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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2021 - VOL. CCLXXXVIII NO. 89

WSJ.com

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## What's News

Business & Finance

**U.S. inflation accelerated** in September and remained at its highest rate in over a decade, with price increases from pandemic-related labor and materials shortages rippling through the economy. **A1**

◆ **Fed officials** last month worried that disrupted supply chains were raising the risks of more persistent inflation, as they firmed up plans to reduce their bond-buying stimulus program. **A2**

◆ **JPMorgan's third-quarter** profit rose 24% as the bank freed up reserves set aside during the pandemic's worst days, but revenue was up just 1% and below Wall Street expectations. **A1**

◆ **The SEC said** that it plans to require companies in some cases to admit wrongdoing when they settle civil enforcement actions. **A4**

◆ **Delta reported** a quarterly profit as travel demand began to recover in recent weeks, though the airline said it faces pressure from rising fuel prices. **B1**

◆ **The S&P 500 and Nasdaq** posted gains of 0.3% and 0.7%, respectively, while the Dow industrials slipped 0.53 point. **B9**

◆ **Facebook has told** employees that it is tightening controls over some of the company's internal online discussion groups. **B1**

## World-Wide

◆ **The Port of Los Angeles** will operate around the clock in an effort to ease cargo bottlenecks that have led to shortages and higher costs, a change made public by the White House as it seeks to alleviate supply-chain issues ahead of the holidays. **A1**

◆ **Seniors and others** receiving Social Security benefits in 2022 will see the largest increase in their payments in four decades. **A3**

◆ **A booster of J&J's** Covid-19 vaccine showed signs of significantly bolstering the immune defenses of study subjects, FDA staffers said. **A6**

◆ **The WHO established** a new panel of scientists whose mandate will include attempting to revive a stalled inquiry into the origins of the novel coronavirus. **A11**

◆ **The Biden administration** is preparing to open large sections of the U.S. coastline to wind-turbine projects as part of a plan to boost production of clean, renewable energy. **A4**

◆ **Supreme Court justices** diverged sharply over the fairness of Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's death sentence. **A8**

◆ **At least five people** were killed and two injured in the Norwegian town of Kongsberg by a man wielding a bow and arrows, local police said. **A11**

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## A 90-Year-Old Star Treks to the Edge of the Cosmos



**SPACE AGE:** Blue Origin's flight Wednesday included 'Star Trek' actor William Shatner, right. Shown with other crew members as they experienced weightlessness during the trip, he is now the oldest person to reach space. **B1**

## L.A. Port Goes 24/7 to Ease Snarl

Key entry point aims to allay cargo logjam that has fueled higher costs for consumers

By ALEX LEARY  
AND PAUL BERGER

One of the U.S.'s busiest ports will operate around the clock in an effort to ease cargo bottlenecks that have led to shortages and higher consumer costs, a change made public by

the White House as it seeks to alleviate supply-chain issues ahead of the holidays.

By going to 24/7, the Port of Los Angeles will join the neighboring Port of Long Beach, which started doing a similar thing last month. Major ports in Asia and Europe have operated around the clock for years.

Expanded operations at the Port of Los Angeles would nearly double the hours that cargo can move, according to the White House. It said the

extra shifts have been agreed to by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, which represents dockworkers.

The U.S. supply chain has struggled to adapt to a crush of imports as consumers during the pandemic shifted much of their spending from services to home goods, including electronics, and as businesses rush to restock pandemic-depleted inventories. Hundreds of thousands of containers are stuck at the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports, the West Coast

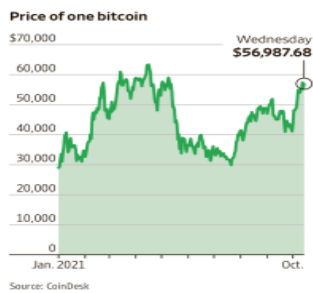
gateways that move more than a quarter of all U.S. imports. Dozens of ships are anchored off the coast, with waiting times stretching to three weeks.

"Today's announcement has the potential to be a game changer," President Biden, a Democrat, said. "I say potential because all of these goods won't move by themselves. For the positive impact to be felt all across the country, and by all of you at home, we need major retailers who order the

Please turn to page A4

## Crypto Exchange To Drop

Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange, said it would remove the option to buy or sell cryptocurrencies using the yuan in peer-to-peer trading after this year, following a move by China against use of digital assets. **B3**



## JPMorgan's Profit Jumps 24% Despite Muted Revenue Growth

By DAVID BENNETT

JPMorgan Chase & Co. posted sharply higher third-quarter profit after freeing up rainy-day funds it set aside in the pandemic's darkest days, a display of confidence in the economy's bumpy recovery.

The bank's third-quarter profit rose 24%, and bank executives predicted a coming surge in loan growth. But revenue was up just 1% and below Wall Street expectations. The stock, which hit fresh highs

last week, fell 2.6%, to \$161, on Wednesday.

JPMorgan is the first major U.S. bank to report third-quarter results, and it often sets the tone for earnings season. Bank of America Corp., Wells Fargo & Co., Morgan Stanley and Citigroup Inc. are all expected to report results Thursday.

Bank earnings have been on a wild ride since last year. Early in the pandemic, the firms stockpiled billions of dollars to prepare for the cor-

onavirus recession, sending profits sharply lower.

But the economy bounced back much more quickly than expected. Banks have been releasing those reserves for several quarters, sending their profits sharply higher.

Investors are trying to figure out what the new normal looks like for the industry. Loan growth has yet to take

Please turn to page A6

◆ **Heard on the Street:** Banks are stuck in neutral..... **B10**

## Worse Than a Zoom Meeting: A Hybrid-Office Zoom Meeting

New set of hiccups plagues half-in/half-out video calls; 'close enough to rub noses'

By TE-PING CHEN

Stephen Fleming sat stiffly on one end of a conference table, blinking at a laptop sitting a few feet away. Two colleagues were squished beside him, chair arms touching, trying to ensure they would all be captured in the viewfinder of the computer's camera.

"We were close enough to rub noses," says Mr. Fleming, an administrator at the University of Arizona, who kept his eyes studiously ahead, not wanting to risk turning his head and breath-

ing too closely on his colleagues.

Instead, he stared at a large screen affixed to the far wall, where four other co-workers participating remotely were visible, and tried to look attentive. "I didn't want them to feel left out," he explains. "Meetings are about the little subtleties."

