

## What's News

## Business &amp; Finance

**P**rofessional degrees such as dentistry and veterinary medicine are leaving many students with immense college debt, threatening the outlook for fields that provide essential public services. **A1**

◆ **Stocks fell** in a volatile session, dragged down by news that the Omicron variant was detected in the U.S. The S&P 500, Dow and Nasdaq lost 1.2%, 1.3% and 1.8%, respectively. **B1**

◆ **MLB team owners** and the players' union ended talks Wednesday without reaching a new collective bargaining agreement, setting the stage for a possible lockout. **A16**

◆ **Americans are applying** for credit cards at a rate not seen since before the pandemic, according to recent data from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. **B1**

◆ **Exxon Mobil said** it would maintain a conservative budget for the next five years, as the outlook for oil and gas demand remains murky. **B1**

◆ **Square, the financial-services company** co-founded and led by former Twitter chief Dorsey, is changing its corporate name to Block. **B4**

◆ **WeWork said** in a securities filing it would restate several quarters of its results and that management has concluded there was a material weakness in its internal control. **B3**

◆ **Disney's board elected** Susan Arnold as its new chairman, succeeding Robert Iger, who is set to depart later this month. **B2**

◆ **Macau's casinos** have shut down the VIP rooms of the gambling hub's largest junket operator. **B1**

## World-Wide

◆ **The Supreme Court's** conservative majority sharply questioned the propriety of constitutional protections for abortion rights dating back almost five decades as the justices heard arguments over the most significant abortion case in a generation. **A1**

◆ **The first known case** of the Omicron variant in the U.S. was identified in a San Francisco resident who recently returned from South Africa, officials said. **A1**

◆ **Newly reported cases** of Covid-19 almost doubled Wednesday in South Africa, the country with the highest number of identified cases of the new variant. **A10**

◆ **The WTA said** it would halt its tournaments in China because it isn't satisfied that tennis player Peng Shuai is safe following an allegation of sexual assault against a retired government official. **A1**

◆ **The House committee** probing the attack on the U.S. Capitol voted to recommend holding former Justice Department official Jeffrey Clark in criminal contempt. **A6**

◆ **U.S. lawmakers worked** to reach an agreement on a short-term spending patch to avoid a potential partial government shutdown. **A4**

◆ **Russia ordered** U.S. Embassy staff who have been in Moscow for more than three years to leave the country by Jan. 31. **A10**

◆ **Californians may face** new water restrictions as the state prepares to virtually eliminate the water it supplies to local communities amid an unrelenting drought. **A3**

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## Ash Engulfs Island as Eruption Shows No Sign of Relenting



**BURIED:** A fissure is seen next to a house covered with volcanic ash on La Palma, part of Spain's Canary Islands, on Wednesday. Thousands of residents have been displaced since the eruption began 10 weeks ago as lava continues to flow. **A10**

## First Case of Omicron in U.S. Is Detected in San Francisco

By BETSY MCKAY

The first known case of the Omicron variant in the U.S. was identified in a San Francisco resident who recently returned from South Africa, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and California health officials said.

The CDC said on Wednesday that the fully vaccinated traveler, who returned to California on Nov. 22, has mild Covid-19 symptoms that are improving. The person has been self-quarantining since testing positive on Monday, and all known contacts have so far tested negative for the variant, health officials said.

The confirmed U.S. case raises the number of countries where Omicron has been identified to at least 24 on five continents since scientists in South Africa first identified it in late November. The World Health Organization days later designated it a variant of concern, formally alerting health authorities around the world to the extra risks the new strain appears to carry.

Newly reported Covid-19 cases in South Africa almost doubled from Tuesday to 8,561. Officials didn't specify which variant had caused the

new cases, but other data showed that Omicron had been identified in every test sample sequenced last week from the hot spot around the major cities of Johannesburg and Pretoria.

Please turn to page A10

◆ **U.S. Omicron variant case** hits stocks... **B1**  
◆ **Covid-19 nearly doubles** in South Africa... **A10**

## Bicycle Makers Offer Clues On the Persistence of Inflation

Higher component costs and intense demand mean increases are coming

By JASON DOUGLAS

For a glimpse at why inflationary pressures aren't likely to ease anytime soon, consider the bicycle.

Bike prices in the U.S. and Europe rose sharply at the start of the pandemic because of booming consumer spending and snarls in global supply chains that meant long delays and higher costs for manufacturers.

Now, manufacturers are working on building bikes for 2022 in a continuing environment of economic uncertainty—with more questions added recently by the emergence of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus. Today's rampant demand and strangled supply are already pushing next year's prices higher.

"The cost of our product is not going down," says Richard Thorpe, chief executive of Karbon Kinetics Ltd., which sells Gocycle electric bikes world-wide from its base in Chessington, southern England. "If that is inflation, I wouldn't call it transitory."

Mr. Thorpe says that beginning Jan. 1, he plans to increase the prices of his range of folding e-bikes by up to 25%. The company's latest models will cost between \$4,999 and \$6,999, depending on the specification, compared with \$3,999 and \$5,999 in 2021.

The price increase is needed to cover the higher costs of components and shipping, Mr. Thorpe says.

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◆ **Global inflation expected to endure**... **A2**

## Suits, Blazers—Who Wore This Stuff?

Closet purges reveal relics from another life

By ANNE MARIE CHAKER

Erin Fincher is having a reckoning—with her closet.

In the nearly two years since the pandemic started, she has narrowed her social interactions, spent months holed up in leggings and sweatpants, had a baby and reassessed her priorities. As she looks ahead to the New Year and prepares to go back to the office a few times a week, she realizes that much

## Women's Tennis Pulls Tournaments in China

By JOSHUA ROBINSON

The Women's Tennis Association said Wednesday that it would halt all of its tournaments in China because it isn't satisfied that Chinese tennis player Peng Shuai is safe following an allegation of sexual assault against a retired senior government official made last month on her verified social-media account.

Though the decision could cost women's tennis hundreds of millions of dollars in future revenue, WTA Chief Executive Steve Simon said he would willingly cut off one of the sport's largest business partners until Ms. Peng's status was clarified.

Other sports organizations, such as the National Basket-

ball Association and soccer's English Premier League, have previously found themselves in conflict with China over various matters. But the WTA's move to suspend the nine tournaments it has scheduled there for next year appears to be unprecedented in global sports.

The break comes two months before the sports world's attention turns to Beijing for the Winter Olympic Games, an event for which the White House has considered a diplomatic boycott in recent weeks.

Chinese officials have been provided the opportunity to cease this censorship, verifiably prove that Peng is free and able to speak without interference or intimidation, and

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## Shooting Suspect Is Charged



A makeshift memorial honors the four victims killed at Oxford High School in Michigan. Police said the 15-year-old suspect opened fire hours after a meeting with school officials. **A3**

## Debt Hamstrings New Professionals

By REBECCA SMITH AND ANDREA FULLER

Professional degrees like dentistry and veterinary medicine are leaving many students with immense college debt, threatening the outlook for fields that provide essential public services, according to a Wall Street Journal analysis of federal data.

The culprits span graduate programs at big state schools, for-profit colleges and some of the U.S.'s elite private universities.

Sara Jastrebski finished her veterinary studies at the University of Pennsylvania in May with about \$400,000 in student debt, including more than \$30,000 in loans from prior

studies elsewhere. Now working as an associate veterinarian for about \$100,000 a year, Dr. Jastrebski, 29 years old, said she loves being a vet but is haunted by the tremendous cost of her education. "It doesn't dominate my thoughts, but it's always there," she said.

