

## What's News

### Business & Finance

Major U.S. stock indexes declined for the third consecutive trading session, as the fast-spreading Omicron coronavirus variant spurred fears that new lockdowns could derail the sputtering global economic recovery. The Dow and Nasdaq both retreated 1.2% and the S&P 500 shed 1.1%. **A1**

◆ Oracle announced its largest deal ever, a roughly \$28.3 billion purchase of electronic-medical-records company Cerner that vaults the software giant deeper into healthcare technology. **B1**

◆ The top bitcoin holders control a greater share of the cryptocurrency than the most affluent American households control in dollars, according to a National Bureau of Economic Research study. **B1**

◆ Biogen cut in half the price of its controversial new Alzheimer's treatment in a bid to revive a product launch that has stalled in part because of a backlash over the drug's cost. **B1**

◆ Nike reported for the second consecutive quarter that its growth was stunted by a slowdown of production and transportation of its goods around the world. **B1**

◆ Rio Tinto said Dominic Barton, Canada's ambassador to China, would become the company's chairman. **B1**

◆ Tesla chief Elon Musk, the world's richest person, said he would pay more than \$11 billion in taxes this year. **B2**

◆ Roche added an experimental drug for a blinding eye condition, buying the rights to OpRegen from Lineage. **B3**

### World-Wide

◆ Sen. Manchin's opposition to the party's roughly \$2 trillion education, healthcare and climate package left Democrats grasping for a new path forward, with Schumer saying that the Senate would vote on the bill early next year even though the pivotal lawmaker isn't on board. **A1**

◆ The Biden administration raised fuel-efficiency standards for passenger cars and light trucks, saying the new standards will reduce pollution and save consumers billions of dollars at the pump. **A1**

◆ The Omicron variant caused more than 70% of recent Covid-19 cases in the U.S., the CDC said, highlighting its substantial increase in infectiousness compared with earlier versions of the virus. **A6**

◆ Moderna said a third dose of its Covid-19 vaccine increased immune responses against the Omicron variant compared with two doses in lab tests. **A6**

◆ The Biden administration will make an additional 20,000 H-2B seasonal guest-worker visas available to employers ahead of the winter hiring season, the DHS said. **A3**

◆ Trump sued New York state's attorney general, accusing her of abusing her office to launch investigations into him, his company and his family. **A3**

◆ Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai denied accusing anyone of sexual assault, suggesting a global wave of concern for her safety is the result of misunderstandings. **A10**

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## Erdogan Move Sends Turkish Lira on Wild Ride



**BIG SWING:** People lined up to exchange money in Istanbul on Monday as the Turkish lira plunged nearly 9% before climbing back, after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan vowed to cut interest rates further in defiance of business leaders. **A8**

## Democrats Try to Salvage Bill As Manchin Calls for Do-Over

By Andrew DUEHREN  
And Lindsay WISE

WASHINGTON—Sen. Joe Manchin's opposition to the party's roughly \$2 trillion education, healthcare and climate package left Democrats grasping for a new path forward Monday, with Majority Leader Chuck Schumer saying the Senate would vote on the bill early next year even though the pivotal centrist isn't on board.

After broadcasting his oppo-

sition to the bill a day earlier, the West Virginia Democrat said Monday that lawmakers should start from square one to rebuild a potential package and criticized the White House for its handling of the talks. Mr. Manchin's position effectively killed the bill in its current form and put President Biden's economic agenda in jeopardy.

In a letter to Senate Democrats, Mr. Schumer said Democrats would still take up the legislation, dubbed the Build

Back Better Act, early next year after weeks of what he called "deep discontent and frustration." Such a move would force all senators to state their position on the Senate floor, "not just on television," the New York senator wrote, in a reference to Mr. Manchin's appearance on "Fox News Sunday" in which he announced his stance.

Mr. Schumer's statement raised the prospect of the central piece of Democrats' economic agenda, which includes

measures offering universal pre-kindergarten, expanded healthcare subsidies and incentives for reducing carbon emissions, among many other provisions, failing on the Senate floor. The party has worked for months on the bill, wooing Mr. Manchin and other critical centrists who have raised concerns about its size and scope.

