



In Praise  
Of Anxiety  
REVIEW

# WSJ

## THE WALL STREET JOURNAL WEEKEND



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DOW JONES News Corp.

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### What's News

World-Wide

A third group of civilians was being evacuated from the labyrinth of bunkers beneath Mariupol's Azovstal steel plant Friday, officials said, as Ukraine's military counter-attacked against Russian forces in the east. **A1, A6-7**

◆ **New Omicron subvariants** are spreading, despite significant protection from vaccinations and prior infection, as policy makers consider measures to keep the evolving virus at bay. **A1, A5**

◆ **Alleged members of the Oath Keepers** had until Friday to enter plea negotiations ahead of a scheduled summer trial on the Capitol riot, with federal prosecutors telling defendants they could face life in prison if convicted. **A4**

◆ **A federal judge tossed** a lawsuit filed last year by former President Trump against Twitter and its then-chief executive Dorsey over alleged censorship. **A4**

◆ **Sinn Féin, a political party** committed to the reunification of Ireland, was poised to win a historic victory in elections in Northern Ireland. **A9**

◆ **A gas explosion** tore through an iconic hotel in downtown Havana, killing at least 22 people and injuring dozens more, according to Cuba's government. **A9**

### Business & Finance

◆ **The U.S. economy** added 428,000 jobs in April, duplicating March's increase and marking the 12th straight month of gains above 400,000, the Labor Department said. The unemployment rate remained at 3.6%. **A1, A2**

◆ **U.S. stocks ended** a wild week with declines. The S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow shed 0.6%, 1.4% and 0.3%, respectively. Yields on medium and long-term U.S. Treasuries extended recent gains. **B1, B11**

◆ **Chinese tech firms** are quietly pulling back from doing business in Russia under pressure from U.S. sanctions and suppliers, despite calls by Beijing for companies to resist overseas coercion. **A1**

◆ **A group led by Los Angeles Dodgers part-owner** Todd Boehly reached a deal to acquire Chelsea Football Club from Roman Abramovich for almost \$4.3 billion, equivalent to \$5.2 billion. **B1**

◆ **Western ports** are bracing for increased congestion when China eventually lifts stringent Covid-19 restrictions in major cities. **B3**

◆ **Nvidia agreed to pay** \$5.5 million to settle an SEC probe that found it didn't adequately reveal the impact of cryptomining on its sales of powerful chips designed for computer gaming. **B3**

**NOONAN**  
The End of Roe  
Will Be Good  
For America **A13**

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## Louisville Gallops Into First Full-Capacity Derby Since 2019



**BLUEGRASS PICKING:** Kentucky Derby Week, with its thoroughbreds, fancy hats and mint juleps, is seeing its biggest crowds since before the pandemic. The Derby itself is Saturday, and more than 150,000 people are expected to attend.



## Omicron's Persistence Tests View on Long-Lasting Defenses

By BRIANNA ABBOTT  
AND JON KAMP

New Omicron subvariants are spreading, despite significant protection from vaccinations and prior infection, as policy makers consider measures to keep the evolving virus at bay.

Much of the U.S. population already had some level of antibodies to the virus when Omicron hit late last year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates. That likely shielded many from more-severe disease, but the variant still fueled a record case surge and the second-highest peak in Covid-19 deaths. Immune defenses bolstered by the massive wave appear to be muting the impact of the yet-more-infectious Omicron variants even as cases and hospitalizations increase

once again. These recurring run-ins with a changing virus demonstrate the challenge of maintaining long-lasting defenses, even as Covid-19 vaccines and exposures build up protection against the virus's worst outcomes. "This is not a virus that a one-shot or a one-time infection gives you lifelong immunity," said Jodie Guest, vice chair of the epidemiology department at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health. "And we're now super-aware of that."

A nationwide survey of blood donors published by the CDC estimated that about 94% of people ages 16 and up had

◆ **Administration sees potential surge in infections..... A5**

◆ **Moderna tries to fend off patent-infringement claims. A5**

## Chinese Tech Firms Pull Back In Russia

By DAN STRUMPF

HONG KONG—Chinese tech companies are quietly pulling back from doing business in Russia under pressure from U.S. sanctions and suppliers, despite calls by Beijing to resist overseas coercion.

Several major companies are curtailing shipments in Russia, where Chinese tech firms dominate the market for many products, without making any public announcements, according to interviews with people familiar with the matter.

They include PC giant Lenovo Group Ltd. and smartphone and gadget maker Xiaomi Corp., the people said. In contrast to many Western firms, the companies have avoided public statements about Russia's war in Ukraine or their business there as Beijing opposes Western sanctions.

Consumer drone giant SZ DJI Technology Co. made the unusual move of announcing the suspension of its business last month in both Russia and Ukraine pending a review.

China's exports of tech products to Russia fell sharply in March from February, with shipments of laptops declining more than 40%, smartphones down by nearly two-thirds and exports of telecom base stations down 98%, according to the most recently available Chinese government data. China's trade with much of the world has also been disrupted by the Covid-19-related lockdown in Shanghai, which is home to

## EXCHANGE



**GRAD-ICAL**  
How the Class of 2022 is using its leverage in a hot job market. **B1**

## Use It as a Cooler! Makers of EVs Tout the Uses for Their 'Frunk.'

Front trunk becomes way for companies to stand out as the competition grows

By NORA ECKERT

Drivers can now have less junk in their trunk, and more in their frunk.

People have long prized having storage space in the back of their cars, whether for stashing tools or tailgating. As more buy electric vehicles, they'll increasingly be tossing stuff in an inelegantly named space where the engine used to be. Meet the frunk, for front trunk. EVs trade out the engine for a battery pack, which typically lines the vehicle's floor. That opens up a big front-end cavity for a new role.



Ready for anything

While under-hood storage has long existed on niche vehicles, it was never anything car makers made a big deal about. Today, as competition among EV producers heats up, they have unleashed their designers on the front trunk and made a feature as mundane as storage

## Ukraine Villagers Return to Ruins

By YAROSLAV TROFIMOV

MALA ROHAN, Ukraine—Mykola Kotov returned here and began to repair his family home, damaged when Ukrainian forces fought to oust Russian troops from this strategic village near Kharkiv.

The brick house was built by Mr. Kotov's grandmother in 1943 from the ruins of the family home that was destroyed when this village was liberated from the Nazis that year. Now, part of the roof has been blown off, windows broken and walls pockmarked by shrapnel—minor damage compared with several collapsed houses down the street.

"Now that the Russians have been expelled, we are back home, and we're going to rebuild once again," Mr. Kotov, 67 years old, said as he examined the property.

Returning in recent days are many other residents of Mala Rohan, one of the villages that Ukrainian forces secured as they pushed Russian troops away from Kharkiv, the country's second-most-populous city. For more than a month, Russian forces

Please turn to page A6

◆ **Evacuation efforts continue for civilians in Mariupol..... A6**  
◆ **Hungary holds up EU deal to embargo Russian oil..... A7**

## TikTok Work Culture: Pressure and Secrecy

Ex-U.S. staffers recount litany of stresses

With a seemingly bottomless feed of goof-offs, dance-offs and good-natured pranks, TikTok bills itself as the happiest place on the internet.