In addition to programs for veterinarians and dentists, chiropractic medicine, physical therapy and optometry produced graduates with some of the worst combinations of high debt and modest beginning paychecks, according to newly released data from the U.S. Department of Education.

Students pursuing professional programs can take out

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## Taking on Omicron

Bringing a baseball bat to a knife fight can work — ANJANA AHUJA, PAGE 17

## Talent war

Hedge funds offer big money to win top traders — COMPANIES, PAGE 9

## Jurassic Park

Why the London stock market is a laggard — PAUL MARSHALL, PAGE 11

## Dividing line

### Judges weigh abortions ban

Anti-abortion protesters demonstrate in front of the US Supreme Court in Washington yesterday as the court began hearing the biggest challenge to abortion rights in a generation.

The state of Mississippi is seeking to overturn the Roe vs Wade decision that legalised the procedure across the US five decades ago, saying the issue should be left to individual states to decide.

As oral arguments began, conservative justices on the court, who outnumber liberals by six to three, indicated that they could be open to new curbs. At issue is a 2018 Mississippi law that bans abortions after 15 weeks. Lower courts blocked the ban, deeming it unconstitutional. A ruling is expected by next June. Full story page 2



Jose Luis Magana/UP

### Briefing

► **Exxon sets broader emissions goals**  
The US energy supermajor has broadened goals to reduce the carbon dioxide released with the oil it pumps, applying them across its operations but avoiding the deeper cuts of Europe rivals. — PAGE 6

► **Abe warns over China attack on Taiwan**  
A Chinese attack on Taiwan would be an emergency for Japan and for its US alliance, former PM Shinzo Abe has warned, hinting that it could meet the conditions for Tokyo's use of military force. — PAGE 4

► **IEA wants quicker shift to renewables**  
A record amount of renewable electricity was added to energy systems globally in 2021 but it is only about half of what is needed to be on track to reach net zero emissions by 2050, the IEA has said. — PAGE 2

► **Loeb wins crucial vote over UK rebels**  
The US-based activist has scored a victory in his battle with rebel investors at his London-listed investment group, winning a key shareholder vote amid disquiet over fund valuations. — PAGE 6

► **Omicron will fuel inflation, OECD warns**  
The new variant threatens to intensify imbalances that are slowing growth and raising costs, the OECD said as it significantly raised inflation forecasts from three months ago. — REPORTS, PAGE 3; FT VIEW, PAGE 16

► **Seedrs acquired by US investment group**  
The UK crowd-funding group is being bought by US start-up Republic just months after it warned that a block on its merger with a local rival would thwart Britain's ability to create tech champions. — PAGE 8

► **Turkey intervenes to prop up falling lira**  
Turkey announced a return to a policy of intervening in the currency markets to try to steady the tumbling lira, despite earlier commitments not to do so and limited forex reserves. — PAGE 10; LETTERS, PAGE 16

# US delays deal to lift Trump-era UK steel tariffs over N Ireland fears

◆ Washington warns against post-Brexit changes ◆ Johnson threat to alter trade protocol

AME WILLIAMS — WASHINGTON  
ANDY BOUNDS — BRUSSELS

The US is delaying a deal to remove Trump-era tariffs on UK steel and aluminium because of Washington's fears over London's threats to change post-Brexit trading rules in Northern Ireland.

Brussels and Washington have repeatedly warned London that unilaterally changing the EU-UK accord that sealed Britain's exit from the bloc in 2020 could threaten peace on the island of Ireland.

In a communication seen by the Financial Times, a US commerce department official stated that talks with the UK on easing metals tariffs could not move ahead.

The official cited US concerns at UK threats to trigger Article 16, a safeguard

clause in the Northern Ireland protocol that overrides part of the UK's exit with the EU and would suspend checks on goods travelling to Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK.

Washington has informed the UK of the reason for the hold-up, the communication said. Three people familiar with the matter also said that talks were stuck after pressure from Congress over the UK's threats to trigger the clause.

Boris Johnson's government has said it would invoke Article 16 if a deal was not struck with Brussels to ease what it says are unworkable curbs on trade between Great Britain and Northern Ireland imposed by the protocol. Despite recent signs that the UK has softened its stance, Downing Street insists that the option remains on the table.

The EU and US agreed to suspend tariffs on billions of dollars of steel and aluminium in October. The deal provides relief from Trump-era tariffs of 25 per cent on steel and 10 per cent on aluminium to European manufacturers but leaves UK steelmakers at a disadvantage because they still face steep duties on exports to the US. UK retaliatory duties on US bourbon whiskey and other products have also remained.

Martha Dalton, a whiskey importer in the UK who co-founded the Bourbon Alliance, said that her group's members were "deeply concerned by the lack of movement on the... negotiations". "We were optimistic that the brokering of a deal between the US and EU would lead the way for some positive news."

Under the Brexit deal, Northern Ire-



Brussels and the US agreed in October to suspend tariffs on billions of dollars of steel and aluminium

land remained in the EU single market for goods to prevent a trade border on the island of Ireland. Instead, all goods from Great Britain into Northern Ireland must conform to EU rules.

The EU has suggested easing controls but London says that the proposals do not go far enough and has threatened to trigger Article 16.

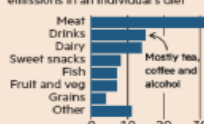
The National Security Council at the White House insisted there was "no link" between the talks and the UK's position on the Northern Ireland protocol. The US commerce department declined to comment on the communication seen by the FT.

The UK trade department said there was no connection "with this particular issue and the Northern Ireland protocol". Robert Shrimley page 17

### Datawatch

#### Food footprints

Average share of greenhouse gas emissions in an individual's diet



Source: Rippen et al, 2021

A study into the environmental impact of what we eat has found that sweet snacks and alcohol contribute to nearly a quarter of diet-related greenhouse gas emissions



## Putin hitches Arctic vision to floating nuclear plant

The world's first floating nuclear plant, moored at the remote Siberian port of Pevek, lies at the heart of Vladimir Putin's long-held plans to open up Arctic shipping and reach valuable resources in the Chukotka region, near Alaska. Rosatom, the group developing the 'Northern Sea Route', says the blockade of the Suez this year boosted its case. The NSR's shorter journeys can be competitive despite the need to hire icebreaker escorts in winter. Analysis — PAGE 2

# Diller's Match Group pays \$441m to settle lawsuit with founders of Tinder

SUJEET INDAP — NEW YORK

Match Group has agreed to pay the founders of Tinder \$441m to settle a lawsuit in which the dating app's founders claimed that the media empire run by Barry Diller had cheated them out of the fortune created from one of the hottest digital media properties in recent years.

The settlement came in the middle of a trial in New York state court, where Sean Rad and several others who built Tinder in Los Angeles a decade ago had asked a jury to award them more than \$2bn from Match and its former corporate parent, IAC.

Court proceedings over the past three weeks had featured testimony from Rad, Diller and others involved in a transaction in 2017 that bought out the founders, who collectively held a stake

equal to a fifth of Tinder, for roughly \$600m, implying an aggregate valuation of Tinder at \$3bn.

Rad and the founders later sued, arguing that the app was really worth \$13bn at the time. The founders claimed Match and IAC executives had privately acknowledged Tinder was worth far more than the buyout valuation of \$3bn and had even compared its trajectory with the likes of Uber and Twitter.

Rad and his team had initially developed Tinder at Hatch Labs, a technology incubator that IAC had sponsored to build internet start-ups. In 2014, Rad negotiated a deal in which Tinder was granted "put" options where they could sell back their interest in the company to IAC at four specified intervals.