During the pandemic, companies across the U.S. grew accustomed to meeting exclusively on video calls. But with more workers returning to their offices part-time, often on schedules with minimal

Please turn to page A13



Screens are staying

## Student-Debt Crisis Ensnames Parents

Wealthy colleges like Baylor steered families to federal Plus borrowing they couldn't afford

By TAWNELL D. HOBBS  
AND ANDREA FULLER

WACO, Texas—Some of the wealthiest U.S. colleges are steering parents into no-limit federal loans to cover rising tuition, leaving many poor and middle-class families with debt they can't repay.

Parents at Baylor University had the worst repayment rate for a type of federal loan called Parent Plus among private schools with at least a \$1 billion endowment, according to a Wall Street Journal analysis of available Education Department data. Only about a quarter of Bay-

lor parents paid down any of what they originally borrowed after two years.

Unlike undergraduate loans that have limits, there is no cap on what parents can borrow through the fast-growing Parent Plus program, no matter their income. Some parents wanting the best schools available for their children sign on the dotted line unaware how the debt can burden them into retirement. Baylor increased its tuition sharply to transform itself from a regionally known Baptist college into a national brand that now has a \$1.8 bil-

Please turn to page A12

## INSIDE



**THE MIDDLE SEAT**  
More airlines add room to their overhead bins, speeding up boarding. **A14**

**TECHNOLOGY**  
Tesla's advanced driver-assistance features draw new scrutiny. **B4**







## Data on J.&J. Raises Doubts About Booster

### Moderna or Pfizer May Be Better Extra Dose

By CARL ZIMMER  
and NOAH WEILAND

People who received a Johnson & Johnson coronavirus vaccine may be better off with a booster shot from Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech, according to preliminary data from a federal clinical trial published on Wednesday.

That finding, along with a mixed review by the Food and Drug Administration of the case made by Johnson & Johnson for an authorization of its booster, could lead to a heated debate about how and when to offer additional shots to the 15 million Americans who have received the single-dose vaccine.

The agency's panel of vaccine advisers will meet Thursday and Friday to vote on whether to recommend that the agency allow Moderna and Johnson & Johnson to offer booster shots.

Despite the questions raised by the new data on the strength of Johnson & Johnson's boosters, some experts anticipated that the agency would clear the shots anyway, since the effectiveness of the one-shot vaccine is lower than that of the two-dose mRNA vaccines made by Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech. And the broader public may also be expecting the authorizations, given the Biden administration's push for boosters from all brands.

Once the agency authorized a booster from Pfizer-BioNTech last month, "the die was cast," said John Moore, a virologist at Weill Cornell Medicine.

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are by far the most used in the United States, with more than 170 million people in the United States fully immunized with either one or the other vaccine.

When Johnson & Johnson's was authorized in February, public health experts were eager to deploy the "one-and-done" option, particularly in communities with poor access to health care. But the shot's popularity plummeted when the F.D.A. later passed its use to investigate rare blood clotting cases.

For those who have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, the timing of a booster authorization of any brand is still uncertain.

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TACKLING SUPPLY CLOGS President Biden said the Port of Los Angeles would operate around the clock to relieve backlogs. Page A14.

## Many Black Americans Are Embracing Vaccines

By AUDRA D. S. BURCH  
and AMY SCHOENFELD WALKER

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — By the time vaccines for the coronavirus were introduced late last year, the pandemic had taken two of Lucenia Williams Dunn's close friends. Still, Ms. Dunn, the former mayor of Tuskegee, contemplated for months whether to be inoculated.

It was a complicated consideration, framed by the government's botched response to the pandemic, its disproportionate toll on Black communities and an infamous 40-year government experiment for which her hometown is often associated.

"I thought about the vaccine most every day," said Ms. Dunn, 78, who finally walked into a pharmacy this summer and rolled up her sleeve for a shot, convinced after weighing with her family and doctor the possible consequences of remaining unvaccinated.

"What people need to understand is some of the hesitancy is rooted in a horrible history, and for some, it's truly a process of asking the right questions to get to

### Setting Aside Mistrust in Tuskegee, Home of an Infamous Study

a place of getting the vaccine."

In the first months after the vaccine rollout, Black Americans were far less likely than white Americans to be vaccinated. In addition to the difficulty of obtaining shots in their communities, their hesitancy was fueled by a powerful combination of general mistrust of the government and medical institutions, and misinformation over the safety and efficacy of the vaccines.

But a wave of pro-vaccine campaigns and a surge of virus hospitalizations and deaths this summer, mostly among the unvaccinated and caused by the highly contagious Delta variant, have narrowed the gap, experts say. So, too, have the Food and Drug Administration's full approval of a vaccine and new employer man-

dates. A steadfast resistance to vaccines in some white communities may also have contributed to the lessening disparity.

While gaps persist in some regions, by late September, according to the most recent survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation, a roughly equal share of Black, white and Hispanic adult populations — 70 percent of Black adults, 71 percent of white adults and 73 percent of Hispanic adults — had received at least one vaccine dose. A Pew study in late August revealed similar patterns. Federal data shows a larger racial gap, but that data is missing demographic information for many vaccine recipients.

Since May, when vaccines were widely available to a majority of adults across the country, monthly surveys by Kaiser have shown steady improvement in vaccination rates among Black Americans.

How the racial gap was narrowed — after months of disappointing turnout and limited access — is a testament to decisions

Continued on Page A12

## Private Equity Chases Profits In Fossil Fuels

By HIROKO TABUCHI

As the oil and gas industry faces upheaval amid global price gyrations and catastrophic climate change, private equity firms — a class of investors with a hyper focus on maximizing profits — have stepped into the fray.

Since 2010, the private equity industry has invested at least \$1.1 trillion into the energy sector — double the combined market value of three of the world's largest energy companies, Exxon, Chevron and Royal Dutch Shell — according to new research. The overwhelming majority of those investments was in fossil fuels, according to data from Pitchbook, a company that tracks investment, and a new analysis by the Private Equity Stakeholder Project, a nonprofit that pushes for more disclosure about private equity deals.

Only about 12 percent of investment in the energy sector by private equity firms went into renewable power, like solar or wind, since 2010, though those investments have grown at a faster rate, according to Pitchbook data.

