Johnson said.

She was not Mr. Cruciani's only victim. But even as complaints from patients mounted, the doctor was able to move from job to job, securing positions at hospitals in three states over the course of a

decade. He was finally charged with sexual assault in Pennsylvania, registering as a sex offender and surrendering his medical license in a plea agreement in 2017.

He still faces criminal charges in New York and New Jersey. At the moment, Mr. Cruciani is free on \$1 million bail.

His case illustrates failures that permeate oversight of the medical profession, in which physicians wield enormous power within hospitals, misconduct is underreported and often glossed over, and institutional employers are seldom held to account.

At least 150 young women have said they were abused over the course of nearly two decades by Lawrence Nassar, the doctor for

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HILARY SWIFT FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

## In Boston, 'We're Back!'

Jubilant runners and spectators celebrated the return of the Boston Marathon on Monday. Page B8.

## Banks Rouse Customers Against Biden Plan to Give Data to I.R.S.

By KATE KELLY and ALAN RAPPEPORT

When the Biden administration looked for ways to pay for the president's expansive social policy bill, it proposed raising revenue by cracking down on \$7 tril-

lion in unpaid taxes, mostly from wealthy Americans and businesses.

To help find those funds, the administration wants banks to give the Internal Revenue Service new details on their customers and provide data for accounts with total annual deposits or withdraw-

als worth more than \$600. That has sparked an uproar among banks and Republican lawmakers, who say giving the I.R.S. such power would be an enormous breach of privacy and government overreach.

Banks and their trade groups are running advertising and let-

ter-writing campaigns to raise awareness — and concern — about the proposal. As a result, banks from Denver to Philadelphia say they are being deluged with calls, emails and in-person complaints from both savers and small-business owners worried

Continued on Page A14

## Many Rush to Get Boosters As Vaccine Refusers Dig In

Health Officials Say That After Months of Strong Progress, 'We Just Hit a Wall'

By JAN HOFFMAN

Vaccinated people have been burning up the phone lines at the community health center in rural Franklin, La., clamoring for the newly authorized Covid booster shot.

But only a trickle of people have been coming in for their initial doses, even though the rate of full vaccination in the area is still scarcely 39 percent.

The dichotomy illustrates one of the most frustrating problems facing public health officials at this stage of the pandemic: Almost all the eligible adults who remain unvaccinated in the United States are hard-core refusers, and the arrival of boosters is making efforts to coax them as well as those who are still hesitating even more difficult. In the September vaccine monitor survey from the Kaiser Family Foundation, 71 percent of unvaccinated respondents said the need for boosters indicated that the vaccines were not working.

"This vaccine has tested me like nothing before and I've been doing this for 40 years," said Dr. Gary Wiltz, director of the Franklin health center. "I can't tell you how many people we've tried to cajole into taking it."

In some ways the Covid vaccine landscape reflects great progress: Millions of holdouts have decided to get vaccinated over the past couple months, many prodded at the last minute by mandates or anxiety over the highly transmissible Delta variant. (Three unvaccinated people who showed up for shots in Frank-

lin the other morning came because each knew someone who had recently died from Covid.) The decline of new cases recently in many states is another marker of the success of the vaccine campaigns, public health officials say.

But millions of adults are not covered by mandates. Experts in vaccine behavior fear that the country is bumping up against the ceiling of persuadable people, one that is significantly lower than the threshold needed for broad immunity from Delta and, possibly, future variants.

"One day we just hit a wall," said Dr. Steven Furr, who practices family medicine in rural Jackson, Ala., where he has even made house calls to give patients their Covid shots. "We had vaccinated everybody who wanted to be vaccinated and there was nobody left."

About 56 percent of the U.S. population is fully vaccinated, a level that exceeds some early estimates about what it could take to achieve so-called herd immunity against the coronavirus. That percentage will surely rise once the shots are authorized for children under 12, but Delta is so contagious that experts have revised their optimum coverage estimates to 90 percent or higher.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation's vaccine surveys, those who say they will never get the vaccine — the "definitely nots" — have held steady for months between 15 and 12 percent of respondents. The rising vaccination

Continued on Page A15

## N.F.L. Coach Out Over Slurs In His Emails

By BEN BELSON and KATHERINE ROSMAN

Jon Gruden stepped down Monday as the coach of the Las Vegas Raiders football team hours after emails surfaced in which he had made homophobic and misogynistic remarks, following an earlier report of racist statements about a union leader.