After the first put process in 2017, where independent investment bankers valued Tinder at \$3bn, IAC immediately

merged Tinder into the broader Match company, cancelling the future put events and forcing Rad and the founders to accept the \$3bn valuation.

Match, which now includes Tinder and several other dating sites, has since seen its enterprise value soar to as much as \$50bn. Wall Street analysts ascribe the majority of that figure to Tinder.

Match and IAC had argued that Rad — who immediately sold the IAC shares his Tinder equity had converted to in 2017 — suffered from "seller's remorse", and that he had been given the chance during the valuation process to argue that Tinder was worth more.

Match, whose shares are off 14 per cent in the past month, said it would pay the settlement from its cash on hand.

Representatives for Rad declined to comment. Match declined to comment. Lex page 18

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### World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				INTEREST RATES			
	Dec 1	prev	%chg		Dec 1	prev	%chg		price	yield	chg
S&P 500	4633.28	4597.00	1.45	\$ per £	1.133	1.126	0.75	US Gov 10 yr	147.42	1.46	0.01
Nasdaq Composite	15715.62	15637.69	1.15	£ per \$	1.332	1.323	0.68	UK Gov 10 yr	0.73	0.02	
Dow Jones Ind	34842.35	34483.72	1.04	¥ per \$	0.051	0.051	0.00	Gov 10 yr	-0.35	0.01	
FTSE100	1624.56	1792.23	1.80	€ per \$	112.976	113.545	0.50	Japan Gov 10 yr	112.54	0.06	0.01
Euro Stoxx 50	4177.83	4063.06	2.82	₹ per \$	150.448	150.220	0.15	US Gov 30 yr	118.26	1.81	0.02
FTSE 100	7168.68	7099.45	1.05	SF per \$	1.043	1.042	0.01	Gov 2 yr	104.93	-0.72	0.02
FTSE All-Share	4069.19	4025.07	1.57	₹ per \$	0.082	0.080	0.25				
CAC 40	6661.87	6721.16	2.39								
Shanghai	15672.67	15180.19	3.24								
Nikkei	27056.52	27821.76	0.41								
Hong Kong	23658.92	23476.26	0.76								
MSCI World	3101.80	3195.73	-1.71								
MSCI EM	1212.42	1218.99	-0.54								
MSCI ACWI	726.53	738.18	-1.58								

Prices are latest for action Data provided by Bloomberg

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Protesters on Wednesday at the Supreme Court, where the justices weighed a challenge to a strict Mississippi law limiting abortion.

## First U.S. Case Of the Variant Is in California

This article is by Michael D. Shear, Shawn Hubler and Roni Caryn Rabin.

WASHINGTON — The Omicron coronavirus variant was reported in the United States for the first time on Wednesday in a traveler who had been in South Africa, as scientists around the world study whether the variant is more transmissible or virulent than its predecessors.

The patient, a resident of San Francisco, is in isolation, and aggressive contact tracing is underway. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a statement. The person was fully vaccinated, though without a booster shot, and was displaying mild symptoms that were improving, the agency said.

The discovery prompted the Biden administration to renew calls for everyone to get fully vaccinated and, if eligible, receive a booster. It also came as the C.D.C. asked airlines for the names and contact information of all passengers who had boarded flights bound for the United States since Nov. 29 and who had been in southern Africa in the past two weeks.

The World Health Organization has warned that the risk posed by the variant, which was first identified in South Africa on Thursday, is "very high." More than 20 countries have detected the variant.

California health officials said the state was increasing coronavirus testing at airports, focusing on arrivals from countries identified by the C.D.C. as potential sources of the variant. Gov. Gavin Newsom said.

Continued on Page A17

## Women's Tennis Suspends Play in China After a Star Is Silenced

By MATTHEW FUTTERMAN

The women's professional tennis tour announced Wednesday that it was immediately suspending all tournaments in China, including Hong Kong, in response to the disappearance from public life of the tennis star Peng Shuai after she accused a top Communist Party leader of sexual assault.

With the move, the Women's

## Omicron Erases Experts' Doubts on Third Shot

By APOORVA MANDAVILLI

As recently as last week, many public health experts were fiercely opposed to the Biden administration's campaign to roll out booster shots of the coronavirus vaccines to all American adults.

There was little scientific evidence to support extra doses for most people, the researchers said. The Omicron variant has changed all that.

Scientists do not yet know with any certainty whether the virus is easier to spread or less vulnerable to the body's immune response.

But with dozens of new mutations, the variant seems likely to evade the protection from vaccines to some significant degree.

Booster shots clearly raise anti-

### Boosters Might Offset the Advantages of an Evolving Virus

body levels, strengthening the body's defenses against infection, and may help offset whatever advantages Omicron has gained through evolution.

Many of the experts who were opposed to boosters now believe that the shots may offer the best defense against the new variant. The extra doses may slow the spread, at least, buying time for vaccine makers to develop an Omicron-specific formulation, if needed.



NOCK HAGEN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

### Mourning in Michigan

A vigil in Oxford. The school met with the suspect and his parents hours before a shooting. Page A12.

## JUSTICES INDICATE THEY WILL UPHOLD CURB ON ABORTION

### Mississippi's Ban After 15 Weeks Poses a Direct Challenge to Roe v. Wade

By ADAM LIPTAK

The Supreme Court seemed poised on Wednesday to uphold a Mississippi law that bans abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, in what would be a momentous and polarizing decision to roll back the abortion rights the court has defined over the last half century.

During sometimes tense and heated questioning in almost two hours of oral arguments, the court's six conservative justices signaled they are comfortable with the Mississippi law, even though upholding it would be flatly at odds with Roe v. Wade, the 1973 decision that established a constitutional right to abortion and prohibited states from banning the procedure before fetal viability, currently around 23 weeks.

Moving that line to 15 weeks would discard decades of precedent. Several of the conservative justices appeared ready to go further and overrule Roe entirely, letting states decide whether and when to ban abortions — an outcome that would transform regulation of abortion in 20 or more states that have been seeking to impose more restrictions and that would further inflame the long-running political and cultural divisions over the issue.

"You're arguing that the Consti-

tution is silent and, therefore, neutral on the question of abortion?" Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh asked a lawyer for Mississippi, with seeming approval. "In other words, that the Constitution is neither pro-life nor pro-choice on the question of abortion but leaves the issue for the people of the states or perhaps Congress to resolve in the democratic process?"

Until the last few years, the prospect of overruling Roe would have seemed far-fetched. But President Donald J. Trump came into office having vowed to name justices who would overrule Roe. His three appointees have reshaped the court, which now has a six-justice conservative supermajority.

The court's three liberal members said that overruling Roe soon after a change in the court's membership would damage the court's legitimacy. Indeed, Justice Sonia Sotomayor said, doing so would pose an existential threat to the court.

"Will this institution survive the stretch that this creates in the public perception that the Constitution and its reading are just political acts?" she asked.

"If people actually believe that Continued on Page A18

MIDDLE GROUND The chief justice seemed to explore whether Mississippi's law could be upheld without throwing out Roe v. Wade. PAGE A19

## How Biden Bill Extends Reach Of Health Care

This article is by Reed Abelson, Sarah Kliff, Margee Sungar-Katz and Sheryl Gay Stolberg.

WASHINGTON — Of all the "bitter disappointments" he had as president, Harry S. Truman once wrote, the "one that has troubled me most, in a personal way," was the failure to enact a national program that would assure all Americans "a full measure of opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health."

More than 75 years after Truman first proposed universal coverage, Democrats are still chasing his dream. If President Biden's social policy bill becomes law, they will make major strides toward fulfilling it.

