



Why We
Choose
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REVIEW

WSJ

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL WEEKEND

DOW JONES | News Corp *****

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16 - 17, 2021 - VOL. CCLXXVIII NO. 91

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What's News

World-Wide

The FDA is delaying a decision on authorizing Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine for adolescents to assess whether the shot may lead to heightened risk of a rare inflammatory heart condition. **A1**

Advisers to the FDA voted unanimously to recommend that the agency authorize an extra dose of J&J's Covid-19 vaccine to shore up protection against the coronavirus. **A5**

The Biden administration plans to lift travel restrictions for international visitors to the U.S. on Nov. 8, the White House said. **A5**

The administration is preparing by mid-November to resume a Trump-era immigration policy of returning migrants to Mexico while their requests for asylum in the U.S. are considered. **A4**

The DOJ said it would soon file a request with the Supreme Court seeking to block enforcement of a Texas law that bans many abortions in the state. **A4**

A complex suicide attack on a Shiite mosque in southern Afghanistan's main city of Kandahar killed at least 38 worshippers on Friday. **A6**

Business & Finance

Americans stepped up spending in September, a sign of resilient demand and rising inflation as consumers head into the holiday shopping season. Retail sales rose a seasonally adjusted 0.7% from the previous month. **A1**

Goldman posted a 60% jump in profit and a 26% increase in revenue, rounding out the earnings season for the biggest U.S. banks. **A1**

The S&P 500, Dow and Nasdaq rose 1.8%, 1.6% and 2.2%, respectively, for the week, following a strong streak of earnings reports. **B1**

Walmart is helping launch a new company that aims to provide financial services for its millions of customers and workers. **B1**

The Boeing ex-employee charged with misleading air-safety regulators about a flight-control system that played a significant role in two 737 MAX crashes is being unfairly blamed for the disasters, his attorney said. **B3**

China's central bank said that the risk of Evergrande's debt crisis spilling over into the financial system was controllable. **B10**

NOONAN

Dave Chappelle
May Help
Tame Wokeness **A15**

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U.K. Lawmaker Is Killed in Attack Authorities Call Terrorism



INVESTIGATION: Emergency services personnel were at the scene in Essex on Friday after David Amess, a Conservative Party lawmaker, was fatally stabbed during a meeting with constituents. U.K. authorities said the assault was a terrorist attack. **A6**

FDA Delays Moderna Decision

By FELICIA SCHWARTZ

The Food and Drug Administration is delaying a decision on authorizing Moderna Inc.'s Covid-19 vaccine for adolescents to assess whether the shot may lead to heightened risk of a rare inflammatory heart condition, according to people familiar with the matter.

After four Nordic countries strengthened their stances against giving Moderna vac-

cines to younger adults last week, the FDA has been taking another look at the risk of the condition, known as myocarditis, among younger men who took Moderna's vaccine, especially compared with those who received the vaccine from Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE, the people said.

So far, the regulators haven't determined whether there is an elevated risk, the people said. The delay could be

Boost for J&J

Advisory panel to FDA recommends extra dose of its Covid-19 vaccine..... **A5**

several weeks, but the timing is unclear, one of the people said. The agency plans to further review data before deciding on whether to extend the vaccine's eligibility to younger

people, the people said.

Myocarditis risk is the latest complication for vaccine makers, regulators and public-health authorities who have been encouraging vaccination to protect against Covid-19, after a rare blood-clotting condition hurt the rollout of AstraZeneca PLC and Johnson & Johnson shots.

The risk of myocarditis has also been an issue among

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EXCHANGE



PAYDAY

Today's startup founders land fat compensation packages. **B1**

Judges or Their Brokers Bought And Sold Stocks of Litigants

61 report trades made while they oversaw suits involving the companies

By COULTER JONES, JOE PALAZZOLO AND JAMES V. GRIMALDI

Mary Geiger Lewis acquired Walmart Inc. stock. Charles Norgle Sr. reported nearly a dozen buys and sells of Pfizer Inc. shares. Charles Siragusa had two accounts that bought Medtronic PLC stock.

None of that would be a problem, except for this: All are federal judges, and at the time of the trades, all were hearing cases involving those companies.

The Wall Street Journal discovered this trading in a broad investigation that identified 131 federal judges who heard hundreds of cases between 2010 and 2018 involving companies in which they or a family member owned stock—in violation of federal law

and judicial-ethics rules.

Judges Lewis, Norgle and Siragusa were among 61 judges who didn't just own stocks of companies that were litigants in their courtrooms. Accounts held by the judges or their families traded shares as suits were progressing, the Journal's investigation found. Nearly half of the judges reported more than one trade while a case was in progress.

Federal law and ethics rules say judges must recuse themselves if they, their spouse or any minor children own even a single share of a company that is a plaintiff or defendant in a case before them.

Some judges, when contacted by the Journal, said they were unaware that brokers or

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Wally the Walrus Takes European Tour, Then Disappears

The 2,000-pound visitor from the Arctic hung out on boats, swam to tourist spots

By JAMES HOOKWAY

This summer, marine researchers were presented with an unexpected problem. How, exactly, do you get a 2,000-pound juvenile walrus to cut short his tour around Europe and swim back home to the Arctic? Nicknamed Wally by biologists, the

young male first appeared in Ireland in March before his itinerary took him to Wales, England and then France and Spain over the following months—more than a thousand miles from his usual habitat.