His resignation was a striking departure from the football league for a coach who had won a Super Bowl, been a marriage analyst on ESPN and returned to the N.F.L. in 2018 to lead the resurgent Raiders, which he had coached years before.

I have resigned as Head Coach of the Las Vegas Raiders," he said on Twitter in a statement issued by the team. "I love the Raiders and do not want to be a distraction. Thank you to all the players, coaches, staff, and fans of Raider Nation. I'm sorry, I never meant to hurt anyone."

Mark Davis, the owner of the Raiders, said in a statement that he had accepted the resignation. Rich Bisaccia, the Raiders' special teams coordinator, was elevated to interim head coach, the team said.

Gruden's departure came after a New York Times report that N.F.L. officials, as part of a separate workplace misconduct investigation that did not directly involve him, found that Gruden had casually and frequently unleashed misogynistic and homophobic language over several years to denigrate people around the game and to mock some of the league's momentous changes.

He denounced the emergence of women as referees, the drafting of a gay player and the tolerance of players' protesting during the

Continued on Page A12



LOUAI BENHARAJA/FP — GETTY IMAGES

Years of war have not toppled President Bashar al-Assad.

## In Broken Syria, Assad Steps In From the Cold

By BEN HUBBARD

BEIRUT, Lebanon — For a man who has spent the last decade battling armed rebels, being shunned in international forums and watching a brutal civil war dismember his economy, the past few weeks have been good to President Bashar al-Assad of Syria.

Senior officials from Lebanon appealed for his help with chronic electricity cuts. His economy minister rubbed shoulders with his counterpart from the United Arab Emirates at a trade expo in Dubai. The United States, which has heavily penalized him and his associates, backed a plan to revive a gas pipeline through his territory. And he spoke by phone with King Abdullah II of Jordan, his neighbor to the south, for the first time in 10 years.

Syria is still shattered — with its people mired in poverty, millions of refugees in neighboring states still afraid to go home and large swaths of territory still beyond the state's control. But across the Middle East there is a sense that Mr. al-Assad — long known for

Continued on Page A5



BUSINESS B1-5

**Hidden Scenes at Holmes Trial**  
Sketch artists, true-crime fans and a reporter with binoculars watch the Theranos founder in court. PAGE B1

**Racial Bias in Business Loans**  
A study finds Black-owned businesses were disproportionately left out of the Paycheck Protection Program. PAGE B1

NATIONAL A9-15

**Fears Over Spending Bill Cuts**  
Under the duress of negotiations, President Biden has shelved a series of proposals to remake the economy, some of them indefinitely. PAGE A13

**E-Mobility Fueled by Pandemic**  
Electric scooters and bikes are transforming New York City's streets, and safety challenges abound. PAGE A9

**OBITUARIES A16-17**  
**Creator of a Patio Classic**  
Richard Schultz's furniture designs, including a sleek chaise, are models of modernism. He was 95. PAGE A16



ARTS C1-8

**The Man of Steel Comes Out**  
A new Superman, son of Clark Kent and Lois Lane, will soon begin a romantic relationship with a male friend. PAGE C1

**Dry Words, and a Real Thriller**  
In a play about Reality Winner, who leaked top-secret information, an F.B.I. transcript provides the drama. PAGE C1

INTERNATIONAL A4-8

**Hong Kong Schools Shrinking**  
The Chinese territory is experiencing its biggest population drop in decades as residents flee political repression and a new "patriotic" curriculum. PAGE A6

SPORTS B6-10

**New Team, Same Clutch Hits**  
Kyle Schwarber's mammoth blasts made him a hero for the curse-breaking Cubs. For the Red Sox, he has picked up right where he left off. PAGE B6

**OPINION A18-19**  
**Paul Krugman** PAGE A19



SCIENCE TIMES D1-8

**The Future of Viral Evolution**  
The world is very unlikely to eradicate the new coronavirus, scientists say, and what the next few years, and decades, hold is difficult to predict. PAGE D1



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## In Georgia, waiting for Biden to deliver

Black voters give voice to disappointment behind president's drop in polls

BY CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.