By Georgia Wells,  
Yorke Koh and  
Salvador Rodriguez

Fueling its success: an exacting management style and demanding internal culture that belie its buoyant public image, say employees at its U.S. offices.

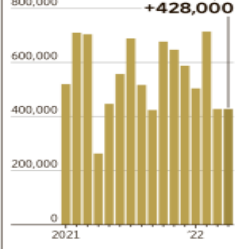
The employees, many of

them veterans of other major tech companies, say TikTok emphasizes relentless productivity and secrecy to a degree uncommon in the industry.

As TikTok continues its torrid growth, those conditions are increasingly a source of tension at U.S. offices of the app, a unit of Beijing-based ByteDance Ltd. Founded just six years ago, TikTok recorded the most downloads of any app through the first quarter of 2022, according to analytics

Please turn to page A10

## Nonfarm payrolls, one-month net change



Note: Seasonally adjusted  
Source: Labor Department  
◆ **U.S. stocks end tumultuous week with declines..... B1**



## A close-up photograph of two hands shaking, symbolizing agreement or partnership. The hands are weathered and the skin is wrinkled, suggesting age or experience. The background is a solid, light beige color.

◆ Sanctions force pullback ◆ European lenders hit hard ◆ Citigroup warns of \$3bn losses

Yael Korbachow/TPA-EEC/Shutterstock

Reports page 2  
Hackers attack page 3  
Opinion page 6

A photograph showing a person in a blue jacket and dark pants climbing a large, weathered statue of a man's head. The person is positioned on the left side of the statue, reaching up towards the top of the head. The statue is made of a light-colored material, possibly stone or concrete, and has a realistic facial expression. The background is a clear blue sky.

An aerial photograph showing the dense urban landscape of New York City, with the Hudson River on the left and Central Park on the right. The image is split vertically, with the left side showing the city skyline and the right side showing the green expanse of Central Park.

STOCK MARKETS			CURRENCIES			INTEREST RATES		
	May 6	prev %chg		May 6	prev %chg		May 6	prev %chg
S&P 500	4109.53	4146.87 -0.90	\$ per £	1.098	1.053	£ per \$	0.945	0.950
Standard Composite	12168.00	12271.69 -1.21	\$ per €	1.225	1.231	€ per \$	0.810	0.808
Nikkei Ind	22,109.24	22,094.91 +0.61	£ per €	0.957	0.957	€ per £	1.167	1.175
FTSEuroStoxx 50	16586.96	17117.80 -1.80	\$ per ¥	130.405	130.245	¥ per \$	130.039	132.150
Euro Stoxx 50	3641.72	3606.63 -1.49	¥ per €	161.093	161.154	€ index	79.499	80.176
FTSE 100	7387.94	7503.27 -1.54	\$ per ¥	1.042	1.037	¥ per \$	1.217	1.219
FTSE All-Share	3083.36	3149.57 -1.54						
CAC 40	6284.26	6369.48 -1.39						
Xetra Dax	1364.29	1390.52 -1.80						
Hanki	22063.56	22619.53 -2.61						
Hang Seng	20061.96	20193.43 -0.89						
MSCI World \$	2784.12	2864.43 -2.80						
MSCI EM \$	1056.72	1003.04 -4.68						
MSCI ACWI \$	650.09	667.68 -2.56						
FT Wilshire 2000	5397.02	5603.87 -3.69						
FT Wilshire 5000	42148.30	43762.55 -3.69						

COMMODITIES		
	May 6	prev %chg
Oil WTI \$	110.61	108.26 2.17
Oil Brent \$	113.16	110.90 2.03
Gold \$	1092.30	1093.65 1.54

	price	yield	ch
US Gov 10 yr	90.12	3.08	-0.01
UK Gov 10 yr	120.83	2.00	0.00
Ger Gov 10 yr	90.36	1.13	0.00
Japan Gov 10 yr	99.76	0.24	0.00
US Gov 30 yr	82.86	3.17	-0.01
Ger Gov 2 yr	98.48	0.31	0.00

	price	prev	ch
Fed Funds Eff	0.23	0.00	0.10
US 3m Bill	0.85	0.09	-0.05
Euro Libor 3m	0.58	-0.58	0.00
UK 3m	1.26	1.30	-0.04

Prices are latest for edition. Data provided by Bloomberg.

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holistic.health@laprairie.ch  
+41 21 989 34 81  
www.cliniquelaprairie-hh.com



**Late Edition**  
Today, cloudy skies, windy, quite chilly, rain, high 52. Tonight, cloudy, windy, rain diminishing, low 44. Tomorrow, partial clearing, high 58. Weather map appears on Page C8.



Mourners at a church in Lviv on Friday paying respects to three Ukrainian soldiers who were killed in fighting in eastern Ukraine.

## 428,000 WORKERS JOIN U.S. PAYROLLS

**Employers Still Struggled  
to Fill Jobs in April**

By TALMON JOSEPH SMITH

The U.S. economic rebound from the pandemic's devastation held strong in April with another month of solid job growth.

Employers added 428,000 jobs, matching the previous month, the Labor Department reported Friday, with the growth broad-based across every major industry.

The unemployment rate remained 3.6 percent, just a touch above its level before the pandemic, when it was the lowest in half a century.

The challenge of a highly competitive labor market for employers — a shortage of available workers — persisted as well. In fact, the report showed a decline of 363,000 in the labor force.

The economy has regained nearly 95 percent of the 22 million jobs lost at the height of coronavirus-related lockdowns two years ago. But the labor supply has not kept up with a record wave of job openings as businesses expand to match consumers' continued willingness to buy a variety of goods and services. There are now 1.9 job openings for every unemployed worker.

The hiring scramble has driven up wages, and employers are largely passing on that expense, helping fuel inflation that Americans have cited as their leading economic concern. On that front, Friday's report showed an easing in the acceleration of average hourly earnings, which increased 0.3 percent from the month before, after a 0.5 percent gain in March.

President Biden pointed to the latest data as evidence of "the strongest job creation economy in modern times," a message the

Continued on Page A13



### INTERNATIONAL A4-9

#### Blast Explosion in Cuba

A blast caused by an apparent gas leak left at least 22 dead and destroyed parts of a luxury hotel in Havana. PAGE A7

#### Changing Politics in Colombia

Francía Márquez has set off a discussion over race, class and the vice presidency. The Saturday Profile. PAGE A4



### NATIONAL A10-18

#### As Virus Lingers, Biden Sinks

The president's failed pledges to tame a resilient enemy have led to a sense of distrust that has damaged his approval rating, German Lopez writes. PAGE A10

#### A Test of Abortion Politics

A staunchly anti-abortion Democrat in South Texas faces a young abortion-rights supporter in a pivotal congressional primary runoff. PAGE A12

#### Rise in Covid Hospitalizations

The number of people with the coronavirus in U.S. hospitals has increased by 20 percent from two weeks ago, putting a strain on health care. PAGE A18

## Draft Leak Threatens an Election Strategy on the Economy

By JONATHAN WEISMAN

WASHINGTON — Republicans have spent decades attacking the landmark Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion nationwide, but with the toppling of Roe v. Wade seemingly imminent, their leaders in Congress and around the country have grown suddenly quiet on the issue, part of a bid to avoid a backlash against their party ahead of the midterm elections.