With his tusks and long whiskers, the walrus became a



Well-traveled

Please turn to page A7

Goldman Feasts on Deals Boom

By ORLA MCCAFFREY

Companies are ravenous for deals. Wall Street investment bankers are feasting on big paydays.

Goldman Sachs Group Inc. on Friday reported a 60% jump in profit and a 26% increase in revenue, beating analysts' expectations. The Wall Street firm rounded out earnings season for the biggest U.S. banks, all of which reported double-digit profit gains.

JPMorgan Chase & Co., Bank of America Corp., Citigroup Inc. and Wells Fargo & Co. released some of the money they had set aside to

deal with pandemic losses, a sign of their confidence in the bumpy economic recovery.

Goldman CEO David Solomon said on a call with analysts that he believes the pandemic's worst effects on the global economy are likely over but that some risks remain. Congress, for example, is heading toward another debt-ceiling standoff and deadlocked over infrastructure proposals.

Goldman executives are paying close attention to Washington developments and inflation, the Delta variant and the "complicated" U.S.-China relationship, Mr. Solomon said.

"Taken together, these

items have the potential to be a headwind to growth," Mr. Solomon said.

That hasn't stopped the deal-making party. Goldman's investment bankers brought in \$3.7 billion in fees, the second-best quarter on record and 88% higher than a year ago. They earned \$1.65 billion just from advising on mergers and acquisitions, a quarterly record and more than triple the year-ago results. Advisory fees also more than tripled at Morgan Stanley and Citigroup, and more than

Please turn to page A4

Heard on the Street: Goldman's recipe for long-term gains..... **B12**

Escape to the Pacific Northwest OFF DUTY



Demand, Inflation Drive Up Sales at Retailers

Shoppers spent 0.7% more in September, shaking off the variant and supply-chain snarls

By DAVID HARRISON

Americans stepped up their spending in September, a sign of resilient demand and rising inflation as consumers head into holiday-shopping season.

Sales at stores, restaurants and online sellers rose a seasonally adjusted 0.7% from the previous month, the Commerce Department said Friday. The rise in sales reflects persistently strong demand and higher consumer prices.

Consumers, armed with stimulus payments and rising wages, have spent more this year, shrugging off the Delta variant of Covid-19, the end of enhanced unemployment benefits and emerging supply constraints. The retail sales, which aren't adjusted for inflation, rose 13.9% in September from a year earlier. Consumer inflation increased 5.4% in that time, the Labor Department said.

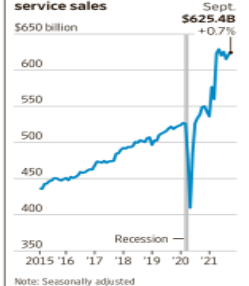
Still, economists see reasons for concern ahead, including supply disruptions causing backlogs and pushing up prices, a slowing job market recovery and anxious consumers.

"The shipping bottlenecks will become more of an issue in November and December when you have that spike in holiday-related sales," said Aneta Markowska, chief economist at Jefferies LLC.

So far, consumers have

Please turn to page A2

U.S. retail and food-service sales



Autumn property special



HOW TO SPEND IT

Kishida breaks with Abenomics in bid to close Japan's wealth gap

◆ Vow for 'new form of capitalism' ◆ Push to lift consumption ◆ Gamble as election nears

KANA INAGAKI AND LEO LEWIS — TOKYO

Japan's new prime minister has attacked his own party's failure to deliver broad-based growth, distancing himself from the Abenomics programme that defined the economy for almost a decade.

In his first interview with international media since taking office this month, Fumio Kishida told the Financial Times that while regulatory reform remained necessary, he would approach it with a focus on narrowing the gap between the rich and poor.

"Abenomics clearly delivered results in terms of gross domestic product, corporate earnings and employment. But it failed to reach the point of creating a 'virtuous cycle'," Kishida said, in his bluntest attack on a programme, embraced by his two predecessors, that propelled the Tokyo stock market to double in value.

"I want to achieve a virtuous economic cycle by raising the incomes of not just a certain segment, but a broader range of people to trigger consumption. I believe that's the key to how the new form of capitalism is going to be different from the past," he added.

By implicitly criticising Shinzo Abe, Japan's longest-serving prime minister who resigned in September 2020, Kishida is taking a calculated risk as he prepares for an election on October 31.

Recent polls have given him an average approval of just over 50 per cent, considerably lower than most of his predecessors when they came into office



Fumio Kishida: 'Abenomics failed to reach the point of creating a virtuous cycle' — Noriko Takemura/FT

and a signal, said political analysts, that his honeymoon period for enacting meaningful reform may be short.

The former foreign minister was chosen to replace Yoshihide Suga as leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic party on the understanding that he would offer "status quo" stability.

Despite attempts to quash that image, he has already backtracked on one major policy initiative, to raise capital gains tax, after share prices fell sharply amid fears the move would kill a revival of interest from retail investors.

Kishida stressed his new economic approach — involving tax incentives for companies to raise wages and pay increases for nurses and care workers — would attempt to reverse the failures of the "trickle-down" theories and market-led reforms that have guided Japanese policymaking from the mid-2000s.

"Everyone just considers regulatory reform in terms of market fundamentalism, competition and survival of the fittest. That's the problem with our past thinking on regulatory reform," Kishida said, urging business and the public to share a more holistic vision of the economy. He also envisions deeper collaboration between state and private sectors to secure strategic assets and technologies such as chips and rare earths that will be pivotal for economic security.