An estimated 3.4 million Americans would gain health insurance as a result of the legislation, which passed the House last month but faces a tough road in the 50-50 Senate. Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, the majority leader, said Tuesday that his goal was to have it pass before Christmas.

The bill would expand health care access for children, make life insurance more affordable for working-age adults and improve Medicare benefits for the disabled and for older Americans. Separately, its health provisions are a "piece-meal or incremental changes," said Caroline Pearson, a senior vice president for health care at NORC at the University of Chicago, a nonpartisan research organization.

But taken together, these policies represent the biggest step toward universal coverage since the passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010.

"This is a moment of extraordinary opportunity for improving health policy and improving the

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MICHELLE GUSTAFSON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

School board debates seem unrelated to real problems.

## Schools in Bind As Bitter Feuds Cripple Board

By CAMPBELL ROBERTSON

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. — Early in the November school board meeting, a few of the departing members made farewell remarks, talking of things that they believed still need addressing: more special education programs, mental health initiatives, a program for high school students to take college classes. There was a long list, but over the past two years other things had gotten in the way.

When the meeting opened up to public comments, there was an indication of what those other things might be. Parents and other residents took turns standing before the board, speaking about Zionism, Maoism, slavery, freedom, the Holocaust, critical race theory, the illegality of mask requirements, supposed Jewish ties to organized crime and the viral falsehood that transgender students were raping people in bathrooms.

"I fight here week after week," one woman said, "to ensure that my children will never be subject to having their freedom taken

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INTERNATIONAL A4-11

### Island's Sombre Reminders

In Biak, Indonesia, collectors still find remnants of a World War II battle, including remains of G.I.s. PAGE A6

### New Vesuvius Victim Found

The discovery of a person buried in the A.D. 79 eruption could yield fresh insights on ancient Rome. PAGE A4

NATIONAL A12-25

### A Challenging Cuomo Case

Cases involving forcible touching, the criminal charge faced by former Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo of New York, are often hard to prosecute. PAGE A23

BUSINESS B1-7

### Variant's Threat to Recovery

Omicron has already curtailed travel, but its broader economic impact is likely to be known for weeks. PAGE B1

### OPEC Ponders Next Move

The cartel wants to bolster oil prices, but it also needs to factor in the release of reserves by several countries. PAGE B7



ARTS C1-8

### Staying Ahead of Her Time

A new exhibition features the works of Carrie Mae Weems, who has explored issues of identity for decades. PAGE C1

### Gen Z Is Making Its Mark

Olivia Rodrigo, Lil Nas X and others grew up on the web, admiring artists who are now their peers. PAGE C1

SPORTS B8-10

### When Pressure Is a 'Privilege'

Max Scherzer said he interpreted the Mets' financial commitment to him as a commitment to winning, and he's ready to repay the favor. PAGE B8

OBITUARIES B11-12

### Composer of Soundscapes

Alvin Lucier, 90, an influential creator of experimental music, focused on the scientific underpinnings of sound and of listeners' perceptions. PAGE B12

OPINION A26-27

### Ross Douthat

PAGE A27



THURSDAY STYLES D1-8

### An Enduring Influence

Our writers reflect on the impact that the designer Virgil Abloh, who died of cancer on Sunday, had on the world of fashion and beyond. PAGE D1







**ABORTION OPPONENTS** pray in front of the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington as the court's nine justices hear arguments about a Mississippi law that bans abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

## Justices appear ready to restrict abortion rights

In Mississippi case, conservatives on high court signal reversal of *Roe vs. Wade*.

By DAVID G. SAVAGE

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court's conservatives sounded ready on Wednesday to severely restrict a woman's right to choose abortion and possibly overturn *Roe vs. Wade* entirely.

The court now has six justices who are deeply skeptical of abortion rights. And during arguments about a Mississippi law banning abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, only Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. seemed interested in finding a narrow ruling.

The others — including Justices Brett M. Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett, Trump appointees who some legal experts thought might join Roberts — sounded prepared to overturn the landmark 1973 *Roe* ruling.

"The Constitution is neither pro-life nor pro-choice on abortion," Kavanaugh

said, adding the court should not "pick sides on the most contentious social debate in American life."

Barrett said pregnant women who do not want to raise a young child can put the baby up for adoption. If so, she said, the lack of access to abortions should not have a great effect on their lives and careers.

The three liberal justices said the court would be making a great mistake to overturn its past rulings, including *Roe* and the 1992 decision in *Planned Parenthood vs. Casey*, which reaffirmed the right to abortion up to 24 weeks of a pregnancy.

They said that the facts on the ground related to abortion in the U.S. had not changed and that a reversal would be interpreted by Americans as a political move.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor warned that the court would not "survive the stench that this creates in the public perception." That plea was probably directed at Roberts, who as chief justice has long attempted to move incrementally and preserve the court's reputation for independence.

[See Abortion, A6]

## San Francisco case of Omicron variant is first confirmed in U.S.

Person who returned from South Africa last week and fell ill has tested positive.

By LUKE MONEY, RONG-GONG LIN II AND MAURA DOLAN

SAN FRANCISCO — The first U.S. case of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus has been confirmed in San Francisco, putting California at the center of the nation's pandemic response once again.

Officials said the infected individual returned home from South Africa on Nov. 22. A few days after arriving, the person began to feel ill and got tested. On Monday, the result came back positive, and the virus specimen was subsequently analyzed and revealed to be the latest named coronavirus strain.

The person was fully vaccinated and had mild symptoms that did not require hospitalization. Officials said the individual's condition was improving as of Wednesday.

There are no signs yet of any larger outbreak in the Bay Area, and state and federal officials emphasized that caution, rather than consternation, is called for.

In California, health and political leaders remain confident that the new variant will not require the reimposition of lockdowns or other restrictions. Rather, they said, this latest twist in the

[See Case, A8]



**"WE'LL FIGHT** this variant with science and speed, not chaos and confusion," President Biden said as researchers work to determine how risky Omicron is.

## Biden to boost protections

His winter plans include free coronavirus tests and helping vaccinated Americans get extra shots

By CHRIS MEGERIAN

WASHINGTON — As winter approaches and the Omicron variant rattles the globe, President Biden will announce expansive plans to increase the country's defenses against the coronavirus, including a campaign to convince Americans to get booster shots and a re-

quirement that insurance companies cover the cost of home tests.

Biden's plans, which he is expected to unveil Thursday at the National Institutes of Health, do not include new restrictions on businesses or domestic travel. However, international visitors will be required to get coronavirus tests one day before boarding their flights to the U.S.,

rather than three days ahead.

In addition, Biden will extend the requirement to wear masks on public transit such as trains and airplanes until March 18.

The president's announcement comes a day after the first U.S. case of Omicron was confirmed in California. The patient had

[See Biden, A8]

## Philanthropist slain in Beverly Hills

Jacqueline Avant, friend to presidents and celebrities, is shot dead in her home.

By RICHARD WINTON, MARIA L. LA GANZA, HAYLEY SMITH AND NATHAN SOLIS

She was the quiet philanthropist, an elegant, behind-the-scenes force. He is a music industry legend, the "Black Godfather" with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Early Wednesday morning, at least one suspect with a gun entered the Beverly Hills home of Jacqueline and Clarence Avant. Moments later, Jacqueline lay fatally wounded by a gunshot and Clarence was bereft.

During a brief news conference just a day after he was sworn in, Beverly Hills Police Chief Mark Stainbrook remained tight-lipped. He declined to divulge the number of suspects involved, who — if anyone — witnessed the attack,

or whether it was the latest in a string of violent robberies targeting the rich and famous in and around Los Angeles.

