

What's News

Business & Finance

The Fed closed a chapter on its aggressive, pandemic-driven stimulus when it approved plans Wednesday to begin scaling back its bond-buying program this month amid concerns that inflationary pressures could last longer than officials expected earlier this year. **A1**

◆ **The S&P 500, Dow and Nasdaq closed at records** after the Fed's policy meeting, with gains of 0.6%, 0.3% and 1%, respectively. **B10**

◆ **CVS's chief said** the company is working with "speed and urgency" to create physician-staffed primary-care practices. **B1**

◆ **Deere won't raise its offer** to striking workers after a second vote to ratify a new contract failed Tuesday, a company executive said. **B1**

◆ **The SEC reversed a Trump-era policy** and acted to streamline the process for shareholders to propose resolutions on environmental or social issues. **B10**

◆ **MGM Resorts said** it would sell its operations of the Mirage to another operator, part of a rash of deals that are changing the hands of ownership on the Las Vegas Strip. **B1**

◆ **ByteDance founder Zhang Yiming** stepped down from his role as chairman of the Chinese tech giant, which owns the social-media app TikTok. **B1**

◆ **Chip maker Qualcomm** posted record quarterly sales amid surging demand for 5G smartphones. **B4**

World-Wide

◆ **The Republican victory in Virginia's race for governor** and the party's unexpectedly strong showing in New Jersey, where the Democratic incumbent narrowly prevailed, gave the GOP hopes that it had found new strategies for regaining control of Congress next year, while leaving Democrats worried about a dispirited voter base. **A1, A4**

◆ **House Democrats released an updated version** of the party's social, spending and climate package, adding back a paid-leave program and including a measure raising the cap on the state and local tax deduction. **A3**

◆ **Biden said the U.S. wasn't going to pay immigrant families** who were separated at the Mexico border during the Trump administration, throwing into doubt settlements the DOJ has been negotiating. **A2**

◆ **Climate negotiators have made progress toward a deal** aimed at establishing the foundation of an international carbon-trading system, according to people familiar with those talks. **A10**

◆ **The Supreme Court's conservative majority** voiced concern about a New York state law that limits the carrying of concealed weapons. **A8**

◆ **A Pentagon review of a U.S. drone strike in Kabul** that killed 10 civilians concluded that a series of mistakes and misinterpretations occurred, but said no international laws of war were violated. **A10**

JOURNAL REPORT
Small Business: What makes entrepreneurs so happy? **R1-8**

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Republican Glenn Youngkin had high turnout throughout the state, including suburban and urban areas.

Youngkin vote as a percentage of 2020 Trump vote

50% 60 70 80 90 100

Meanwhile, Democrat Terry McAuliffe didn't exceed 80% of Biden's vote total in any Virginia locality.

McAuliffe vote as a percentage of 2020 Biden vote

50% 60 70 80 90 100

Note: As of 1 p.m., Wednesday
Source: The Associated Press

Votes Offer Road Map to GOP And a Warning for Democrats

Republican in Virginia kept base energized without tying himself too closely to Trump

By Aaron Zitner

The Republican victory in Virginia's race for governor and the party's unexpectedly strong showing in New Jersey, where the Democratic incumbent narrowly prevailed, gave the GOP hopes that it had found new strategies for regaining control of Congress

next year, while leaving Democrats worried about a dispirited voter base.

The two races for governor, the first major tests of voter opinion since President Biden's election, suggested that voters were frustrated with Democratic leadership and uneasy with some liberal policy stances.

Voters in Minneapolis rejected a police-overhaul measure, proposed in the aftermath of the George Floyd killing by police, that would have ended a requirement that the city have a police department with a minimum number

of officers. In New York City, voters chose a former police officer, Democrat Eric Adams, as their next mayor, after a campaign in which he cast himself as an advocate for police and public safety. GOP candidates for district attorney on Long Island won in two of the nation's largest counties—Suffolk and Nassau—underscoring public pushback against New York's bail reform law.

In Virginia, Republican Glenn Youngkin defeated Democrat Terry McAuliffe in a gubernatorial campaign that turned in large part on Mr. Youngkin's

claim that parents had been stripped of a voice in their children's education and a promise to ban critical race theory from the classroom. Virginia officials have said the theory, which holds that American institutions favor white people, isn't part of the curriculum.

The toll on Democrats in Please turn to page A4

◆ Democratic Gov. Murphy ekes out win in New Jersey..... A4
◆ Buffalo's mayor declares victory..... A6
◆ Maine voters reject power line for hydro imports..... A6

Party Loses on Issues Key to Voters

By Gerald F. Seib

There will be a lot of sophisticated analysis of Tuesday's election results, but the most important takeaway might be the simplest.

In their totality, Tuesday's election results suggest Democrats are suffering because they've lost control of two issues of gut-level importance to voters: education and public safety. That lesson blares out from the results not just in

the key gubernatorial elections in Virginia and New Jersey, but also in places as disparate as Minneapolis, Buffalo, N.Y., Seattle and New York City.

In an era where culture wars often best policy debates in driving voters, those topics represent a new cutting edge. Republicans are taking advantage and the Democrats' progressive wing is feeling the pain.

Worries about inflation also played a role in Tuesday's outcomes, of course, and Democratic candidates in Virginia

and New Jersey were left low on ammunition by their party's inability to put internal squabbles aside to pass legislation on infrastructure, social programs and climate change.

In the vacuum, Democrat Terry McAuliffe in Virginia chose to run against not just his Republican foe, Glenn Youngkin, but against former President Donald Trump. That didn't turn out to be enough.

Instead, the fear and anger that often drive voters in today's polarized environment

found new and different outlets. It appears that when people are angry about what they think is happening to their children and their own personal safety, they strike out in response.

That was most obvious in Virginia, where Mr. Youngkin pushed the race in its final weeks as far as he could toward a quintessentially local issue: whether "woke" culture is being pushed into school curricula against parents' wishes.

Elsewhere, the backlash Please turn to page A6

Fed Sets Outline To Taper Stimulus Program

Timetable on winding down bond purchases is flexible if inflation requires rate increase

By Nick Timiraos

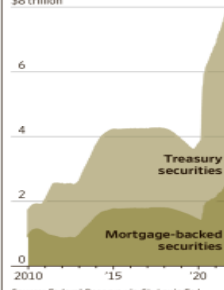
The Federal Reserve closed a chapter on its aggressive, pandemic-driven stimulus when it approved plans Wednesday to begin scaling back its bond-buying program this month amid concerns that inflationary pressures could last longer than officials expected earlier this year.

Fed officials agreed to wind down their \$120-billion-a-month asset-purchase program by \$15 billion each in November and December, a pace that could phase out the purchases entirely by June.

Fed Chairman Jerome Powell said officials had pulled forward, relative to market expectations earlier this year, the potential end-date for the bond-buying program in case they decide they need to raise interest rates next year to cool down the economy if inflationary pressures broaden.