In the days after the leak of a draft Supreme Court opinion that would overturn the 50-year-old precedent, Republicans in Congress have notably refrained from taking a victory lap for having helped to install the conservative majority that has paved the way

for such an outcome.

Even as some of their counterparts at the state level race forward with far-reaching abortion bans that could even affect some methods of contraception, Republicans appear determined to recast their position on the issue as one of moderation and avert the gaze of voters from their anti-abortion-rights agenda.

"You need — it seems to me, excuse the lecture — to concentrate on what the news is today," Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican leader, said on Tuesday. "Not a leaked draft but the fact that the draft was leaked."

The Republicans' caution reflects the potential for the eventual ruling to change the midterm political landscape. Their leaders and candidates have built a campaign to reclaim control of the House and Senate around inflation, economic uncertainty, crime, border control and doubts that President Biden, who is deeply unpopular, can right the ship.

The prospect of ending abortion rights has added a tectonic shift to American life to the mix, threatening to upend that focus.

Democrats have signaled that they plan to use the coming decision to take the fight to the voters.

Continued on Page A11



A referendum led by opponents in Maine has, for now, halted work on a \$1 billion energy project.

## A Border Clash Over a Project for U.S. Energy

By DAVID GELLES

RADISSON, Quebec — Hundreds of feet below a remote forest near the Hudson Bay, Serge Abergel inspected the spinning turbines at the heart of the biggest subterranean power plant in the world, a massive facility that converts the water of the La Grande River into a current of renewable electricity strong enough to power a midsize city.

Mr. Abergel, a senior executive

## Worries in Maine Over Power From Canada

at Hydro Quebec, has for years been working on an ambitious effort to send electricity produced from the river down through the woods of northern Maine and on to Massachusetts, where it would help the state meet its climate goals.

Yet today, work on the \$1 billion project is at a standstill.

Over the past few years, an unlikely coalition of residents, conservationists and Native Americans waged a rowdy campaign funded by rival energy companies to quash the effort. The opponents won a major victory in November, when Maine voters passed a measure that halted the project. Following a legal fight, proponents appealed to the state Supreme Court, which will hear arguments today.

Continued on Page A14

## Ukraine on Offensive Using Arms From West In Town-for-Town Fight

### War Shifts Into Duel of Drone-Guided Artillery Attacks

By THOMAS GIBBONS-NEFF  
and NATALIA YERMAK

RUSKA LOZOVA, Ukraine — The Ukrainian major had a few tasks to complete as he made the rounds along his army battalion's front line. One platoon commander needed anti-tank weapons. Another wanted to show off a new line of trenches that his forces had dug following a recent Ukrainian advance.

But as he drove between positions in his camouflaged armored van near the town of Derhachi, the clock was ticking. A Russian surveillance drone hovered above, watching, sending back coordinates to Russian artillery units, the major said. About twenty minutes later, at least three shells rained down, forcing the major and his team to scramble.

"They're getting better," said the major, named Kostyantyn. "They know our positions, but they saw the car coming and started to fire."

The Russian front lines north of Kharkiv were stagnant for more than a month. But over the last several days, Ukrainian forces have advanced outward from the city, launching a concerted offensive to the north and east that began with heavy shelling and an infantry assault supported by tanks and other armored vehicles.

Though the gains have been modest, they are emblematic of both the Ukrainian and Russian strategy as the war drags into its third month: a slow-moving grind that focuses on one village at a time and relies primarily on drones and concentrated fire with artillery.

These weapons, capable of lobbing munitions from outside the direct line of sight of opposing forces, are now the central component of the war following the Russian defeat around Kyiv, where long columns of troops and tanks were visible targets vulnerable to ambush. Without them, Ukrainian and Russian units cannot advance nor can they really defend.

The back and forth maneuvering is playing out across Ukraine's east — both as Russian forces advance in the Donbas region, and as Ukrainian forces try to drive Russian artillery units out of range of Kharkiv, a sprawling city

Continued on Page A9

This article is by Marc Santora, Cora Engelbrecht and Michael Levenson.

KRAKOW, Poland — Ukrainian troops, emboldened by sophisticated weapons and long-range artillery supplied by the West, went on the offensive Friday against Russian forces in the northeast, seeking to drive them back from two key cities as the war plunged more deeply into a grinding, town-for-town battle.

After weeks of intense fighting along a 300-mile-long front, neither side has been able to achieve a major breakthrough, with one army taking a few villages one day, only to lose just as many in the following days. In its latest effort to reclaim territory, the Ukrainian military said that "fierce battles" were being waged as it fought to retake Russia-controlled areas around Kharkiv in the northeast and Izium in the east.

The stepped-up combat came as the White House announced on Friday that President Biden would meet virtually on Sunday with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine and the leaders of the G7, which includes Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

Additionally, President Biden is sending a new security package to Ukraine worth \$150 million, according to an administration official, who says it will include 25,000 artillery rounds, counter-artillery radars, jamming equipment and other field equipment.

Mr. Biden's move, the White House press secretary, noted that the leaders would convene as President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia prepares to celebrate the anniversary of the Soviet Union's triumph over Nazi Germany.

The holiday has intensified fears in Ukraine and some Western capitals that Mr. Putin could exploit the occasion to expand his Feb. 24 invasion, after his initial drive failed to rout the Ukrainian military and topple the government.

"While he expected to be marching through the streets of Kyiv, that's actually not what is going to happen," Ms. Psaki said.

Continued on Page A8

## In Historic Shift, Sinn Féin Is Set To Take Over in Northern Ireland

By MARK LANDLER

LONDON — Northern Ireland was carved out of the Irish Republic a century ago to protect the rights of its predominantly Protestant, pro-British population. But on Friday, the largest Irish nationalist party, Sinn Féin, was on the cusp of being declared the territory's largest party, a political watershed in a land long torn by sectarian violence.

With much of the vote in legislative elections counted on Friday evening, Sinn Féin was on track to win the most seats in the Northern Ireland Assembly, a distinction that will allow it to name the first minister in the government.

The significance of the election lies less in political privileges than hard-fought history: A nationalist party at the helm in Northern Ireland will kindle new hopes for Irish unity, but it could also sow a return to unrest between Catholics and Protestants in a territory

### New Chapter for Party With Radical Past

where delicate power-sharing arrangements have kept the peace for more than two decades. It is a remarkable coming-of-age for a party that many still associate with paramilitary violence.

"For nationalists who have lived in Northern Ireland for decades, to see Sinn Féin as the largest party is an emotional moment," said Diarmaid Ferriter, professor of modern Irish history at University College Dublin. "The very idea of leading a government in Northern Ireland would once have been repugnant to it."

