

What's News

Business & Finance

Retailers this year are expected to open more stores than they close for the first time since 2017, according to an analysis of more than 900 chains by research and advisory company IHL Group. **A1**

◆ **Some Chinese state-run companies** are restricting employees' use of Tencent's popular domestic messaging app, citing security concerns. **A1**

◆ **Individual investors**, bucking inflation worries, continue to stampede into shares of growth companies that have enjoyed explosive price gains this year. **A1**

◆ **Stocks in Asia sank** in early trading Friday and U.S. stock futures lost ground after South Africa raised the alarm over a new strain of the coronavirus. **B1**

◆ **Flights have been packed** relatively painless during the week of Thanksgiving, the first major test for airlines since they took steps to resolve traffic snarls. **B1**

◆ **AT&T and Verizon** said they would limit some of their 5G wireless services for six months while U.S. regulators review the signals' effect on aircraft sensors. **B4**

◆ **Saudi Arabia and Russia** are considering a pause to their recent efforts to provide the world with more crude after the U.S. and other countries said they would tap oil reserves. **B11**

◆ **Chinese developer Kaisa** warned it risked renegeing on its international debts unless creditors agreed to a \$400 million bond swap. **B10**

World-Wide

◆ **The European Union** is confronting the reality that taming the Delta variant is proving harder than had been hoped, as Covid-19 infections and deaths in the region eclipse those in the U.S. **A1**

◆ **South Africa** is considering new public-health restrictions to contain a fast-spreading new variant of the coronavirus that scientists say has a high number of mutations. **A7**

◆ **A total of 92%** of federal workers have received at least one Covid-19 vaccination shot, according to data released by the White House. **A3**

◆ **Support for curbing** large tech companies' market power is widening in the Senate, with lawmakers in both parties endorsing new legal constraints. **A4**

◆ **Turkey's currency crisis** is causing droves of people in that country to buy U.S. dollars and has spurred street protests against Erdogan's policies. **A8**

◆ **The head of the U.N.'s** atomic watchdog agency left Iran after failing to reach a deal to allow inspectors access to factory making equipment for Tehran's nuclear program. **A8**

◆ **A devastating explosion** in a Siberian coal mine left 52 miners and rescuers dead about 820 feet underground, Russian officials said. **A8**

◆ **Interpol elected** as president an Emirati official accused by human-rights groups of involvement in torture, defying objections from Western officials. **A8**

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Crowds Return for New York's Thanksgiving Day Parade



LINED UP: Spectators turned out for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on Thursday, which featured new balloons as it made its way through Manhattan. Across the country, holiday travel was heavy but had few major disruptions. **A6, B1**

Small Investors Buck Worries Of Inflation, Buy Growth Stocks

By CAITLIN MCGARE

Conventional Wall Street wisdom says inflation, which has been rising all year, is bad for growth and technology stocks. So far, many small investors don't care. Individual investors continue to stampede into shares of growth companies, the types of buzzy stocks that have enjoyed explosive price gains this year. Advanced Micro Devices Inc., Nvidia Corp. and Apple Inc. are the three stocks most purchased this month by individual

investors, according to VandaTrack, a Vanda Research flow tracker that measures net purchases.

Growth stocks are typically companies—often tech firms—that are expected to deliver faster-than-average profit growth in the future. They tend to flourish in a low-rate environment, including over the past year and a half. Investors are typically willing to take some risks and pay higher prices for such companies when they don't see many alternatives for making sizable profits.

For example, 18 of the stocks that are most favored by individual investors, including the chip makers AMD and Nvidia, trade on average at nearly 13 times their trailing 12-month sales, according to an analysis by Dow Jones Market Data. Stocks in the S&P 500 trade at an average of three times their sales.

But mounting inflation can be troublesome for growth stocks. That is because inflation brings the prospect of higher interest rates and higher bond yields, making the promised fu-

ture cash flows of growth stocks less attractive. Traders, in turn, typically shuffle their portfolios to include other investments that stand to benefit from rising rates.

A government report this month showed that the consumer-price index jumped 6.2% in October from a year earlier, climbing at the fastest pace in three decades. Fund-flow tracker EPFR, whose data cap-

◆ Asia stocks sink in early trading on virus fears..... B1

Tencent's Messaging App Faces New Curbs In China

By KEITH ZHAI

SINGAPORE—Some Chinese state-run companies are restricting employees' use of Tencent Holdings Ltd.'s popular domestic messaging app, citing security concerns, according to people familiar with the matter.

This week, managers at at least nine state-run companies, including some of the nation's largest, such as China Mobile Ltd., China Construction Bank Corp. and China National Petroleum Corp., told employees that any chat groups set up for work purposes on Weixin—Tencent's dominant messaging app in China—could contain sensitive information and should be shut down and deleted, the people said.

They also ordered employees to be cautious about using Weixin, which is the domestic sister app of WeChat, for work-related communications, some of the people said. These state companies haven't publicly disclosed any security concerns over Weixin.

The move comes as Beijing intensifies scrutiny into internet giants including Tencent, China's most valuable company, as well as Tencent's data-collection practices. "Many companies around the world are moving towards enterprise software to meet their internal communications needs," Tencent said in a statement, adding that the company offers WeCom, an office collaboration app, as a solution.

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Consumers Ramp Up Spending

Benefiting from the strong labor market, household spending climbed 1.3% in October from a month earlier, while personal income increased 0.5% for the month. **A2**

Personal Consumption Expenditures



Note: Seasonally adjusted at annual rates
Source: Commerce Department

How Diehards See Total Eclipse—With Dinky Doo and Egg Creams

Devoted followers stick to traditions, like a lucky flag to keep the clouds away

By TAYLOR UMLAUF

For Mandie Adams, the total solar eclipse on Dec. 4 will be the 12th one she's seen. It will also be the 12th for her teddy bear, Dinky Doo.

Seeing it won't be easy. The eclipse will be visible only on a sliver of Earth in Antarctica, the South Orkney Islands and the surrounding ocean. Ms. Adams, a rental-property owner who lives in Southampton, England, flew from London to Madrid to Buenos Aires to the town of Ushuaia on the southern tip of Argentina. From there, she will board a 15-day eclipse cruise, which sails through the noto-

riously turbulent Drake's Passage, to see just under 2 minutes of total eclipse darkness—if there aren't clouds.

Ms. Adams, 56, is one of many eclipse chasers who travel to great lengths to witness the complete covering of the sun by the moon, a phenomenon that happens on average every 1 1/4 years somewhere on Earth. The chasers often have their own special traditions surrounding the event, including wearing celestial-themed outfits, drinking local spirits and bringing along stuffed bears.

"Who better to sit and imbibe the quietness with than a

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Online Retailers Demand Real Store Locations

Shop openings will exceed closings for the first time since 2017, reflecting shift

By SUZANNE KAPNER

After losing ground to e-commerce, bricks-and-mortar stores are back in style.