Private equity investors are taking advantage of an oil industry facing heat from environmental groups, courts, and even their own shareholders to start shifting away from fossil fuels, the major force behind climate change. As a result, many oil companies have

Continued on Page A18

## NEW PRICE SPIKE POSES CHALLENGE TO WHITE HOUSE

### HIGHER THAN FORECASTS

### Lasting Inflation Feared as Furniture, Rent and Food Soar

By JEANNA SMIALEK

Consumer prices jumped more than expected last month, with rent, food and furniture costs surging as a limited supply of goods stemming from supply chain troubles combined to fuel rapid inflation.

The Consumer Price Index climbed 5.4 percent in September from a year earlier, faster than its 5.3 percent increase through August and above economists' forecasts. Monthly price gains also exceeded predictions, with the index rising 0.4 percent from August to September.

The figures raise the stakes for both the Federal Reserve and the White House, which are facing a longer period of rapid inflation than they had expected and may soon come under pressure to act to ensure the price gains don't become a permanent fixture.

On Wednesday, President Biden said his administration was doing what it could to fix supply-



chain problems that have contributed to producing shortages, long delivery times and rapid price increases for food, televisions, automobiles and other products.

In remarks at the White House, Mr. Biden said that the Port of Los Angeles would begin operating around the clock to relieve growing backlogs and that the administration was encouraging states to license truck drivers more quickly. Companies including Walmart, FedEx and UPS are also moving to work more off-peak hours, he said.

"Today's announcement has the potential to be a game-changer," Mr. Biden said of the longer port hours, adding that for the positive impact to play out, private sector companies "need to

Continued on Page A14

**BENEFITS LEAP** Social Security payments will rise 5.9 percent, the biggest jump in 40 years. PAGE B1

## This Is One of Japan's Last Pristine Beaches. Concrete Is Coming.

By BEN DOOLEY  
and HISAKO UENO

KATOKU, Japan — On its mountain-fringed beach, there is no hint that the Japanese village of Katoku even exists. Its handful of houses hide behind a dune covered with morning glories and pandanus trees, the chitter of cicadas interrupted only by the cadence of waves and the call of an azure-winged jay.

In July, the beach became part of a new UNESCO World Heritage Site, a preserve of verdant peaks and mangrove forests in far southwestern Japan that is home to almost a dozen endangered species.

Two months later, the placid air was split by a new sound: the rumble of trucks and excavators preparing to strip away a large section of Katoku's dune and bury inside of it a two-story-tall concrete wall meant to curb erosion.

The sea wall project demonstrates how not even the most precious ecological treasures can survive Japan's construction obsession, which has long been its answer to the threat of natural disaster — and a vital source of economic stimulus and political capital, especially in rural areas.

But the plan to erect the concrete berm on the pristine beach, a



The village of Katoku, which faces increasingly damaging storms, is torn over a sea wall project.

vanishingly rare commodity in Japan, is not just about money or votes. It has torn the village apart as residents fight deeper forces remaking rural Japan: climate change, aging populations and the

hollowing-out of small towns.

The project's supporters — a majority of its 20 residents — say the village's survival is at stake, as it has been lashed by fiercer storms in recent years. Oppo-

nents — a collection of surfers, organic farmers, musicians and environmentalists, many from off the island — argue a sea wall would destroy the beach and its

Continued on Page A8

## Czech Strongman's Upset Loss Shows Populists' Vulnerability

By ANDREW HIGGINS

ROZDROJOVICE, Czech Republic — Marie Malenova, a Czech pensioner in a tidy, prosperous village in South Moravia, had not voted since 1989, the year her country held its first free elections after more than four decades of communist rule.

Last Friday, however, she decided to cast a vote again, an event so unusual that her disbelieving family recorded her change of heart, taking photographs of her slipping her ballot into a big white box at the village hall.

She said she did not much like the people she voted for, a coalition of previously divided center-

right parties, describing them as "a smaller evil among all our many thieves." But they at least had a simple and clear message: We can beat Andrej Babis, the Czech Republic's populist, billionaire prime minister.

"I wanted a change," Ms. Malenova said, "and I wanted something that could beat Babis." For the past decade, populists like Mr. Babis have often seemed politically invincible, rising to power across Central and Eastern Europe as part of a global trend of strongman leaders disdainful of

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INTERNATIONAL A4-10

**Lifting Spirits and Commuters**  
Cable cars and murals brighten the mood of a Mexico City neighborhood afflicted by poverty and crime. PAGE A6

**Britain Needs Truckers**

A lack of truck drivers has resulted in shortages of food and gasoline, and an effort to train more of them. PAGE A4

NATIONAL A11-19

### Happiness at Northern Border

Businesses near the border were celebrating the news that fully vaccinated Canadians would soon be allowed into the United States again. PAGE A13

### Bold Plan for Wind Farms

The government announced a plan to place offshore turbines along nearly the entire U.S. coastline. PAGE A18

SPORTS B7-10

### 'This Is What Baseball Wants'

The Dodgers and the Giants have been in a dead heat all season, and it comes down to a winner-take-all Game 5. PAGE B8



ARTS C1-8

### A Breakthrough in Atlanta

Nathalie Stutzmann will become only the second woman in history to lead a top-tier American orchestra. PAGE C3

### A View Inside the Opioid Crisis

In a new Hulu series, Michael Keaton stars as a doctor who sees OxyContin ravage his Appalachian town. PAGE C1

BUSINESS B1-6

### High Stakes in Power Crisis

Beijing is encouraging the mining and burning of more coal amid a worsening electricity shortage that threatens to damage China's image as a reliable global manufacturing base. PAGE B1

### The Shadow of 'Stagflation'

After coasting higher over the summer, markets are jittery that rising prices and growth snarls could lead to 1970s-style stagnant economic growth and high inflation. PAGE B1

OPINION A20-21

**Larry Fink**

PAGE A21



THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

### The Joys of Broken-In Clothes

After years of all things simple being the height of fashion, there is a pleasure to be found in the eccentricities of individualistic, pre-owned items. PAGE D4







**CONTAINER VESSELS** are anchored outside the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach on Wednesday as they wait to unload their cargo. CAROLYN COLE Los Angeles Times

## ANALYSIS

### BIDEN TAKES ON SUPPLY CHAIN LOGJAM

He says L.A. port will work 24/7 to move cargo. But other issues are beyond his reach.