Across the United Kingdom, local election results on Friday were handing some setbacks to Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Continued on Page A6

### BUSINESS B1-7

#### A Wall Street Whirlwind

With the Fed clearly set to fight inflation, markets will continue to convulse. But investors taking the long view will be fine, our columnist writes. PAGE B1

#### Twitter's Ad Quandary

Some companies may move their money to other social media services if Elon Musk decides to relax content moderation policies. PAGE B1

#### A Shake-Up on Staten Island

Amazon, citing an internal review, abruptly fired several senior managers tied to a warehouse where workers voted to be unionized. PAGE B1

### SPORTS B8-11

#### Chelsea Sold for Over \$3 Billion

A group led by an American billionaire is set to purchase the Premier League club for a record amount. PAGE B11

#### Requiem for a Champion

The Medina Spirit story is a tragedy for horse racing. But the real tragedy is what the sport did to the horse. PAGE B8



### ARTS C1-8

#### Fashion, With Help From Film

Nine movie directors have joined with curators to use film to frame our country's history of design. PAGE C1

#### Secrets Behind the Songs

A new center in Tulsa, Okla., that was built to display Bob Dylan's archive prepares to open. PAGE C1

### OPINION A20-21

#### Thomas L. Friedman

PAGE A20



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PEOPLE wait for their pensions at a mail van that reached the front line in Mayaky, Ukraine. Russia may step up attacks on Victory Day.

## COLUMN ONE

### Her good twist of fate casts a shadow on town

A widow in her 90s may sell her family's nursery and retire. But plans to build massive warehouse are raising questions of justice.

By JESSICA GARRISON  
REPORTING FROM  
NORTH RICHMOND, CALIF.

For more than half a century, Satoko Nabeta has lived in a small, well-kept house at the edge of plant nurseries on a breezy, forlorn block in North Richmond.

But her husband and her in-laws who lived with them in the Bay Area community died, and her children long ago grew up and moved out. The family business — part of the once-booming Japanese American cut flower industry — faded away as well.

Nabeta has a no-nonsense directness that she leavens with a warm smile. Although she is in her 90s, she still manages to keep her home spotless. The wood floors gleam. Family

[See Nursery, A12]

## The march of dread

Ukraine, allies wonder how Putin will mark a patriotic day



MILITARY CADETS rehearse for a Victory Day parade in St. Petersburg, Russia. Monday's holiday celebrates the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany.

## Relief and resolve in Mariupol

More civilians rescued as Ukrainian troops hold off Russian takeover

By LAURA KING,  
DAVID PIERSON  
AND JENNY JARVIE

KYIV, Ukraine — Dozens of civilians were pulled to safety Friday from the besieged Azovstal steel plant, where Ukrainian soldiers sheltering in a maze of underground tunnels have prevented Russian forces from fully capturing the strategic port city of Mariupol.

As a furious bid was underway to

rescue hundreds of Mariupol residents trapped inside the sprawling Soviet-era complex, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky accused Russia of "torturing to death" those still inside.

Later, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said in a statement that evacuation efforts were slow because of "fights and other provocations."

"The enemy was constantly violating the cease-fire," Vereshchuk said.

By LAURA KING

KYIV, Ukraine — In a war like this one, what does winning even look like?

That's a question Russian President Vladimir Putin will have to answer, at least implicitly, when his country marks one of its biggest and most bombastic patriotic holidays, Victory Day, on Monday — a highly choreographed celebration of Moscow's military might that awkwardly coincides this year with a smaller neighbor's improbable defiance in the face of a withering 10-week assault.

"There's no victory to announce," said Mark Galeotti, a Russia expert at University College London. "So he'll have to proclaim one all the more loudly."

The war on Ukraine — [See Victory Day, A5]

But at least 50 women, children and elderly people were rescued from the massive building, and Vereshchuk held out hopes of evacuating a few more.

"Hang in there!" she told those left behind, noting the effort would resume Saturday.

The rescue attempt — the third of its kind in the last week by the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross — comes amid renewed ground assaults on

[See Ukraine, A4]

## Freeway shift hits a speed bump: labor

Powerful trade unions oppose California's push to wind down highway expansions.

By LIAM DILLON,  
BEN POSTON  
AND RACHEL URANGA

After more than 60 years and 15,000 miles of highway and interstate construction in California, momentum is growing to end the state's freeway expansion era.

Top state transportation officials recently pulled the plug on a \$6-billion interstate widening in L.A. County and are pledging to funnel billions of dollars toward mass transit and road repairs. Multiple state lawmakers want to do the same, including one proposal that would prohibit freeway expansions in underserved communities across California, an effort that would be the first of its kind in the country.

Supporters of this approach cite freeway's legacy of displacement and pollution in Black and Latino communities, the need to fight climate change, and research showing that widening freeways in cities doesn't ultimately ease congestion.

No longer will the state add freeway lanes solely to allow more cars and trucks to use them, said Toms Omishakin, secretary of the California State Transportation Agency, which oversees the state's transportation network.

"That is the past," Omishakin said. "We cannot do projects like that moving forward."

Yet the efforts to end California's embrace of freeways face opposition from a powerful group: trade unions. Labor leaders contend that limiting freeway widening overestimates the state's ability to transition from an automobile-centered culture and does so at the expense of good-paying jobs.

"We're not the organization of 'no' when it comes to climate change. We're the organization of 'slow,'" said Joseph Cruz, executive director of the California State Council of Laborers. "Put a plan together where you make the other transportation opportunities available before you talk about shutting down freeways."

Cruz's group and other labor organizations are against the most aggressive plan to stymie freeway expansion. Assembly Bill 1778, written by Assembly member Cristina Garcia (D-Bell Gardens), which would block freeway widening in

[See Freeways, A8]

## What gives on water use?

Californians were asked to cut back by 15%, but most places are nowhere near that.

By JAIMIE DING

Almost a year after Gov. Gavin Newsom pleaded with Californians to voluntarily cut their water use by 15% amid a worsening drought, water conservation figures are still nowhere near that mark.

Now, as millions across Southern California face unprecedented water restrictions beginning next month, some water experts say that

much broader cuts, such as those ordered by former Gov. Jerry Brown during the last drought, are needed to rouse the state from its false sense of water security.

"Even during the last drought, when Gov. Brown asked for voluntary cuts, we didn't meet those," said Heather Cooley, director of research at the Pacific Institute, a water think tank in Oakland. "We really need to go toward the mandatory. It really does send a signal that we are all in this together, and that everyone needs to be doing their part."

Between July — when Newsom urged Californians to slash water use by 15% — and February, statewide cu-

mulative water savings have amounted to just 5.8% relative to a 2020 baseline.

Water districts in Northern California, which began experiencing severe shortages last year, have done the most to conserve. The Marin Municipal Water District cut use by 28.5% after local reservoirs began to run dry, forcing the water supplier to move to Stage 4 of its drought contingency plan.

The North Coast region also reduced water usage by 14.5% and the San Francisco Bay region by 10.5%.

But in Southern California, which had ample reserves last year, the story has been very different. In

[See Water, A7]

## Newsom sees opportunity

Governor seizes on abortion rights as an issue that can bolster his reelection campaign.