"We need to be in a position to act in case it becomes necessary to do so," he said at a news conference Wednesday. Mr. Powell played down the prospect of an imminent turn to raising interest rates, which rallied markets that had been spooked by other central banks' recent pivots toward

The Federal Reserve's asset holdings \$8 trillion



◆ Stocks welcome Fed's bond move..... B10
◆ Heard on the Street: Debate on inflation can wait..... B11

House? Van? 'Beyoncé Moment'? Work Perks Go Beyond the Bonus

Companies offer modeling stints, coding classes, family road trips

By Suzanne Kapner and Chit Cutler

David's Bridal LLC tried the usual methods to recruit and retain workers in a tight labor market, including raising wages and offering cash bonuses for referrals. Then the wedding dress retailer decided on a different approach: inviting employees to model in its advertising.

Companies across industries are dangling new incentives to counteract a labor shortage that has made it harder for U.S. employers to find and hold on to workers. The Labor Department said last month that the number of people voluntarily quitting their jobs surged to a record high in August.

Beef and pork giant JBS USA Holdings Inc. is helping to build homes for employees to buy. Jeans maker Levi Strauss

& Co. is offering free computer coding classes. Target Corp., Walmart Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. are offering to help pay for college tuition and books. Staffers at Chicago technology firm project44 can use a company-subsidized van—complete with a bed, a toilet and shower, and Wi-Fi—so they can combine work with family road trips.

At David's Bridal, the modeling idea didn't start out as a retention tool. When the Covid-19 pandemic sent the U.S. into lockdown last year, the retailer couldn't get access to professional models. So it turned to its 11,000 employees. Staffers wearing the chain's bridal gowns, bridesmaid dresses and tuxedos shot footage in their homes, as volunteers, and posted them to the retailer's social-media accounts.

Modeling proved so popular Please turn to page A12

INSIDE



U.S. NEWS
Children ages 5 to 11 begin to get vaccinated against Covid-19. **A3**



SPORTS
Labor negotiations could jeopardize the start of the 2022 season. **A16**

Shortage of Truck Drivers Worsens Supply-Chain Mess

The pandemic has made the job even harder, in an industry known for churn

By Jennifer Smith

Truck driver Chris Wagner pulled his big rig into a grain processing plant in Sidney, Ohio, on a recent afternoon to pick up a load bound for the Chicago suburbs. He'd lost his scheduled place in line because of delays at an earlier delivery, so it was 10:45 p.m. before the plant was ready to load his trailer. By then, the clock had run out on his federally mandated 14-hour workday, so Mr. Wagner couldn't pull up to the dock. He slept that night in his truck on the plant's lot and left empty-handed the following morning, unable to reschedule the pickup.

"I sat overnight and still never got loaded," said Mr. Wagner, a 53-year-old retired

Marine from Lena, Ill., who drives for Quality Transport Co., a small trucking operator based in nearby Freeport.

A critical, often-overlooked link in the supply chain is emerging as a stubborn choke point in the freight-backlog mess: trucking.

Trucks haul more than 70% of domestic cargo shipments. Yet many fleets say they can't hire enough drivers to meet booming consumer demand as the U.S. economy emerges from the pandemic.

The freight backup has intensified longstanding strains in the industry over hours, pay, working conditions and retention.

The surge of goods has created logjams at loading Please turn to page A12

A Danish ghost

COP veterans are still haunted by Copenhagen — PILITA CLARK, PAGE 19

The \$100bn question

Where will the promised climate funds be spent? — BIG READ, PAGE 17



Green shoots

The challenge in cultivating an Amazon economy — NOTEBOOK, PAGE 18

Best shot

Virginia victor flusters Biden

Republican Glenn Youngkin tosses a basketball to supporters at an election night event in Virginia.

The newcomer's victory to become state governor sent tremors through the Democratic party. Joe Biden took the state by 10 points from Donald Trump in the presidential poll but Tuesday's vote is seen as a warning of potential losses in midterm elections next year.

"The bottom line is that this is about Biden," said Kyle Kondik of the non-partisan University of Virginia Center for Politics. "If the political environment is like this next year, you expect the Republicans to win both the House and the Senate."

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AP Design/Imagoe

Fed triggers winding down of \$120bn stimulus programme

Monthly purchases cut by \$15bn Inflation concerns rise Other central banks tighten

COLBY SMITH — NEW YORK

The Federal Reserve has said that it will begin scaling back its massive \$120bn monthly bond-buying programme this month, a critical milestone for a US economy that is recovering from the pandemic and contending with surging inflation.

The decision is the culmination of months of debate among Fed officials on the level of support the world's largest economy needs as price pressures begin to extend beyond the sectors most sensitive to the post-pandemic reopening.

The move corresponded with abrupt actions by a number of central banks around the world to tighten monetary policy, including the Reserve Bank of Australia and the Bank of Canada. The

Bank of England, which meets today, is expected to raise interest rates for the first time since 2018.

Investors are betting that the European Central Bank could follow suit next year despite recent pushback from Christine Lagarde, its president.

Roaring US consumer demand has collided with acute supply chain disruptions, causing prices to spike in some sectors for longer than central bankers had anticipated.

Rising rents coupled with wage pressures and a shortage of workers have given rise to concerns that inflation will prove more persistent than the Fed had initially expected.

Against the backdrop of the overheating economy, the Federal Open Market Committee ended its two-day meet-

ing with a pledge to cut purchases of Treasury securities by \$10bn a month. The central bank will also reduce its purchases of agency mortgage-backed securities by \$5bn a month.

It said it was able to withdraw the stimulus because it had achieved "substantial further progress" towards its twin goals of maximum employment and inflation that averages 2 per cent.

The tapering process is set to begin in mid-November, which suggests the stimulus programme would cease altogether in June 2022. The purchases would be reduced by the same amount in December and further reductions were deemed "likely" to be appropriate each month thereafter.

The central bank's preferred inflation gauge, the core personal consumption



The decision follows months of debate by Fed officials on how much support the US economy needs

expenditure index — which strips out volatile items such as food and energy prices — rose 3.6 per cent in September from a year earlier. No adjustment was made to the Fed's main policy rate, which is tethered near zero.

The US Treasury said it would reduce the amount of debt it issues this quarter, as funding needs for fiscal projects have waned. It is the first cut to Treasury bond auction sizes in five years and provides a counterweight to the Fed's taper, analysts say.

"It's almost fortuitous that it is happening this way. It's certainly good for the Treasury market; it will help offset some of the demand loss," said Genadiy Goldberg, senior US state strategist at TD Securities.