Retailers this year are expected to open more stores than they close for the first time since 2017, according to an analysis of more than 900 chains by IHL Group, a research and advisory company. Most of the growth is coming from mass merchants, food, drugs and convenience chains.

Department stores and specialty retailers, which experienced the biggest shakeout over the past five years, are still closing more stores than they are opening. But the pace of closures has slowed from record levels.

Behind the shift are changing views about the value of physical stores, industry executives and analysts said.

Stores have become integral in fulfilling e-commerce orders. They serve as distribution hubs and convenient places for shoppers to pick up and return online purchases—services that will be key this holiday season as orders once again threaten to overwhelm shipping carriers.

As the cost of acquiring customers online has skyrocketed, stores also are a less expensive way to attract new shoppers. And as landlords have become more willing to accept shorter and more flexible lease terms, retailers are less likely to wind up locked

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Defying the Taliban, Afghans Teach Girls

Clandestine classes provide education forbidden for those beyond sixth grade

By MARGHERITA STANCATI

KABUL—A group of teenage girls filed quietly into Fawzia's house, took off their shoes and gathered in the living room for a clandestine history lesson.

Fawzia, who asked to be identified only by her first name, talked about Afghanistan's fabled treasure, the Bactrian Gold, and its past kings and queens. The 56-year-old teacher sees her new, secret work with teens as essential.

When the Taliban started reopening public schools in September, they banned girls

from attending beyond the sixth grade. Since then, middle and high schools in a few provinces have reopened to girls, but in Kabul and most of the country they remain shut.

"If they just sit at home they will get depressed or addicted to their phones," Fawzia said. "We need to give them hope that one day schools will reopen."

The Taliban leadership has so far espoused a more moderate attitude toward women and girls compared with their rule in the 1990s. Taliban officials say schools

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Surge in Covid-19 Presents Europe With Hard Choices

The European Union is confronting an ugly reality as Covid-19 infections and deaths in the region eclipse those in the U.S.: Taming the Delta variant is proving harder than a virus-weary continent had hoped.

By Eric Sylvers
in Milan and Georgi
Kantchev in Berlin

Fast-rising Covid-19 contagion in parts of Europe, including Germany, is sparking fears of another winter of full hospitals. Countries are rushing to roll out booster shots as evidence accumulates that last summer's vaccinations are losing some of their efficacy.

Some European governments are also raising pressure on unvaccinated people

to get shots by tightening the rules for accessing public transportation, shops, restaurants and workplaces. Although the EU has a higher overall vaccination rate than the U.S., vaccine take-up has been uneven across the region.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization has convened a meeting for Friday to consider whether to declare a new, fast-spreading coronavirus strain that has emerged in Africa a "variant of concern." On Thursday, South Africa's government said it is considering new restrictions to contain the spread of the variant.

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◆ **Antibody tests draw interest, but they have limits..... A3**
◆ **New Covid-19 variant rolls South Africa..... A7**

In Arbery Case, Legal Strategy Full of Surprise

Prosecutor's Restrained Approach to Race

By RICHARD FAUSSET

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — The lawyer was from out of town, a prosecutor who had spent the bulk of her career in a large, liberal city, and she had been brought in to try the biggest case of her career: the murder of a Black man on a sunny afternoon by three white men just outside a small city pinned to the South Georgia coastline.

Despite the evidence of racism she had at her disposal, Linda Dunikoski, the prosecutor, stunned some legal observers by largely avoiding race during the trial, choosing instead to hew closely to the details of how the three men had chased the Black man, Ahmaud Arbery, through their neighborhood.

The risks went beyond her career and a single trial. Failure to convict in a case that many saw as an obvious act of racial violence would reverberate well outside Glynn County, Ga. For some, it would be a referendum on a country that appeared to have made tentative steps last summer toward confronting racism, only to devolve into deeper division.

On Wednesday, Ms. Dunikoski's strategy was vindicated when the jury found the three men guilty of murder and other charges after deliberating for roughly a day. The convicted men — Gregory McMichael, 65; his son Travis McMichael, 35; and their neighbor William Bryan, 52 — are now facing life sentences in prison. They are also facing trial in February on separate federal hate-crime charges.

Kevin Gough, the lawyer who represented Mr. Bryan, credited Ms. Dunikoski with threading the needle of race. She mentioned a racial motive just once during the three-week trial, in her closing argument: The men, she said, had attacked Mr. Arbery "because he was a Black man running down the street."

"She found a clever way of bringing the issue up that wouldn't be offensive to the right-leaning members of the jury," he said. "I think you can see from the verdict that Dunikoski made the right call."

A number of legal experts, in the moment, thought Ms. Dunikoski's strategy to be a risky one. But many in Brunswick thought that she had proved savvy about what tone to strike in a Deep South community where, they said, race doesn't have to be referenced explicitly for everyone to understand the implications.

Cedric King, a Black local businessman, said that the evidence against the defendants, particularly the video of Mr. Arbery's murder, had been strong enough to stand on its own.

"Anybody with warm blood running through their veins that wit-

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ANDREW SENG FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Sight Worth Waiting For

Catching a glimpse of Santa Claus as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade returned to its full 2.5-mile confetti-strewn glory. Page A15.

Saving History With Wet-Vacs In Washington

By CHRISTOPHER FLAVELLE

WASHINGTON — President Warren Harding's blue silk pajamas. Muhammad Ali's boxing gloves. The Star Spangled Banner, stitched by Betsy Ross. Scripts from the television show "M*A*S*H."

Nearly two million irreplaceable artifacts that tell the American story are housed in the National Museum of American History, part of the Smithsonian Institution, the biggest museum complex in the world.

Now, because of climate change, the Smithsonian stands out for another reason: Its cherished buildings are extremely vulnerable to flooding, and some could eventually be underwater.

Eleven palatial Smithsonian museums and galleries form a ring around the National Mall, the grand two-mile park lined with elms that stretches from the Lincoln Memorial to the U.S. Capitol.

But that land was once marsh. And as the planet warms, the buildings face two threats. Rising seas will eventually push in water from the tidal Potomac River and submerge parts of the Mall, scientists say. More immediately, increasingly heavy rainstorms threaten the museums and their priceless holdings, particularly since many are stored in base-

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Holiday Shopping Amid Unvaccinated Workers

By LAUREN HIRSCH
and SAPNA MAHESHWARI

The holiday shopping season has arrived, and retailers are ringing it in by doing everything from cutting prices to stocking showrooms to lure back customers who stayed at home last year. What the biggest of them are not doing is the one thing the White House and many public health experts have asked them to: mandate that their workers be vaccinated.

As other industries with workers in public-facing roles, like airlines and hospitals, have moved toward requiring vaccines, retailers have dug in their heels, citing concerns about a labor shortage. And a portion of one of the coun-

With Seasonal Hiring Difficult, Retailers Resist Mandate

try's largest work forces will remain unvaccinated, just as shoppers are expected to flock to stores.