CALIFORNIA, B1

## China's COVID policy risks

Lockdowns to keep the virus at bay threaten economic growth and pose problems for President Xi.

WORLD, A3

## Weather

Partly sunny.  
L.A. Basin: 75/56. B8



MARK J. TERRILL/Associated Press

## KINGS FALL ON HOME ICE

Edmonton's Zach Hyman scores on Kings goalie Jonathan Quick in the Oilers' 8-2 win. SPORTS, B12

**BUSINESS INSIDE:** U.S. gained 428,000 jobs last month despite surging inflation. A9



# The Washington Post

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Cooler with rain 55/45 • Tomorrow: Rain 52/46 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022 • B2

## Fall wave predicted to infect 100 million

Projection part of Biden administration's pitch for vaccine, treatment funds

BY YASMEEN ABUTALEB AND JOEL ACHENBACH

The Biden administration is warning that the United States could see 100 million coronavirus infections and a potentially significant wave of deaths this fall and winter, driven by new omicron subvariants that have shown a remarkable ability to escape immunity.

The projection, made Friday by a senior administration official during a background briefing as the nation approaches a covid death toll of 1 million, is part of a broader push to boost the nation's readiness and persuade lawmakers to appropriate billions of dollars to purchase a new tranche of vaccines, tests and therapeutics.

In forecasting 100 million potential infections during a cold-weather wave later this year and early next, the official did not present new data or make a formal projection. Instead, he described the fall and winter wave as a scenario based on a range of outside models of the pandemic. Those projections assume that omicron and its subvariants will continue to dominate community spread, and there will not be a dramatically different strain of the virus, the official said, acknowledging the pandemic's course could be altered by many factors.

Several experts agreed that a major wave this fall and winter is possible given waning immunity from vaccines and infections, loosened restrictions and the rise of variants better able to escape

SEE WAVE ON A14



ALEXANDER ERMOLCHENKO/REUTERS

Women evacuated from the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol are sent to temporary housing Friday by Russian-aligned forces. Separately, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky outlined conditions for entering peace talks, including a restoration of preinvasion borders, before Kyiv would consider laying down its arms. **Story, A9**

## Oppression spurred Lithuania's desire to break free of Russian fuel

BY JEANNE WHALEN

VILNIUS, LITHUANIA — The Energy Ministry in this Baltic nation is located across a small street from a former KGB prison, where, during decades of Soviet rule, Lithuanian dissenters were interrogated, tortured and killed.

A museum in part of the building tells the story of those years, showing the dank cells and bullet-riddled execution chamber that the Soviets used to crush resistance during and after World War II.

From his office overlooking the former prison, Energy Minister Dainius Kreivys says this history is the fuel that propelled Lithuania, an independent nation since the 1991 Soviet collapse, to spend years working to break free of Russian oil and gas.

"During all of our history, we had to fight for our independence, for our survival," Kreivys said in a recent interview. "In Lithuania, we say that energy is the second pillar, next to the military, of our national security."

That's meant a years-long construction spree to build oil and gas import terminals, pipelines and other infrastructure to

SEE LITHUANIA ON A8

## Millions of Russians are tearing holes in the Digital Iron Curtain

BY ANTHONY FAIOLA

RIGA, LATVIA — When Russian authorities blocked hundreds of Internet sites in March, Konstantin decided to act. The 52-year-old company manager in Moscow tore a hole in the Digital Iron Curtain, which had been erected to control the narrative of the war in Ukraine, with a tool that lets him surf blocked sites and eyeball taboo news.

Konstantin turned to a virtual private network, an encrypted digital tunnel commonly known as a VPN. Since the war began in late February, VPNs

have been downloaded in Russia by the hundreds of thousands a day, a massive surge in demand that represents a direct challenge to President Vladimir Putin and his attempt to seal Russians off from the wider world. By protecting the locations and identities of users, VPNs are now granting millions of Russians access to blocked material.

Downloading one in his Moscow apartment, Konstantin said, brought back memories of the 1980s in the Soviet Union, when he used a shortwave radio to hear forbidden news of dissi-

SEE VPN ON A9

## Pentagon reveals bolstered arsenal

UKRAINE GETS MORE DRONES, ROCKETS

Biden implores Congress for further funding

BY DAN LAMOTHE AND KAROUN DEMIRJIAN

The Pentagon is expanding delivery of commercially available weapons and military equipment to Ukraine, detailing on Friday its \$136 million in purchases of aerial drones, laser-guided rockets, binoculars and other items set for shipment soon.

The weapons and equipment, to be purchased from U.S. companies, represent a separate category of military assistance than the vast quantities of armaments that the United States already has provided Ukraine from existing Pentagon stocks. This round includes \$22.6 million worth of 70mm rockets — known as the advanced precision kill weapon system — that can be fired from helicopters, and \$17.8 million in additional Switchblade drones, which when armed can be flown into Russian armored vehicles and troop formations. The Pentagon also will procure handheld Puma surveillance drones for \$19.7 million, officials said, a decision initially announced last month.

Bill LaPlante, the Pentagon's undersecretary for acquisition

SEE WEAPONS ON A10

**First lady:** Jill Biden visits Romania in effort to boost U.S. allies. **A8**

**Ripple effect:** Confronting Russia will deter China, Japan says. **A10**

## GOP donor said to describe botched fraud probe in call

Tex. court filing points to extreme tactics in effort to prove Trump's claims

BY SHAWN BOBURG

On Oct. 17, 2020, influential GOP donor Steven F. Hotze made an urgent request during a phone call with a top federal prosecutor in Texas, according to a court filing Friday by the Houston district attorney's office.

Hotze claimed that private investigators funded by his nonprofit group had been trailing a mysterious white van as it shuttled phony ballots around the city in an effort to rig the upcoming election. He asked if federal authorities would help stop the van and apprehend its driver, but he added that one of his hard-nosed investigators was prepared to do the job himself, according to the filing by prosecutors in Harris County that included a transcript of the exchange.

"In fact, he told me last night, 'hell ... the guy's gonna have a wreck tomorrow night. I'm going to run into him and I'm gonna



STEVE GONZALES/HOUSTON CHRONICLE

**Steven F. Hotze's nonprofit funded a vote fraud probe that allegedly led to a car crash and an attempted "citizen's arrest."**

make a citizen's arrest," Hotze told the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Texas, Ryan Patrick, a Trump appointee, who recorded the conversation.

Two days after the call, the private investigator Hotze had named ran a white van driven by an air-conditioning repairman off the road in Houston and held the driver at gunpoint during a futile search for forged ballots, county prosecutors allege.

Police have said the man was innocent. His truck contained repair parts.

The filing Friday illuminates

SEE HOTZE ON A6

## The abortions that divided a daughter and mother

Debate over a post-Roe future intensifies, but the issue already hits home for Emma and Ana

BY SILVIA FOSTER-FRAU

Emma is the pride of her Mexican immigrant parents. Her mother, Ana, wiped away tears as Emma walked the stage, becoming the first in her family to graduate from college in 2015. She asked for copies of Emma's diploma to show her younger children what was possible for them to achieve.

