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What's News

World-Wide

Trump was hospitalized following a positive Covid-19 test that forced officials to cancel White House events and postpone travel, injecting new uncertainty into the final stretch of the 2020 election campaign. **A1, A4, A5, A6**

◆ **White House officials** have raised objections to the FDA's proposed standards for deciding whether a Covid-19 vaccine should be given widely and don't appear likely to sign off on the guidelines. **A6**

◆ **Pelosi said** she is willing to move forward with aid for airlines as separate legislation or as part of a broader coronavirus relief deal. **A3**

◆ **The Trump administration** is seeking to overturn a federal magistrate's ruling that stopped a U.S. ban on China's messaging and e-commerce app WeChat. **A3**

◆ **The Kentucky attorney general's office** released recordings of the grand jury proceedings in the Breonna Taylor case. **A3**

◆ **France's Macron laid out** plans to outlaw what he called "Islamic separatism" in communities where he said religious laws are taking precedence over civil ones. **A8**

◆ **Los Angeles prosecutors** charged Harvey Weinstein with six additional counts of sexual assault. **A3**

Business & Finance

◆ **Hiring gains slowed** sharply heading into the fall as more layoffs turned permanent, adding to signs that the U.S. economy faces a long slog to fully recover from the coronavirus pandemic. **A1**

◆ **Walmart agreed** to sell a majority stake in its U.K. grocery-store chain Asda to a private investment group in a deal that values the company at \$6.8 billion, equivalent to \$8.8 billion. **A1**

◆ **U.S. stocks fell**, with the Dow, S&P 500 and Nasdaq losing 0.5%, 1% and 2.2%, respectively, but all three major indexes held on to notch gains for the week. **B1**

◆ **Tesla vehicle deliveries** hit a record in the most recent quarter, accelerating the Silicon Valley car maker's recovery after sales slowed during the height of the pandemic. **B1**

◆ **Branson's Virgin Group** has floated a special-purpose acquisition company, raising \$480 million to expand an empire that has been hobbled by the pandemic. **B3**

◆ **Shares of Academy Sports** fell in their market debut, even after the KKR-owned sporting-goods chain lowered its asking price. **B3**

◆ **Merck & Co.** R&D chief Perlmutter, who seized on the potential of cancer immunotherapy, will retire at the end of the year. **B3**

NOONAN

Coronavirus Delivers An October Surprise **A13**

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Trump Hospitalized With Virus

Positive Covid test for president and first lady forces him off the trail weeks before election

WASHINGTON—President Trump was hospitalized Friday following a positive Covid-19 test that forced officials to cancel White House events and

By *Rebecca Ballhaus, Catherine Lucey and Michael C. Bender*

postpone travel, injecting new uncertainty into the final stretch of the 2020 election campaign.

Mr. Trump, wearing a blue mask, gave a thumb's up sign Friday afternoon but made no

comment as he walked to the helicopter that carried him to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. He will quarantine at the Bethesda, Md., facility based on the recommendation of his physician and medical experts, White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said.

Ms. McEnany said the president's symptoms were mild. Earlier Friday, White House physician Sean Conley said the president was fatigued and that first lady Melania Trump, who also tested positive, had a mild cough and headache.

As Mr. Trump left the White House, he tweeted a recorded video. "I think I'm doing very well, but we're going to make sure that things work out," he said. He said the first lady is

Wide Impact

- ◆ The president's contacts are scrutinized..... **A4**
- ◆ Pandemic moves to campaign's center..... **A5**
- ◆ Follow continuing coverage at **WSJ.com**

"doing very well."

The diagnosis rippled through the White House, as officials looked to track down other people who may have been exposed. Mr. Trump asked Vice President Mike Pence to host a scheduled call with governors in his place and scratched planned campaign trips Friday and Saturday in the battleground states of Florida and Wisconsin. Until his video

late Friday and his trip to the hospital, he hadn't tweeted or appeared publicly since announcing his and the first lady's diagnosis after midnight early Friday, which came shortly after news reports that close aide Hope Hicks had tested positive.

Mr. Pence and his wife tested negative for the coronavirus, his press secretary said on Twitter. White House communications director Alyssa Farah said there would be no transfer of power with the president's move to Walter Reed.

The diagnosis of Mr. Trump makes him only the third major world leader to contract Covid-19 and thrusts the campaign, which polls show he is losing, further into uncharted

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White House and campaign have long resisted distancing precautions, masks

By *ANDREW RESTUCCIA*

WASHINGTON—As he crisscrossed the country campaigning for re-election, President Trump has questioned the effectiveness of wearing face masks and dismissed the risk of holding large campaign rallies, contradicting health experts and the recommendations of his coronavirus task force.