At the heart of the retailers' resistance is a worry about having enough people to work. In a tight labor market, retailers have been offering perks like higher wages and better hours to prospective employees in hopes of having enough people to staff their stores and distribution centers. The Na-

tional Retail Federation, the industry's largest trade group, has estimated that retailers will hire up to 665,000 seasonal workers this year.

Macy's, for example, said it planned to hire 76,000 full- and part-time employees this season. The retailer has offered referral bonuses of up to \$500 for each friend or relative whom employees recruit to join it. Macy's asked corporate staff this fall to be vaccinated or test negative for Covid-19 to enter its offices. But store workers are a different story.

"We have a lot of stores that have a lot of openings, and any rule that we have to mandate those colleagues be vaccinated prior to Christmas is just going to exacer-

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GONZALO FUENTES/REUTERS

Undeterred by a Disaster

Migrants in France aimed to cross the English Channel, even after 27 died on Wednesday. Page A4.

Texas Doctors Say Abortion Law Complicates Risky Pregnancies

By RONI CARYN RABIN

A few weeks after Texas adopted the most restrictive abortion law in the nation, Dr. Andrea Palmer delivered terrible news to a Fort Worth patient who was midway through her pregnancy.

The fetus had a rare neural tube defect. The brain would not de-

velop, and the infant would die at birth or shortly afterward. Carrying the pregnancy to term would be emotionally grueling and would raise the mother's risk of blood clots and severe postpartum bleeding, the doctor warned.

But the patient was past six weeks' gestation, and under the new law, an abortion was not an option in Texas because the wom-

an was not immediately facing a life-threatening medical crisis or risk of permanent disability.

"So we look at them like a ticking time bomb and wait for the complications to develop," Dr. Palmer said of her patients.

In this case, the woman had the means to travel, and she obtained an abortion in another state, an option unavailable to many low-

income and working-class women.

Texas' new measure was intended to impose stringent limits on abortion. But it is also affecting women who have no desire for termination but are experiencing medically risky pregnancies. Many doctors say they are unable to discuss the procedure as an op-

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Leader Accused by Tennis Player Personified Power in Beijing Elite

By CHRIS BUCKLEY and STEVEN LEE MYERS

Before Zhang Gaoli was engulfed in accusations that he had sexually assaulted a tennis champion, he seemed to embody the qualities that the Chinese Communist Party prizes in officials: austere, disciplined, and impeccably loyal to the leader of the day.

He had climbed steadily from running an oil refinery to a succession of leadership posts along China's fast-growing coast, avoiding the scandals and controversy that felled other, flashily ambitious politicians. He became known, if for anything, for his monotone impersonality. On entering China's top

leadership, he invited people to search for anything amiss in his behavior.

"Stern, low-key, taciturn," summed up one of the few profiles of him in the Chinese media. His interests, Xinhua news agency said, included books, chess and tennis.

Now the allegation from Peng Shuai, the professional tennis player, has cast Mr. Zhang's private life under a blaze of international attention, making him a symbol of a political system that prizes secrecy and control over

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INTERNATIONAL A4-11

Where Taliban Went to School
Clerics in Pakistan argue that a madrasa has changed, but some blame it for sowing violence. PAGE A9

New Mutations Seen in Virus
A variant with "a big jump in evolution" is driving a spike in Covid-19 infections in South Africa, scientists said. PAGE A8

NATIONAL A12-19

Fight Over the Alamo

Native Americans built the Alamo, and many were buried there. Now, a battle is brewing because Texas has rejected efforts to protect the site. PAGE A12

Grief as Cases Go Unsolved

In the Bronx, where the percentage of murders solved has plunged, a homicide victim's family waits. PAGE A19

BUSINESS B1-7

Are Holiday Shoppers Back?

People are returning to stores, but the atmosphere is not as carefree as it was in times before the pandemic. PAGE B1



SPORTS B8-11

Answering the Call of the Sea

A Times reporter moved to Australia, where he learned to embrace the nation's love of swimming. PAGE B10

The Best-Kept Secret in Soccer

Encrypted servers and secret meetings: The winner of the Ballon d'Or is guarded like a state secret. PAGE B8

WEEKEND ARTS C1-20

A Romp in the Valley

"Licorice Pizza," Paul Thomas Anderson's new film, takes place in a 1970s California of bared midriffs and swinging hair, and failures and pretenders, Manohla Dargis writes. PAGE C1

Bigger Cast for Holiday Classic

If the children performing in the City Ballet's production of "George Balanchine's The Nutcracker" look more like teenagers this season, it's because in many cases they are. PAGE C1

OPINION A20-21

David Brooks

PAGE A21

SPECIAL SECTION



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COLUMN ONE

Mystery cards against captivity

Years after he sued SeaWorld, a lawyer is baffled to get a series of postcards signed by the park's animal stars.

By ANITA CHABRIA

In 2018, Matthew Strugar received a postcard from a whale. The card came out of an old SeaWorld tourist pack, the kind with glossy pictures of animals doing tricks, purchased for excited kids by worn-down parents then tossed in a drawer when vacation is over. Its front showed two orcas, one big, one juvenile, jumping gracefully from the confines of their chlorine-blue pool as sunburnt 1980s patrons in tank tops snapped photos and gawked.

The back carried a plea for help: "On the other side of this message is a photo of the humiliating activities that our captors force us to perform. Perhaps you can use this as evidence. Thank you for all the work you do for us. Sincerely, Your imprisoned orca clients."

It was not the only time the whales wrote. Strugar, a civil and animal rights attorney in Los Angeles, had made waves in the animal rights scene eight years earlier by suing SeaWorld on behalf of five orcas held in captivity. He argued their confinement and forced performances violated the U.S. Constitution's 13th Amendment prohibition of slavery and involuntary servitude.

The suit was lambasted by some as more stunt than law, and dismissed by a judge who ruled the amendment- [See Postcards, A12]



GARY KAZANJIAN Associated Press

LEIF MATHIESEN of the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Service inspects a burned-out sequoia in the Redwood Mountain Grove, which was devastated by the KNP Complex fire earlier this year.

'Nothing's alive on that tree': Inside a scorched sequoia grove

More than 2,000 giants dead or dying from KNP fire

By LILA SEIDMAN

It looked like a bomb had gone off in the vast stand of giant sequoias on a mountain ridge in the southern Sierra.

Charred trees rose — some stripped of leaves and eerily skeletal — in Kings Canyon National Park's Redwood Mountain Grove. Ash hung in the air and clawed at visitors' throats on a chilly afternoon in November.

Roughly seven weeks earlier, intense flames from the KNP Complex fire had charged through the grove, which is home to more than 5,200 behemoth sequoias — among the world's largest



TOMAS OVALLE For The Times

NEARLY 20% of the trees' population may have been lost to three wildfires — the KNP, Windy and Castile.

and oldest trees.

When the smoke finally cleared, the impacts were sobering.

"It does not ever get easy looking at a monarch giant sequoia that has died," said Teresa Benson, supervisor for Sequoia National Forest, which also was seared by recent wildfires. "That is one of the hardest things that I've ever had to look at in my entire 30-year career with the Forest Service."