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◆ Gerald F. Selb: Democrats weigh a shorter swing. **A4**

## Caution, Shrugs Greet Virus Threat

In Grand Prairie, Texas, organizers are forging ahead with plans for Lunar New Year festivities, while an annual New Year's Eve celebration in

By Jennifer Levitz,  
Jimmy Vielkind  
and Nicole Friedman

downtown Los Angeles was canceled Monday for in-person attendees. Meantime, New York City officials are re-evaluating whether spectators will be able to crowd into Times Square to watch the New Year's Eve ball drop.

How Americans are confronting the uncertainties around the worrisome Omicron strain—which now ac-

counts for more than 70% of recent Covid-19 cases in the U.S.—is coming down to where they live. Across the Northeast and Midwest, including places with rising cases, anxious calls for caution have prompted shutdowns to some in-person classes, sporting events and other festivities. Yet the South, and rural areas, are largely plowing ahead, making fewer changes to holiday plans.

The varying approaches reflect broader variations in how Americans have weighed the risks of living with the virus.

The difference between the preholiday week this year and last year, elected officials and families say, is they are consid-

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## How a Doctor's Hunch Led to Merck's Covid Pill

Drug's journey from university lab is latest rapid, surprise antidote

By BETSY MCKAY  
And JARED S. HOPKINS

The bright orange capsule that could transform Covid-19 treatment wasn't on the radar in January 2020 when the pandemic was unfolding.

The drug had never been tested in humans. Lab experiments suggested people would need an enormous dose. And some scientists had raised concerns it might be toxic.

Wayne Holman had a hunch. The antiviral, discovered by an Emory University scientist, had fought off two coronaviruses in lab experiments. It might work against the new coronavirus too, he thought. Ridgeback Biotherapeutics LP, a company founded by Dr. Holman and his wife, Wendy Holman, licensed the drug's rights.

"We thought this should be done even if there were risks," Dr. Holman recalled. "We realized we really can't wait."

Ridgeback went on to develop molnupiravir, as the drug is called, in collaboration with the pharmaceutical giant Merck & Co. The pill has been cleared by regulators in the U.K. and Denmark for adults at high risk, as a treatment and it could be authorized this month for a similar use in the U.S.

Together with an antiviral from Pfizer Inc. that is also under Food and Drug Administration review, molnupiravir could fill a huge hole in the pandemic medicine chest: a pill that people who are recently infected can take at home to lessen symptoms and stay out of the hospital.

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## Christmas Stinks for Ham Sniffers

It's the busy season for Spaniards who bless the pork

By RICHARD MORGAN

JABUGO, Spain—Life revolves around Plaza del Jamón, or "Ham Square," in Andalusia, where Cinco Jotas began producing Iberian ham in 1879.

Many of the company's practices in Jabugo, a village of roughly 2,300 inhabitants, are still 19th-century. It smokes chorizo in a room full of oak fires spilling smoke upon a ceiling full of hanging sausages. It cures hams in a cellar that employees climate-control by manually opening and closing windows.

One aspect of Cinco Jotas' quality control beats its other Old World habits by a nose: A

Please turn to page A12

## U.S. Raises Targets For Fuel-Efficiency

By TIMOTHY FUKO  
And KATY STECH PEREK

WASHINGTON—The Biden administration on Monday raised fuel-efficiency standards for passenger cars and light-duty trucks, saying the new standards will reduce pollution and save consumers billions of dollars at the gas pump.

Auto makers must meet a fleetwide average of 55 miles a gallon for cars and light trucks by model year 2026, up from the 43 mpg standard set by the Trump administration for that year. The fleetwide mileage standard for the current 2021 model year is 40 mpg.

The new rules will save U.S. drivers between \$210 billion and \$420 billion in fuel costs through 2050, the Environmental Protection Agency said, based on government estimates of future fuel prices. Even after factoring in higher purchase prices for cleaner vehicles,

each buyer would still save about \$1,000 over the lifetime of their vehicle from model year 2026 on, the EPA said.

The EPA said the higher standards will curb pollution from the transportation sector, which it says is the nation's No. 1 source of greenhouse gas emissions.

"We are setting robust and rigorous standards that will aggressively reduce the pollution that is harming people and our planet—and save families money at the same time," EPA Administrator Michael Regan said, flanked by electric vehicles and a charging station during a signing ceremony outside agency headquarters.