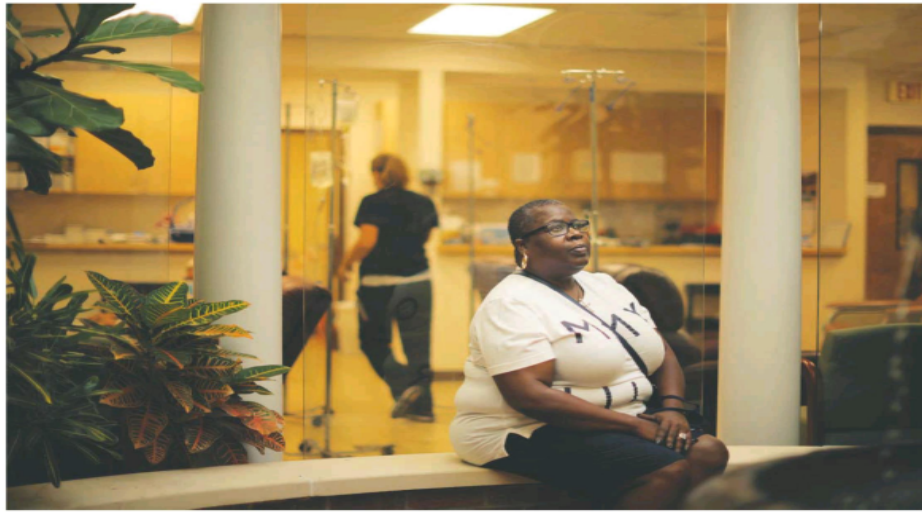
ATLANTA — W. Mondale Robinson spent a large chunk of last fall in clubs and bars and concert venues in Georgia, trying to convince disenchanted Black men that casting a ballot — in the 2020 general election, then the Georgia runoff for the U.S. Senate — could finally mean real change in their communities.

But Robinson, founder of the Black Male Voter Project, thinks the case would be a lot harder to make now. He remembers the exact moment his optimism that President Biden would be different began to fade: when Democrats in May said they were willing to significantly weaken a policing-reform bill to get Republican support.

More disappointments followed. Robinson was dismayed that Biden did not push for changes to the filibuster to enact a \$15 minimum wage. He was upset that the president did not try to halt a raft of voting restrictions passed by Georgia's GOP-led legislature.

"I think the frustration is at an all-time high, and Biden can't go to Georgia or any other Black state in the South and say, 'This is what we delivered in 2021,'" said Robinson, whose group believes it reached 1.2 million Black men in Georgia. "Black men are pissed off about the nothingness that has happened. . . . Does it make the work harder? It makes the work

SEE GEORGIA ON A4



Tamaki Caldwell, 53, waits at Carolina Blood and Cancer Care in Lancaster, S.C., where she has been undergoing treatment for ovarian cancer. Caldwell's doctor, oncologist Kashyap Patel, recently shared test results that indicated her cancer is in remission.

## Covid delays: A crisis in cancer care

Doctors are seeing advanced cases, especially among people of color, as office visits resume

BY LAURIE MCGINLEY

LANCASTER, S.C. — Oncologist Kashyap Patel brandishes test results he's eager to share with his patient, Tamaki Caldwell, showing that her advanced ovarian cancer, once the size of tennis balls, is in remission. Smiling, she says, "I'm going to frame this."

It's a rare bright moment for Caldwell, 53, who knows she is in the fight of her life, one made significantly more arduous by the coronavirus pandemic. She started having abdominal pain last year — "it was like grab and release, grab and release" —

but she didn't see a doctor for months because of concerns about the pandemic and because she was taking care of her grandmother, who had covid-19, the disease caused by the virus.

Now, after six months of chemotherapy, Caldwell feels "like somebody whopped me," she said during a visit to Patel's clinic in late summer. "But I did what I had to do."