"It is important to ensure a self-sufficient economy when we are considering future growth," Kishida said. "We need to make sure that Japan has Turn to page 4

Among the Taliban

A special dispatch

LIFE & ARTS



Jancis Robinson

Organic sauvignons

LIFE & ARTS



Beyond the barbarians

Where next for private equity?

BIG READ



Shortage nation

Tim Harford

LIFE & ARTS



Goldman bonanza caps Wall Street's week of feasting on dealmaking boom

JOSHUA FRANKLIN — NEW YORK

Goldman Sachs is on track for record full-year profits, capping a week of bank earnings in which Wall Street reaped billions of dollars from a dealmaking boom.

The US lender reported third-quarter total net income of \$5.4bn yesterday, up from \$3.4bn a year earlier and way beyond forecasts for \$3.7bn, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Investment banking revenue drove the growth, coming in at \$3.7bn.

Investment banks are raking in record sums from fees thanks to a rush of dealmaking that spans corporate mergers, private equity purchases and initial public offerings.

The industry brought in more than \$110bn in fees in the first nine months of the year, according to Refinitiv, buoyed

by big cross-border deals and the boom in so-called blank-cheque companies.

Goldman's stellar numbers capped a bumper earnings season for investment banking revenue across Wall Street.

Rival JPMorgan Chase's investment banking earnings grew 52 per cent to \$3.5bn, while fees at Morgan Stanley rose 67 per cent to \$2.9bn. Citigroup and Bank of America also enjoyed strong growth in their investment banks.

Overall, Goldman has posted revenue of \$46.7bn and net income of \$17.7bn for the first nine months of 2021, higher than any full-year period in the bank's history. Goldman shares, which have risen more than 80 per cent in the past year, were up around 2.6 per cent by noon in New York trading hours.

The investment banking dynamics of the quarter were particularly well suited to Goldman. Some 44.6 per cent of the

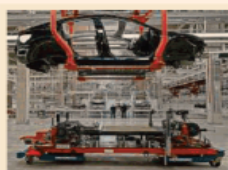
fees were in advisory work on mergers and acquisitions, for which Goldman has earned more than any other bank so far in 2021, according to Refinitiv data.

Analysts at Oppenheimer described the quarter for Goldman as being "quite literally off the charts", with earnings per share for the quarter higher than the most optimistic forecast.

The looming question for Goldman is how sustainable blockbuster results like this are for the bank. Oppenheimer's Chris Kotowski said "no one is expecting the environment to continue".

David Solomon, Goldman's chief executive, sounded a cautious note on the bank's outlook, pointing to the trajectory of inflation, the Delta variant of Covid-19, the debate around US economic policy and "complicated" US-China relations as risks.

Lex page 20



Red tape and unions hold back Tesla's German plant

Elon Musk built a factory in China in 168 days but is struggling to replicate that speed in Germany. Environmental protests, union concerns and red tape have dogged the Tesla 'gigafactory' project in a forest outside Berlin that was announced two years ago. It held an open day last week for locals, with street performers, balloon artists and currywurst. Top of the bill was Musk himself, who flew in and declared it would start making cars by December. German battle ► PAGE 3

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| World Markets | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------|------------|
| STOCK MARKETS | | | CURRENCIES | | | INTEREST RATES | | | |
| | Oct 15 | prev %chg | Oct 15 | prev | Oct 15 | prev | price | yield | chg |
| S&P 500 | 4461.67 | 4439.26 0.52 | \$ per £ | 1.181 1.159 | £ per \$ | 0.726 0.723 | US Gov 10 yr | 1.46 71 | 1.57 0.06 |
| Nasdaq Composite | 14603.66 | 14323.43 0.25 | £ per € | 1.377 1.369 | € per £ | 1.188 1.181 | UK Gov 10 yr | 1.91 | 0.06 |
| Dow Jones Ind | 35163.58 | 34912.56 0.73 | ¥ per € | 0.843 0.847 | ¥ per \$ | 132.378 131.778 | Ger Gov 10 yr | 4.17 | 0.02 |
| FTSE Eurofirst 300 | 1618.40 | 1603.90 0.91 | ¥ per \$ | 114.065 113.705 | £ index | 82.108 81.880 | Jpn Gov 10 yr | 115.24 | 0.00 0.00 |
| Euro Stoxx 50 | 4182.23 | 4149.06 0.80 | \$ per £ | 157.049 155.571 | \$ per £ | 1.271 1.264 | US Gov 30 yr | 112.97 | 2.06 0.04 |
| FTSE 100 | 7224.03 | 7207.71 0.37 | £ per \$ | 1.071 1.070 | | | US Gov 2 yr | 105.14 | -0.69 0.02 |
| FTSE All-Share | 4123.97 | 4107.86 0.39 | £ per \$ | 0.862 0.863 | | | | | |
| CAC 40 | 6727.52 | 6685.21 0.63 | COMMODITIES | | | | | | |
| Xetra Dax | 15567.36 | 15462.72 0.61 | | | | price | prev | chg | |
| Nikkei | 25048.63 | 24954.93 1.01 | | | | Feed Funds Eff | 0.08 | 0.09 | -0.01 |
| Hong Kong | 25330.96 | 24962.89 1.46 | Oct 15 | prev %chg | | US 3m T-bill | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.00 |
| MSCI World \$ | 3064.59 | 3039.01 1.50 | Oil WTI \$ | 91.88 | 81.31 0.88 | Euro Libor 3m | -0.57 | -0.57 | 0.00 |
| MSCI EM \$ | 1266.67 | 1260.23 0.51 | Oil Brent \$ | 94.41 | 94.00 0.49 | UK 3m | 0.14 | 0.13 | 0.01 |
| MSCI ADWI \$ | 728.63 | 716.73 1.39 | Gold \$ | 1757.65 | 1773.25 -0.89 | | | | |

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90 Seconds of Rage on the Capitol Steps

INSIDE, VIOLENCE EBBED. OUTSIDE, 7 MEN UNITED IN A MOMENT OF STUNNING BRUTALITY.