The motives in this case are still unknown, and we're investigating all possible motives," Stainbrook told reporters about 12 hours after the attack. "We will not speculate on anything that's out there, including if this was a robbery attempt or not."

What was clear, however, was the impact the Avants have had during their long life together, on politics and sports and entertainment, on goals as lofty as civil rights and as humble as getting bikes to disadvantaged children. Tributes flowed — shocked and tender

[See Avant, A11]

## United two worlds to help the poor

Jacqueline Avant brought politicians and celebrities together in charitable works.

CALIFORNIA, B1

### Tennis events in China suspended

U.S.-based women's tour announces the move out of concern for Peng Shuai's safety. **NATION, A4**

### Abrams seeks Georgia rematch

The Democratic voting rights activist announces a bid to challenge Gov. Brian Kemp in 2022. **NATION, A14**

### Mater Dei needs to step up

The O.C. high school and the diocese have much to answer for, Gustavo Arellano writes. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### Weather

Morning fog. L.A. Basin: 72/49. **B6**

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## Angelenos favor single-family zoning changes

Amid a housing crisis, most support two new laws that foster higher density, a poll finds.

By LIAM DILLON

A majority of Los Angeles County voters back two new state laws designed to spur housing construction, including one that significantly changes traditional single-family zoning, a new poll finds.

The poll, by the Los Angeles Business Council Institute, done in cooperation with the Los Angeles Times, provides one of the first tests of public reaction to the new laws, which could bring about a dramatic change to California's development landscape.

The laws, Senate Bills 9 and 10, take effect Jan. 1. They were a culmination of a years-long debate in Sacra-



AL SEIB Los Angeles Times

### AGREEMENT ON TEJON RANCH

Environmental group and developer reach deal over building 19,300 homes in "net zero" project on flanks of Tehachapi Mountains. **CALIFORNIA, B1**



## Omicron variant surfaces in California

First known U.S. case is vaccinated resident back from South Africa

BY LENA H. SUN, KATIE SHEPHERD AND ALISSA GREENBERG

The omicron variant of the coronavirus — which has sparked concern across the world — has landed on U.S. shores, with the nation's first case identified in a San Francisco resident who recently returned from South Africa. Amid uncertainty surrounding the potential threat of omicron, health officials said the discovery was both expected and a sign that precautions for travelers are working to keep tabs on the new variant.

The San Francisco resident, who arrived Nov. 22 from South Africa, began feeling ill around Nov. 25 and got tested for the coronavirus Nov. 28, California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) said Wednesday at a news conference. The previously healthy patient, who was fully vaccinated with the Moderna vaccine but had not received a booster shot, tested positive Nov. 29, officials said.

The person had received a second vaccine dose in August and had not yet reached the six-

SEE OMICRON ON A14

'Pandemic treaty': Countries seek way to fight future outbreaks. A13

International travelers: Testing expands at key U.S. airports. A15

## Shutdown appears more likely as GOP group digs in

BY TONY ROMM, MIKE DEBONIS AND SEUNG MIN KIM

The U.S. government on Wednesday moved one step closer to a potential shutdown, as some Republicans seized on a fast-approaching fiscal deadline to mount fresh opposition to President Biden's coronavirus vaccination and testing mandates.

The emerging conservative campaign quickly divided GOP lawmakers, enraged congressional Democrats and threatened to unravel days of bipartisan talks on Capitol Hill. The current federal spending agreement is set to expire Friday at midnight.

"We're opposed to the mandate," said Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.). "We don't want the federal government to be able to fund them in any way shape or form."

Under Biden's directive, issued this year, private businesses that employ more than 100 workers must require vaccination or implement a comprehensive testing strategy. The president has imposed similar policies targeting

SEE SHUTDOWN ON A19

## IN THE NEWS



JULIA RENTLEMAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**Much to reconcile** Virginia colleges are still wrestling with trauma and injustices rooted in slavery, the Confederacy and Jim Crow. B1

**MLB negotiations** Dissent over the league's collective bargaining agreement seemed to set the stage for a lockout. D1

**THE NATION** Stacey Abrams, the Democrat who narrowly lost Georgia's 2018 gubernatorial race, announced she will seek the office again next year. A2

**The United States** is by far the leading contributor to the "deluge" of plastic waste littering oceans and needs a strategy to combat it, a study concluded. A21

**Donald Trump** tested positive for the coronavirus days before he shared a debate stage with Joe Biden in September 2020, three former aides said. A22

**THE WORLD** Australia's unity against the coronavirus has frayed as the unvaccinated mount protests and harass political leaders. A12

**About 37 percent** of the world's people, most of them in developing nations, have yet to use the Internet, a U.N. agency estimated. A13

**Secretary of State** Antony Blinken will meet this week with his Russian counterpart. A17

**THE ECONOMY** Americans of color are turning to cryptocurrency to build wealth out-

side the traditional banking system. A18

**Facebook** has taken down an international grouping of disinformation networks, including those tied to political actors and militants. A21

**THE REGION** Contractors have finished work on the Dulles Airport rail yard, the last major element of the Silver Line project. B1

**The wheels of a Metro** car that derailed had shifted far beyond the transit agency's standard for safety, according to preliminary findings from the NTSB. B1

**The recorded** interrogation of a California man accused of assault-

ing a police officer offers an unusual account of Jan. 6 in a defendant's own words. B6

**Alexandria**, facing the challenges of urban growth, announced the hiring of a new city manager. B4

**Federal officials** found that Frederick County schools pervasively and improperly used restraints and seclusion for students with disabilities. B5

**OBITUARIES** Legal scholar Philip B. Heymann, 95, was the chief aide to the Watergate special prosecutor and later led the Justice Department's criminal division. B6

## INSIDE



CHRISTOPHER W. PETERSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**LOCAL LIVING** A world of wonder Experts offer tips on infusing a sense of awe into children's lives.

**STYLE** Standards of care The harmful TV tropes of yore aren't gone completely, but today's theorists on shows such as "Insecure" and "Mare of Easttown" are transcending them. C1

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**The recorded** interrogation of a California man accused of assault-

# Court signals major shift on abortion



Antiabortion and abortion rights advocates argue Wednesday outside the Supreme Court as the justices heard arguments on a Mississippi law that would ban most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. It is likely to be months before a decision is announced.

## Potential reversal of Roe rattles political landscape

BY SEAN SULLIVAN AND SEUNG MIN KIM

The volatile issue of abortion catapulted to the center of the political debate Wednesday after the Supreme Court signaled it would uphold a law undermining *Roe v. Wade*, creating the potential for the polarizing issue to reshape the electoral battlefield.

Democrats immediately signaled they would aim to make abortion rights a central focus in next year's midterm elections, where their prospects have been viewed as dim, while many Republicans sought to keep the focus on inflation and other problems facing President Biden.

"This is an attack on women to make their own health-care decisions. Their families, it's up to them," said Sen. Patty Mur-

ray (Wash.), a former chair of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. "To have politicians decide to me is just frightening, and I expect a lot of voters will react to that."

Sen. Rick Scott (Fla.), chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, in contrast demurred when asked whether he believes abortion will be a motivating issue for Republican voters.

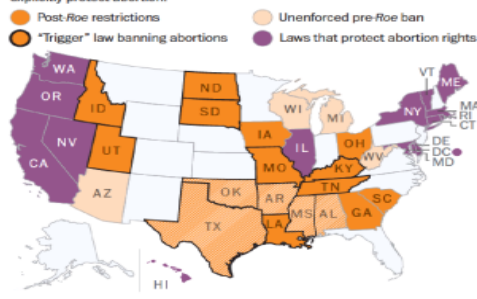
"They're talking about inflation. They're talking about the border. They're talking about the Afghanistan debacle. They're talking about parental involvement in education," Scott said. "If you look at the polls and what people are caring about, that's what they're focused on."