Covid and cancer are a menacing mix — for everyone, but especially for people of color from low-income communities. African Americans and Hispanics are about twice as likely as White people to die of covid, according to the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention. Black cancer patients are at particularly high risk for complications and hospitalizations. Even before the pandemic, Black people had lower survival rates for many cancers compared with White people. Now, with the pandemic grinding on, many doctors fear those inequalities will worsen.

"Covid put cancer and health-care disparities on steroids," Patel said as he walked through his clinic, offering patients words of encouragement. "I have never seen this many people presenting at Stage 3 and 4." Even for people like

SEE CANCER ON A10

## Most now feel climate impacts

DISASTERS WORSEN FOR 85% OF WORLD

Study ties harsher events to carbon emissions

BY ANNABELLE TIMSIT AND SARAH KAPLAN

At least 85 percent of the global population has experienced weather events made worse by climate change, according to research published Monday in the journal *Nature Climate Change*.

After using machine learning to analyze and map more than 100,000 studies of events that could be linked to global warming, researchers paired the analysis with a well-established data set of temperature and precipitation shifts caused by fossil fuel use and other sources of carbon emissions.

These combined findings — which focused on events such as crop failures, floods and heat waves — allowed scientists to make a solid link between escalating extremes and human activities. They concluded that global warming has affected 80 percent of the world's land area.

"We have a huge evidence base now that documents how climate change is affecting our societies and our ecosystems," said lead author Max Callaghan, a researcher at the Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change in Germany.

The study provides hard numbers to back up the lived experiences of people from New York

SEE CLIMATE ON A7

## A new responder to mental health calls

Albuquerque deploys social workers instead of armed officers

BY GRIFF WITTE

ALBUQUERQUE — Elisha Lucero was known in her family as a painter, a fisherwoman and a caretaker who had put aside her ambitions to nurse relatives through bouts of poor health.

She was also gripped by mental illness, and on a summer's night in 2019, the 28-year-old was behaving so erratically that a cousin called 911 from their suburban Albuquerque home. Sheriff's deputies banged on the door and demanded that Lucero, who stood 4 feet 11 inches with her shoes on, come outside.

When she did, the deputies shot her 21 times.

While the circumstances remain disputed — authorities say Lucero rushed toward them with a knife, a claim her family denies — the case prompted questions

SEE MENTAL HEALTH ON A8



Walter Adams, a member of Albuquerque's new Community Safety Department, hands water to a disoriented man who was sprawled on the pavement outside a shuttered gas station.

## Inside Blue Origin: Low morale, mistrust, delays

Workers say toxic culture at Bezos's space venture led to exits, lack of success

BY CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT AND RACHEL LERMAN

SEATTLE — In 2019, a mid-level employee at Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin had grown fed up with the company, and as he left, he wrote a long memo that he sent to Bezos, chief executive Bob Smith and other senior leaders: "Our current culture is toxic to our success and many can see it spreading throughout the company." The problems at the space-flight company were "systemic," according to the memo, which was obtained by The Washington Post and verified by two former employees familiar with the matter, and "the loss of trust in Blue's leadership is common."

It was one of a number of warnings to Blue Origin's leadership in recent years that the

company's culture had become dysfunctional, resulting in low morale and high turnover, significant delays across several major programs and a failure to successfully compete with Elon Musk's venture SpaceX, current and former employees said.

The new management's "authoritarian bro culture," as one former employee put it, affected how decisions were made and permeated the institution, translating into condescending, sometimes humiliating, comments and harassment toward some women and a stagnant top-down hierarchy that frustrated many employees.