BY CHRIS MEGERIAN AND DON LEE

WASHINGTON — President Biden wants to save Christmas — but he may not be able to.

He announced Wednesday that the Port of Los Angeles would operate around the clock to alleviate a logistical bottleneck that has left dozens of container ships idling off the California coast and Americans waiting longer to get products manufactured overseas.

Longshoremen will work through the night and major retailers and shipping companies have pledged to clear cargo off the docks faster than before, changes that are intended to speed the flow of toys, electronics and other gifts to American doorsteps during the holiday season.

"Today's announcement has the potential to be a game changer," Biden said [See Supply, A7]

### Booster timing flummoxes FDA

Scientists wrestle with whether or when people need a second J&J shot. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

### Film, TV crews set a strike date

Union says work will stop Monday if a contract agreement isn't reached. **CALENDAR, E1**

### Council focuses on extreme heat

L.A. city leaders urge measures to save the vulnerable on hottest days. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### Weather Sunshine.

L.A. Basin: 79/59. **B6**



## USC to address WWII actions

University will apologize for derailing the education of Japanese American students, offer them honorary degrees

BY TERESA WATANABE

In the throes of World War II, weeks after a 1942 presidential executive order forced the removal of all persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast, then-UC Berkeley President Robert G. Sproul sprung into action.

He sent an impassioned letter to university presidents across the country, asking them to accept his displaced students, most of them U.S. citizens and "excellent" scholars. Other major West Coast universities joined, including the University of Washington and Occidental College, to assist an estimated 2,500 Japanese American students.

There was one glaring exception: USC.



ALLEN J. SCHAREN L.A. Times  
**JIRO OISHI** and wife Anna in a 1943 photo taken at an Arizona wartime camp.

Then-USC President Rufus B. von KleinSmid — now disgraced for his legacy of eugenics support, antisemitism and racism — and other campus officials refused to release transcripts of Japanese American students so they could study elsewhere. When some students tried to reenroll after the war, USC would not honor their previous coursework and said they would have to start over, according to their surviving family members.

Nearly 80 years later, USC is reversing course. President Carol Folt will publicly apologize to the former Japanese American students on behalf of the university and award them honorary degrees posthumously. The university is [See USC, A12]

## Social Security benefits to jump

Retirees, others will get 5.9% hike in 2022, largest in decades and driven by inflation.

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR AND CHRISTOPHER RUGABER

WASHINGTON — Millions of retirees on Social Security will get a 5.9% boost in benefits for 2022 — the biggest cost-of-living adjustment in 39 years — because of a burst in inflation as the U.S. economy struggles to shake off the drag of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The adjustment amounts to \$92 a month for the average retired worker, according to estimates released Wednesday by the Social Security Administration. That marks an abrupt break from a long lull in inflation that moved him to tears.

"I am overwhelmed," Shatner, 90, said once back on Earth. Clad in a blue flight suit and a black baseball cap, he took a pensive pause to digest the experience aboard the Blue Origin flight. "It has to do with the enormity and the quickness of life and death, and oh, my God."



LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

### ALISAL BLAZE TOPS 15,000 ACRES

A plane drops flame retardant ahead of the fire burning near Goleta. Santa Barbara County officials declared a local emergency. **CALIFORNIA, B3**

## 'Star Trek's' Shatner goes boldly to space in a Blue Origin capsule

BY SAMANTHA MASUNAGA

After decades of exploring the final frontier on screen, "Star Trek" actor William Shatner became the oldest person to reach space in a 10-minute flight Wednesday that moved him to tears.

"I am overwhelmed," Shatner, 90, said once back on Earth. Clad in a blue flight suit and a black baseball cap, he took a pensive pause to digest the experience aboard the Blue Origin flight. "It has to do with the enormity and the quickness of life and death, and oh, my God."

He wiped his eyes.

The Canadian actor rocketed through the atmosphere as a guest of Blue Origin, the private space company founded by Jeff Bezos.

As Bezos sprayed celebratory champagne into the air and greeted the returning crew members, Shatner stood apart from his fellow travelers and the assembled crowd of friends, family and

Blue Origin employees. He then described his journey to Bezos, calling the sky "this comforter of blue that we have around us" that whips by before the blackness of space.

The contrast conjured questions of life and death, or life beyond Earth, for Shatner, best known for exploring space as Capt. James T. Kirk in the original "Star Trek" TV series and movies.

As captain of the Star- [See Shatner, A9]

## '70s oil crisis set stage for rigs offshore

The nation's need to meet energy demand outweighed worries about coastal drilling.

BY THOMAS CURWEN

The red flags came early. Selling offshore leases for oil drilling in the middle of shipping lanes seemed reckless. Building a complex of oil platforms just off the Orange County coast was an invitation to disaster.

But the green light was given, and in the late 1970s, Shell Oil Co. proceeded, eventually raising three towering edifices in the middle of a nautical highway leading to what are now two of the busiest ports in the world.

Maritime officials tried to stop construction of the platforms, according to documents reviewed by The Times. They raised warnings of possible disaster in the event that a ship collided with one of them and ignited the oil and hydrocarbons coursing through a circuit of wells and pipes.

The president of the Pacific Merchant Shipping Assn. called Shell Oil Co.'s plan an "unacceptable hazard to navigation."

"They want to put these platforms on the front porch of the busiest port in the West," Philip Steinberg said at a public hearing. "We'd end up with a veritable [See Platforms, A12]

### De-oiled birds get a send-off in O.C.

Wildlife officials release first of the 28 winged survivors they collected, cleaned. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

## L.A. council member indicted

Mark Ridley-Thomas and former USC dean face federal charges for alleged kickbacks.

BY MICHAEL FINNEGAN, MATT HAMILTON AND HARRIET RYAN

L.A. City Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas was indicted Wednesday on federal charges that he took bribes from a USC dean in exchange for directing millions of dollars in public funding to the university when he was on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

Ridley-Thomas is accused of conspiring with Marilyn Louise Flynn, who at the time was dean of the USC School of Social Work, to steer county money to the university in return for admitting his son Sebastian into the graduate school with a full-tuition [See Councilman, A6]

### Lopez: Scandal at City Hall again

Charges against Ridley-Thomas could hinder the fight against L.A. homelessness. **CALIFORNIA, B1**



## Requests to probe police flood Justice Department

Amid post-Trump thaw, agency overwhelmed by allegations of misconduct

BY DAVID NAKAMURA

Civil rights leaders in Kansas City, Mo., hoped to win the Justice Department's attention in July when they unveiled a 15-page letter calling for a federal investigation into alleged excessive force by the city's police department.