JOSEPH BUSHMORE

Inflamed by a political lie and swept up in a frenzy, rioters on Jan. 6 waged a bitter assault at the threshold of Congress.

By DAN BARRY, ALAN FEUER
and MATTHEW ROSENBERG

The American flag became a blunt instrument in the bearded man's hands. Wielding the flagpole like an ax, he swung once, twice, three times, to beat a police officer being dragged down the steps of a United States Capitol under siege.

Other officers also fell under mob attack, while the rest fought to keep the hordes from storming the Capitol and upending the routine transfer of power. Sprayed chemicals choked the air, projectiles flew overhead and the unbridled roars formed a battle-cry din — all as a woman lay dying beneath the jostling scum of the Jan. 6 riot.

Amid the hand-to-hand combat, seven men from seven different states stood out. Although strangers to

one another, they worked as if in concert while grappling with the phalanx of police officers barring entry to the Capitol.

The moment was a flicker in the chaotic panorama, a 90-second flash of unbridled violence overshadowed by the high drama inside, where rioters menaced in packs, legislators hid in fear and a protester was shot to death.

Now, nine months removed from the mayhem, Republicans bound to former President Donald J. Trump's unfounded assertion that the 2020 election was stolen from him have all but wished the day away: blocking the creation of a bipartisan investigative commission; blaming anti-fa, or Democrats, or the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and minimizing the overwhelming video evidence.

Even so, a reckoning is underway, as prosecutors

and congressional investigators seek to understand how a political rally devolved into an assault on the citadel of American democracy and those who guard it. They are drilling down on whether the riot was organized and what roles were played by far-right extremist groups, various Trump supporters and Mr. Trump himself.

But it may also help to slow down the video evidence, linger on those 90 seconds on the Capitol steps and trace back the roots of the violence and its perpetrators. Doing so provides a close-up view of how seemingly average citizens — duped by a political lie, goaded by their leaders and swept up in a frenzied throng — can unite in breathtaking acts of brutality.

Nearly a quarter of the more than 600 people arrested in connection with the riot have been charged

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FLOOD OF MONEY IN FIGHT TO TAKE CONGRESS'S REINS

CASH DOUBLES FROM '20

Democrats and G.O.P.
Gained \$450 Million
in 3rd Quarter

By SHANE GOLDMACHER

A dizzying amount of money is already pouring into the battles for the House and the Senate more than a year before the 2022 elections, as Republicans are bullish on their chances to take over both chambers in the first midterm elections under President Biden, given the narrow margins keeping Democrats in power.

The two parties' main war chests for the House total a combined \$128 million — more than double the sum at this point in the 2020 cycle and far surpassing every other previous one. Top House members are now raising \$1 million or more per quarter. And more than two dozen senators and Senate candidates topped that threshold.

Candidate after candidate, and the parties themselves, are posting record-breaking sums, even as the shapes of most House districts nationwide remain in flux because of delays in the once-a-decade redrawing of boundaries.

In Georgia, Senator Raphael Warnock, a Democrat, raised more than \$100,000 per day in the last three months for a \$9.5 million haul. But his leading Republican rival, Herschel Walker, the former football player who was urged to run by former President Donald J. Trump, raised \$3.7 million in a little more than a month, setting up a potentially bruising and expensive contest in that key state.

Politicians in both parties are furiously racing to expand their online donor bases while simultaneously courting big checks from wealthy benefactors. At a Senate

Continued on Page 29

POLICY SWAP To restore bite to their climate plan, some Democrats push a carbon tax. PAGE 27

For Instagram, Dread at Loss Of 'Teen Time'

This article is by Sheera Frenkel, Ryan Mac and Mike Isaac.

SAN FRANCISCO — When Instagram reached one billion users in 2018, Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's chief executive, called it "an amazing success." The photo-sharing app, which Facebook owns, was widely hailed as a hit with young people and celebrated as a growth engine for the social network.

But even as Mr. Zuckerberg praised Instagram, the app was privately lamenting the loss of teenage users to other social media platforms as an "existential threat," according to a 2018 marketing presentation.

By last year, the issue had become more urgent, according to internal Instagram documents obtained by The New York Times. "If we lose the teen foothold in the U.S. we lose the pipeline," read a strategy memo, from last October, that laid out a marketing plan for this year.

In the face of that threat, Instagram left little to chance. Starting in 2018, it earmarked almost its entire global annual marketing budget — planned at \$390 million this year — to targeting teenagers, largely through digital ads, according to planning documents and people directly involved in the

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3 Strangers With One Mission: Rescuing a Burned Afghan Girl

By HELENE COOPER

Nabila had been fasting in the hope that God would get her family through the gates of Hamid Karzai International Airport. So when a tear-gas canister thrown by American forces trying to disperse the crowd hit her 8-year-old daughter, Asma, she was too weak to help.

Screaming in pain, with her face mask on fire, the little girl fell to the ground. As smoke spread, Nabila fell too, and was separated from her daughter in the mass of panicked people.