Additional reporting by Kate Duguid

Briefing

► **US blacklists Israeli spyware group NSO**
The Israeli spyware group behind software traced to the phones of rights activists and journalists has been added to a trade blacklist as the US tackles the threat posed by hacking-for-hire companies. — PAGE 2

► **Orsted and Vestas warn on green energy**
The power group Orsted and wind-turbine maker Vestas have warned of challenging renewable energy conditions after European projects suffered low wind speeds and supply chain hold-ups. — PAGE 6

► **Lufthansa posts C17m quarterly profit**
Germany's flag carrier beat expectations to post a quarterly profit for the first time since the pandemic, the second large airline in Europe to benefit from the travel recovery. — PAGE 8

► **China hits back over Xi's COP26 absence**
Beijing has retaliated at criticism of President Xi Jinping's absence from the COP26 summit and said he was not allowed to join the main stage by video link. — PAGE 4; LETTERS, PAGE 16; PILITA CLARK, PAGE 19

► **Kakao Pay shares soar on market debut**
Shares in Kakao Pay, South Korea's most popular mobile payments app, have more than doubled on its delayed market debut. Its IPO had been held up after Beijing told it to revise its prospectus. — PAGE 6

► **Ikea warns of lower profits as costs rise**
The world's biggest furniture retailer has said profits will fall for two straight years as it warned that it would be forced to raise prices owing to the supply-chain crisis and higher raw material costs. — PAGE 8

► **Myanmar army burns villagers' homes**
Soldiers have set alight more than 100 homes and two churches in Myanmar's restive Chin state, in scenes that have revived memories of the military's violent 2017 assault on Rohingya Muslims. — PAGE 5

Datawatch

Working it out

% of Americans who think this is a good time to find a quality job



Source: Gallup

A record share of Americans think that now is a good time to find a high-quality job. Nearly three in every four people believe this to be true, a stark difference from figures recorded at the start of the pandemic.



US loan market starts shift away from tarnished Libor

With just months before the scandal-hit benchmark that underpins trillions of dollars of financial instruments becomes no longer available for new deals, companies borrowing in the US loan market are finally shifting away from it. Several have borrowed cash using Sofr, a replacement for Libor. The shift is a crucial step in establishing a new standard after Libor's reputation was dented by bankers found to have manipulated the pivotal interest rate.

Transition time — PAGE 12

China plans to quadruple its nuclear arms stockpile by 2030, Pentagon says

DEMETRI SEVASTOPOULOS — WASHINGTON

China plans to quadruple its nuclear weapons stockpile by 2030, according to a Pentagon assessment that points to a shift in Beijing policy with significant implications for the balance of military power.

The US defence department said China could have 700 deliverable nuclear warheads by 2027 and would boost its stockpile — currently estimated in the low 200s — to at least 1,000 warheads by the end of the decade. It marked a dramatic increase from last year's estimate when the Pentagon said that China was on course to double its stockpile.

"If this was an emoji, it would be the 'eyes popping' emoji," said Caitlin Talmadge, an expert on Chinese nuclear weapons at Georgetown University.

The US has 3,800 warheads, with

1,800 deployed, according to the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists.

The Pentagon's 2021 China military power report, released yesterday, said that Beijing was "expanding the number of land, sea, and air-based nuclear delivery platforms and constructing the infrastructure necessary to support this major expansion of its nuclear forces."

The warning comes weeks after the Financial Times reported that China had tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic weapon that General Mark Milley, chairman of the US joint chiefs, later said was "very close" to a "Sputnik moment", referring to the USSR launching the first artificial satellite in 1957.

Tensions are high between the US and China, fuelled by concerns over the possibility of conflict over Taiwan. Military planners fear that China is expanding its

nuclear forces to limit US options in the event of hostilities.

Speaking at the Aspen Security Forum yesterday, Milley said he did not think China would take military action against Taiwan in the "near future" — meaning in the next two years — but warned that Beijing was developing the capability. "The Chinese are clearly and unambiguously building the capability to provide those options," he said. "But near future? Probably not. But anything can happen."

Jeffrey Lewis, a non-proliferation expert at Middlebury Institute of International Studies, said it was important to maintain some scepticism of the Pentagon's forecasts. "I'm cautious about accepting 1,000 warheads at face value, but it seems pretty clear that the Chinese aren't willing to accept US nuclear primacy any more," he said.

World Markets

| STOCK MARKETS | | | | CURRENCIES | | | | INTEREST RATES | | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|-------|------------|---------|---------|-------|----------------|--------|-------|-------|
| | Nov 3 | prev | %chg | | Nov 3 | prev | %chg | | price | yield | chg |
| S&P 500 | 4622.21 | 4630.65 | -0.07 | \$ per £ | 1.158 | 1.158 | 0.00 | US Gov 10 yr | 147.26 | 1.56 | 0.02 |
| Nasdaq Composite | 15619.51 | 15649.60 | -0.19 | \$ per € | 1.388 | 1.381 | 0.05 | UK Gov 10 yr | 0.99 | 0.04 | -0.01 |
| Dow Jones Ind | 35681.24 | 36052.63 | -0.20 | £ per € | 0.848 | 0.851 | -0.04 | Gov Gov 10 yr | -0.17 | -0.01 | -0.01 |
| FTSE100 | 1883.93 | 1897.43 | -0.36 | ¥ per \$ | 114.078 | 113.795 | 0.25 | US Gov 10 yr | 114.98 | 0.08 | 0.00 |
| Euro Stoxx 50 | 4307.59 | 4296.22 | 0.26 | ¥ per € | 155.027 | 154.886 | 0.09 | US Gov 30 yr | 115.91 | 1.94 | -0.01 |
| FTSE 100 | 7248.89 | 7274.81 | -0.36 | SFr per € | 1.057 | 1.059 | -0.02 | Gov Gov 2 yr | 104.79 | -0.66 | 0.02 |
| FTSE All-Share | 4135.30 | 4148.09 | -0.31 | € per \$ | 0.883 | 0.884 | -0.01 | | | | |
| CAC 40 | 6860.65 | 6927.03 | -0.34 | | | | | | | | |
| Nikkei 225 | 19560.38 | 19594.45 | -0.03 | | | | | | | | |
| Hang Seng | 25024.75 | 25099.67 | -0.30 | | | | | | | | |
| MSCI World \$ | 31165.67 | 31180.54 | -0.16 | | | | | | | | |
| MSCI EM \$ | 1263.96 | 1264.54 | -0.05 | | | | | | | | |
| MSCI ACWI \$ | 749.53 | 748.50 | 0.14 | | | | | | | | |

| COMMODITIES | | | |
|--------------|---------|---------|-------|
| | Nov 3 | prev | %chg |
| Oil WTI \$ | 81.29 | 85.91 | -5.12 |
| Oil Brent \$ | 82.40 | 84.72 | -2.74 |
| Gold \$ | 1779.30 | 1778.00 | 0.07 |

| FIXED INCOME | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | price | prev | chg |
| Fed Funds Eff | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.00 |
| US 3m Bill | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.00 |
| Euro Libor 3m | -0.57 | -0.57 | 0.00 |
| UK 3m | 0.23 | 0.24 | -0.01 |

Prices are latest for edition. Data provided by Bloomberg

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Fed Dials Back Stimulus Policy As Prices Jump

Phasing Out Tool From Early in Pandemic

By JEANNA SMIALEK

The Federal Reserve on Wednesday took its first step toward withdrawing support for the American economy, saying that it would begin to wind down a stimulus program that's been in place since early in the pandemic as the economy heats and prices climb at an uncomfortably rapid pace.