They described an urgent need for intervention at a time when police in other jurisdictions, including Minneapolis and Louisville, have drawn greater scrutiny. But a line is forming rapidly at the Justice Department's door. Last week, activists a few miles west — in Kansas City, Kan. — published a full-page advertisement in The Washington Post demanding a federal probe into the separate police agency that patrols their city.

"This is more than just a cry for help from the middle of America," they wrote in the ad addressed to Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta, who oversees the civil litigating divisions.

The competing missives from opposite sides of the Missouri River illustrate the challenge for Justice officials as they try to respond to mounting calls for police accountability sparked by social-justice protests last year. After facing resistance from the Trump administration, which viewed intervention into local policing as federal overreach, elected officials and community activists across the country are flooding the Biden administration with pleas for help.

Hampered by limited resources — and facing growing caseloads on voting rights, hate crimes and other civil rights issues — Justice officials said they are working to sort through the requests and respond. On Wednesday, federal authorities announced an investigation into the Texas Juvenile Justice Department over abuse allegations.

SEE POLICE ON A9

Texas: Youth detention centers face federal investigation. A8



Tourists visit Tenglong Cave, an extensive cave system in Enshi in China's Hubei province. Bat-filled caves and the now-shuttered wildlife farms near them may offer clues to the coronavirus's origins.

## Hubei caves, farms may be key to uncovering virus's origins

BY MICHAEL STANDAERT AND EVA DOU

ENSHI, CHINA — Hundreds of caves are spread throughout the mountains of Enshi prefecture, an agricultural corner of China's Hubei province. The most majestic, Tenglong, or "flying dragon," is one of China's largest karst cave systems, spanning 37 miles of passages that contain numerous bats.

Nearby are small farms that

collectively housed hundreds of thousands of wild mammals such as civets, ferret badgers and raccoon dogs before the pandemic, farm licenses show — animals that scientists say can be intermediate hosts for viruses to cross over from bats to humans.

It is areas such as Enshi that the World Health Organization has said may offer key details in the search for the origins of the coronavirus.

And on Wednesday, the WHO announced another attempt to piece together the puzzle. It named 26 scientists — from China, the United States and 24 other nations — to a new advisory body devoted to understanding the origins of the coronavirus and other potential future outbreaks.

SEE HUBEI ON A12

WHO inquiry: Advisory group will explore outbreak's source. A13

## Biden tested as supply backlogs, inflation persist

VIRUS-DRIVEN WOES ADD TO POLITICAL PERIL

Shortages, surging prices overshadow rising wages

BY DAVID J. LYNCH AND RACHEL SIEGEL

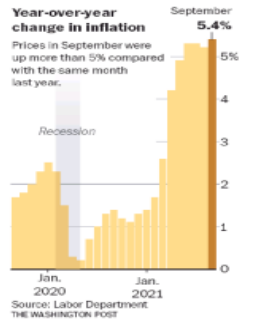
Rising prices, product shortages and labor market tumult are making for a surprisingly rocky economic recovery, testing the political skills of the Biden White House little more than one year before the midterm congressional elections.

Administration officials are confronting an unfamiliar economic landscape of strong growth and rising wages, even as the highest inflation in 13 years and persistent problems moving goods from overseas factories to American doorsteps spark public unease. The latest monthly employment report, which showed the smallest job growth since January, also rattled Democrats' nerves.

More than 18 months into the pandemic, thorny economic challenges that directly touch voters represent political peril for a president with sagging public approval ratings.

On Wednesday, President Biden moved to address costly traffic jams in the nation's freight-moving system, convening a virtual industry roundtable and speaking at the White House. He announced that the Port of Los Angeles would "begin operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week" in a bid to clear bottlenecks.

The past week's government reports showing inflation running at an annual 5.4 percent pace and a labor market in unusual turmoil offered a head-snapping portrait of a \$21 trillion



5.9% rise: Social Security aid to see biggest boost since 1982. A17

Helping port: Biden announces longer hours to ease a crunch. A20

economy trying to regain its footing. Even as payroll growth slowed to its lowest monthly total since late last year, Americans empowered by greater leverage quit their jobs at a record pace, according to the Labor Department.

The news offered further evidence that the pandemic has triggered economic aftershocks that policymakers are struggling to understand, let alone quell.

"There's not an off-the-shelf playbook for this kind of situation. I think they're figuring it out."

SEE INFLATION ON A20

## Signs of an undercount of Black Americans

Analyses warn of census woes that could hurt minority communities

BY TARA BAHRAPOUR

Two new analyses suggest the 2020 Census may have undercounted Black people at a significantly higher rate than usual, raising concerns about whether minority communities could lose out on fair representation and funding over the next 10 years.

The Census Bureau has not yet released data that would allow comparisons of 2020 Census results with earlier estimates to assess the survey's accuracy. But a simulation comparing the bureau's estimates for 2020 with results from 2010 indicates that the country's Black population may have been undercounted at a rate up to three times as high as in 2010. And a second report sug-

gests the undercount of Black children could be up to 10 times as high as a decade ago.

The findings align with concerns that some jurisdictions and civil rights advocates have had about lower-than-expected totals in the 2020 Census.

If the analysis holds up, that means the 2020 Census count of people who identified as Black alone could be approximately 2 million lower than it should be.

The undercount could have profound implications for a wide array of services that are based on population counts, including Medicaid and Medicare, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), highway planning and construction, Section 8 housing vouchers and Head Start.

"This might be our greatest undercount since 1960, or 1950," said Marc Morial, president and chief executive of the National Urban League, which sued the bureau last year to stop the count from ending early.

SEE CENSUS ON A22

## U.S. kids are back in school. It's working — but it's weird.

BY HANNAH NATANSON, KIM MUELLER AND STEVEN BURKHOLDER

On a recent morning in October, social studies teacher Randy Martin swept back his long hair, adjusted his mask and posed a question to the roomful of masked eighth-graders facing him in a classroom tucked among the foothills of New Mexico's Sandia Mountains.

"Who," he said, "thinks it's worth being back at in-person school?"