Then about five years ago, Emma told her mother about a decision she had made her senior year of college. She had had an abortion — the first of what would be two. It was a confession that would forever change their relationship. Emma had decided to tell her secret after her mom texted that she was planning to attend an antiabortion rally.

"That just hit my heart, intensely," said Emma, who is being identified by her first name only to protect her privacy. "And I just, in that moment, with my hands shaking, replied to that message and let her know, 'Do what you want; the choice is yours.' ... But I just want to make sure you have the



FAMILY PHOTO

**Emma, 29, at home in Texas, where she was living when she had a medication abortion. She also had an abortion during college.**

knowledge that I received abortion care at that very clinic you're about to go protest in front of."

Ana still grieves for what she says are the "grandchildren" she has lost. She prays for them and

her daughter, asking God's forgiveness.

"It's hurt me a lot. I've cried," Ana, 53, said. "I've asked God for forgiveness, for me for how I've failed because I didn't inculcate my daughter." She prays that

God "enlightens [Emma's] heart, her mind, so this doesn't happen again."

As America cleaves over the issue of abortion, the struggle between Emma and Ana illustrates how views on the subject are often shaped by life experiences. That it could cause such damage to one of the most intimate relationships — the one between a mother and daughter — shows the seriousness and weight of the Supreme Court's decision of whether to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

**Emma's first abortion**

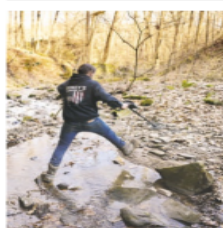
Emma faced numerous challenges as a first-generation college student. In addition to her studies, she often helped her sister — who was a teen mom — pay the bills and care for her three children. She worked full time at her family's Mexican restaurant in Indiana and attended classes at night to finish her degree.

For most of that period, her

SEE ABORTIONS ON A5

**Survey:** Most Americans have nuanced views on abortion. **A4**

## IN SUNDAY'S POST



DUSTIN FRANK FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**<< For the gold** What does a search involving possible missing Confederate bounty, the myth of Jesse James, the FBI and a mysterious map reveal about the American psyche? **Magazine**

**Great art, with a warning** The "Philip Guston Now" exhibition, controversially postponed in 2020, has finally launched. **Arts & Style**



ANNA MAZUREK FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**<< Ocracoke's treasured past** The 16-mile barrier island on North Carolina's Outer Banks, once a pirate hideout, has wild ponies, a shell-strewn beach, savory food and America's second-oldest operating lighthouse. **Travel**

## INSIDE

**REAL ESTATE**  
**Latinos move the market**  
The demographic's influence is growing at a record pace, but first-time buyers still face challenges.

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**A grave correction**  
Jewish World War II veterans buried in France were given new headstones with Stars of David. **B1**

**THE WORLD**  
**At least 20 dead in Havana**  
Rescuers search for survivors at a five-star hotel after an explosion, suspected to be a gas leak. **A11**

**THE ECONOMY**  
**428,000 new jobs in April**  
The jobless rate remained steady at a pandemic low of 3.6 percent amid continued strong growth. **A13**

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## Primer desembarco de Vargas Llosa en la Feria del Libro

El Nobel de Literatura hizo una primera presentación junto al español Javier Cercas; mañana será el plato fuerte, en un mano a mano con Jorge Fernández Díaz. **Página 29**



## BECAS DEPORTIVAS, UN TRAMPOLÍN PARA ESTUDIAR EN EE.UU.

—sábado

Cada vez más jóvenes argentinos llegan a universidades norteamericanas por su destacado desempeño en fútbol, hockey o golf; alternativas para postularse.

## CASA LIVING, UNA EXPERIENCIA QUE ANTICIPA TENDENCIAS

—sociedad

Es una exposición que se realiza en el corazón de San Isidro, en la que se pueden visitar 18 departamentos totalmente ambientados. **Página 28**

# LA NACION

SÁBADO 7 DE MAYO DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

## Cristina criticó el rumbo económico y dijo que el Gobierno defraudó

**INTERNA.** Al hablar en Chaco minimizó el poder del Presidente y negó peleas con él; “es un debate de ideas”, adujo

El discurso de Cristina Kirchner abrió ayer una nueva etapa en la crisis interna del oficialismo. La vicepresidenta hizo una durísima crítica al rumbo económico y pidió rectificarlo porque el Gobierno “no les está haciendo honor a tanta confianza, amor y esperanza que nos depositaron” los votantes.

Al recibir un *honoris causa* de una universidad de Chaco, Cristina Kirchner se refirió directamente a

las internas dentro del oficialismo. Minimizó el poder del presidente Alberto Fernández. Dijo que, cuando lo eligió como candidato, no tenía ninguna representatividad política y resaltó que había sido “generosa” al permitirle armar libremente su gabinete económico. A partir de ese planteo, negó que en el Gobierno haya una “pelea” y en cambio lo calificó como “un debate de ideas”. Después aludió a quienes le repro-

### PEDIDO DE UNIDAD

Apenas una hora antes de las críticas de Cristina Kirchner, el presidente Alberto Fernández hizo un pedido de unidad. “Que nadie nos desuna”, reclamó desde Tierra del Fuego. **Página 16**

chan sus reacciones y actitudes: “No decido con mis hormonas, sino con mis neuronas”.

Si bien nunca mencionó al ministro Martín Guzmán, la mayor parte de los cuestionamientos fueron para su área. Habló de que hay “una insatisfacción democrática muy grande”; dijo que “la plata no alcanza”, que las altas tasas de interés que pide el FMI “no generan crecimiento” y que no hay voluntad para en-

frentar a los poderes empresariales. En esa recorrida fue especialmente dura con el ministro de Desarrollo Productivo, Matías Kulfas. También dejó mal parado a su par de Desarrollo Social, Juan Zabaleta.

Pese a la severidad de sus señalamientos, Cristina no dio indicios de ruptura, y en el tono de su discurso se ubicó como parte del Gobierno, aunque prescindente de la gestión económica. **Página 14**

## El predio que le disputan los mapuches al Ejército

**política**—La comunidad reclama los títulos de propiedad de 180 hectáreas de las 3608 que el Ejército Argentino posee en Bariloche. Una de las zonas en litigio se encuentra en los alrededores de la Escuela Militar de Montaña, que se levantó en 1964. **Página 20**



La vista aérea de la Escuela Militar de Montaña, un predio que el Ejército posee en Bariloche y disputa con los mapuches

ARIEL CARRERAS

## Agregarían 500.000 jubilaciones sin aportes

**SENADO.** Impulsan una moratoria previsional para facilitar el acceso

Sin previa consulta con el Ministerio de Economía, que comanda Martín Guzmán, el interbloque del Frente de Todos (FDT) en el Senado de la Nación presentó ayer un proyecto de ley que establece un plan de pago de deuda previsional dirigido a aquellos trabajadores que no alcanzan a cumplir con los años de aportes necesarios. La iniciativa fue elaborada por el ala kirchnerista de la bancada y, según aseguraron sus autores, tendrá un impacto fiscal “casi nulo” y buscará beneficiar a unas 500.000 personas que no estarían hoy en condiciones de jubilarse. **Página 17**

## Asistencialismo narco. Los Monos, al frente de una red de alimentos

Polémica por las cajas del plan Cuidar que fueron encontradas en la casa del Viejo Cantero

**Germán de los Santos**  
PARA LA NACION

**ROSARIO.**—Una red clientelar narco que estaba en manos de la banda de Los Monos quedó al descubierto tras una investigación judicial que terminó con 23 personas imputadas y detenidas por asociación ilícita, acusadas de realizar ataques a dos escuelas

y dos estaciones de servicio para provocar “conmoción pública”.