The president's attitude about the virus is reflected in the culture at the White House and his campaign, where few on his staff regularly wear masks and there is little social distancing, according to people familiar with the matter.

That attitude persisted through the hours before Mr. Trump and first lady Melania Trump tested positive for the virus: White House officials were aware senior aide Hope Hicks had tested positive before a Thursday roundtable with supporters and a fundraiser in New Jersey, according to a White House official.

Mr. Trump attended the event anyway, though White House chief of staff Mark Meadows told reporters Friday that some staff were told not to go on the trip as a precaution. Press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said operations staff at the White House approved Mr. Trump's trip to the fundraiser in consultation with other senior officials.

Reporters, who are often the few people at the White House wearing masks, frequently spot groups of maskless staffers gathered in close proximity. In the West Wing's maze of hallways, where some staffers are crammed into closet-size offices, social distancing is nearly impossible. Staff rarely wear masks on Air Force One or at campaign rallies. In June, Vice President Mike Pence tweeted, then deleted, a photo from the campaign's Virginia headquarter

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President Trump arrived at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on Friday evening after he and his wife, Melania, tested positive for coronavirus. Officials said the stay at the Maryland hospital was precautionary and expected to last several days.

Walmart To Sell Stake in U.K. Chain

By *BEN DUMMETT AND SARAH NASSAUER*

Walmart Inc. agreed to sell a majority stake in its U.K. grocery-store chain Asda Group Ltd. to a private investment group in a deal that values the company at \$6.8 billion, equivalent to \$8.8 billion, as the world's largest retailer reorganizes its international businesses in favor of bets on the growth of online services.

The retail giant is selling most of Asda to TDR Capital, a Europe-focused buyout firm, and U.K.-based entrepreneur brothers Mohsin and Zuber Issa. The deal marks the end to a monthslong process that was temporarily interrupted this summer to meet surging demand for food basics in the U.S. amid the coronavirus lockdown.

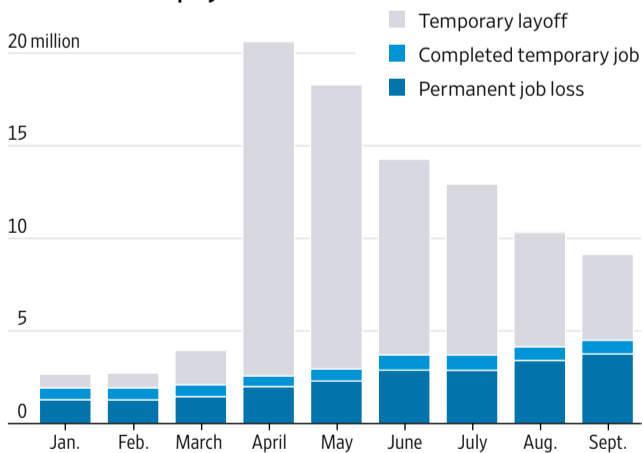
A company spokesman declined to comment on the sale price. Walmart didn't disclose the size of the stake it will retain.

Based on the current deal terms, Walmart expects to recognize a noncash loss of approximately \$2.5 billion, after tax, in fiscal 2021, the company said in a filing Friday. The deal is expected to close in the first half of the next fiscal year, the company said. The sale will re-

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Job Gains Slow as Layoffs Persist

Reason for unemployment



Note: Seasonally adjusted

Source: Labor Department

By *SARAH CHANEY*

Hiring gains slowed sharply heading into the fall as more layoffs turned permanent, adding to signs that the U.S. economy faces a long slog to fully recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

Employers added 661,000 jobs in September, the Labor Department said Friday. The increase in payrolls showed the labor market continued to dig out of the hole created by the pandemic and lockdowns, but at a much slower pace than over the summer.

The U.S. has replaced 11.4 million of the 22 million jobs

lost in March and April, at the beginning of the pandemic. Job growth, though, is cooling, and last month marked the first time since April that net hiring was below one million.

The latest jobs report is the final one before the presidential election, which faces fresh uncertainty after President Trump tested positive for Covid-19. Mr. Trump and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden have each promised to create millions of jobs to advance the economy's recovery from the pandemic-induced shock in the spring. U.S. stocks fell on concerns about

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Covid Broke Times Square

Neighborhood is feeling full force of New York downturn

By *KONRAD PUTZIER AND WILL PARKER*

NEW YORK—A young man walked into a jewelry store near Times Square in July and asked to see the shop's most expensive earrings. Then he grabbed them and ran off.