Central bank policymakers struck a slightly more wary tone about inflation, which has jumped this year amid booming consumer demand for goods and supply snarls. While officials still expect quick cost increases to fade, how quickly that will happen is unclear.

Fed officials want to be prepared for any outcome at a time when the economy's trajectory is marked by grave uncertainty. They are not sure when prices will begin to calm down, to what extent the labor market will recover the millions of jobs still missing after last year's economic slump, or when they will begin to raise interest rates — which remain at rock-bottom to keep borrowing and spending cheap and easy.

So the central bank's decision to dial back its other policy tool, large-scale bond purchases that keep money flowing through financial markets, was meant to give the Fed flexibility it might need to react to a shifting situation. Officials on Wednesday laid out a plan to slow their \$120 billion in monthly Treasury bond and mortgage-backed security purchases by \$15 billion a month starting in November. The purchases can lower long-term interest rates and prod investors into investments that would spur growth.

Assuming that pace holds, the bond buying would stop altogether.

Continued on Page A21

Justices Appear Likely to Strike Gun-Carry Law

By ADAM LIPTAK

WASHINGTON — A New York law that imposes strict limits on carrying guns outside the home seemed unlikely to survive its encounter with the Supreme Court, based on questioning from the justices on Wednesday.

The law requires people seeking a license to carry a handgun in public to show a "proper cause," and a majority of the justices seemed prepared to say that it imposes an intolerable burden on the rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment. But several justices seemed open to allowing the state to exclude guns from crowded public settings or other vulnerable places.

The Second Amendment protects a constitutional right just as the First Amendment does, Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. said. People seeking to exercise either of those rights, he said, should not have to demonstrate to the government that they have a good reason or special need to do so.

"You don't have to say, when you're looking for a permit to speak on a street corner or whatever, that, you know, your speech is particularly important," he said. "So why do you have to show in this case, convince somebody, that you're entitled to exercise your Second Amendment right?"

At the same time, the chief justice was among the justices who asked whether guns could be barred at settings as varied as subways, protests, Yankee Stadium, Times Square on New

Continued on Page A21

NATIONAL A12-21, 24

Victory for New York Cabbies
Indebted taxi drivers who stopped eating to protest an earlier bail plan were assured of more relief. PAGE A24

Next Vaccine Wave: Children
Many parents have been eagerly waiting to get their 5- to 11-year-olds inoculated. That day has arrived. PAGE A24



The Path to the Virginia Governorship

Glenn Youngkin, a Republican financier, defeated the Democrat Terry McAuliffe, a former governor, by running up high margins in less populous areas of the state.

VOTE SHARE
McAuliffe lead
Youngkin lead

50% 60 70

Largest Youngkin share: Lee County, 88%

Roanoke

Richmond

Norfolk

Virginia Beach

All data as of 5 p.m. Wednesday

Largest McAuliffe share: Petersburg, 85%

Alexandria

Roanoke

Richmond

Norfolk

Virginia Beach

Largest Youngkin lead: Bedford County, 22,888 votes

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Largest McAuliffe lead: Fairfax County, 130,071 votes

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Roanoke

Richmond

Norfolk

Virginia Beach

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Largest Youngkin lead: Bedford County, 22,888 votes

Alexandria

Zillow's out. Is 'ibuying' here to stay?

Algorithm-based home sales are taking root, but a hot market poses challenges.

By Andrew Khouri

Last spring, Duarte residents Marsha and Todd Johnson decided they were ready to exit the California dream.

They wanted to cash in on the meteoric rise in the value of their home and start retirement as they long planned, in Washington state, to be near family and the beach. But the couple, in their 50s and 60s, didn't want prospective buyers traipsing through their house in the middle of a pandemic and dreaded the hassle of making repairs and managing offers, even with the assistance of a real estate agent.

So instead, they tapped an algorithm for help: On the website of a San Francisco company named Opendoor they filled out some "basic paperwork" and then completed a 15-minute video inspection through a smartphone. A few days later, a firm offer came through, and they sold their home to Opendoor.

"The process was pretty pain-free," said Marsha Johnson, who worked for Los Angeles County social services before moving out of state. "We got the money pretty quick."

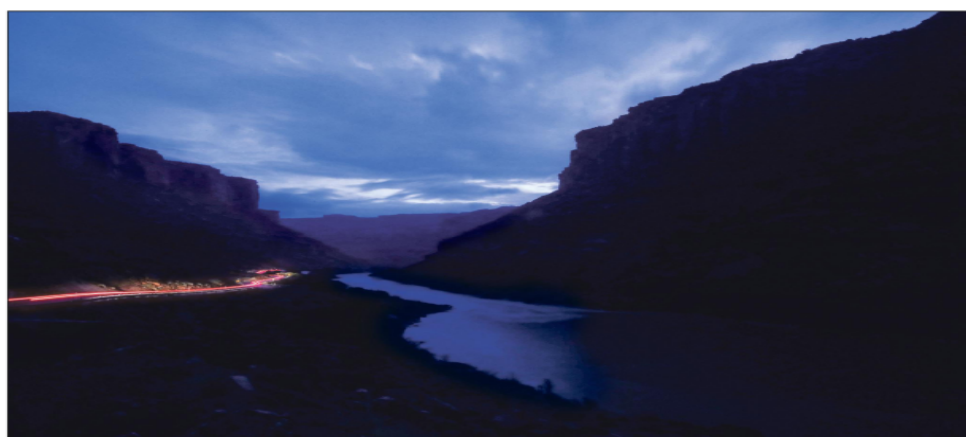
A new way of selling homes is taking root on laptops and smartphones across the country.

Companies including Opendoor, Offerpad and Redfin are using algorithms backed by reams of data to value houses and buy them fast, in cash, and with much of the transaction online. The companies then do minor repairs and resell the homes, earning money on price appreciation and fees they charge.

Operating somewhat as industrial-scale flippers, the so-called ibuyers — instant buyers — have expanded rapidly in recent years, primed for growth by a worldwide flood of capital chasing yield in the U.S. housing market.

People can also buy homes directly from the companies, touring houses at their leisure by downloading a smartphone app to un-

[See Ibuying, A13]



THE COLORADO RIVER, a vital source of drinking water for 40 million people, flows near Moab, Utah.

Photographs by LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

Colorado River decline seen as cautionary tale

Drought and overallocation have led to a water shortage that resonates at U.N. climate conference

By Ian James and Jaweed Kaleem

As world leaders meet in Scotland this week to discuss efforts to address the climate crisis, experts are urging greater focus on adapting to fundamental shifts in the planet's water supplies — and they're pointing to the Colorado River as a prime example.

The river, a vital water source for about 40 million people from Denver to Los Angeles, has continued to shrink and send reservoirs declining toward critically low levels after years of extremely dry conditions compounded by hotter tempera-

tures. To water resiliency advocates who are attending the United Nations conference, the river's plight stands out as one of the world's starkest cases of a major water source that is being ravaged by the altered climate, where efforts to adapt haven't been nearly enough.