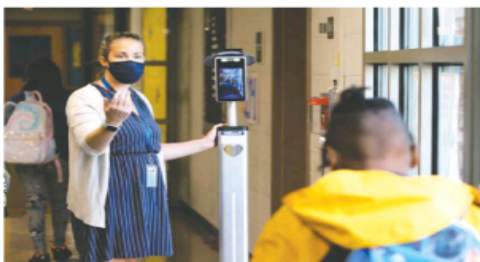
Sixteen hands shot up: the majority of Martin's 25-person class at Desert Ridge Middle School in Albuquerque. The class then launched into a lengthy argument over the merits of bricks-and-mortar vs. virtual schooling

— par for the course on a "Modern Monday" a day that Martin always sets aside for debating current events.

In that moment, Martin and his middle-schoolers seemed confident that the world of virtual learning was a world they had left behind. And for the vast majority of American schoolchildren in this unusual academic year, that's true — at least for now.

More than a month into the 2020-2021 school year — despite a surge in coronavirus cases and bitter political fights over vaccine and mask mandates — most American schoolchildren are back in the classroom. And while the political battles may continue, it looks like the students are there to stay.

SEE SCHOOL ON A6



A staffer at Bielefeld Elementary School in Middletown, Conn., checks students' temperatures as they arrive for the day. Kids are largely in classrooms despite various challenges and precautions.

## IN THE NEWS



Voyage to space: Actor William Shatner became the latest — and the oldest — person to join the ranks of civilian astronaut. A17

Jousting over Jan. 6: A House committee has subpoenaed a Trump-era official as tensions rise over planned depositions this week. A3

THE NATION  
Justice Department lawyers and legal scholars said allowing Texas's abortion ban to stand offers a path for states to craft laws that infringe on other constitutional rights. A4

Prominent Democrats from across the country are mobilizing for Terry McAuliffe in the high-stakes Virginia governor's race. A4  
Johnson & Johnson coronavirus vaccine recipients may need a booster shot but could get even greater protection if it comes from a different vaccine tech-

nology, according to new data. A21  
A Colorado judge barred a county clerk who embraced debunked claims about voter fraud from overseeing elections. A22

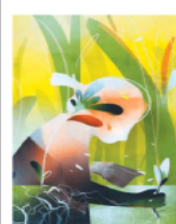
THE WORLD  
Hong Kong's statue memorializing those killed in the Tiananmen Square massacre may soon be removed. A10  
Officials from the United States and the Middle East discussed alternatives for dealing with Iran's nuclear program should stalled diplomatic efforts fail. A14

THE ECONOMY  
Some useful facts about the "Great Resignation" and whether you should quit your job, too. A19  
Hollywood production workers announced plans to strike Monday unless they win better job conditions. A19

THE REGION  
A judge found D.C. penal officials in contempt of court, citing concerns about the rights of detainees linked to the Jan. 6 Capitol attack. B1  
In a debate, the two major candidates for Virginia attorney general framed each other as too extreme for mainstream voters. B1

Officials showed off the buildings that will house new security checkpoints at Reagan National Airport. B1  
Two D.C. Council members, Robert C. White Jr. and Trayon White Sr., announced plans to run for mayor, in a probable primary challenge to incumbent Muriel E. Bowser. B1  
The NTSB began its investigation into Tuesday's Metro train derailment near Arlington Cemetery. B1  
Howard University students frustrated by housing concerns and other issues continued a day-plus-long occupation of a campus building. B6

## INSIDE



LOCAL LIVING  
Fresh air therapy: Ecotherapy encourages structured, purposeful interactions with nature that can help improve children's mental health.

STYLE  
Where it hurts: Michael Keaton tells why he's playing a doctor in a mining town who was duped by Purdue Pharma in "Dopesick." C1

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## La Argentina va por otro paso hacia Qatar

Con Cuti Romero, emblema de los nuevos tiempos, la selección recibirá desde las 20.30 a Perú, en el Monumental, por las eliminatorias sudamericanas. Deportes



## BAPHOTO VUELVE A LA PRESENCIALIDAD EN UNA SEDE NUEVA

—cultura

Es la primera feria de arte que retoma su formato desde la pandemia; en Casa Basavilbaso, en Retiro, recibirá al público hasta el domingo. Página 28

## EL CAPITÁN KIRK, MÁS CERCA DE LAS ESTRELLAS QUE NUNCA

—el mundo

A los 90 años, el actor William Shatner, protagonista de *Star Trek*, viajó al espacio en un cohete de Blue Origin, la firma aeroespacial de Jeff Bezos. Página 4

# LA NACION

JUEVES 14 DE OCTUBRE DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

## Malestar en las empresas por el congelamiento de más de 1200 productos

**CONTROL.** La medida regirá hasta el 7 de enero; dudan de que sea eficaz para contener la inflación

El nuevo secretario de Comercio Interior, Roberto Feletti, debutó ayer con el anuncio de un congelamiento de precios, hasta el 7 de enero próximo, de una canasta de 1247 productos de primera necesidad. La lista, según trascendió, incluye a las principales compañías de consumo masivo y sus presentaciones más populares.

A diferencia de otros planes oficiales que tenían presencia de productores pymes y de segundas marcas, la nueva canasta —una suerte de Precios Cuidados recargado— está concentrada en los grandes proveedores de los supermercados.

El programa fue presentado como un acuerdo voluntario con las compañías. No obstante, empresa-

rios y ejecutivos que participaron del encuentro con Feletti y su equipo contaron, ante la consulta de LA NACION, que la idea fue impuesta por los funcionarios, con amabilidad, pero con firmeza. Por esa razón, el clima en las empresas era ayer de malestar y escepticismo respecto de que esta sea la solución para contener la inflación. Página 14