In years past, crowds of tourists or nearby police officers might have slowed his escape, said Jack Tobias, who runs the jewelry store with his father and his brother. But this year, the neighborhood's streets are empty and the thief got away.

The family has owned a jewelry store near Times Square since 1963, Mr. Tobias said. His business survived the district turning seedy in the 1970s, the drop in tourism after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and the economic downturn during the 2007-09 recession. Of

them all, he says, Covid-19 is the biggest blow to the neighborhood, the embodiment of the city that never sleeps. Times Square has never been so listless for so long.

Before the pandemic, the jewelry store had around 100 customers daily. Now a half-dozen qualifies as busy. The family let go four of their six employees and had to ask the landlord for help with the rent. Driving through the deserted Times Square streets in the summer and seeing plywood where shop windows used to be "felt like another nail in the city's coffin," Mr. Tobias said.

New York City's real-estate market is suffering its most severe crisis in decades. At the city's hotels, as many as 25,000 rooms, or 20% of the total, might never reopen, analysts and hotel owners have said, as business

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EXCHANGE



TOUGH SELL

Advertisers search for the right tone amid the pandemic. **B1**

DESIGN & DECORATING

By RACHEL WOLFE

ERROR, ERROR ON THE WALL

When Kitchen Décor Tanks

Remedies for the most common mistakes in the heart of the home, plus the silliest flubs designers have seen

ALL-WHITE kitchens that look like operating theaters aren't all that inspiring or even practical. But the overcooked alternatives—kitchens featuring grease-accumulating ceramic roosters or cabinetry festooned with grape-leaf swags—can seem depressingly cluttered. "It's a place for creating meals, not Versailles," said New York architect Kevin Lichten.

Homeowners should view their kitchens first as machines for preparing food, he advised. "Then slowly add luxury to make it sensually appealing"—and ideally inject personality of the right kind. We asked design pros like Mr. Lichten to share their biggest kitchen-decorating pet peeves, from oversize islands to mixed-material counters, and to recommend chic, functional fixes.

Scattered Appliances

Countertop gear—coffee maker, toaster, blender, air fryer—might be essential to getting your three squares, conceded Los Angeles designer Amy Sklar, "but honestly, they don't look so hot spread out over every usable surface."

Instead Gather your gadget diaspora behind an accordion-doored "appliance garage" (think: a built-in bread box for your blender and such). This allows easy access to contraptions while hiding them. To ensure your juicer stays juiced, plan around an electrical outlet. Pullout drawers in lower cabinets, too, can be hide-holes for lesser-used appliances.

Unintelligent Counters

Along with other dumb 1970s ideas like water beds, renounce tiled work surfaces. New York designer Alan Tanksley calls out their uneven surfaces and unsanitary grout lines. Even perfectly flat tiles installed tightly can pose a challenge, Mr. Tanksley noted. Any individual tile is more susceptible to chips and cracks than unified slabs of natural stone. That said, porous natural stone can add anxiety to food prep, too. One big stone no-no: mixing natural marble with engineered-quartz marble. "Two different but veined materials in the room force the eye to choose a favorite," said Nashville designer Lori Paranjape, "and Mother Nature wins every time."

Instead When Mary Maydan's clients want a worry-free marbled look, the Palo Alto, Calif., architect



POOR SENSE OF SCALE Architect Mary Maydan came across a kitchen island that doubled as a fish tank.

MAOMI CLARKE (ILLUSTRATIONS)

recommends porcelain faux-marble slabs, which she says have "come a long way in recent years." She also favors Corian countertops as an alternative to natural stone, especially paired with integrated sinks to "create a very sleek and seamless look." Ms. Paranjape sticks to solid quartz for prep surfaces and applies natural stone only to walls, "where it can be seen but not damaged."

Truncated Backsplashes

A stovetop backsplash that ends mid-wall at the bottom of the vent hood or in line with the bottom of the upper cabinets looks to Houston designer Benjamin Johnston "like you ran out of money for the project and couldn't finish the job properly." Another common head-scratcher: countertop material that extends 4 inches up the wall. It reminds Seattle designer Charlie Hellstern of a doctor's office and presumes that food doesn't splatter any higher.