As many as 2,380 giant sequoias burned to death or are expected to die within several years because of the KNP Complex fire, which is still active. Most grew in the Redwood Mountain Grove, said Christy Brigham, chief [See Grove, A7]

California's most adventurous wolf meets a tragic end

A quest for mates and territory took OR-93 from Oregon to the Southland. Then he was hit by a vehicle.

By LOUIS SAHAGÚN

Wolf advocates across the nation were brooding over the bad news this week: The epic journey of a lone gray wolf that ventured from Oregon to the very edge of Southern California's crowded suburbs in search of territory and female mates had ended in a vehicle collision near Interstate 5 in the Kern County town of Lebec.

"OR-93's relentless wandering gave us hope, inspiration and a brief glimpse at what it would be like to see wolves running free across California again," said Amarog Weiss, a spokeswoman for the Center for Biological Diversity. "I only wish we could have offered him a safer world."

California's most adventurous wolf was found dead on the afternoon of Nov. 10 by a truck driver who noticed the carcass on a dirt trail near a frontage road running parallel to Interstate 5, officials said. A state game warden collected the remains, which were taken to the Wildlife Health Laboratory in Rancho Cordova, where the necropsy was per-

formed.

A necropsy conducted on the carcass, which was found roughly 50 miles north of Los Angeles, determined that OR-93 had suffered "significant tissue trauma to the left rear leg, a dislocated knee and soft tissue trauma to the abdomen," the California Department of Fish and Wildlife said Wednesday. The agency also said it "determined the wolf died from trauma consistent with vehicle strike and does not suspect foul play."

Pushed by an evolutionary gamble to pass off his genetic information to new generations of wolves in a region where they had not been seen for more than 200 years, OR-93's record-breaking travels in California had signaled the potential here [See Gray wolf, A7]



MARCUS YAM Los Angeles Times

IRAQI Hussein Shumari, 25, sought a better life in Europe. Instead, he found himself in an odyssey through no man's land after arriving in Belarus.

Steppingstone to Europe became migrants' ordeal

Desperate Iraqis say they were tossed 'like a football' in the skirmish between Belarus and EU

By NABIH BULOS

BAGHDAD — Sitting in a two-room apartment above his uncle's office, 25-year-old Hussein Shumari said there wasn't much left for him in Iraq. He had graduated from law school two years before but still had no job. He had lived through war and sectarian violence, but when his brother died of the coronavirus this year, it broke him.

"My soul died with him," he said. "I couldn't imagine staying. I felt it was time to go and do something."

When he heard in September that Belarus — a potential pathway to Europe — was granting visas to Iraqis, he sold what few belongings he had, borrowed money from a friend of his uncle's and handed \$3,500 to a Baghdad travel agency. By the end of October, he was on a plane to the Belarusian capital, Minsk, and, he hoped, "a better life ... a good life."

Instead, he found himself on the front lines of the latest skirmish between Belarus and its European neighbors. Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, a despot facing increasing international [See Iraqis, A4]

Defiant eateries a test of county powers

Some restaurants have flouted COVID rules, leading to lawsuits and fines. Even after losing permit, a few hold out.

By EMILY ALPERT REYES

Again and again, public health inspectors returned to the Italian restaurant at the Westlake Village shopping center.

They found Novo Cafe serving diners indoors and out, despite a Los Angeles County order forbidding it during the worst wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to county records. Over and over, they handed out citations with a \$500 fine.

In February, the county revoked the restaurant's public health permit. Novo Cafe stayed open. This summer, co-owner Massimo Forti told an NBC4 news crew who filmed unmasked workers in the restaurant that he saw adhering to mask requirements as a "sign of submission."

As of early November, Novo Cafe had been fined \$86,000 for scores of citations — and none of those fines had been paid, county officials said. It had gotten more than 90 citations by the middle of November, according to the public health department.

Novo is among a small number of businesses that have tested the powers and patience of the L.A. County Department of Public Health amid a pandemic that has put new demands on its enforcement arm. Experts say that across the country, public health agencies have struggled at times to enforce such rules amid strained resources and overt challenges to their authority.

"Health departments have their hands full right now," said Lori Tremmel Freeman, chief executive of the National Assn. of County and City Health Officials. At the same time, "public health authority is being challenged all over the country" as many states have sought to clamp down on their powers.

Shira Shafir, an associate professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, said that "given the politicization" around COVID-19 rules, some businesses "will just choose to get the fine and remain open." She added that public health agencies with limited staff and resources may weigh whether "the juice is worth the squeeze."

"If they send out an inspector every single day, is it likely to change the behavior of the business?" she asked. [See Restaurants, A9]

Thanksgiving in nursing homes

Unlike last year, holiday feels "almost normal" for vaccinated residents and staff. CALIFORNIA, B1

L.A. firefighter faces inquiry

First responder is accused of a vulgar act over city's vaccine mandate. CALIFORNIA, B1

New variant in South Africa

Mutations prompt study on a possible link to a rise in coronavirus cases. WORLD, A3

Weather

Mostly sunny, warm. L.A. Basin: 80/55. B6

Siberian mine blast kills 52

Explosion claims lives of workers and rescuers. An additional 239 people are saved. WORLD, A3

Old airport an obstacle to peace

Israel plans to build on land sought by Palestinians. WORLD, A3



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The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

Windy 48/32 • Tomorrow: Breezy; partly sunny 45/37 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2021 • B2

In N.D., coal sector banks on electric cars

Dialing back reliance on gasoline might not mean giving up fossil fuels

BY WILL ENGLUND

CENTER, N.D. — Disdain for electric cars runs deep in this state. In the Bakken oil fields, which have brought enormous riches to North Dakota, workers fume at them on Facebook discussion groups, calling them “worthless” or worse. The small number of drivers who do use electric vehicles — North Dakota has the fewest of any state — get “coal-rolled” out on the road, as pickup trucks pump out black exhaust in bouts of automotive spite.

Yet even in North Dakota, these zero-emission cars have an unexpected champion: the coal industry, which is seeking to shed its image as a climate change villain. The thinking is straightforward: More electric cars would mean more of a market for the lignite coal that produces most of North Dakota’s electricity, and if a long-shot project to store carbon emissions in deep underground wells works out, it might even result in cleaner air as well.

“EVs will be soaking up electricity,” said Jason Bohrer, head of a coal trade group that has launched a statewide campaign to promote electric vehicles and charging stations along North Dakota’s vast distances. “So coal power plants, our most resilient and available power plants, can continue to be online.”