The Alliance for Automotive Innovation, the lobbying group for auto makers and suppliers, said it would be difficult to achieve the higher fuel standards without federal support to help the industry transition

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More thankful than ever.

This year, we all proved how unstoppable we can be. Thank you for inspiring us every day.

Happy holidays.

## Shaken and stirred

Real M16 would approve of humbler James Bond — HELEN WARRELL, PAGE 16

## Supplies unchained

The global shift from 'just in time' to 'just in case' — BIG READ, PAGE 15



## Not so independent

The fine line between politics and monetary policy — PATRICK JENKINS, PAGE 6

## Boric triumph Chile ditches centrist elite

Gabriel Boric celebrates at a rally in Santiago, Chile, on Sunday night after the former student protest leader was elected president of the country.

He vowed to raise taxes, support greener industries and push for greater equality, after tapping into discontent over an investor-friendly economy that had left many behind.

The 35-year-old, who will take office in March, is the first leader from outside the centrist mainstream that has ruled Chile since its return to democracy in 1990. He is also the youngest Chilean president in more than two centuries and the first to secure a second-round victory after losing the first round.

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FT View page 16



Cristóbal Ovares/Bloomberg

# Stocks and oil decline as Omicron spurs return of tough restrictions

Germany tightens travel curbs • Nasdaq and Brent fall • Biden spending bill hits snag

GEORGE STEER — LONDON

Equities and oil prices have declined on concerns for the global economy, as the rapid spread of the Omicron coronavirus variant prompted governments across Europe to reimpose restrictions.

Wall Street's S&P 500 dropped 1.7 per cent, after the benchmark stock barometer shed 1 per cent on Friday. The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite fell 1.8 per cent in afternoon trading yesterday in New York.

Oil prices were also under significant selling pressure. Brent, the international benchmark, fell 3.9 per cent to \$70.66 a barrel, while US benchmark West Texas Intermediate declined 4.5 per cent to \$67.75. Oil and gas companies Apache, Devon Energy and Occidental

Petroleum were among those hardest hit, each falling about 4 per cent.

"Pandemic-driven fears have returned to the fore of investors' concerns amid surging cases," said Stephen Brennock of PVM, a brokerage.

The new variant has caused a wave of event and travel cancellations, with the World Economic Forum scrapping its plans to hold an in-person annual meeting in Davos in January for the second consecutive year. Across Europe, countries are discussing new restrictions.

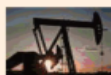
The Netherlands on Sunday became the first EU country to re-enter a national lockdown, shutting bars, restaurants and most non-essential shops until at least mid-January.

Germany tightened travel restrictions over the weekend and is expected to

agree additional curbs at a meeting between government and regional representatives today. Boris Johnson, the UK prime minister, is also coming under pressure to reimpose controls and has said that he would not hesitate to introduce further measures if needed.

Tatjana Grell Castro, co-head of public markets at Muznich, attributed the market slide to the higher chance of Omicron-related lockdowns in both Europe and Asia, although she added that moves were likely to be exaggerated at this time of year because of thin trading volumes before Christmas.

Omicron is "one of the biggest issues for markets right now" because it has "clouded the outlook moving into year-end," said Jim Reid at Deutsche Bank. In Europe, the Stoxx 600 index fell 1.4



Brent, the global oil benchmark, fell 4 per cent, as did energy groups Apache, Devon and Occidental

per cent. London's FTSE 100 slid 1.2 per cent, France's Cac 40 dropped 0.8 per cent and Germany's Dax 1.9 per cent.

Traders shifted into perceived haven assets early in the session but the rally later eased. The 10-year US government bond was flat at 1.4 per cent, while the equivalent 10-year German Bund yield was steady at minus 0.37 per cent.

Meanwhile, US prospects were hit after Democratic senator Joe Manchin said he would not vote for President Joe Biden's flagship Build Back Better bill, meaning the legislation was unlikely to pass in its current form, analysts said.