"To me, it is the best example globally of how things can go badly," said John Matthews, executive director and co-founder of the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation. "I can easily point to the Colorado as a place where

[See River, A10]



THE COLORADO churns through the Imperial Irrigation Dam, which diverts water to Arizona and California. Prolonged drought and heat have contributed to the river's decline.

COLUMN ONE

Degrees bring dignity to the incarcerated

Cal State L.A.'s prison program helps students 'believe in ourselves'



GRADUATES of Cal State L.A.'s prison B.A. program begin the procession for their commencement ceremony at California State Prison in Lancaster on Oct. 5.

AL SEIB Los Angeles Times

By Colleen Shalby

The 25 graduates marched to the middle of the prison yard. A recording of "Pomp and Circumstance" played but was drowned out by cheers.

Dozens of mothers, fathers, friends and professors sat in the blazing sun looking toward a stage set up on the basketball court, just beyond a blue mural that said "Forgive." One woman beamed and teared up at the sight of her grandson dressed in a cap and gown.

Allen Burnett, dressed in a white button-down shirt and black pants, sat among the crowd and watched the men at California State

[See Degrees, A8]

Garcetti positive for coronavirus

L.A. mayor remains in Scotland with "mild symptoms" after U.N. talks. CALIFORNIA, B1

Virginia election jolts Democrats

GOP's gubernatorial win suggests upheaval in next year's midterm races. NATION, A4

Ethiopia leader's message yanked

Facebook removes premier's post urging citizens to "bury" enemies. WORLD, A3

No misconduct found in deaths

Review doesn't call for discipline in U.S. drone killings of 10 Afghan civilians. WORLD, A3

Weather

Fog, then sun. L.A. Basin: 77/56. B6

7 85944 00200 5

A NEW PHASE OF VACCINE EFFORT BEGINS

Statewide, 3.5 million kids 5 to 11 are eligible for COVID shots, and parents are lining up.

By Rong-Gong Lin II, Luke Money and Howard Blume

The next chapter of the push to boost COVID-19 vaccination rates started Wednesday, as children ages 5 to 11 began rolling up their sleeves — a long-awaited new phase of the inoculation campaign that officials hope will help California stave off another feared coronavirus surge over the winter.

A day after federal health officials gave their highly anticipated blessing to expanding pediatric use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, some parents flocked to clinics and hospitals with youngsters in tow.

But it will take time to see how quickly this age group can get inoculated and how reluctant or resistant some parents might be. Statewide, 3.5 million additional children are now eligible for the shots.

The Los Angeles Unified School District is not requiring students ages 5 to 11 to get a COVID-19 vaccine, although the shots will be available at various campuses if parents want their children to be inoculated. By contrast, the LAUSD and a handful of other school districts in California are mandating.

[See Vaccinations, A7]

Justices are clear on gun rights

The Supreme Court's conservatives signal inclination to expand concealed-carry.

By David G. Savage

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court's justices, citing the right to bear arms in the 2nd Amendment, sounded ready Wednesday to strike down laws in New York and California that deny most gun owners permits to carry concealed guns in public.

Most of the justices said people who live in "high-crime areas" and fear for their safety should be allowed to carry a gun for self-defense. And they said this applies equally to people who live in cities as well as in rural areas.

"Think about people who work late at night in Manhattan," said Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. "It might be somebody who cleans offices. It might be a doorman at an apartment. It might be a nurse or an orderly [or] somebody who washes dishes" who is "scared to death" to head home. "How is it consistent with the core right to self-defense" to deny that person the right to have a gun with them? he asked.

In defense of New York's law, state Solicitor Gen. Barbara Underwood argued for limiting the number of guns in densely populated areas. Too many guns in too many

[See Gun rights, A7]

Democrats race ahead on fiscal proposals

Poor results at polls fuel new urgency to try to advance legislation

BY TONY ROMM, MIKE DEBONIS AND MARIANNA SOTOMAYOR

A new sense of political urgency swept over restive Democrats from the White House to Capitol Hill on Wednesday, as they raced to resolve the final issues stalling President Biden's roughly \$3 trillion economic agenda in the aftermath of a stinging election defeat in Virginia.

With a loss in the state's gubernatorial race — along with a slim win for the Democratic incumbent in New Jersey — party lawmakers found themselves anxious, exasperated and newly ready to try to advance two spending initiatives that have been bogged down in Congress for months.

"I think it's going to send a signal that we've got to produce. You know, the American public gave us a majority of both houses for a reason," said Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.).

The poor election returns for Democrats incited a new burst of activity in the House, where lawmakers raced to fine-tune a \$1.75 trillion proposal to overhaul the nation's health-care, education, climate and tax laws. Party leaders finalized a new version of the legislation on Wednesday, began a key procedural hearing and set in motion a plan to vote on it before the end of the week.

Even as they readied the new 2,135-page proposal, however, Democrats found themselves grappling with a slew of lingering

SEE SPENDING ON A4

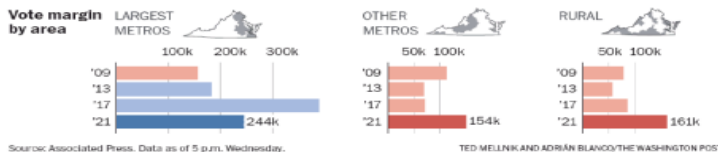
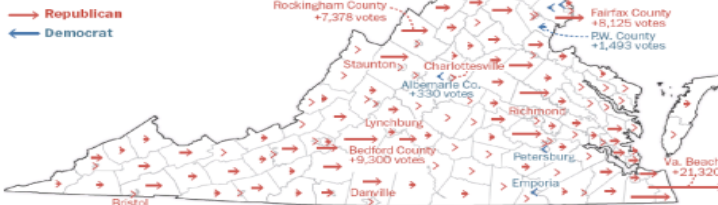
'Complicated': Pared-down deal on drug-pricing splits caucus. **A4**

@PKCapitol: Democrats' reflexive reaction unlikely to alter '22. **A12**

A sharp turn looms in Virginia

How vote margins shifted compared with 2017 gubernatorial election

Shifts show where Democrats and Republicans gained, either winning by more votes or losing by fewer.



Sources: Associated Press. Data as of 5 p.m. Wednesday.

TED MELNIK AND ADRIAN BLANCO/THE WASHINGTON POST

After election losses, Biden urges party to act

BY SEAN SULLIVAN, MICHAEL SCHIEBER AND DAVID WEIGEL

President Biden urged Democrats on Wednesday to swiftly pass his domestic agenda after an off-year electoral wipeout highlighted the fragile state of the party's electoral majorities in the House and Senate. But a new round of bitter recriminations threatened to dash Democratic hopes of quickly moving past the stinging defeats.

From Virginia's Tidewater region to the Philadelphia suburbs to Long Island, voters on Tuesday issued an unmistakable repudiation of the Democratic Party that was wider and deeper than even

SEE ELECTION ON A11



New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, seen early Wednesday, barely held on to win what Democrats thought would be an easy reelection.