And in that moment, everything seemed lost for Asma, whose father had been killed by the Taliban for the crime of working for the United States military. But soon after the child was injured, a remarkable intervention involving secret American military commandos, a Central Intelligence

Agency base in Kabul and three strangers in the United States began to take shape.

In the years to come, there will be stories about the people who made it out of Afghanistan in the frenetic days before the last U.S. soldier boarded a C-17 plane at the end of the two-decade war. There will be stories about the all-girls robotics team that was flown to Qatar and the American-trained journalists who huddled outside the Abbey Gate at the airport before Marines got them through.

In the final two weeks, the United States evacuated 124,000 people, most of them Afghans. As they arrive at U.S. military bases, each brings a personal story.

Here is Asma's. Slight and with a head full of long, black hair always pulled into

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Taking the Godfather Out of the Picture in Sicily

By JASON HOROWITZ

CATANIA, Italy — The mother had prepared everything for the baptism. She dressed her infant son Antonio in a handmade satin suit with tails and a matching cream-colored top hat glittering with rhinestones. She hired the photographers and bought the baby a gold cross. She booked a big buffet lunch for the whole clan at the Copacabana.

But as the parish priest in the Sicilian city of Catania went through the usual liturgy, calling on the family to renounce Satan and ladling holy water on the squirming baby's head, one major part of the ritual went missing.

There was no godfather. "It's not right," said Agata Peri, 68, little Antonio's great-grandmother. "I definitely didn't make this decision."

The church did. That weekend in October, the Roman Catholic diocese of Catania enacted a three-year ban on the ancient tradition



GIANNI CIPRIANO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Samuel De Luca's baptism in Catania, Italy. Worries about secularization, and mob ties, have led to a diocese ban on godparents.

of naming godparents at baptisms and christenings. Church officials argue that the once-essential figure in a child's Catholic education has lost all spiritual significance. Instead, they say, it has become a networking opportunity for families

looking to improve their fortunes, secure endowments of gold necklaces and make advantageous connections, sometimes with local power brokers who have dozens of godchildren.

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INTERNATIONAL 4-14

Top Ally of Maduro Extradited

A financial fixer for President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela faces money laundering charges in the U.S. PAGE 14

Syrian Official Is Assassinated

The Syrian government accused Israel of killing a high-ranking official near the countries' shared border. PAGE 14

NATIONAL 16-29

The Nation's Aging Pipes

The crises in Benton Harbor and Flint expose broader failures as a congressional push to address the country's troubled water system stalls. PAGE 16

Walking a Fine Line in Virginia

Republicans say what their nominee in next month's election for governor will not: It's about Donald J. Trump. PAGE 19

THE MAGAZINE

The Passion of Questlove

The drummer, D.J. and producer is driven by an obsession with spreading the joys of Black music. PAGE 30



SUNDAY STYLES

Sneaky Shoppers

Buyers are using sophisticated software to snap up in-demand shoes, and online retailers are battling back. PAGE 10

Stand Clear of This Stuff

SubwayCreatures, an Instagram account, delights in the weird happenings in and on New York City subways. PAGE 1

METROPOLITAN

'I Wanted to Be a Good Cop'

Katrina Brownlee was abused and shot by her boyfriend, a guard at Rikers Island. Told she'd never walk again, she went on to earn her own badge. PAGE 1

ARTS & LEISURE

'Insecure' and Imperfection

The HBO show, which ends this season, consistently depicted its characters authentically flawed, says its co-creator and star Issa Rae. PAGE 14

SUNDAY REVIEW

Roxane Gay

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SUNDAY BUSINESS

Big Plans to Save the Earth

Andrew Forrest wants to lead heavy industry to a climate change revolution — and beat the fossil fuel industry along the way. PAGE 1



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ALLEN J. SCHAREN Los Angeles Times

BENNY FERIA calls his wife in the Philippines after being on a ship for more than eight months.

STRANDED AT SEA WITH THE CARGO

Unvaccinated crews growing desperate to get off ships

By RONALD D. WHITE

Abrozizki Gerald Aulia, the son of a ship's captain, is part of the new generation that moves more than 80% of the world's raw materials, parts and merchandise on commercial cargo fleets. At 24, he has already traveled farther by ship than most people ever will.

It's heady stuff. Strange then, that he should feel so absolutely powerless.

Maritime union protections say Aulia should sail no more than 11 months a year on a contract with an employer-paid flight home at the end, but the Indonesian native has worked 15 straight months without a break. In June 2020, he boarded a cargo ship months before any country started vaccinating against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Aulia is a valuable piece of the engine that powers world commerce, but he is never allowed to leave his ship. Like hundreds of other sailors marooned in the massive floating traffic [See Seafarers, A8]



RONALD D. WHITE Los Angeles Times

ABROZIZKI Gerald Aulia boarded a cargo ship in June 2020, months before vaccinations started.

Threat of ship anchors to oil pipeline was miscalculated

Regulators in 1970s estimated risks were minor, missing chance to enact safeguards, experts now say.

By ADAM ELMAHREK, ANITA CHABRIA AND LAURA J. NELSON

Regulators scrutinizing plans for an oil pipeline off the Orange County coast in the 1970s examined the potential damage in the event of a ship anchor strike but downplayed the risks, concluding that a resulting spill would be minor, according to documents reviewed by The Times.