As many parts of the country attempt to shift their energy production away from fossil fuels and toward solar, wind and other renewables, what’s happening here shows how the electric car revolution might play out in parts of the country far less friendly to either

SEE COAL ON A16

On Thanksgiving, meeting a need



MATT MCCLAIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Lisa Reff packs Thanksgiving meals with other volunteers at Food & Friends on Thursday in Washington. The local nonprofit organizes the event to help those in need, and in particular those with chronic illnesses. The event was in full swing after slowing down operations earlier in the pandemic. **Story, B1**

‘Nowhere to escape’ in Astroworld chaos

At least seven of the 10 dead after the Astroworld Festival were clustered in a small area enclosed on three sides by metal barriers that became dangerously crowded, according to a Washington Post investigation.

The review — based on dozens of videos examined for when and where each was taken, interviews with witnesses, and an analysis by crowd experts — reveals how a crowd surge at a

Post video review finds most victims were in tightly compressed area

This article is by Shawn Bohrer, Sarah Cahlan, Joyce Sohyun Lee, Athar Mirza and Elise Samuels.

performance by rapper Travis Scott turned one pocket of the audience into an epicenter of

chaos and distress.

Ten fans at the Nov. 5 concert in Houston died and dozens more were injured, making it one of the most deadly concerts in the nation’s history. The Post found that most of those who died were close to one another in the viewing area’s south quadrant, where witnesses described people collapsing under the pressure of the crowd.

A criminal investigation is on-

going, and the causes of the deaths have not been made public.

In parts of the tightly compressed area where many of the dead were concentrated, there were as little as 1.85 square feet per person, according to an analysis done by researchers at Carnegie Mellon University for The Post. At that density, people are amid a crowd that is at risk of

SEE ASTROWORLD ON A13

TEENS IN AMERICA

What happened to high-schoolers amid covid?

5 young people discuss how pandemic disruptions affected their studies — and what they learned

BY MORIAN BALINGIT

Before the pandemic, high school had been defined for millions of teenagers by familiar rituals: meeting new friends, big games, agonizing over college admissions, prom, yearbook signing, graduations, tearful goodbyes.

Now, the pandemic has become the signature feature of high school for this cohort of adolescents. The forced isolation and lockdowns wreaked havoc on teenage lives and shaped them in ways they will never forget.

Unlike with adults, many of the events and milestones they missed out on are irretrievable. Vacations and family reunions can be rescheduled. But once a school year is lost, it is gone forever.

Some teens were forced to grow up faster because of the pandemic. Teenagers became de facto caretakers for younger siblings. They became activists, moved to protest in the streets by the murder of George Floyd. They got jobs to support families when the breadwinners were out of work. And as many as 140,000 children

SEE TEENS ON A8



GAMILLE LEMAY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Mandell Blackstone chats Oct. 22 at his New Orleans high school. “Mental health and staying focused, all of that was a bit challenging,” he said of attending virtual classes.

Questions intensify over sourcing of Steele dossier

Indictment of analyst furthers doubts on rigor of Trump-Russia report

BY MICHAEL KRANISH AND ISAAC STANLEY-BECKER

When Christopher Steele delivered his first report on Donald Trump’s alleged activities in Russia, including lurid claims about cavorting with prostitutes, the people who had hired the British ex-spy wanted to know that information was solid.

“You feel good about the sourcing here?” asked Glenn Simpson, co-founder of Fusion GPS, a strategic intelligence firm being paid by an attorney for Hillary Clinton’s campaign. Steele’s reply, Simpson later wrote, was “elliptical but firm” — he was relying on a range of Russian officials and a Trump associate.

Simpson and his business part-

ner, Peter Fritsch, didn’t insist at the time on knowing the names of those sources, the pair wrote in their memoir, “Crime in Progress.” It was the first of many instances in which Steele’s methods were not significantly challenged, even as his explosive claims came to dominate public debate over Trump’s ties to Russia and underpin efforts by federal agents to wiretap a Trump associate.

Five years later, there are intensifying questions about whether those involved in the dossier saga — from the political operatives who commissioned it to journalists who amplified bits of it to government officials who used it to obtain a surveillance warrant — assigned too much credibility to the allegations and the man who compiled them.

First introduced to the world in media reports as a “Real-Life James Bond,” with deep knowledge and high-level Russian

SEE STEELE ON A4

IN THE NEWS



HENRY NICHOLLS/REUTERS

Channel deaths aftermath France and Britain sparred over responsibility and the will to act after at least 27 migrants drowned at sea. **A11**

THE NATION

With inflation a central concern for voters, the White House is taking pains to make a bigger show of its actions to combat it. **A3**

As a company pushes to step up phosphate mining in Florida’s Bone Valley, worries about contamination and fish kills in the Peace River are growing. **A6**

The guilty verdicts in the Ahmaud Arbery case show how a cellphone video helped garner na-

tional attention and prompt a trial. **A15**

THE WORLD

As Haiti’s crises mount, an increasing number of people are embarking on desperate, perilous sea journeys to escape. **A10**

Birthing rates in India are declining nationwide, a heartening sign for officials who have long struggled with population growth. **A11**

As violent protests rocked the Solomon Islands for a second day, Australia said it would

send troops to help quell the unrest. **A12**

The European Commission recommended that member nations bolster travel restrictions on unvaccinated people to help curb a recent surge in coronavirus cases. **A12**

THE ECONOMY

Inflation and supply chain backlogs mean your best bet for holiday gifts is to shop early and to do it online — and don’t panic. **A14**

Theranos failed, but other blood-tech companies are still trying to make testing faster and easier. **A14**

THE REGION

Virginia is flush with billions in surplus cash, giving Gov.-elect Glenn Youngkin (R) unusual freedom to pursue his policy agenda. **B1**

A celebratory time became one of sorrow after a father was fatally struck while walking home in Alexandria days before his 47th birthday. **B1**

The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board has approved more than \$6 million in grants to improve mobility options for seniors and others. **B3**

INSIDE



WEEKEND

Holiday lineup After a year of mostly virtual events, many of the region’s favorite experiences are back to in-person gatherings. **B1**

STYLE

Santa shortage Hard-to-find this holiday season: Kris Kringle for parties and festivals. **C1**

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The Washington Post / Year 144, No. 356	
0 70628 21100 3	

García Lorca-Dalí: ¿amistad, noviazgo o amor platónico?

La relación entre el poeta y el pintor siempre estuvo rodeada de misterio; una puesta con Luciano Crispí y Jonathan Di Costanzo retoma la historia en el teatro. **Espectáculos**



EN SU NUEVA NOVELA, FOLLETT ADVIERTE POR LA AMENAZA NUCLEAR

—cultura

En *Nunca*, su nuevo libro, de más de 800 páginas, el best seller se pregunta si podría haber una Tercera Guerra Mundial, con EE.UU. gobernado por una mujer. **Página 24**

HABILITAN PRESENTAR CV ANÓNIMOS EN LA CIUDAD

—buenos aires

Una ley prohíbe la búsqueda laboral con limitaciones por edad o sexo; promueve la igualdad de oportunidades de talento y reclutamiento. **Página 23**

LA NACION

VIERNES 26 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

Sin dólares, el Gobierno prohíbe la venta en cuotas de pasajes al exterior

TURISMO. Rige para las operaciones con tarjetas e incluye los servicios de viaje; duras críticas

Con las reservas del Banco Central bajo asedio, el Gobierno prohibió ayer la venta en cuotas de pasajes y otros servicios, como el alojamiento o el alquiler de autos, también en el extranjero, con tarjetas de crédito. La medida rige desde hoy.