As it quickly grew from a small start-up to a large corporation with nearly 4,000 employees, Blue Origin grappled with how to improve its culture. In 2019, the company fired its head of recruiting after employees complained of sexism. A consultant retained by Blue Origin conducted a review of the company's leadership, finding that the primary challenge was Smith's ineffec-

SEE BLUE ORIGIN ON A18

## IN THE NEWS



MIKE SEGAR/REUTERS

**Indigenous Peoples' Day** A D.C. rally urged climate action, while other events marked the day, including in New York, above. B1

**Md. couple due in court** Prosecutors seek to keep them detained before trial on charges they tried to sell nuclear submarine secrets. A2

**THE NATION** Southwest Airlines faced a fourth day of disruptions, after canceling hundreds of flights over the weekend and delaying many others. A3  
**Some monuments to Christopher Columbus** have come down, but he is still honored in thousands of spots across the United States. A6  
**A new California law** will require large retailers to have gender-neutral toy sections beginning in 2024. A9

**THE WORLD** Sydney reopened after a 106-day coronavirus

lockdown, and the first stop for many was the local pub. A12  
**A new Austrian chancellor** was sworn in after Sebastian Kurz, once the bright hope of Europe's conservatives, took a tumble. A14  
**Security forces** have detained a senior member of the Islamic State who was once among the most important players in the group's financing efforts, Iraq's prime minister said. A14  
**Canada's Supreme Court** will test an "extreme intoxication" defense in a case where the defendant killed his fa-

ther while high on magic mushrooms. A15  
**China's largest coal-** producing region was hit by severe flooding, threatening the nation's power supply and displacing more than 120,000 people. A20

**THE ECONOMY** Focusing on data, Frances Haugen has broken through where many Facebook whistleblowers have not. A17  
**Three U.S.-based** economists were awarded the Nobel Prize in economics for their work drawing conclusions by observing the real-world causes and effects of policies. A20  
**Kaiser Permanente**

health-care workers in California and Oregon authorized a strike over pay, benefits and working conditions. A20

**THE REGION** More than half a billion dollars went to keeping Washington-area renters in their homes ahead of a federal deadline. B1  
**A former D.C. firefighter** has settled a lawsuit with Fairfax County for \$390,000 after he was wrongfully arrested in 2018 and convicted. B1  
**D.C. Council member** Anita Bonds will face primary challenges from health-care advocate Ambrose Lane Jr. and local political operative Nathan Fleming. B1

## INSIDE



**HEALTH & SCIENCE** 'Mommy brain'? Small studies support the existence of a cognitive change after birth, but there's room for more research. E1

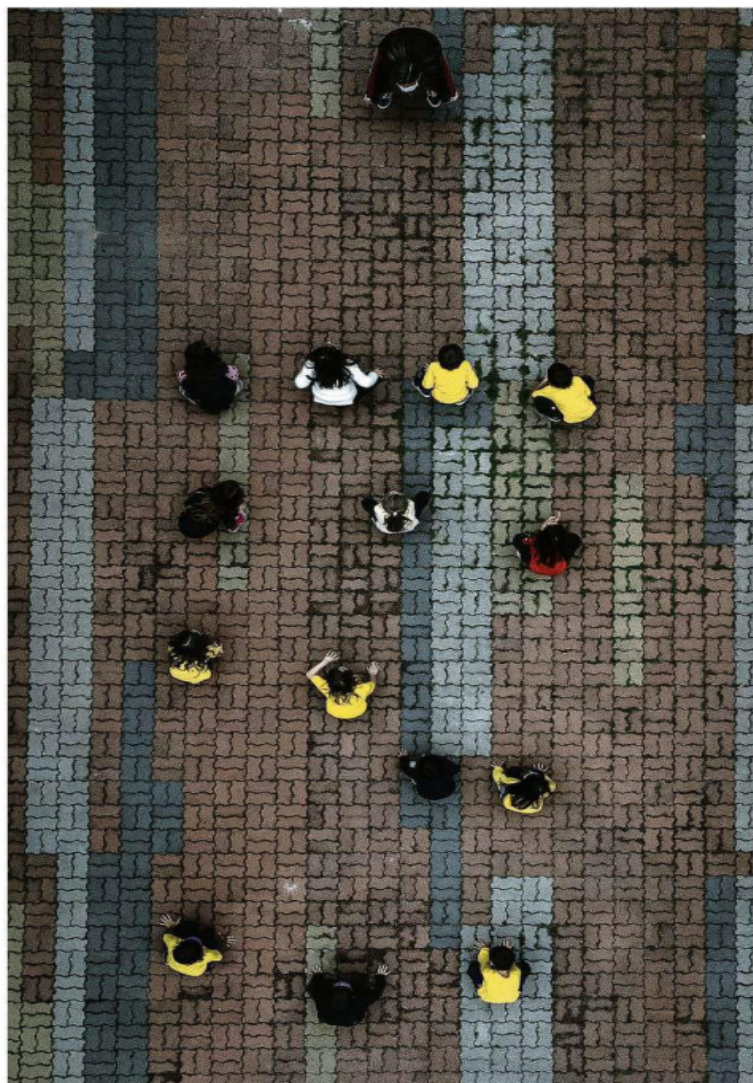
**STYLE** A stylized shift Pop stars' all-caps and lowercase song titles aren't just superficial, writes critic Chris Richards. C1