The differing responses framed a central question:

SEE ABORTION ON A11

## State abortion policy absent *Roe v. Wade*

If *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, abortion access will be left to individual states. Based on current laws, 21 states would ban or severely restrict abortion access, some through pre-*Roe* abortion bans that would become enforceable again and others through post-*Roe* laws that would be triggered by the precedent being overturned. Fourteen states and D.C. have policies that explicitly protect abortion.



Note: Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas have pre-*Roe* bans and post-*Roe* trigger laws. Alabama has a pre-*Roe* ban and post-*Roe* restrictions. Source: Guttmacher Institute

DANIELA SANTAMARINA/THE WASHINGTON POST

## Parents may be charged in shooting

BY GRIFF WITTE, JOHN WOODROW COX AND MARK BERMAN

The prosecutor overseeing the investigation into a mass killing at a Michigan high school this week strongly suggested Wednesday that she would charge the teenage suspect's parents, an unusual move but one that gun control advocates say is essential to combating the nation's scourge of shootings by minors.

Officials have said that the father of the suspect, 15-year-old Ethan Crumbley, on Friday bought the semiautomatic handgun used in the killings. Just four days later, on Tuesday, Crumbley

## Prosecutor in Michigan school case: Owners must secure guns

forged a path of terror at Oxford High School, killing four people and injuring seven others, Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald said.

While it is unclear how Crumbley may have obtained the gun from his father, McDonald said Wednesday that gun owners have a responsibility to secure their weapons — particularly when young people are involved.

"Those who do not do that should and will be held accountable," she said. "We have to do better."

McDonald said in addition to charges announced Wednesday against the teen — including four counts of first-degree murder — she expected that other charges could be filed, including against Crumbley's parents.

Such a charge would be a rarity: Adult gun owners are almost never held accountable when children use their weapons to harm themselves or others.

SEE SHOOTING ON A4

**Lockdown drills:** Training appears to have saved lives, officials say. A3

## Concerns about Peng prompt WTA to halt events in China

BY LIZ CLARKE

The Women's Tennis Association announced Wednesday that it is suspending its tournaments in China and Hong Kong in response to concerns about the safety and well-being of Chinese tennis player Peng Shuai.

The decision — which would represent millions in lost revenue and may heighten calls for a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics — was announced by WTA chairman and CEO Steve Simon with the full support of its board of directors.

There has been mounting con-

cern about Peng's well-being since she alleged in a social media post Nov. 2 that she was sexually assaulted by a former senior Chinese official. After not being heard from for several weeks, Peng re-emerged in Chinese media in late November, but concerns about her situation have not abated.

"In good conscience, I don't see how I can ask our athletes to compete there when Peng Shuai is not allowed to communicate freely and has seemingly been pressured

SEE TENNIS ON A2

**Sally Jenkins:** The WTA's stand for decency could start groundswell. D1

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**espectáculos****Will Smith, entre el rap y el cine, una vida a la altura de la leyenda**

Por su papel en *Rey Richard*, que se estrena hoy, es el gran candidato en los Oscar.

**BOCA, SIN PAZ: NUEVO ESCÁNDALO CON VILLA Y CARDONA**

—deportes

Protagonizaron, junto con Zambrano, episodios de indisciplina en la previa del partido con Newell's; Battaglia habló de "una intoxicación".

**UN CÓCTEL DE ARTE, NATURALEZA Y TECNOLOGÍA EN MIAMI**

—cultura

En el regreso de Art Basel se destacan los aportes multidisciplinarios para generar conciencia sobre el cambio climático y el futuro del planeta. **Página 25**

# LA NACION

JUEVES 2 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

## Procesaron a Macri por espionaje y Cambiemos denuncia una persecución

**ARA SAN JUAN.** El juez Bava le imputa ese presunto delito contra familiares de las víctimas

El juez federal de Dolores Martín Bava procesó ayer al expresidente Mauricio Macri como responsable de presuntos hechos de espionaje ilegal contra familiares de las víctimas del ARA San Juan.

A su vez, el juez le trabó un embargo por 100 millones de pesos y le prohibió salir del país.

Macri recibió la noticia mientras participaba en Chile de una actividad vinculada con su papel como titular de la Fundación FIFA. "Es una persecución política que ya todos sabíamos", afirmó el exjefe del Estado, quien ayer recibió un amplio respaldo de la cúpula de Juntos por el Cambio, donde también lo consi-

deraron un acto de persecución.

El juez Bava procesó a Macri como "responsable del delito de realización de acciones de inteligencia prohibidas en carácter de autor". La prohibición de salir del país no es total porque el juez contempló en su fallo la posibilidad de autorizarlo a viajar ante pedidos concretos. **Página 10**

**Fiesta en Olivos: el juez rechazó los argumentos del Presidente****Página 11****La Corte de EE.UU. pone en duda el derecho al aborto**

**el mundo**— WASHINGTON (De nuestro corresponsal).— La Corte Suprema de EE.UU. parecía inclinada ayer a ratificar una ley restrictiva del aborto en Mississippi y a avanzar más allá para revocar ese derecho, que rige en el país desde hace casi medio siglo. **Página 2**



Activistas antiabortistas pidieron ayer prohibir esa práctica frente a la sede de la Corte norteamericana

AFP

**Misión a Washington para afinar los números con el FMI**

**DEUDA.** Técnicos de Economía y el BCRA se reunirán con el equipo del Fondo; mercados, arriba

Un equipo del Ministerio de Economía y el Banco Central partirá el sábado a Washington para reunirse con los técnicos del Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI) y tratar de afinar los números en la búsqueda de un acuerdo que permita refinanciar la deuda de US\$44.000 millones con ese organismo.

"El objetivo es continuar avanzando en los entendimientos técnicos", informaron en Economía. Un vocero del FMI confirmó que "el equipo dirigido por Julie Kozack y Luis Cubeddu se reunirá con una delegación argentina" en Washington "para profundizar las discusiones técnicas hacia un programa respaldado por el FMI".

En la capital norteamericana ven difícil que se logre firmar un acuerdo antes de fin de año. La noticia de la misión mejoró el clima en el mercado: subieron acciones y bonos y bajó el riesgo país. **Página 6**

La CGT le pidió a Guzmán que el acuerdo sea "sin ajuste"  
Santiago Dapelo. **Página 6**

**La inflación cedió poco en noviembre y rondaría el 3%**

Alimentos, indumentaria y vivienda siguen liderando las subas. **Página 15**

**UBA: amparos por la demora en la entrega de títulos**

**EDUCACIÓN.** Son más de 250; algunos casos llevan varios años. **Página 22**

**Las variantes del virus, un desafío para las vacunas**

**PANDEMIA.** Un experto asegura que la región logró avances. **Página 21**

**Ataque al playero. Sospechan que un clan protege al adolescente prófugo**

Gustavo Carabajal  
LA NACION

Cuando los vecinos y clientes del estacionamiento de Moreno al 800 afirmaban que la familia del menor

acusado de agredir al playero Arturo López era violento y "pesado", tenían razón. La madre del imputado tiene el mismo apellido que el jefe de una banda que se dedicaba a realizar estafas con la modalidad "cuento del

tío" y que operaba en Rosario, Corrientes, Mar del Plata y la ciudad de Buenos Aires. El joven de 17 años está prófugo y los investigadores sospechan que es protegido por un clan familiar. Continúa en la **página 26**



## Saúde deve adiar plano de derrubar máscaras

Com a identificação dos primeiros casos da variante ômicron do coronavírus no Brasil, o Ministério da Saúde deve adiar a recomendação para a retirada de máscaras ao ar livre.