La sorpresiva disposición fue informada anoche por el Banco

Central (BCRA). De esta manera, se busca frenar lo que en el ente monetario consideran un "subsidio" a la compra prorrateada de dólares a aquellos que viajan.

La medida generó un fuerte rechazo de las empresas del sector. La Cámara de Líneas Aéreas de la Argentina expresó "desconcierto,

preocupación y repudio" por la resolución. "Creemos que la falta de previsibilidad y de reglas claras no colabora con la recuperación del sector ni de la economía", cuestionó la agencia Despegar.

Para los economistas, se vuelve a confirmar la delicada situación de las reservas del BCRA. **Página 16**

CARNE

Para bajar los precios de la carne, el Gobierno negocia con los exportadores una mayor oferta. **Página 18**

Analizan suspender seis meses la ley de alquileres

MARCHA ATRÁS. Ahora el oficialismo considera que la norma "fracasó"

El Gobierno y la cúpula oficialista de la Cámara de Diputados trabajan en una reforma de la ley de alquileres que contempla la suspensión por 180 días de la norma sancionada el año pasado. Esa decisión va en línea con el reclamo de Juntos por el Cambio, que propuso modificar la actual legislación o bien derogarla. **Página 8**

River y Gallardo, la sociedad para otro grito de campeón



deportes— River campeón. Todavía quedan tres fechas para el cierre del torneo 2021, pero anoche los millonarios golearon 4-0 a Racing y anticiparon su coronación, síntoma de la autoridad con la que dominaron el certamen. Palavecino, Julián Álvarez y Braian Romero (2) marcaron los goles que le dieron el primer campeonato local a Gallardo.

Atacaron a tiros a un sindicalista en su casa

LANÚS. La víctima es Roberto Coria, de los portuarios. **Página 12**

Detienen a los presuntos autores del crimen del joven mapuche en el sur

VIOLENCIA. Dos personas sospechosas de haber participado del homicidio del joven mapuche Elías Garay fueron detenidas ayer por la Policía de Río Negro. Se trata de dos hombres que no pertenecerían a las fuerzas de seguridad, como se

sospechó en el inicio de la investigación, pero que estuvieron en Cuesta del Ternerero, en la zona de El Bolsón, el domingo pasado, cuando también resultó herido Gonzalo Cabrera, otro integrante de la comunidad. El primero de los detenidos fue ubicado en

la casa de su madre en Esquel, donde también fue secuestrado un auto que fue visto en la zona del crimen. El segundo detenido cayó en Comodoro Rivadavia. Los investigadores no revelaron la identidad de los acusados. **Página 12**

Se redujo 85% el gasto para combatir el cáncer

COVID. Fue en 2020 y significa la cantidad más baja en diez años. **Página 20**

Interpol não inclui em lista bolsonaristas investigados

A Interpol não atendeu até agora aos pedidos de autoridades brasileiras para incluir bolsonaristas investigados pelo Supremo na sua lista de procurados.

Em ação inusual, deixou de fora o caminhoneiro Zé Trovão e segura a solicitação do STF para pôr o influenciador Allan dos Santos na difusão vermelha. Procurada, a entidade não se manifestou. Poder A4

Esporte B12

Nuzman sentenciado

Ex-chefe do COB é condenado a 30 anos de prisão por propina pelos Jogos do Rio

Ilustrada

Série lança novo olhar para separação dos Beatles

Jabutí premia infantil 'Sagatrisuimorana' e Jefferson Tenório B8

Câmara aprova criar Auxílio Brasil e já prevê ampliá-lo

Proposta com possibilidade de atender 20 milhões de famílias irá ao Senado

Sem voto contra e com 344 a favor, a Câmara dos Deputados aprovou ontem a criação do Auxílio Brasil, programa social com o qual o presidente Jair Bolsonaro quer substituir o Bolsa Família, marca da gestão petista, às vésperas da campanha eleitoral do ano que vem.

A proposta do relator Marcelo Aro (PP-MG), que recebeu apoio também da oposição, prevê a possibilidade de ampliar o número de famílias atendidas dos atuais 14,7 milhões beneficiados pelo Bolsa Família para até 20 milhões, 3 milhões a mais do que previsto pelo Executivo.

A criação do auxílio se deu por medida provisória e precisa do aval do Congresso até 7 de dezembro — depois da Câmara, a MP seguirá para o Senado. As mudanças pressionam o custo do programa já em 2022, fazendo com que para cobri-lo o governo eleve a previsão no Orçamento.

Como não é permitido ampliar gastos sociais em ano eleitoral, porém, o programa precisará ser implementado antes do fim de 2021.

O Brasil tem visto o número de famílias que vivem na pobreza e na extrema pobreza, bem como o desemprego, aumentar. Mercado A15

PAINEL

Olavo não passou pela imigração para viajar

Após ser intimado pela PF, Olavo de Carvalho viajou de carro ao Paraguai, de onde voou para os EUA. A4

Conservadores adotam discurso contra o Carnaval

Políticos de direita e personalidades conservadoras têm encampado uma onda de críticas à realização do Carnaval em 2022. Eles cobram o cancelamento do evento, apontando o que veem como uma contradição no discurso pelo isolamento. Cotidiano B4

“

Por mim, não teria Carnaval

Jair Bolsonaro em entrevista a rádio ontem

ANÁLISE

Fabiano Maisonnave

Mineração em terra indígena é pior que garimpo no Madeira

Ao contrário da mineração nas terras indígenas, o garimpo no rio Madeira não é feito por bandidos capitalizados, mas principalmente pelos ribeirinhos da região. Ambiente B1