Regulators predicted in 1978 that a leak would result in a spill of only 50 barrels of oil, records show. That's less than a tenth of the minimum amount of oil that leaked off the Orange County coast this month in an accident investigators believe was caused when a cargo ship waiting to enter the port dropped its anchor and hit the pipeline.

Experts in oil pipeline construction now say the regulators badly underestimated the potential disaster from an anchor strike and missed an opportunity that might have prompted additional safeguards and prevented the major oil spill that fouled a long stretch of Orange County beaches.

Their presentations were fatally flawed.... In no scenario could you come up with 50 barrels," said Richard Kuprewicz, the president of Accufacts Inc., who specializes in gas and liquid pipeline investigations. "If there was more frank discussion of what could possibly occur, it probably would have initiated discussions on what actions to take, because the risks were severely understated."

Officials investigating the spill say an anchor probably snagged the pipeline at a point shortly after it starts its run on top of the seabed, weakening its structure and eventually causing a gash that spilled at least 588 barrels of oil. Investigators are homing in on ships that anchored in the area in [See Oil spill, A10]

Hollywood crews union reaches deal, averts strike

IATSE's agreement with studios on a new contract ends standoff over wage increases, long hours and more.

By ANOUSHA SAKOUI AND MEG JAMES

The union representing Hollywood crews has reached an agreement on a new contract with the major studios, avoiding a historic strike next week that would have disrupted film and TV production nationwide.

The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers said they have concluded an agreement on a new three-year contract covering some 40,000 film and TV industry workers represented by 13 Hollywood union locals.

The alliance represents the major Hollywood studios such as Walt Disney and Warner Bros. along with newcomers Apple, Amazon and Netflix.

"This is a Hollywood ending," IATSE International President Matthew Loeb said in a statement. "Our members stood firm. They're tough and united. We went toe to toe with some of the richest and most powerful entertainment and tech companies in the world, and we have now reached an agreement with the AMP/TP that meets our members' needs."

The agreement ends a standoff that would have led to the first nationwide strike in the union's 128-year history and the first major strike by crews since World War II. IATSE had planned to begin a strike Monday if no deal was reached.

IATSE said the tentative contract, which is subject to approval by members, improves wages and working conditions for streaming productions, provides a retainer [See IATSE, A10]

THE GREAT CALIFORNIA MIGRATION

Trading big city for high desert



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

EVANICE HOLZ, 33, left her Silver Lake studio for a remote casita in the summer of 2020. She relishes the isolation of desert living.

DEADLINE: Shot clock is ticking for unvaccinated L.A. city workers, Steve Lopez writes. CALIFORNIA, B1

Pandemic-weary L.A. residents searching for more space and clean air also find drawbacks.

By SARAH PARVINI

YUCCA VALLEY, Calif. — Tyler Gaul strode across the sprawling backyard of his Yucca Valley home and surveyed the rocky hillside a few steps away from the pool and basketball court that sit atop his 2-acre property.

When he first moved to the desert from Los Angeles last fall, this jagged landscape granted him a sense of serenity as the crowded city he left behind grappled with a pandemic.

Gaul, who runs his own skin care company, knew it was time to move [See Migration, A12]

Farmers paid for fallow fields

As Colorado River levels drop amid severe drought, agencies look to expand water-saving programs

By IAN JAMES

BLTYHE, Calif. — Green fields of alfalfa and cotton rolled past as Brad Robinson drove through the desert valley where his family has farmed with water from the Colorado River for three generations. Stopping the truck, he stepped onto a dry, brown field where shriveled remnants of alfalfa crunched under his boots.

The water has been temporarily shut off on a portion

of Robinson's land. In exchange, he's receiving \$909 this year for each acre of farmland left dry and unplanted. The water is instead staying in Lake Mead, near Las Vegas, to help slow the unrelenting decline of the largest reservoir in the country.

Robinson and other growers in the Palo Verde Irrigation District are taking part in a new \$38-million program funded by the federal Bureau of Reclamation, the Metropolitan Water Dis-

trict of Southern California and other water agencies in Arizona and Nevada. The farmers are paid to leave a portion of their lands dry and fallow; the water saved over the next three years is expected to translate into 3 feet of additional water in Lake Mead, which has declined to its lowest levels since it was filled in the 1930s, after the construction of the Hoover Dam.

"Honestly, I think I could make more money farming. [See Farmers, A14]

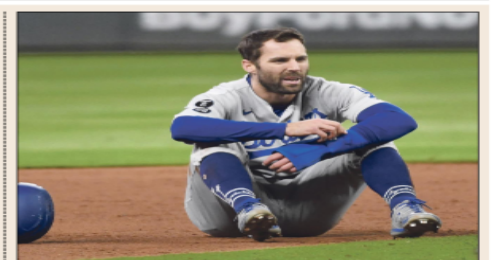
Robert Durst has COVID

Convicted murderer, 78, sentenced last week to life without parole, is on a ventilator, his lawyer says. CALIFORNIA, B1

Experts fear severe flu season

As COVID-19 rules are eased, public health officials recommend that everyone get their shots. CALIFORNIA, B1

Weather
Sunny and cooler.
L.A. Basin: 75/54. B10



WALLY SKALLJ Los Angeles Times

DODGERS LOSE GAME 1

Chris Taylor sits on the dirt after being tagged out in a rundown in Atlanta's 3-2 win. SPORTS, D1

BUSINESS INSIDE: L.A. toy store saw the supply chain mess coming and got to work. A17



The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

Mostly sunny 65/50 • Tomorrow: Sunny, breezy 67/49 C14 Democracy Dies in Darkness SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2021 • \$3.50

Sectarian standoff is latest blow to Lebanon

Confrontations threaten to impede solutions to country's other crises

BY SARAH DADOUCH AND LIZ SLY

BEIRUT — The recent appointment of a new prime minister in Lebanon after more than a year of political bickering brought at least a small glimmer of hope to a country on its knees: a massive financial collapse, a huge chemical explosion, a chronic shortage of electricity and the absence of a government empowered to take action.