### EL ANÁLISIS

## Del almuerzo al regreso a IDEA

José Del Río

Página 7

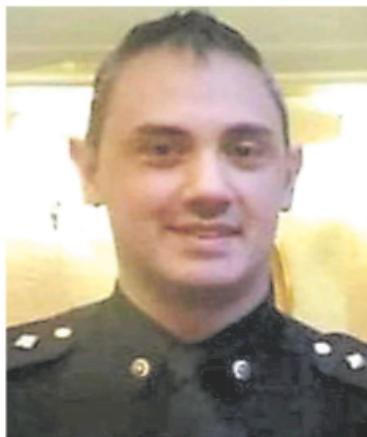
### EL ESCENARIO

## La dificultad para distinguir el bien del mal

Carlos Pagni

—LANACION—

Con el ataque de Aníbal Fernández contra Nik quedó expuesto un fenómeno rutinario. Pero también salieron a la luz algunos rasgos novedosos que adquirió el elenco oficial desde su derrota en las primarias. Un equipo dominado por la rivalidad interna, la desconfianza mutua y, por lo tanto, por obsesivos controles de unos sobre otros. La agresión contra el humorista revivió la memoria sobre peculiaridades muy conocidas del ministro de Seguridad. No solo sus ataques de furia. Continúa en la página 10



**RODRIGO BECKER**, 41 años.  
Lo balearon por una moto en Tres de Febrero



**LUCAS CANCINO**, 17 años.  
Lo apuñalaron por una bicicleta en Quilmes



**GONZALO REFI**, 32 años.  
Simularon una compra y lo mataron en Lanús

## Conurbano violento: conmoción por tres asesinatos en 12 horas

**INSEGURIDAD.** Un adolescente de 17 años, un subcomisario y un comerciante resultaron muertos en asaltos

Tres víctimas mortales en robos registrados en un lapso de apenas 12 horas expusieron la extrema violencia del delito en el conurbano bonaerense. Lucas Cancino, un estudiante, de 17 años; Rodrigo Becker, subcomisario de la Policía de la Ciudad, de 41 años, y Gonzalo Refi, comerciante, de 32 años, mu-

rieron por ataques callejeros de ladrones en Quilmes, Tres de Febrero y Lanús, respectivamente, en una ola de crímenes que causó una fuerte conmoción social.

Por la muerte del adolescente se movilizaron vecinos, profesores y compañeros de estudios en reclamo de justicia y mayor presencia

policial en una zona golpeada cotidianamente por delincuentes. Dos sospechosos, de 19 y 20 años, fueron detenidos por ese crimen, y el ministro de Seguridad bonaerense, Sergio Berni, señaló que ambos habían sido detenidos en los últimos meses, pero liberados pocos días después por decisión judicial. Página 24

### EL ESCENARIO

Fernando Rodríguez

La delincuencia arrasa y la política juega a otra cosa

Página 25

## El sector empresario ve una "crisis de confianza"

**COLOQUIO.** "Una profunda crisis de confianza" que limita la acción del sector privado y un "desorden macroeconómico" que frena inversiones e impide generar empleo y crecer fueron las advertencias de los empresarios reunidos ayer en IDEA. Página 16

Larreta propuso un "acuerdo con el 70% del sistema político"

Página 6

## Francisco aprobó la beatificación de Juan Pablo I

**VATICANO.** Le atribuyen la curación de una chica argentina en 2011

Página 3





Del 16 al 23 de octubre, llega la mayor feria de la construcción, remodelación y decoración!

**Hallan proyectiles de Dimabel en atentado en PJC y destituyen a su director**

## No para guerra narco y Abdo sigue dando tiempo a Giuzzio

En un nuevo ataque hirieron a un concejal de Capitán Bado. Ya suman 11 las muertes en 13 días. Ministro intenta justificar la creciente ola de violencia que se vive en las zonas fronterizas.

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Su caso sigue sin tener un fiscal  
**Nenecho ahora reclama pruebas de dudosas compras en pandemia**

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Tercera dosis para población en riesgo  
**Salud vacunará contra Covid a los menores de entre 12 y 17 años**

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Estrella de la serie *Star Trek*  
**El Capitán Kirk, del Enterprise, volvió al espacio**

PÁGINA 42



**Migrantes alemanes redescubren Colonias Unidas**

Itapúa. Hohennau. Obligado y Bella Vista reciben a nuevos residentes que se dedican a varias labores.

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**Juicio a RGD se reanuda en medio de suspicacias**

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Víctimas colaterales en las rupturas  
**Niños son usados como un botín en juicios conyugales**

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



**ART DE VIVRE**  
LE GOLF S'OUVRE  
À UN NOUVEAU PUBLIC  
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**LE FIGARO LITTÉRAIRE**  
ROALD DAHL, L'AUTRE VISAGE  
DU CÉLÈBRE ÉCRIVAIN  
POUR LA JEUNESSE NOTRE SUPPLÉMENT



IVG

La majorité veut  
avancer contre  
l'avis de Macron

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ENTRETIEN

Jacob : « Édouard  
Philippe a mis le feu  
à la France » PAGE 6

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La Pologne poursuit  
son bras de fer  
avec Bruxelles PAGE 9

SANTÉ

L'OMS a réduit  
les seuils requis  
pour les polluants  
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TOUR DE FRANCE

Dans les secrets  
de fabrication  
de la carte

aux trésors PAGE 14

**CHAMPS LIBRES**

- En Australie, la dure rétrocession de leurs terres aux Aborigènes
- Les chroniques de Vincent Trémolet de Villers, de Mathieu Laine et de Luc Ferry
- Le tête à tête de Charles Jaigu
- La tribune de Michel Bernard
- L'analyse de François Aubel

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FIGARO OUI  
FIGARO NON

**Réponses à la question  
de mercredi :**  
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un candidat unique  
la droite sera présente  
au second tour  
de la présidentielle ?

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# Comment Poutine pousse ses mercenaires en Afrique



Après la Libye, le Soudan ou la Centrafrique, l'armée privée du groupe russe Wagner a des visées sur le Mali. La France, qui lutte depuis 2013 contre les djihadistes à travers l'opération Barkhane, tente de s'opposer à cette ingérence de Moscou. PAGES 2 À 4 ET L'EDITORIAL

WAGNER TALE/ANADOLU AGENCY VIA AFP

## La France face au chantage migratoire des talibans

En évoquant le risque d'une « migration économique pour fuir le pays », le ministre afghan des Affaires étrangères, Amir Khan Muttaqi, n'hésite pas à brandir l'arme migratoire pour obtenir la levée des sanctions qui frappent son pays depuis la prise de

Kaboul. Une menace prise très au sérieux par la France, où l'on compte 60 000 Afghans envier. L'Office français de l'immigration s'efforce tant bien que mal d'accueillir ces candidats à l'asile. PAGES 12 ET 13