BUSINESS NEWS.....A17  
COMICS.....C6  
OPINION PAGES.....A21  
LOTTERIES.....B4  
OBITUARIES.....B6  
TELEVISION.....C4  
WORLD NEWS.....A12

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The Washington Post / Page 144, No. 321







Bruno Santos/Folhapress

## DIA DA CRIANÇA

Por causa da pandemia, pega-pega adaptado com galho ou piscadela para não tocar no colega e pular corda se tornaram atividades comuns no retorno às aulas presenciais. Cotidiano B2

Cecília Machado  
Brasil de primeira  
infância perdida

Para as cerca de 40% das crianças de 0 a 5 anos em situação de pobreza no Brasil, políticas de transferência de renda têm sido insuficientes. Já programas que ensinam aos cuidadores jogos e estratégias de comunicação para o cotidiano mostram resultados promissores. Mercado A16

Vera Iaconelli  
Sapos, filhos  
e cachorros

Se não podemos evitar sermos tão distantes do ideal que nos persegue, também podemos impedir que os filhos descubram a farsa, da qual não escapam também. Ganha quem não se apega à imagem. E quem tiver consideração pela condição humana, nossa e deles. Cotidiano B5

Suspeita de morte  
em teste no AM é  
grave, diz Unesco

A Unesco considera que a denúncia de que 200 voluntários morreram em uma pesquisa feita com proxalutamida no Amazonas constitui uma das infrações éticas mais sérias da história latino-americana. O remédio foi testado contra a Covid-19, sem ter sucesso. Saúde B4

Temporal arranca mais de cem  
árvores e destelha casas em SP

Ventos com velocidade acima de 70 km/h, associados a chuva com granizo que alagou prédios, causaram destruição em Pirassununga (211 km da capital) no sábado. Não há registro de feridos ou desabrigados. Cotidiano B3

Buffett pede US\$ 1,2 bi  
em jatinhos da Embraer

A empresa aérea do bilionário americano Warren Buffett fez uma encomenda de 100 jatos executivos da Embraer, totalizando o equivalente hoje a R\$ 6,6 bilhões. Mercado A15

## MÔNICA BERGAMO

Justiça de Brasília limita poderes de Sérgio Camargo na Fundação Palmares

Ilustrada C2

Meta de crianças em  
creche fica distante  
na gestão Bolsonaro

Índice de matrícula estagnou em 2019 e teve leve queda em 2020, dificultando atingir 50% dos alunos em 2024

Sob o governo de Jair Bolsonaro, o Brasil ficou mais distante de atingir a meta prevista para 2024 de ter metade das crianças de 0 a 3 anos matriculadas em creches.

Em 2019, o índice estagnou em 32% dos alunos atendidos, após anos de alta constante. Em 2020, com um desempenho pior já antes dos efeitos da pandemia, teve uma leve queda para 31%.

Para chegar à meta, que não é obrigatória por lei, é preciso incluir 2,2 milhões de crianças no sistema.

Neste governo, houve queda no apoio federal ao ensino infantil nos municípios.

Mesmo a média nacional embute desigualdades. Apenas 17% das cidades têm vagas suficientes para ao menos metade do contingente naquela faixa etária.

Desses municípios, 37% ficam na região Sul, índice que cai a 3% no Norte. Já 45% das cidades não superam a média nacional de 31% de crianças nas creches, 80% delas no Norte e mais da metade, no Nordeste.