Ruy Castro

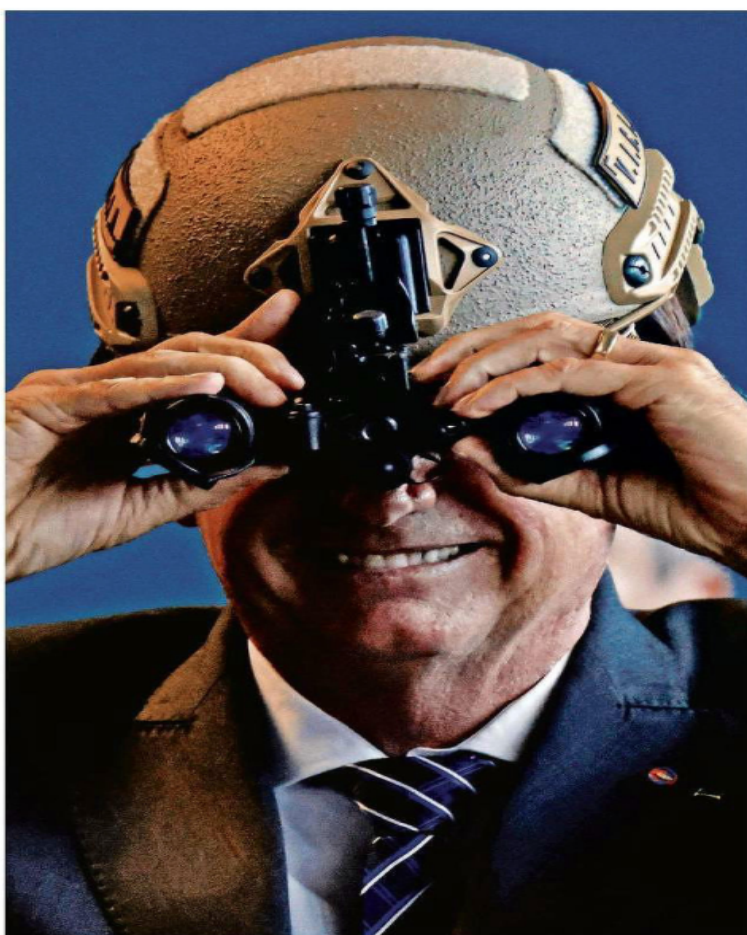
Nomeação de queima de arquivo

Bolsonaro nomeou diretor-geral do Arquivo Nacional um ex-chefe de segurança do BB, ex-subsecretário de Segurança do DF, premiado pela Confederação Brasileira de Tiro. Parece saber de armas. Mas o Arquivo Nacional não é estande de tiro. Opinião A2

MÔNICA BERGAMO

Bolsonaro quer Alckmin em SP contra Doria

Ilustrada C2



Jair Bolsonaro usa óculos de visão noturna em evento no Ministério da Justiça, em Brasília; à rádio Sociedade da Bahia ele disse ontem ser contra haver Carnaval em 2022. Ueslei Marcelino/Reuters

Black Friday aposta na carne no ano da inflação na comida

Supermercados e varejistas de alimentos em geral decidiram aumentar promoções de comida na Black Friday, em especial das carnes, item cada vez mais atingido pela escalada dos preços.

Com a alta nos custos da cadeia produtiva, a maioria das ações comerciais se baseia em cortes bovinos menos nobres ou na prática de cashback, na tentativa de fidelizar clientes. Mercado A17

Ante Covid, França, Itália e Portugal apertam regras

A França anunciou doses extras para todos os adultos, mais restrições a não vacinados e máscara em espaços internos. Na Itália, a lista de profissões com imunização obrigatória foi ampliada, e Portugal divulgou uma ampliação do reforço. Mundo A13

UE propõe relaxar entrada de quem tomou Coronavac

Mundo A13

Enem conta 2% de perguntas ineficientes

Análise de resultados do Enem entre 2009 e 2019 mostra que 41 questões não conseguiram testar conhecimento de forma eficaz, mas não receberam críticas. Cotidiano B2

Médico que acusou Prevent afirma ter medo de sair da rua

Saúde B11

A pandemia em 25.nov

Dados das 20h

POPULAÇÃO VACINADA

No Brasil	
Ao menos uma dose (dose única ou 1ª dose)	76,4 %
1º ciclo vacinal completo (dose única ou 2ª dose)	61,7 %
Dose de reforço	7,2 %

ESTÁGIO DA DOENÇA

Óbitos	
Média móvel	Em 24 h
217	281
-5,5 %*	
Casos	Total
-17,3 %* (desacelerado)	613.697

*Variação em relação a 14 dias

bioética

6º programa de treinamento em jornalismo de ciência e saúde

Placebo, ainda

Parte dos desenvolvedores da segunda geração de imunizantes contra o coronavírus continua utilizando placebo em testes com voluntários — o que é considerado antiético uma vez que já existe um produto aprovado para comparação. Especial p. 1

EDITORIAIS A2

Ideia fixa

A respeito de tensões entre o bolsonarismo e o STF.

Culpas na Amazônia
Sobre declarações de Mourão relativas ao desmatamento.

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FOLHA100

HOTÉIS?





Cuestionan asignación porque solo un tercio va a sesionar de forma presencial

Un diputado tendrá el doble de combustible que una patrullera

La asignación mensual para cada legislador es de G. 3.500.000, en tanto que para cada móvil de la Policía es de G. 1.500.000. Monto ya fue aprobado en ambas cámaras.

PÁGINA 10

Derribando los mitos instalados
Salud: Nadie murió a consecuencia de la vacuna contra el Covid

PÁGINA 3

Unas 100 empresas están adheridas
Inicia el Black Friday, la mayor feria de descuentos del país

PÁGINA 36

Obra frente a la Embajada de EEUU
Nenecho defiende ante el MIC autorización a cuestionado servicentro

PÁGINA 21



Puestos de control no ven pasar el contrabando



Paso libre. Los productos ilegales de Argentina ingresan sin problemas superando las "verificaciones" policiales y militares. Incautaciones son escasas.

PÁGINA 12

CON ESTA EDICIÓN

CURSO DE INSTALACIÓN Y
MANTENIMIENTO DE AIRE
CONDICIONADO 31



COMPRA OPCIONAL

MOTOS DE COMPETICIÓN 8



6.400.000

Piden investigación externa a caída de helicóptero
Otros tres muertos en la FAP y los familiares dudan de mantenimiento

PÁGINA 4



lefigaro.fr

LE FIGARO

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

LEVI'S



ÉRIC CIOTTI
« JE PEUX GAGNER
CE CONGRÈS »

PAGE 10

MARIO VARGAS LLOSA
LE PRIX NOBEL DE LITTÉRATURE
ENTRE À L'ACADÉMIE FRANÇAISE

PAGE 22



AFRIQUE DU NORD
La Libye, sans
envoyé spécial
de l'ONU, voit ses
élections s'éloigner
un peu plus PAGE 14

JUSTICE
Les « Daltons »
devant le juge
PAGE 17

CROSS DU FIGARO
Les grandes
retrouvailles
dans le parc de
Saint-Cloud PAGE 20

TRANSPORTS
Catherine Guillaud
modernise la RATP
au pas de charge
PAGE 28

MUSIQUE
Sabine Devieille :
« Chanter est
un privilège » PAGE 36

GASTRONOMIE
Le retour en grâce
du croissant
au jambon PAGE 38



Migrants : après le drame, la traque des passeurs s'intensifie

La mort de 27 migrants contraint
la France et l'Angleterre
à l'action. Les trafiquants
sont dans le collimateur,
mais les candidats
à la traversée restent
toujours aussi déterminés.