En la casa de Máximo Cantero, conocido como el Viejo y fundador de Los Monos, la policía secuestró el 27 de abril pasado 8000 kilos de alimentos a granel y 137 cajas con víveres del plan Cuidar, que depende de la municipalidad de Rosario. Continúa en la **página 30**

## Imputan a Mayra Mendoza por desvío de fondos

**QUILMES.** La intendenta será investigada por \$535 millones que les cedió a organizaciones. **Página 18**



## Ilustrada C1

### Anna Maria Maiolino

Artista mostra que mundo vive uma espiral de guerra e de autoritarismo

## Esporte B7

Série 'Brazilian Storm' expõe o carinho e a tensão entre surfistas

## Folhinha C8

Saiba o que está por trás das frases clássicas que todas as mães dizem

### Desmatamento na Amazônia é recorde para abril

Áreas com alertas de desmatamento na Amazônia alcançaram recorde absoluto no histórico recente do Deter, do Inpe, para o mês de abril. Foram derrubados 1.012,5 km² de floresta. O mês faz parte do período de chuvas, no qual é incomum ver taxas tão altas de desmate. **Ambiente B1**

## Victoria Damasceno

### Filho negro no Brasil?

#### Não, obrigada

Cansei de ver mulheres negras dizendo que não podem se dar o luxo de pôr um filho negro neste mundo. Desistem devido ao racismo, que se reproduz em muitos tipos de agressão. Em última instância, como o medo de ter que enterrar um filho. **Opinião A2**

## SABATINA FOLHA/UOL

### Haddad diz ver candidatura de França até o fim

Pré-candidato ao governo de SP, Fernando Haddad (PT) afirmou em sabatina Folha/UOL que a tendência é não ter acordo para que ele e Márcio França (PSB) se unam em única candidatura. Disse ainda que o antibolsonarismo supera o antipetismo. **Política A10**

### Altino Junior defende armar os trabalhadores

**Política A10**

### Petrobras reitera sua defesa de preço de mercado

**Mercado A20**

**Escola berço de Macron e líderes foi fechada por ele**  
Novo mandato de Emmanuel Macron é o 6º de presidente formado na Escola Nacional de Administração, fechada por ele. **A12**



Anna Maria Maiolino no Instituto Tomie Ohtake, que recebe mostra com cerca de 300 de suas obras **Daniilo Verpa/Folhapress**

# Com eleições em vista, Congresso cria bomba fiscal

Parlamentares fazem concessões a bases eleitorais sem recursos para bancá-las; Economia teme por teto de gasto

O clima de campanha e a busca pela simpatia dos eleitores acelerou a aprovação de benesses pelo Congresso que resultam em uma bomba fiscal para as contas de União, estados e municípios.

Apesar de encontrar oposição da equipe econômica, a aprovação das propostas não enfrentou resistências do Palácio do Planalto.

Em um dia, a Câmara aprovou um piso salarial de R\$ 4.750 para a enfermagem — medida que, na estimativa do Tesouro, tem impacto de R\$ 22 bilhões para os setores público e privado —, e o Senado, a remuneração mínima de dois salários mínimos a agentes comunitários de saúde (ao custo de R\$ 3,7 bilhões).

Os parlamentares debatem ainda a renegociação para devedores da União e mesmo a retirada do Auxílio Brasil do teto de gastos.

Em muitos casos, deputados e senadores não sabem de onde virão os recursos para bancar as medidas, e o Ministério da Economia teme nova investida sobre o teto de gastos. **Mercado A17 e A19**

## Convite a militares foi erro, avalia TSE

Integrantes do Supremo Tribunal Federal e do Tribunal Superior Eleitoral consideraram um erro o convite feito pelo ministro Luís Roberto Barroso no ano passado, quando presidia o TSE, para que militares participassem do colegial.

O antídoto saiu como veneno: em vez de aumentar a confiabilidade do pleito, deu às Forças Armadas meios de inflar ainda mais o discurso de Bolsonaro contra o sistema eleitoral. Na quinta (5), o ministro da Defesa cobrou do órgão transparência.

Ontem, o presidente do TSE, ministro Edson Fachin, afirmou que a corte não se opõe a divulgar os questionamentos dos militares. **Política A4**

**Cristina Serra**  
General fustiga o poder civil em tabela com Bolsonaro **A2**



Alexandre Meneghini/Reuters

## EXPLOSÃO DESTRÓI HOTEL DE LUXO EM HAVANA E DEIXA AO MENOS 22 MORTOS

Prédio do Saratoga, no centro da capital cubana, após incidente que também feriu dezenas; autoridades apontam vazamento de gás como causa **Mundo A15**

## EDITORIAIS A2

**Energia demagógica**  
Sobre projeto que pode congelar as contas de luz.

**O tamanho da pandemia**  
Acerca de cálculo da OMS para mortes por Covid-19.

## ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje



Fonte: [www.climatempo.com.br](http://www.climatempo.com.br)







**Padres se manifiestan y denuncian que se intentó encubrir el hecho**

## Escándalo de abuso en colegio sacude a comunidad educativa

La directora y dos docentes de la institución están detenidas y procesadas por violación del deber de cuidado y obstrucción a la investigación. No activaron protocolo establecido para estos casos.

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Hay reportes desde el exterior

**La SET investigará a multinacionales por sospecha de evasión**

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En medio de definición de tarifa

**Brasil presiona para que ANDE compre más energía de Itaipú**

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Registros de conducir a punto de vencer

**Nenecho recurre al gato Asu para instar a renovar licencia**

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**Panorama complejo.** El populoso Mercado 4 celebra aniversario en medio del sacrificio diario de sus comerciantes y deudas históricas para su ordenamiento.

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Mandatario oficializó que enfrentará al ex presidente Horacio Cartes por la presidencia de la Junta de Gobierno

## Violentando Constitución, Abdo se postula a la ANR

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**ETIOS**

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**GASTRONOMIE**  
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DIJON VEUT DEVENIR  
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Les coulisses des laborieuses tractations entre les LR « constructifs » et la macronie **PAGE 4**

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Madrid tangué sous les affaires d'espionnage **PAGE 8**

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La déferlante de blockbusters redonne le moral au monde du cinéma **PAGE 26**

## CHAMPS LIBRES

7 000 objets volés attendent leurs propriétaires

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• La chronique de Mathieu Bock-Côté  
• L'analyse de Pierre-Yves Dugua

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## FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON

**Réponses à la question de vendredi :** Craignez-vous une extension du conflit au-delà de l'Ukraine ?

**OUI 72% NON 28%**

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 201 708

**Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr**

La confédération macroniste Ensemble! va-t-elle, selon vous, remporter les élections législatives ?