Prevista para ser divulgada antes do Natal, atendendo a pedido do presidente, a decisão só deve ser tomada em 2022, ante mais dados sobre impactos da nova cepa. **Saúde B1**

# Senado aprova Mendonça como novo ministro do STF

Com 47 votos a favor e 32 contra, indicado por Bolsonaro em julho promete defender laicidade

André Mendonça é o novo integrante do Supremo Tribunal Federal. Por 47 votos a favor e 32 contrários — 6 além do necessário, mas aquém dos outros dez ministros —, o Senado aprovou ontem o indicado por Jair Bolsonaro para uma cadeira do STF.

Aos 48 anos, o ex-advogado-geral da União passa a ser o segundo escolhido por Bolsonaro para a corte. O outro é Kassio Nunes Marques, aprovado no ano passado. Ele assume a vaga de Marco Aurélio de Mello, que se aposentou neste ano.

O novo ministro foi oficialmente apontado em julho pelo presidente, que dizia buscar alguém "terrivelmente evangélico". Antes da votação pelo Senado, ele foi submetido a oito horas de sabatina pela Comissão de Constituição e Justiça da Casa.

Durante a arguição, tentou se distanciar de Bolsonaro e minimizar uma eventual interferência da religião em suas posições. "Como tenho dito quanto a mim mesmo: na vida, a Bíblia; no Supremo, a Constituição", disse, frisando a laicidade do Estado.

Acenou à classe política e prometeu defender a Justiça e a democracia — afirmou, porém, que esta foi conquistada no país sem derramamento de sangue. Foi questionado a respeito das mortes sob a ditadura militar, as quais reconheceu. **Poder A4**



Rubens Cavallari/Folhapress

## POLICIAIS RODOVIÁRIOS DE SP TREINAM COM FUZIS PARA COMBATER 'NOVO CANGAÇO'

Agentes da PRF em Atibaia manuseiam armas de calibre 7,62 doadas pelo Exército; objetivo é conter quadrilhas que invadem cidades para assaltos Cotidiano B5

## Cidades vetam Carnaval de rua, mas liberam baile

Prefeituras paulistas cancelaram em massa atividades carnavalescas em 2022 devido à Covid — em muitas das cidades, porém, os vetos se restringem somente à esfera pública.

Os eventos continuam liberados em clubes e bares, por exemplo. **Saúde B2**

## Esporte B7

### F1 na Arábia Saudita

Categoria ignora violações de direitos humanos por seu primeiro GP no país

## Ilustrada C1

Tim Burton inaugura mural em prédio de SP e se prepara para viajar ao Brasil

## Turismo C8

Para comissários, respeito mútuo no ar é saída para relação boa com passageiros

## Brasil tem maior aceleração de juros entre 32 países

O Banco Central do Brasil é o que mais elevou juros entre 32 instituições acompanhadas pelo BIS, espécie de banco central dos bancos centrais. O levantamento indica que 14 entidades apertaram sua política monetária para conter a inflação, que avança globalmente.

A taxa básica brasileira foi de 2% ao ano, em janeiro, para 7,75%, e deve chegar a 9,25% dia 8, quando o Copom decidirá a respeito. Ainda assim, a alta de 10,7% da inflação em 12 meses só perde para a argentina (52%) e a turca (19,9%) entre as observadas. **Mercado A15**

## Bruno Boghossian Mendonça versus Mendonça

O André Mendonça aprovado para o STF não teria sido indicado por Bolsonaro. O novo ministro tentou se descolar do presidente e reduzir o aspecto religioso de sua escolha. É difícil saber qual personagem aparecerá na corte nos próximos 26 anos. **Opinião A2**

## UE avalia vacina obrigatória, e mortes saltam na Alemanha A12

## Doses de validade curta e descrença emperram imunização na África A13

## EDITORIAIS A2

## Mendonça no STF

Acerca de aprovação de indicado por Bolsonaro.

## Inflação empobrece

Sobre queda da renda ao menor nível desde 2012.

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**HOJE** 14h às 16h

**EVENTO GRATUITO**

Assista ao vivo em [folha.com/voluntariado](https://folha.com/voluntariado)

Saiba mais na página A14

## PM algema homem negro a moto em movimento

Um policial militar algemou um homem negro a uma moto da corporação e o arrastou por uma ciclovia em SP. A PM afastou o agente e abriu investigação sobre o episódio. **B5**

**HOTÉIS?** É na

**123 milhas**





**Molnupiravir, la pastilla anti-Covid, estará disponible en los hospitales para fin de año**

## Señal positiva: Gastronómicos contratan personal para verano

Gobierno y sector privado analizan medidas para incentivar la inmunización. Una de las propuestas es que se pida el carnet de vacunación para ingresar a los eventos.

PÁGINAS 2, 3 y 14

Binacional se niega a proveer información

**La Contraloría accionó ante la Justicia para auditar finanzas y la contabilidad de Itaipú**

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Enviará sus conclusiones a la Fiscalía

**CGR confirma irregularidades en las compras Covid de la administración de Nenecho**

PÁGINA 21

Los préstamos nunca se terminaban de pagar

**El Poder Judicial estaba gratis al servicio de RGD, relató en el juicio oral una de sus víctimas**

PÁGINA 48

**Alliana defiende a Hugo Javier diciendo que otras instituciones también usan facturas falsas**

PÁGINA 4

FERNANDO CALISTO

### Más Rey que nunca

**CAMPEON 2021**

tigo

**CAMPEÓN 2021**

**Copa Paraguay.** Olimpia triunfó ante Sol y se quedó con el título. En tiempo normal empataron 2-2 y luego en penales ganó 3-1.

**¡VACUNATE!**  
ES SEGURO

PÁGINA 56

**UNA INDESTRUCTIBLE SIEMPRE DESPIERTA TU LADO INDESTRUCTIBLE**

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## LE FIGARO

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



## ÉDUCATION

MATERNELLE : LES NEUROSCIENCES AU SERVICE DE LA LECTURE ET DE L'ÉCRITURE PAGE 14

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MORAND, CHARDONNE, PROUST, VALÉRY... L'ART DE LA CORRESPONDANCE NOTRE SUPPLÉMENT

PRÉSIDENTIELLE  
La majorité hésite encore sur sa ligne face à Zemmour

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**CHAMPS LIBRES**

- Les chroniques de Luc Ferry et d'Alexandre Devecchio
- Le tête à tête de Charles Jaigu
- Un entretien avec Jérôme Fourquet et Raphaël Llorca
- La tribune de Thierry Lenz

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FIGARO OUI  
FIGARO NONRéponses à la question de mercredi :  
Pensez-vous qu'Éric Zemmour obtiendra les 500 parrainages nécessaires pour se présenter à l'élection présidentielle ?

OUI	NON
69%	31%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 235 993

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L'État doit-il créer une « banque de la démocratie » pour aider les candidats qui n'ont pas accès au financement bancaire pour leur campagne ?

SKIDOLAN - STOCK ADOBE.COM

## 2022 : les candidats face au casse-tête du financement

Confrontés à la frilosité des banques, qui rechignent à leur accorder des prêts, les prétendants cherchent des alternatives et réclament une réforme du financement de la vie politique.