PAGES 6, 8 ET L'EDITORIAL

PASCAL ROSSIGNOL/REUTERS

CHAMPS LIBRES
• Le
palimpseste
alsacien
• Un entretien
avec Jean-
Thomas
Lesueur
• La tribune
d'Agnès
Verdier-
Molinié

• Le bloc-notes
d'Ivan Rioufol
• L'analyse
d'Eugénie
Bastie
PAGES 23 À 25

**FIGARO OUI
FIGARO NON**

**Réponses à la question
de jeudi :**
Pensez-vous que
le candidat LR sera
au second tour de
l'élection présidentielle ?

OUI 29% NON 71%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 173 763

**Votez aujourd'hui
sur lefigaro.fr**
Covid-19 : approuvez-
vous que le passe
sanitaire soit conditionné
à la troisième
dose de vaccin à partir
du 15 janvier ?

JEAN-CHRISTOPHE MARMARA /
LE FIGARO / FRANÇOIS BOUCHON /
LE FIGARO / THOMAS COEX / AFP

Ce que Macron veut dire au pape François

Le chef de l'État, qui sera reçu,
vendredi, affirme vouloir
avant tout « écouter » le Saint-
Père, dont la voix « porte » sur
les « sujets essentiels » de la
« migration, du climat ou de la
vaccination ». « Le contrôle des
frontières, c'est la mission et le

devoir des États, pas du pape,
confie Macron dans l'avion
pour Rome. Mais il est
conscient que nos peuples sont
percutés par la crise migratoire,
qui, si l'on n'y fait pas face,
donne du carburant aux natio-
nalismes les plus durs. » PAGE 12



Covid : le gouvernement mise sur la troisième dose pour freiner l'épidémie

La cinquième vague est arrivée
et sera « sans conteste plus for-
te, plus longue » que la précé-
dente, a prévenu Olivier Vé-
ran, le ministre de la Santé. Si
« ni confinement ni couvre-feu »

ne sont à l'ordre du jour, les
Français vont devoir remettre
leur masque dans tous les lieux
clos. Et la troisième dose sera
étendue à tous les adultes de
plus de 18 ans. PAGES 18 ET 19

ÉDITORIAL par Yves Thérard ythread@lefigaro.fr

La triple trahison

Ils étaient partis de Dunkerque, mer-
credi, avec l'espoir de rejoindre un
« eldorado », mais ils ont croisé la
mort au milieu de la Manche. Ils ve-
naient pour la plupart, semble-t-il,
du Moyen-Orient et rêvaient d'Angleterre.
Avant eux, d'autres clandestins ont
connu le même sort sur les mêmes eaux,
ou en tentant de traverser la Méditerranée
en provenance d'Afrique. Ici ou là, le scé-
nario tragique se répète depuis des années.
Et, à chaque fois, d'identiques indigna-
tions, accusations et interrogations alimen-
tent la polémique. Certes, aucune solu-
tion magique n'arrêtera ce drame
migratoire, mais celui-ci n'est pas non
plus une fatalité. Des responsabilités exis-
tent, qui ne sont pas assumées.
S'exprimant en connaissance de cause, le
cardinal guinéen Robert Sarah vient de
dénoncer, avec raison, une « triple tra-
hison ». Celle des pays de départ, qui se pri-
vent de leur jeunesse ; celle des pays d'ac-
cueil, qui ne sont plus, depuis longtemps,
le « Pérou » imaginé ; celle, enfin, des pas-
seurs qui profitent de la naïveté des exilés.
Là sont effectivement les trois racines du

mal. Au lieu de s'y attaquer, les « fai-
seurs » de l'humanitaire et les gardiens de
la gauche morale préfèrent détourner le
regard. Leur indécence n'a d'égale que
leur imposture. L'exploitation de la misère
de l'immigration irrégulière serait-elle
leur raison d'être, leur fonds de com-
merce ? Charité bien ordonnée, dit le prover-
be, commence par soi-même.

Appelé à prendre la présidence de l'Union
européenne pour six mois, le 1^{er} janvier,
Emmanuel Macron
va-t-il se distinguer
sur ce front ? La
campagne électorale
française pourrait l'y
obliger, car le sujet
devrait être au cœur

des débats, pour le meilleur et pour le
pire... À plusieurs reprises, il a souligné la
nécessité de revoir, de fond en comble, les
accords de Schengen, ceux qui lient Paris
et Londres, ainsi que les conditions de
l'aide aux pays en voie de développement.
C'est donc, pour le chef de l'État, l'occa-
sion ou jamais de mettre ses actes en
conformité avec ses paroles. ■

LOT N°1

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Brexit, bubbles and Britney

Music stars on the best and worst of 2021



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Six countries on red list as Covid variant poses 'significant threat'

Southern Africa flights banned as UK urged to move fast on mutation

Hannah Devlin
Ian Sample
Jessica Elgot

Flights from southern Africa will be banned, with six countries placed under England's red list travel restrictions, after scientists raised the alarm over what is feared to be the worst Covid-19 variant yet identified.

Whitehall sources said the B.1.1.529 variant, which has the potential to evade immunity and could be more transmissible, posed "a potentially significant threat to the vaccine programme which we have to protect at all costs".

Hundreds of people who have recently returned from South Africa, where the variant was detected, and neighbouring countries are expected to be tracked down and offered tests in an effort to avoid the new variant entering the UK.

The variant, which was identified on Tuesday, initially prompted concern as it carries an "extremely high

number" of mutations, meaning that its spike protein now looks dramatically different from the version that vaccines were designed to target.

The latest data, presented by South African scientists yesterday, revealed that the variant also appears to be more transmissible and is present in provinces throughout the country.

As well as placing South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho, Botswana, Eswatini and Zimbabwe on England's travel red list and banning flights from midday today, officials are reviewing travel measures including whether there should be a limited reintroduction of PCR tests for arrivals.

'This variant may not just have enhanced transmissibility'

Prof Richard Lessells
Infectious diseases specialist

Travellers who test positive will be strongly encouraged to take a PCR so their results can be sequenced to test for variants.

The Scottish government later confirmed all arrivals from the six countries will be required to

self-isolate and take two PCR tests, while anyone arriving after 4am tomorrow will need to stay at a managed quarantine hotel. There are no direct flights from any of the countries into Scotland.

Israel also announced it will ban its citizens from travelling to southern Africa – covering the same six countries as well as Mozambique – and barring the entry of foreign travellers from the region.

No cases of the new variant have been detected in Britain.

Announcing the move, the health secretary, Sajid Javid, said: "We've always been clear

4 →



MPs told to act to stop loss of life in Channel

Jamie Grierson
Jon Henley
Dan Sabbagh

More lives will be lost in the Channel unless urgent action is taken to stop "playing politics with people's lives", ministers were warned as desperate refugees vowed to keep attempting the perilous journey.

The grim prediction came as investigators tried to identify the bodies of at least 27 people, thought to be predominantly Kurds from Iraq including a pregnant woman and three children, who died on Wednesday.

Yesterday a chilling mayday call emerged in which the French coastguard alerted ships to multiple bodies in the

7 →

▲ People rescued by the RNLI are brought in to Dover yesterday, a day after at least 27 died making the Channel crossing PHOTOGRAPH: GARETH FULLER/PA



9 770261 307156 47