Instead Mr. Johnston recommends extending the backsplash behind the stove to the ceiling. "It's a perfect opportunity for a wow moment," he said. To avoid the "doctor's office" look, Ms. Hellstern continues countertop material all the way up the

KITCHEN NIGHTMARES / PROS RECALL THE MOST EGREGIOUS DESIGN DECISIONS THEY'VE WITNESSED

I have seen a few kitchen island ideas that are striking but come at a price of very little functionality. For example, islands where the entire [structure] is a fish tank and others that look like a sculpture and provide no storage and little or no seating."

—Mary Maydan, architect, Palo Alto, Calif.

A model car collection on top of the wine display." —Scott Dresner, designer, Chicago

We rented a house when I was growing up that had a faux shingle-roof

detail in the space between the top of the cabinets and the ceiling, and the same kitchen was carpeted." —Amy Sklar, designer, Los Angeles

We came across a kitchen with plate-glass mirror for a backsplash, even behind the range.

Can you imagine trying to keep that clean?" —Erin Gates, designer, Newton Centre, Mass.

A collection of empty bottles of fancy booze displayed around the kitchen." —Jenna Kincaid, art director, Lulu and Georgia.



wall. For a less costly backsplash in general, fix a piece of glass over the painted wall, she said.

Island Takeovers

Ms. Sklar once came across a kitchen island so enormous "the homeowner had to climb on top of it to clean the center." Another sign your island is too massive, according to Amanda Mole, an architect in Kiawah Island, S.C.: You can't circulate around it freely anytime an appliance is open. And don't even think about putting a cooktop in the island. A vent hood hanging mid-ceiling looks like an industrial exhaust that's escaped the factory.

Instead Ms. Mole suggests that in lieu of an island, expand work surfaces or seating by extending the countertop to form an L shape. If storage is the goal, a caddie at the end of a counter can hold silverware and dishes.

Unconnected Cabinets

The no man's land above upper cabinets that don't reach the ceiling is a source of frustration for Michelle Lisac, a designer in Scotts Valley, Calif. The break creates an unwelcome horizontal line and the gap collects dust and grease. "Why not just go that extra foot!" she said. The trend of mismatched up-

per and lower cabinets strikes Santa Monica designer Christine Markatos Lowe as similarly disjointed: "They should visually act as a single unit in a single color," she said.

Instead If new cabinets aren't in the budget, Ms. Lisac suggests filling the breach with a flat panel and crown molding to create the illusion of ceiling-high cabinets. For people who like the look of two tones in the kitchen, Ms. Markatos Lowe recommends painting the island in an accent color and keeping all woodwork attached to the walls the same hue.

MEDIATOR

Can Odd Pieces Become an Office?

THE CONFLICT As the Covid lockdown upended our home lives, many people found themselves trying to make a WFH space out of random, disparate ingredients. Three designers suggest décor that will pull these two elements together.



Jason Miller for De La Espada Elliot Desk, from \$5,395, thefutureperfect.com



1960s Mid Century Modern Gerald Thurston Lightolier Lamp, \$1,800, chairish.com

SOLUTION 1

Lay a rug that features curves.



Los Angeles designer Kimberly Biehl chose a vintage carpet whose pattern softens the zigzag lines of the midcentury lamp's Devo-hat shade and nods to its quatrefoil curves. "I really love that swirl!" she said of the rug's calligraphic detail. Ms. Biehl also noted that its subtle, blue linear element connects to the painted drawer fronts of the desk: "That little line of blue really got me." Vintage Art Deco Deep Maroon, White and Blue Wool Rug, \$9,500, dorisleslieblau.com



SOLUTION 2

Pull up a shapely wood seat. The chair that San Francisco designer Noz Nozawa suggested, with its unusual bulbous woodwork, could keep up with the "sculptural impact" of the graphic lamp,



she said. The chair's sensually swollen front legs read like an inverse of the diamond-and-ball geometry in the lamp base. At the same time, the chair's "solid walnut frame reflects the desk's natural wood." Sara Bond Chair, Enea Fiber by Agrippa in Oiled Walnut, \$3,085 coupdetats.com



SOLUTION 3

Add a less 'rational' piece of art. To New York designer Anthony Dunning's eyes, these two pieces are rather



hard-edge and would benefit from the addition of an expressive but unifying third party—namely this "emotional," painterly watercolor with conciliatory hues. "The colors of the desk and lamp are present in the painting, helping to marry the two pieces," he said. Malene Barnett "Makeda" original watercolor, 22 inches by 25 inches, \$2,500; Prints, from \$158. malenebarnett.com —Courtney Lichterman