VINCENT ARBELET/VILLE DE DIJON; ARTYOM MEDVEDEV/STOCKADOBEST

# Matignon, gouvernement: Macron cherche l'équilibre

Le chef de l'État, investi ce samedi, est toujours en quête d'un nouveau premier ministre. Une fois son choix arrêté, il devra composer une équipe respectant toutes les sensibilités de la majorité.

Deux semaines après sa réélection, Emmanuel Macron sera investi ce samedi lors d'une cérémonie à l'Élysée. L'occasion pour le chef de l'État de reprendre la parole après plusieurs

jours de silence. Il prononcera une courte allocution, sans dévoiler le calendrier des réformes, qui sera détaillé dans le discours de politique générale du futur premier ministre, dont

l'identité n'est toujours pas connue. Car après avoir plaidé en faveur d'un remaniement rapide, Emmanuel Macron doit finalement temporiser pour trouver le bon chef du gouver-

nement. Selon un sondage Odoxa pour *Le Figaro*, les Français souhaitent l'arrivée à Matignon d'un élu de terrain, concentré sur les questions sociales et écologiques. Une fois la

perle rare trouvée, le chef de l'État devra composer un gouvernement en ménageant les innombrables chapelles de la majorité. Un casse-tête qui va encore durer plusieurs jours.

→ SELON LES FRANÇAIS, LE PROCHAIN PREMIER MINISTRE DEVRA ÊTRE UN « ÉLU DE TERRAIN, CRÉATIF ET SINCÈRE » → LE CASSE-TÊTE DE LA REPRÉSENTATION DES ALLIÉS AU GOUVERNEMENT → LÉGISLATIVES: DE MCKINSEY À LREM, LE DISCRET MIDY ENVOYÉ FACE À VILLANI **PAGES 2, 3 ET L'EDITORIAL**



**Marioupol: les rescapés de l'usine Azovstal racontent leur calvaire**

Enfermés pendant deux mois dans des bunkers souterrains, les naufragés du dernier carré de résistance à Marioupol décrivent l'angoisse, la nourriture rationnée, l'hygiène précaire et la terreur constante des bombardements. **PAGES 6 ET 7**

**EDITORIAL** par Vincent Trémolet de Villers [vtremolet@lefigaro.fr](mailto:vtremolet@lefigaro.fr)

## L'heure de vérité

L'heure tourne, et le temps, quoi qu'on en dise, est le maître suprême. Ne pas céder à la compulsion médiatique est estimable, mais il devient périlleux de laisser se distendre une période aussi cruciale. L'atmosphère gazeuse qui flotte depuis le soir de l'élection d'Emmanuel Macron – combinaisons législatives, refus répétés d'entrer à Matignon, programme évanescents, popularité déclinante – en témoigne. Elle contraste fortement avec l'urgence du moment – guerre en Ukraine, inflation renaissante. Voilà pourquoi la cérémonie qui se déroulera ce samedi matin sera pour toute la nation un précieux point de repère, le rappel d'une évidence qui s'estompe : les Français ont choisi de reconduire Emmanuel Macron comme président de la République pour les cinq ans qui viennent. On connaît désormais les contours de la force qui le soutiendra à l'Assemblée. Une confédération Philippe-Bayrou-Ferrand, infiniment préférable à l'illusion du parti unique. Qui succédera à Jean Castex ? Question impérieuse. On imagine mal une figure effacée, un profil technocratique,

un novice politique tenir une majorité tripartite, contenir des oppositions qui s'annoncent plus turbulentes que jamais. On redoute une personnalité certainement précise, technique, laborieuse, docile mais incapable de parler simplement, franchement, amicalement à la France décrite dans les essais de Christophe Guilluy, les romans de Nicolas Mathieu. C'est bien elle

cependant qu'il faut retrouver. La direction ? Effacer d'abord ce mauvais rêve d'entre-

deux-tours durant lequel le chef de l'État semblait comme aimanté par La France insoumise. S'arrimer ensuite à l'autre rive de la politique. Puisque l'idéologie revient en force, il faut lui opposer la seule réponse qui vaille : la réalité. On ne réunira pas la France qui se disloque par de l'argent magique, le poison multiculturaliste, les fantasmes de planification. Ce sont les vertus contraires que le pays attend : vérité économique, effort collectif, fierté culturelle, sécurité quotidienne, écologie intelligente. Demi-tour, droite! ■

## Comment l'Europe relocalise la production de ses médicaments

Après avoir pris conscience de sa grande dépendance à l'Asie lors de la pandémie de Covid, l'Europe met les bouchées doubles pour rapatrier sur son sol la fabrication de principes actifs, ces produits issus de la chimie qui confèrent aux médicaments leurs propriétés thérapeutiques. En France, une quarantaine de projets sont en cours, avec le soutien de l'État, dont une usine de production de paracétamol dans l'Isère. **PAGE 20**

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# PM blamed for Tory election disasters

Rowena Mason  
Heather Stewart  
Aubrey Allegretti

Boris Johnson's leadership was facing fresh danger last night after senior Conservatives blamed him for losing swaths of the party's southern heartlands to the Liberal Democrats and flagship London boroughs to Labour.

In a punishing set of local elections for the Tories, the party lost about 400 council seats, ceding control of Westminster and Wandsworth in London to Labour for the first time since the 1970s, and plunging to its worst position in Scotland for a decade.

Conservative MPs and council leaders questioned Johnson's leadership, demanding action to tackle the cost of living crisis and rebuild trust after the Partygate scandal, following a damaging series of losses across the "blue wall" in Somerset, Kent, Oxfordshire and Surrey.

The scale of the Tory backlash was tempered by a mixed picture for Labour, which showed progress but not enough yet to suggest a landslide for Keir Starmer in a general election. A BBC projection

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▲ Boris Johnson visits a school in South Ruislip in his west London constituency yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: DANIEL LEAL/AFP

## Starmer Police to investigate 'lockdown breach'

Vikram Dodd  
Peter Walker

Keir Starmer is under police investigation over claims he broke lockdown rules by having a beer and takeaway with staff during election campaigning last year, after Durham constabulary said it had received "significant new information" about the gathering.

While Labour said it was happy to cooperate with Durham police and insisted no rules had been broken, the news is uncomfortable for the Labour leader, who called for Boris Johnson to resign when he was investigated for a breach of the law.

Following significant pressure from some newspapers and Tory MPs to look again at events in Durham, the force said in a statement that it had opened an inquiry. The announcement was timed to follow the end of local election campaigning and voting, it added.

"Earlier this year, Durham constabulary carried out an assessment as to whether Covid-19 regulations had been breached at a gathering in Durham City on 30 April 2021," it said. "At that time,

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## Council seat changes

Conservative



398

Labour



264

Lib Dem



189

Green



81

## Marina Hyde Arse-kickings? Snap elections? Roll up, roll up!

Journal, page 3