Seeking problem solvers
In big cities, voters opted for consensus-minded leaders. **A13**

N.J. gubernatorial race
Phil Murphy's narrow margin of victory worried Democrats. **A14**

QUESTIONS ON YOUNGKIN'S POLICY AMBITIONS

Tax cuts a priority, but tack on culture wars uncertain

BY GREGORY S. SCHNEIDER AND LAURA VOZZELLA

RICHMOND — Republican Glenn Youngkin's slim but decisive victory Tuesday in the governor's race promises a sharp turn in policy for Virginia, where Democrats have spent two years enacting a remarkably liberal agenda for a Southern state that had long trended red.

Gov. Ralph Northam (D) will meet with Youngkin on Thursday to begin setting up the transition and show him around the Executive Mansion. Legislative leaders of both parties called Wednesday to congratulate the governor-elect, who spent lunchtime at his favorite neighborhood restaurant in McLean. He planned an evening appearance with Tucker Carlson on Fox News.

At the same time, Republican Jason S. Miyares officially won the close race for attorney general, completing a sweep along with Republican Winsome E. Sears as lieutenant governor. The House

of Delegates seemed set to tilt red, as well, with Republicans likely to win a majority.

But as the official machinery began turning in Richmond, constituents and interest groups jockeyed to take measure of a political newcomer in the governor's office whom many had never met. The big question: Just how drastic is the change Youngkin has in mind?

The former co-CEO of the Carlyle Group private equity firm ran on a moderately conservative platform of tax cuts and economic development. But he also stoked culture-war issues of race and transgender identity in schools. He rarely mentioned Donald Trump on the campaign trail, but he allowed surrogates to appear with right-wing provocateur and former Trump adviser Stephen K. Bannon and invoke baseless claims about 2020 election fraud.

SEE YOUNGKIN ON A9

Education tactics that won in Va. bound for GOP playbook

BY HANNAH NATANSON

Republican Glenn Youngkin trailed his opponent for much of the Virginia governor's race, struggling to stir enthusiasm with his criticism of the state's economy, questioning of U.S. election integrity and self-portrayal as a likable moderate in a red fleece vest.

But in the late weeks of the campaign — which culminated early Wednesday morning in a close victory for Youngkin over Democrat Terry McAuliffe —

Youngkin found his footing, surging in the polls as he mined a national vein of parent grievance over what and how schools teach about race, racism and American history.

Republican Jack Ciattarelli saw similar tactics almost pay off in the New Jersey gubernatorial race last year, when he and Gov. Phil Murphy (D), a race that wasn't called for Murphy until early Wednesday evening. Despite Murphy's victory, the tight finish is a surprise and a disappointment.

SEE EDUCATION ON A10

High court debates whether N.Y. gun law is too restrictive

Conservative justices express support for challengers of measure

BY ROBERT BARNES AND ANN E. MARIMOW

A majority of Supreme Court justices indicated Wednesday that they believe Americans generally have a right to carry a handgun outside the home for self-defense and that a New York law requiring special need for such a permit is too restrictive.

But there was also concern during the two-hour argument about the proliferation of guns in public spaces, and it was unclear how broadly the court might go in clarifying the Second Amendment right.

Some worried about guns on New York's subway, in Yankee Stadium, on New York University's urban campus or in busy Times Square. Others said it

would be difficult to compile a reasonable list of such sensitive places. They debated whether the right could be regulated differently in urban versus rural areas.

The court's six conservative justices expressed varying levels of support for the two individuals and the National Rifle Association affiliate challenging New York's requirement. Enacted more than a century ago, it requires those who want to carry a concealed weapon for self-defense to show "proper cause" for doing so.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., the conservative member of the court thought least eager to want to weigh in on state and local gun control measures, nonetheless said New York's law seemed at odds with a right protected by the Constitution.

"The idea that you need a license to exercise the right, I think is unusual in the context of the Bill of Rights," Roberts said.

Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh was more direct: "Why isn't it

SEE COURT ON A6

Children's vaccine rush begins

Kids are lining up for protection against the virus that upended their childhoods



Cate Zeigler-Amon, 10, waits with her mother, Sara Zeigler, to receive her first dose of a coronavirus vaccine in Decatur, Ga. Children ages 5 to 11 may now be immunized with Pfizer-BioNTech's vaccine.

BY FENIT NIRAPILL AND LINDSEY BEVER

Patrick, a 9-year-old in Houston, petted a hospital therapy dog named Bailey while a nurse administered a shot that made him one of the first American elementary-schoolers to get vaccinated against the coronavirus.

In Connecticut, 7-year-old Kareem shouted over applause that his shot didn't hurt after he received an injection on camera. In Columbus, Ohio, a children's hospital handed out capes and encouraged kids to pick a superhero name for a superhero-themed vaccine clinic.

Almost a year after their parents and grandparents became eligible, young U.S. children are now lining up for vaccines to protect them from the virus that upended their childhoods, in many cases keeping them away from schools,

SEE VACCINE ON A8

First up: Hospital providers identify, prioritize at-risk kids. **B1**

IN THE NEWS



Atrocities in Ethiopia A joint U.N. report on the conflict blamed all sides for rights violations and possible war crimes. **A17**

THE NATION
Hacking operations by U.S. Cyber Command and a foreign government targeted a major overseas ransomware group and led it to shut down, officials said. **A2**
GOP senators voted to block debate on the third voting rights bill Democrats have sought this year. **A3**
A woman who converted her own grand jury under an obscure Kansas law has learned

that there will be no new indictment for an assault she thought should have been prosecuted as rape. **A7**
The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy said it is again pausing a program that sends students to gain experience on commercial ships as it grapples with how to protect cadets from sexual assault. **A25**
THE WORLD
International talks on the future of Iran's

nuclear program will resume on Nov. 29. **A15**
A glut of avocados in Australia has driven prices so low that farmers are turning the fruit into compost. **A16**
The United States added the Israeli spyware firm NSO Group to a blacklist, blocking it from receiving American technologies. **A19**
As world leaders departed, their negotiators got down to business at the COP26 climate conference. **A21**
THE ECONOMY
The Fed announced it

will start easing its massive support for financial markets this month. **A23**
THE REGION
D.C. jail authorities barred members of the U.S. Marshals Service from entering after deputy marshals last month conducted a surprise inspection and catalogued "egregious" conditions, a federal judge said. **B1**
Voters in Greenbelt approved of creating a panel to study whether Black and Native American residents should receive reparations. **B5**

INSIDE



LOCAL LIVING
Recovering from the pandemic
How parents can help their kids feel okay again.
STYLE
In D.C., ready to have a ball
The gala season tries to bounce back. **C1**

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OBITUARIES **B6**
TELEVISION **C3**
WORLD NEWS **A16**

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The Washington Post / Year 144, No. 304
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Respira Boca: está en la final de la Copa Argentina

Con un gol de Vázquez (foto), superó por 1 a 0 a Argentinos Juniors, en Mendoza, y definirá el torneo contra Talleres o Godoy Cruz. **Deportes**