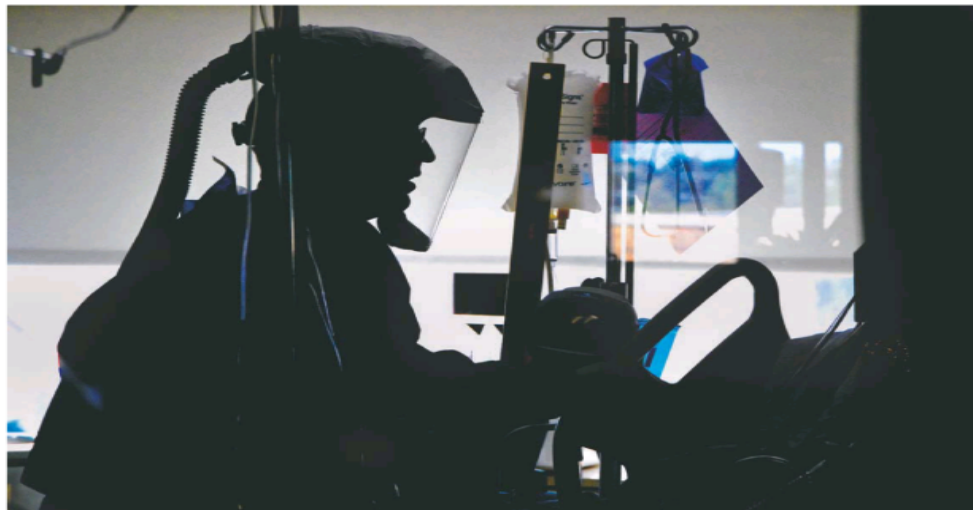
Then came armed confrontations in the past week pitting supporters of the Shiite-led Hezbollah against the Christian Lebanese Forces. Any hope of a turnaround evaporated as Lebanon appeared to descend into a new and potentially deeper crisis.

No one expects an outright civil war of the kind that ravaged Lebanon from 1975 to 1990. Iran-backed Hezbollah is the country's most powerful political and military force, the only faction with a well-armed militia and vast stocks of weapons that make it more capable than the Lebanese army.

But the flare-up has ignited fears that simmering civil and sectarian strife will indefinitely defer solutions to the multiple other problems Lebanon is facing — from a lack of fuel for the country's power stations to the slide in the value of the currency that has gutted the finances of its once relatively prosperous citizens.

The streets are now calm, but tensions persist. The senior Hezbollah leader who led funerals for two Hezbollah members — among

SEE LEBANON ON A23



Matthew Payne supervises colleagues at Stillwater Medical Center in Oklahoma as they intubate a covid patient.

MICHAEL S. WILLIAMSON/THE WASHINGTON POST

48 hours to live, nowhere to go

STILLWATER, OKLA. — The covid patient in Room 107 was bleeding internally and near death.

So Robin Pressley, transfer coordinator at Stillwater Medical Center, was working fast to try to find an ICU bed at a larger hospital for Johnnie Novotny, a 69-year-old retired gas plant operator who had developed a hematoma and needed more specialized care than doctors at this modest rural hospital could provide.

Pressley knew that other hospitals in the region were already choked with covid patients because of a summer surge driven by the highly infectious delta variant and

One Oklahoma covid patient's best shot was a bed in a larger hospital. Then a nurse started dialing.

BY ANNIE GOWEN

the state's large numbers of unvaccinated residents, like Novotny. But she also knew that Novotny's life depended on her success.

After 34 years in nursing, Pressley had developed ways to deal with the stress of her job. So, on this August day, she loaded her diffuser with calming lemongrass oil and pulled out a piece of putty she uses as a makeshift stress ball and began squeezing. Then she fired up her two computer screens, picked up one of her three phones, and started dialing.

12:26 p.m.: Hillcrest Medical Center in SEE ICU ON A14

Eerie lights of nearby fleet put Taiwan islanders on edge

Chinese squid boats illuminate the sky with 'unnatural' green glow

BY ALICIA CHEN AND LILY KUO

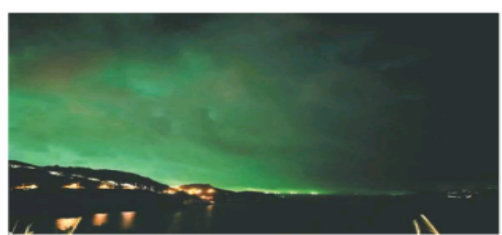
MATSU, TAIWAN — As dusk falls, green lights appear one by one along the horizon off Matsu, a chain of Taiwanese islands near China's coast. Soon, an eerie, fluorescent glow fills the night sky. The lights, used by Chinese fishermen to attract squid, leave residents of Matsu feeling uneasy and surrounded.

"It's so unnatural. It's like being in a science-fiction film," said Huang Kai-Yang, who works in youth development and ecotourism in Matsu.