## La grande panne du secteur automobile

Les ventes de voitures neuves sont en chute libre en France comme dans de nombreux pays. Les constructeurs sont confrontés à une pénurie de puces électroniques qui paralyse la production et retarde les livraisons. Mais les

ménages sont aussi plus réticents à acheter des véhicules neufs, dont le prix ne cesse d'augmenter. Ils se reportent en masse sur le marché de l'occasion, qui s'industrialise de plus en plus. PAGES 22 ET 23

ÉDITORIAL par Philippe Gélie pgelie@lefigaro.fr

## Wagner contre Sisyphe

O n a en tête ces vieux films de barbouzes où des Occidentaux accablés de chaleur comptent avec des militaires africains sous des ventilateurs poussifs. La vérité d'aujourd'hui ne paraît pas si éloignée de ces clichés quand des mercenaires russes affilés à Poutine pointent leur nez au Mali pour y prendre des parts de marché aux premiers échos de tensions avec la France. Pour les soldats de fortune du groupe Wagner, c'est un nouveau filon à exploiter, à l'instar d'une dizaine d'autres sur le continent africain. Pour Moscou, qui tire les ficelles, c'est un moyen furtif et économique d'avancer ses pions sur ce terrain que l'URSS disputait déjà aux Européens. Pour les contingents français déployés au Sahel depuis 2013 contre Daech et al-Qaïda, c'est avant tout une mission de Sisyphe où il n'y a rien à gagner, fors l'honneur, et où cinquante-sept des leurs ont perdu la vie.

La France a trop de soucis au Mali pour ne pas voir d'un mauvais œil l'arrivée de ces mercenaires accusés d'exactions presque partout où ils sont passés, de l'Ukraine à la Syrie, de la Libye à la République centrafricaine. Alors que Paris cherche à redimensionner l'opération

Barkhane en réduisant de moitié sa présence d'ici à 2023, il y a de quoi s'impacienter de l'inertie des dirigeants de Bamako, plus occupés à enchaîner les putschs militaires qu'à restaurer la présence de l'État dans les territoires abandonnés aux djihadistes. Pour avoir épinglé leur légitimité « démocratiquement nulle », Emmanuel Macron s'est encore fait des amis - la marque de sa diplomatie ces temps-ci.

**La France a assez de soucis au Mali sans les mercenaires russes**

jour les ordres d'un Russe qui se dirait dépositaire de l'autorité de la junte ? Peut-on croire qu'un millier de Rambo viendraient plus facilement à bout de cette guerre du désert ? Une armée cherche la victoire, un groupe privé veut une rente. À raison de 10 millions d'euros par mois, il ne manquerait plus que Wagner soit indirectement payé par l'aide occidentale, qui porte le Mali à bout de bras. Le choix est posé : eux ou nous. ■

Mais la France a raison de dire que la présence de Wagner serait « incompatible » avec celle de nos soldats.

Imagine-t-on ceux-ci subir un jour les ordres d'un Russe qui se dirait dépositaire de l'autorité de la junte ? Peut-on croire qu'un millier de Rambo viendraient plus facilement à bout de cette guerre du désert ? Une armée cherche la victoire, un groupe privé veut une rente. À raison de 10 millions d'euros par mois, il ne manquerait plus que Wagner soit indirectement payé par l'aide occidentale, qui porte le Mali à bout de bras. Le choix est posé : eux ou nous. ■

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**'We were shunned like lava'**  
**Tommie Smith on life after 1968**



→ G2

**Queen of the Channel**

Chloë McCardel makes 44th crossing

→ News Page 23



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# EU braces for PM's response after offering deal on Northern Ireland

Fears Johnson will reject Brussels compromise over customs checks

**Daniel Boffey**  
**Jennifer Rankin** *Brussels*

The EU will scrap 80% of checks on foods entering Northern Ireland from Britain but Brussels was last night "preparing for the worst" amid signs Boris Johnson is set to reject the offer.

Maroš Šefčovič, the EU's Brexit commissioner, also announced that customs checks on manufactured goods would be halved as part of a significant concession to ease post-Brexit border problems.

He said he would meet David Frost, his UK counterpart who has demanded a scrapping of the entire Northern Ireland protocol, tomorrow as he sought to bring an end to a months-long tussle.

"I hope with a constructive spirit we indeed could be in the home stretch, and I would be very happy

if we can start the new year with new agreements," Šefčovič told a press conference in Brussels as he presented four papers on his "new model" for the protocol.

An appeal was made for pragmatism from Johnson, with Šefčovič insisting that he remained positive. But the chances of a compromise appeared low.

Frost told the House of Lords he did not have any "red lines" going into the new negotiation with the European commission but repeated his belief that a new protocol should

**'I think we should really put aside this business of red lines'**

**Maroš Šefčovič**  
 European Commission

be agreed without a role for the European court of justice (ECJ) as an arbiter of EU law in Northern Ireland. He told peers that the question of the UK's sovereignty over Northern

Ireland was "fundamental". A three-week deadline for talks on the EU's new proposals has been set. But Šefčovič was adamant the EU would not renegotiate the fundamentals of the protocol, which keeps Northern Ireland within the single market, policed by the ECJ, and draws a customs border down the Irish Sea.

Šefčovič said: "It's very clear that we cannot have access to the single market without the supervision of the ECJ. But I think that we should really put aside this business of the red lines, the business

## Man kills 5 with bow and arrow in Norway

**Jon Henley**

At least five people have been killed and two others injured in the Norwegian town of Kongsberg by a man armed with a bow and arrow, police said.

Øyvind Aas, the police chief in the town, which is about 40 miles south-west of the capital, Oslo, told a press conference last night that the attacker had been arrested and "according to our information, is the only person implicated".

Aas said there had been "a confrontation" between officers and the assailant, but he did not elaborate. Two people were in intensive care, including an off-duty police officer.

Aas declined to comment on press reports that an officer had been shot in the back. He said the attacks happened over "a large area" of the town and several crime scenes were involved.

The acting prime minister of Norway, Erna Solberg, described reports of the



PHOTOGRAPH BY BLUE ORIGIN

## To oldly go: Shatner's joy at real-life space mission

William Shatner said he was 'overwhelmed' as he returned to Earth after an 11-minute trip to space. At 90, Shatner, who played Captain Kirk in Star Trek, became the world's oldest astronaut. **News Page 4** →