EL "HOMBRE GATO", CULPABLE DE DOBLE FEMICIDIO EN MENDOZA

—seguridad

Un jurado popular dio por probado que Gilad Pereg mató a su madre y a su tía, y descartó su inimputabilidad por insania mental; le dieron cadena perpetua. **Página 26**

LA ACTRIZ DE POCO ORTODOXA HABLA DE SU NUEVA PELÍCULA

—espectáculos

Shira Haas dice que su papel en *Asía*, el film israelí sobre una adolescente que sufre una enfermedad degenerativa, "fue un desafío físico y emocional". **Página 6**

LA NACION

JUEVES 4 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

Macri declaró en la causa de espionaje y acusó al juez de responder al Gobierno

DOLORES. "Usted está muy apurado para procesarme antes del 14 de noviembre", le dijo

Después de la frustrada audiencia de la semana pasada, ayer el expresidente Mauricio Macri se presentó a declarar en la causa por supuesto espionaje a los familiares de los tripulantes del ARA San Juan, que se tramita en el juzgado de Dolores. Allí dejó un escrito con durísimas críticas

al juez que instruye la causa, Martín Bava, a quien acusó de responder a los intereses del Gobierno y de perseguir un objetivo electoral. "Usted está muy apurado para procesarme antes del 14", señaló, en referencia a la fecha de los comicios legislativos. Macri presentó el documento de

14 páginas y no respondió preguntas, según dijo con ironía, "así usted [el juez] puede seguir con las formalidades", ya que, según su visión, Bava ya tiene decidido procesarlo. Si bien hubo dirigentes que acompañaron al expresidente, esta vez no se organizó un acto político. **Página 6**

CASO HOTESUR

La vicepresidenta Cristina Kirchner y sus hijos pidieron ser sobreesidos en la causa Hotesur. **Página 8**

Operan hoy a Cristina Kirchner en el Otamendi

SALUD. Es una cirugía programada; le harán una histerectomía

La vicepresidenta Cristina Kirchner será sometida hoy a una cirugía programada en el Sanatorio Otamendi, informaron anoche a LA NACION fuentes cercanas a la exmandataria. La información fue mantenida en reserva hasta última hora. La cirugía será una histerectomía —extirpación del útero— y se estima que la vicepresidenta deberá permanecer internada unos cinco días. **Página 9**

Evo Morales, en un avión de Pdvsa multado por EE.UU.

política— El expresidente de Bolivia Evo Morales llegó a Buenos Aires en un avión de la petrolera venezolana Pdvsa para presentar un libro. Esa nave está entre los bienes bloqueados por Estados Unidos, como parte de las sanciones contra el régimen de Maduro. **Página 9**



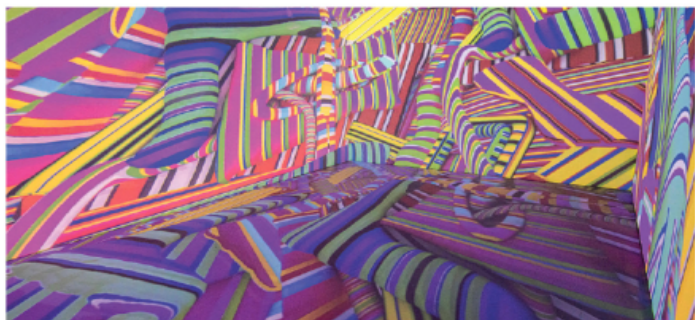
El Bombardier Learjet de Pdvsa en el que llegó anteanoche Morales fue estacionado en el Aeroparque junto al Tango 04 **RICARDO PRISTUPLUK**

Tensión en el mercado: el blue, al borde de los \$200

DÓLAR. Alcanzó \$199, un nuevo récord; también avanzó el CCL libre. **Página 14**

Investigarán al chavismo por violar los DD.HH.

Página 3



Marta Minujín
IMPLOSIÓN!

¡Último mes de exposición!

Lunes a sábados 12-18 hs | Av. Paseo Colón 1380

@fundacion_santander_ar

Una señal de alerta que no debe ser desatendida por las autoridades

MERCADO 4: Monumento a la corrupción e ineficacia

Fuego consumió más de 40 locales. Pese a los millones que se deben recaudar, hay informalidad, descontrol y falta de prevención.

PÁGINA 2 a la 4



Pavoroso. Intenso fue el trabajo para apagar el incendio que se inició en la madrugada del miércoles.

Usaban factura de funcionarios para desvíos
Juez decreta inhibición de gravar y vender bienes en contra de Hugo Javier

PÁGINA 12

Por atención a contagiados con Covid
Senado trata hoy sobre tablas pago de la deuda de Salud a los privados

PÁGINA 6

Envío al exterior por USD 699 millones
Industria de la maquila bate récord de exportación tras crisis de la pandemia

PÁGINA 20

El histriónico Miguel Godoy fue reelecto como defensor del Pueblo

PÁGINA 10

Educación sufre recorte de USD 40 millones que van a jueces y partidos

PÁGINA 23



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LE FIGARO

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



PAUL MCCARTNEY
L'EX-BEATLES SE RACONTE
DANS UNE AUTOBIOGRAPHIE
MONUMENTALE PAGES 30 ET 31

LE FIGARO LITTÉRAIRE
FRANZ-OLIVIER GIESBERT,
MÉMORIALISTE DE L'ÈRE GAULLISTE
NOTRE SUPPLÉMENT



ÉTATS-UNIS
La défaite démocrate en Virginie, un inquiétant revers pour Joe Biden PAGE 6

ALLEMAGNE
Les adieux au long cours d'Angela Merkel PAGE 8

VIOLENCE
Val-d'Oise : un homme passé à tabac parce que policier PAGE 12

COVID-19
La rentrée scolaire se fera masquée dans 61 départements PAGE 13

ÉCONOMIE
La France veut rester championne du tourisme PAGES 22 ET 23

CHAMPS LIBRES

- L'Institut Confucius en mission séduction à l'université d'Artois
- Les chroniques de Guillaume Perrault et de Luc Ferry
- Le tête à tête de Charles Jaigu
- Les tribunes de François-Xavier Bellamy et d'Olivier Babeau
- L'analyse d'Alexandre Devecchio

PAGES 16 À 19

FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question de mercredi :
Pensez-vous que le retour de l'inflation menace votre épargne ?

NON 26% OUI 74%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 129 915

Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr
Regretterez-vous Angela Merkel ?

MARY MCCARTNEY

La droite a un mois pour choisir son champion

Les adhérents du parti Les Républicains vont désigner, le 4 décembre, leur candidat à la présidentielle d'avril prochain. Chacun des cinq concurrents en lice fourbit ses armes.