On Facebook, residents shared photos and theories. "Suddenly many squid boats appeared. I felt like the whole island was under siege," said Chang Liang-Wei, 58, a fisherman from Matsu's Beigan island.

Almost every night for the past four months, dozens, often hundreds, of Chinese squid boats have plied the sea off Matsu near the invisible boundary known as the median line, an unofficial buffer between Taiwan and China. Mounted with green LED lights that envelop the islands, the flotilla represents the latest Chinese encroachment on Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its own and has threatened to seize by force. Officials and residents say the lights threaten tourism and marine life, and are a reminder of their helplessness in the face of Chinese actions.

SEE TAIWAN ON A16



ALICIA CHEN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Chinese fishermen use green LED lights to lure squid near Matsu, a chain of Taiwanese islands off the coast of China.

THE ROAD TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES



KATE LOWERY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Vaughn Moser leases land for wind turbines on his Copenhagen, N.Y., farm. By 2030, a study found, the country will need to invest \$125 billion in the grid for it to handle electric vehicles.

Lost in transmission

Power grid isn't ready for America's push to plug in with renewables

BY WILL ENGLUND

COPENHAGEN, N.Y. — On a good day, a fair wind blows off Lake Ontario, the long-distance transmission lines of New York state are not clogged up, and yet another heat wave hasn't pushed the urban utilities to their limits. On such a day, power from the two big wind turbines in Vaughn Moser's hayfield in this little village join the great flow of electricity from upstate as it courses through the bottleneck west of Albany and then heads south, where some portion of it feeds what

is currently the country's largest electric vehicle charging station, on the edge of Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood.

There, at an installation opened earlier this year by a car-sharing company called Revel, on the site of the old Pfizer pharmaceutical headquarters, this carbon-free power can help juice up a whole fleet of sleek vehicles that aim to leave the internal combustion engine behind.

But that's on a good day. Even now — before this state and the country's grand ambitions for

SEE GRID ON A24

Biden energy plan on ropes

MANCHIN PUSHBACK A MAJOR OBSTACLE

White House rushes to save climate agenda

BY TONY ROMM, JEFF STEIN AND TYLER PAGER

The White House is scrambling to salvage a critical proposal to reduce carbon emissions and deliver on President Biden's ambitious climate agenda, as pushback from Sen. Joe Manchin III (D-W.Va.) creates new headaches for the administration entering key international negotiations next month.

The fight revolves around the Clean Energy Performance Program, which Democrats have proposed as a way to reward utilities that increase their clean energy supply by 4 percent each year, while penalizing those that don't. Lawmakers have included the initiative as part of a multitrillion-dollar tax-and-spending package that aims to advance Biden's broader economic vision.

But the emissions-reduction program has drawn fierce public and private opposition from Manchin, whose home state of West Virginia depends heavily on coal. The standoff has jeopardized Biden's pledge to halve emissions by 2030, inspiring a new flurry of last-minute policy proposals just two weeks before the president and other world leaders are set to convene the

SEE CLIMATE ON A9

The Sunday Take: Declining faith in government knots Biden's plans. A2

Pandemic's lasting and uncertain toll on economy

Supply chain backlogs, labor shortages, price hikes not so 'temporary'

BY ALYSSA FOWERS, RACHEL SIEGEL AND ANDREW VAN DAM

Twenty-one months after the country's first confirmed case of the coronavirus, the U.S. economy remains rocked by conflicting forces, with businesses and households struggling to adjust to what many hoped would be a temporary disruption.

Uncertainty obscures the path forward. Backlogged supply chains have left ships — and the imports they carry — stuck outside key U.S. ports. Inflation has driven up the cost of everyday items, and prices aren't easing. Restaurant reservations have seen-sawed for months, bobbing up and down as Americans consider whether they feel safe amid the ongoing pandemic.

Meanwhile, the labor market has whipsawed millions of Americans through layoffs and then

SEE ECONOMY ON A18

By the numbers: A breakdown of the economy, in five charts. A18



Mañana se normalizarán las clases
Maestros vuelven al aula,
pero amenazan con paro
si no logran mayor suba

PÁGINA 6

Honran a Joe Salazar, diplomático de EEUU
Distinción para un gran
aliado del Paraguay contra
el Covid y la corrupción

PÁGINA 12

Gobernador de Amambay habló en La Lupa
Acevedo cree que su hija
no fue víctima colateral
de terrible ataque sicario

PÁGINA 54

Poca mejora del caudal por últimas lluvias
Calvario en la navegación
por los ríos se mantendrá
mínimo hasta marzo

PÁGINA 22

DOMINGO
Santiago Peña, político cartista
"La ANR les va a exigir
a los demás partidos
que se fortalezcan"
PÁGINA 10

Desbloqueo: ¿Fue algo bueno?
PÁGINAS 8 y 9

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Apuntan a sobrefacturación u obras fantasmas

Investigan a veinte entes públicos por usar facturas falsas

La SET detectó utilización escandalosa de comprobantes apócrifos por USD 8,3 millones. Indagan licitaciones dudosas y movidas financieras irregulares.

PÁGINA 16

Proveedores de Nenecho están bajo sospecha

PÁGINA 2

El Paraná es paso libre del contrabando avícola

Sin control. La Armada y la Policía en el Este poco o nada hacen para evitar el comercio ilegal de pollos. Avipar denuncia el libre tránsito de productos clandestinos.

PÁGINA 17

UNA INDESTRUCTIBLE SIEMPRE DESPIERTA TU LADO INDESTRUCTIBLE

TOYOTA
HILUX