Os dados foram calculados pelo Comitê Técnico de Educação do Instituto Rui Barbosa, ligado aos Tribunais de Contas. Cotidiano B1

Rejeição alta  
é problema  
de presidente  
para disputa

Jair Bolsonaro (sem partido) entra na disputa pela reeleição com a maior carga negativa registrada entre candidatos que foram eleitos nos oito pleitos presidenciais desde a redemocratização.

É o que aponta análise de pesquisas do Datafolha. Hoje, 59% do eleitorado diz não votar em Bolsonaro de jeito nenhum, 21 pontos percentuais a mais do que em Lula (PT). Poder A4

Romário afirma preferir Bolsonaro a Lula para a Presidência Poder A7

Pesquisas sobre  
trabalho levam o  
Nobel de Economia

O Prêmio Nobel de Economia foi concedido a três pesquisadores. O canadense-americano David Card venceu "por suas contribuições à economia do trabalho". Já o israelense-americano Joshua D. Angrist e o holandês Guido W. Imbens, "por suas contribuições para a análise das relações causais". Mercado A16

## ANÁLISE

Sergio Firpo  
Vencedores de  
2021 ajudaram a  
melhorar políticas

Mercado A16

Inflação se esconde em corte de  
serviços ao consumidor

Mercado A14

## A pandemia em 11.out

Dados das 20h

## POPULAÇÃO VACINADA

No Brasil

Ao menos uma dose (dose única ou 1ª dose)

72,2%

1º ciclo vacinal completo (dose única ou 2ª dose)

46,7%

Dose de reforço

1,1%

Nos estados

Ao menos uma dose

1º ciclo vacinal completo

Dose de reforço

SP 82,1% 61,0% 2,4%

MS 76,2% 60,2% 7,5%

RS 75,7% 53,0% 1,5%

ESTÁGIO DA DOENÇA

Óbitos

Média móvel

440

Em 24 h 219

Total 601.266

Casos -19,9%\* (desacelerado)

Casos nos estados

Média móvel (variação\*)

Ritmo

SP 2.005 (+13,9%) desacelerado

GO 1.641 (-9,0%) estável

MG 1.565 (-46,4%) desacelerado

\*Variação em relação a 14 dias

## EDITORIAIS A2

As partes e o todo  
Acerca de queixas do MC-TI e veto a absorventes.

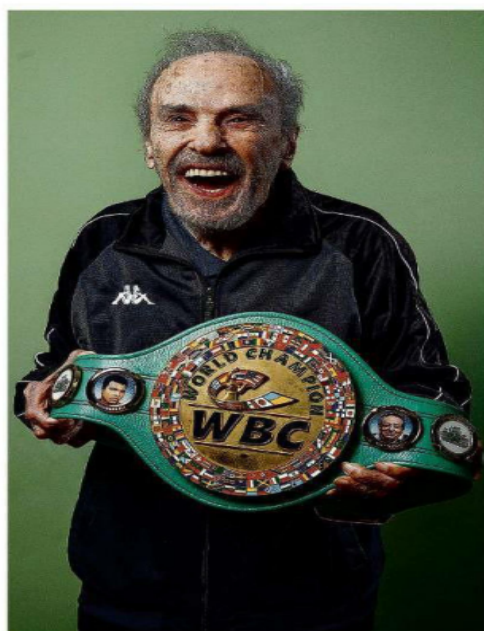
Brasil queimado  
Sobre pleito do país por recursos para o ambiente.

## ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje



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Eder Jofre com o cinturão de campeão Eduardo Knapp/Folhapress

## Esporte B7

Um herói  
do boxe

Sobrevivente do esporte, Eder Jofre ganha homenagem aos 85 anos nos EUA

## Ilustrada C1

Liudmila Ulitskaia chega ao Brasil com livro sobre infância vivida no stalinismo

## Ilustrada C7

Politicamente correto tira 'Brown Sugar' de shows do Rolling Stones

## Comida C10

Chefs e criadores elevam o status da carne de porco na alta gastronomia