Le ou la candidate de la droite à l'élection présidentielle sera connu dans un mois pile. Les militants auront alors désigné leur champion parmi les cinq personnalités autorisées à concourir : Michel Barnier, Xavier Bertrand, Éric Ciotti,

Philippe Juvin et Valérie Pécresse. Si l'attente des électeurs de droite est énorme pour cette présidentielle après deux défaites cuisantes, en 2012 et 2017, il est difficile de savoir quelle sera la clé de leur choix. Privilégieront-ils le

vote utile en retenant - avec tous les aléas possibles à six mois du scrutin - le candidat le mieux placé dans les sondages, ou accorderont-ils la prime à la fidélité et à la loyauté ? Dans le premier cas, Xavier Bertrand pourrait apparaître

comme le mieux placé. Dans le second, Michel Barnier ou Éric Ciotti, jamais partis de LR. Quant à Valérie Pécresse, elle n'a pas dit son dernier mot, car elle conduit une campagne méthodique et méticuleuse sur le fond comme sur le terrain.

→ **UNE FENÊTRE DE TIR D'UN MOIS BIENVENUE POUR LA DROITE**
→ **QUATRE DÉBATS POUR FAIRE BASCULER LA CAMPAGNE**
→ **BERTRAND : LE FAVORI DES SONDAGES PEUT-IL L'EMPORTER ?** PAGES 2, 4 ET L'EDITORIAL



Le Sénégalais Mohamed Mbougar Sarr a reçu, ce mercredi, chez Drouant le prix Goncourt. Au même moment, dans la pièce voisine du restaurant, la romancière belge Amélie Nothomb était consacrée par le jury Renaudot. PAGES 32 ET 33

ÉDITORIAL par Yves Thirard ythirard@lefigaro.fr

Le moment ou jamais

Dans tout juste un mois, la droite connaîtra le nom de son candidat à la présidentielle. Après de longues semaines de tergiversations, d'hésitations, de tensions, le parti Les Républicains a enfin décidé d'une méthode pour le choisir : une primaire - pardon, un congrès ! - réservée à ses adhérents. Aux cinq prétendants sur la ligne de départ de faire désormais preuve de talent pour élever leur débat à la hauteur de l'enjeu. Michel Barnier, Xavier Bertrand, Éric Ciotti, Philippe Juvin et Valérie Pécresse ont encore une carte à jouer. Ils disposent de quatre semaines pour faire mentir les sondages actuels, qui ne donnent aucun d'entre eux au deuxième tour de l'élection suprême. C'est donc le moment ou jamais.

Face à Emmanuel Macron d'un côté, Marine Le Pen et Éric Zemmour de l'autre, manquent à la droite un ton et une vision. Deux attributs nécessaires qui forgent une identité propre ; laquelle, pour être gagnante, doit être à la fois cohérente et entraînante. En aucune manière, comme on l'entend ici et là, une aimable conversation entre les cinq imprégnés n'y parviendra. Seule une vraie

confrontation, pleine de conviction et riche en idées, pourra dégager un horizon clair, dessiner un projet solide. Cette primaire n'est pas un concours de beauté, mais une épreuve de force, au bon sens du terme. Il faut le répéter : ce n'est pas elle qui a fait chuter la droite en 2017, mais les affaires accablant François Fillon.

Certes, le risque d'un semblable exercice est double. Il peut favoriser une « course à l'échalote » avec des propositions irréalistes sur des sujets importants. Il peut aussi créer des fractures irréconciliables. À

chacun des cinq concurrents de savoir jusqu'où aller pour inspirer confiance et ne pas jouer contre l'avenir de son camp. Dans la surenchère démagogique et le climat d'invectives de la précampagne, la droite a les moyens de se démarquer. Elle doit vite s'affirmer, cesser de douter d'elle-même. Le parti LR, quant à lui, ne doit pas rater ce rendez-vous. Sa survie est en jeu. ■

Le retour au Mali de l'ex-otage Sophie Pétronin provoque un tollé

Le retour au Mali de Sophie Pétronin, 76 ans, un an après sa libération des mains de djihadistes qui l'avaient détenue pendant quatre ans, est dénoncé par le gouvernement français comme une « forme d'irresponsabilité », notamment pour « la sécurité de nos forces militaires » sur place. Deux cents combattants islamistes avaient été libérés en échange de l'otage française. PAGE 10

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Albin Michel

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PM accused of corruption as rules on sleaze torn up

I used racist term, admits ex-England batsman

Ali Martin



Suspension of Owen Paterson halted as MPs vote to review system

Heather Stewart
Aubrey Allegretti
Rowena Mason

Boris Johnson tore up the independent system for combating sleaze in parliament yesterday as he threw the government's weight behind protecting a Tory MP who was found to have repeatedly breached lobbying rules.

The Labour leader, Keir Starmer, accused Johnson of corruption after he whipped his MPs to halt Owen Paterson's parliamentary suspension and demand a review of the standards process to allow for appeals.

Scores of Tory MPs declined to back the prime minister, however, with several saying they had been deluged by angry messages from constituents. One confirmed last night that she had left her role as a parliamentary aide, Angela Richardson, MP for Guildford since 2019 and an aide to Michael Gove, tweeted: "I abstained ... aware that my job was at risk, but it was a matter of principle for me."

It comes as Johnson faces what would be a fourth inquiry by Kathryn Stone - the parliamentary standards commissioner who recommended Paterson's suspension for breaking lobbying rules - into the funding of work on his Downing Street flat.

▲ Boris Johnson won the vote, but 13 Conservatives voted against the government and dozens abstained
PHOTOGRAPH: JESSICA TAYLOR/PARLIAMENT/PA

On a day of extraordinary drama in Westminster, MPs voted by 250 to 232 to support a government-backed amendment to set aside the ruling against Paterson and overhaul the independent disciplinary system,



▲ Owen Paterson in the Commons as MPs debated his fate yesterday

which the prime minister claimed was a matter of "natural justice".

The government's majority was reduced from 79 to just 18, however, underlining the unhappiness of many Tories. The result was met with cries of "shame" from opposition MPs.

After the vote, Paterson, who has previously suggested the investigation into his conduct contributed to his wife Rose's suicide last year, said: "After two years of hell, I now have the opportunity to clear my name." He had previously protested his innocence to the commissioner.

Stone said via her spokesperson that she intended to stay in post until the end of her term in December 2022.

In his most strongly worded criticism of the prime minister to date, Starmer said protecting Paterson, and failing to throw out Conservative MP Rob Roberts, who was found to have harassed an

Gary Ballance, the former England batsman, has admitted using racist and offensive language to his teammate Azeem Rafiq in a controversy that has engulfed Yorkshire County Cricket Club and the sport as a whole.

The admission follows another day of anger towards Yorkshire over their failure to take action against Rafiq's alleged abusers that led to top sponsors - including Emerald, who gave their name to Yorkshire's Headingley ground - ending their association with the club, and a group of MPs demanded an independent inquiry.

Rafiq, a former England under-19s captain, has signalled he is ready to name names and detail the racism he claims to have experienced while playing cricket for Yorkshire when the Commons digital, culture, media and sport select committee tackles the issue on 16 November.

Roger Hutton, the club chair, Mark Arthur, its chief executive, and Martyn Moxon, its director of cricket, are also expected to be questioned by MPs over their handling of the affair. The ability for all parties to speak freely under

Pegasus scandal Spyware firm barred by US

Israel's NSO Group acted 'contrary to national security interests of US', says Washington, as it joins hackers from China and Russia on 'entity list'

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