L'alerte a été lancée par Marine Le Pen dans un courrier adressé en septembre à Emmanuel Macron : « Bon nombre de candidats potentiels à l'élection présidentielle se retrouvent confrontés à une quasi-impossibilité de trouver

des financements », écrivait la prétendante du RN. En cause, notamment, les réticences des banques françaises à accorder des prêts aux candidats : préoccupées par leur image, prudentes sur les capacités de remboursement

des partis politiques, elles exigent désormais de sérieuses garanties. Forçant les mandataires financiers des candidats à aller démarcher des établissements bancaires européens ou à multiplier les appels aux dons.

Plusieurs partis appellent à une refonte en profondeur des règles régissant le financement de la vie politique. À commencer par le MoDem de François Bayrou, qui réclame la création par l'État d'une « banque de la démocratie ».

→ LES PRÉTENDANTS CHERCHENT DES ALTERNATIVES  
→ DES BANQUES DE PLUS EN PLUS FRILEUSES VIS-À-VIS DES POLITIQUES  
→ LES PARTIS SONT MORTS, VIVE LES PARTIS !

PAGES 2, 4 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

## Comment Emmanuel Macron s'est finalement converti au nucléaire

Le chef de l'État est longtemps resté ambigu sur ses projets pour l'atome en France, afin de préserver les équilibres politiques de sa majorité. Alors que la crise énergétique menace, il vient d'annoncer une relance du nucléaire.

PAGES 18 ET 19



KETTY BEYONAS/PHOTOPOR/JOURNAL SAÛNE ET LOIRE/MAJPP

## Les vaccins à l'épreuve du variant Omicron

Les nombreuses et inquiétantes mutations présentes sur la nouvelle souche du Sars-CoV-2 identifiée en Afrique du Sud vont-elles rendre la vaccination inefficace ? Les déclarations de certains experts sont alarmantes, mais d'autres spécialistes avancent des arguments plus rassurants, rappelant qu'à ce jour les vaccins sont restés efficaces pour éviter les cas graves, même face à des variants considérés comme menaçants. La troisième dose exigée contre le variant Delta devrait renforcer nos défenses face à Omicron. PAGE 10

ÉDITORIAL par Yves Thérard ytheard@lefigaro.fr

## Le coût de la démocratie

« L'argent qui corrompt, l'argent qui achète, l'argent qui écrase, l'argent qui tue, l'argent qui ruine, et l'argent qui pourrait jusqu'à la conscience des hommes ! » Ainsi s'exprimait François Mitterrand au congrès d'Épinay du Parti socialiste, en 1971. L'homme n'était jamais avarié de leçons de morale à l'endroit de ses adversaires, mais celle-ci était donnée l'année même où le PS organisait son financement occulte ! Une société chargée de racketter les entreprises lors de la passation de marchés publics par les collectivités locales qu'il dirigeait était effectivement mise sur pied. Le pot aux roses sera découvert vingt ans plus tard quand l'affaire Urba commencera. Elle allait, avec d'autres ensuite, longtemps empoisonner la chronique politique, détruire la carrière de nombre d'élus et contribuer à creuser la défiance des Français pour leurs représentants. Alors que la présidentielle de 2022 approche, la question du financement de la vie politique reste posée. Elle continue à faire des vagues. Certes, les valises de billets tombant du ciel n'existent plus. Des règles

du jeu ont été établies pour, en principe, plus de transparence et moins d'hypocrisie. Pour autant, comme le prouvent certaines affaires judiciaires en cours, les soupçons de fraude subsistent. Surtout, il n'est pas prouvé que le système mis en place, très contraignant et restrictif, protège mieux la vie démocratique. Ni qu'il garantisse davantage l'égalité des partis et des candidats dans leur quête d'argent.

La question du financement de la vie politique reste posée

De Marine Le Pen à Jean-Luc Mélenchon, tous les candidats, ou presque, crient à l'injustice. Ils réclament une réforme. En février 2017, François Bayrou avait fait de la création d'une banque publique de la démocratie la condition de son ralliement à Emmanuel Macron. La proposition, dont la pertinence avait été disputée par le Conseil d'État, a finalement été enterrée. À tort. Chacun en convient, la démocratie a un coût. Refuser de le payer, c'est la mettre en danger. ■



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## Noomi Rapace

'I don't want to be the badass'

→ G2



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## GPs may stop monitoring millions of patients due to Covid jab drive

**Exclusive** Ministers want doctors free to help ramp up booster scheme

Denis Campbell  
Andrew Gregory

Ministers may allow GPs in England to halt regular monitoring of millions of patients with underlying health problems as part of the urgent new blitz on delivering Covid booster jabs.

Sajid Javid and NHS chiefs are locked in talks with GP representatives at the British Medical Association (BMA) about relaxing rules that mean family doctors undertake checks on people with diabetes, high blood pressure and other conditions that put them at higher risk of heart attack or stroke.

The news comes as the health secretary announced the government had secured contracts to buy 114m more vaccine doses for next year and 2023. Under the deals, accelerated in the wake of the Omicron

variant, Britain will purchase 54m more Pfizer/BioNTech jabs and 60m extra Moderna vaccines to "future-proof" the inoculation programme, Javid said. Officials said the new contracts included access to modified vaccines if needed to combat Omicron and future variants of concern.

Yesterday the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) identified 10 further cases of the Omicron variant, bringing the total detected in Britain to 32.

The BMA has been lobbying Javid for months to suspend or scrap the quality outcomes framework (QOF),

### Inside

Boris Johnson is under intense pressure to explain why Downing Street staff seemingly held two parties during lockdown late last year

Page 4 →

which it says is "bureaucratic" and interferes with GPs' right to judge how they care for patients.

Ministers and NHS England want to free up more GP time to help increase the delivery of boosters from 350,000 to 500,000 a day to counter the threat posed by Omicron, which is feared to be more transmissible with the potential to evade vaccines. Firms are trying to establish whether Omicron has the power to reduce the efficacy of jabs, and whether they can be tweaked in response.

Boris Johnson has 5 →

## Claim of SOS calls from boat in Channel

Luke Harding  
Nechirvan Mando  
Ranya, Iraqi Kurdistan  
Rajeev Syal

The occupants of a boat that sank last week in the Channel causing the deaths of at least 27 people may have tried to contact the UK authorities, the Home Office has acknowledged.

Dan O'Mahoney - the clandestine channel threat commander - said he could not say with any certainty if those onboard had rung the UK for help. Speaking to parliament's human rights committee, O'Mahoney said HM Coastguard was now investigating.

The two survivors from the incident last Wednesday claim those onboard made repeated calls to the British and French authorities as their flimsy dinghy began to sink.

According to one of the survivors, the British responded by telling them to get in touch with the French.

Relatives of one of those who died, Twana Mamand Muhammad, told the Guardian 12 →



'I got to live my dreams'  
**Johanna Konta**  
announces retirement

News Page 9 →

## WTA halts all tennis events in China

Vincent Ni  
China affairs correspondent

The Women's Tennis Association (WTA) has announced the suspension of all tournaments in China amid concerns about the safety of the Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai, following a high-profile row with Beijing over the player's wellbeing that has gone on for weeks.

"With the full support of the WTA board of directors, I am announcing the immediate suspension of all WTA tournaments in China, including Hong Kong," said the WTA's chair, Steve Simon, yesterday.

"In good conscience, I don't see how I can ask our athletes to compete there when Peng Shuai is not allowed to communicate freely and has seemingly been pressured to contradict her allegation of sexual assault.

"Given the current state of affairs, I am also greatly concerned about the risks that all of our players and staff could face if we were to hold events in China in 2022."

Early last month, the 9 →