In Asia, Hong Kong's Hang Seng traded 1.9 per cent lower and Tokyo's Nikkei 225 shed 2.1 per cent. Additional reporting by Neil Hume  
Day in the markets page 11

### Briefing

#### BNP joins retail banking's US exodus

France's BNP Paribas is to sell its San Francisco-based Bank of the West to Canada's Bank of Montreal for \$16.5bn, becoming the latest European lender to depart from US retail banking. — PAGE 6; LEX, PAGE 18

#### Nato ready to discuss Russia 'red lines'

Nato allies are resigned to the need to negotiate with Russia despite the impossibility of many of Moscow's demands on the US-led alliance as pressure rises to resolve tensions over Ukraine. — PAGE 2

#### SenseTime listing to be relaunched

The Chinese artificial intelligence group is relaunching its Hong Kong IPO with the help of investment from state-backed entities after being blacklisted by the US. — PAGE 8; LEX, PAGE 18

#### Lira falls 9% as Erdogan stands firm

Turkey's currency continued its dive after the president rejected warnings from business on the dangers of rate cuts and said there was "no going back" from his approach. — PAGE 10

#### Hong Kong poll tainted by low turnout

Pro-Beijing candidates have swept Hong Kong's first legislative election since reforms were introduced but the process was marred by a record low turnout and lack of opposition candidates. — PAGE 4

#### Egypt keeps critic of regime in jail

A court in Cairo has sentenced Alaa Abdel Fattah, a symbol of Egypt's 2011 revolution, to a further five years in prison for spreading "fake news". One of his lawyers also received a four-year sentence. — PAGE 3

#### E-scooter start-up Voi to float next year

Swedish mobility start-up Voi, which operates in 18 UK cities, has announced plans to go public, as its US rivals list and competition for British e-scooter trials drives consolidation in the market. — PAGE 6

### Datawatch

#### Festive grind

Occupations with the most people working on Christmas Day (2000, 2018)



Source: ONS

The highest proportion of staff at work in the UK on Christmas Day are from the health and social work sectors. About 126,000 sales assistants return to their jobs for the Boxing Day sales.



## GSK to shed consumer unit in quest for fresh vitality

Amid friction with US activist investor Elliott, the British drugmaker GSK is to split off its consumer health division from its underperforming but dominant pharma business next year. The move will be the latest shake-up in a \$270bn industry that is wooing multinationals keen to direct their efforts at "wellness". In the latest step towards independence, GSK appointed Dave Lewis, a sector heavyweight, as non-executive chair.

Makeover looms — PAGE 9  
Lex — PAGE 18

## UK court ruling hits Maduro's push for \$1.9bn in Venezuelan gold reserves

JANE CROFT — LONDON

The UK's Supreme Court dealt a blow to Venezuelan president Nicolás Maduro yesterday in his fight to gain control of \$1.9bn of disputed gold reserves after it ruled that opposition leader Juan Guaidó should be recognised as the country's legitimate head of state.

The UK's highest court had been asked to determine which of the two men had the authority to appoint board members at the Central Bank of Venezuela, who will decide what happens to the gold reserves held on behalf of the Latin American country in the Bank of England's vaults. Maduro, who was re-elected president in May 2018, wants to sell the gold reserves under UN auspices to aid Venezuela's fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

But Guaidó, recognised by the UK, US

and some Latin American and European countries as Venezuela leader, is fighting to keep the reserves at the BoE and claims the Maduro-run central bank wants only to appropriate the gold.

Both men have appointed different boards to the Venezuelan central bank. These boards have issued conflicting instructions about what to do with the reserves, valued at \$1.9bn in the ruling, as well as about a similar sum held by Deutsche Bank.

Yesterday, the Supreme Court overturned a 2020 Court of Appeal ruling that although the UK recognised Guaidó as president, it also dealt with the Maduro government in practice.

David Lloyd Jones, the Supreme Court justice handing down yesterday's ruling, said the UK "clearly and unequivocally recognised Guaidó as president of Venezuela", adding: "Mr Maduro is not

recognised as president of Venezuela for any purpose."

The Supreme Court has referred the case back to the High Court, which will decide whether to recognise rulings on Guaidó's central bank appointments by Venezuela's Supreme Tribunal of Justice. However, Lord Lloyd-Jones said that it was clear that if the conclusions of the Venezuelan court depended on its assessment that Guaidó was not the president, then "those judicial decisions cannot be recognised".

Guaidó said: "We look forward to the opportunity in the next phase of the litigation to demonstrate that the UK courts should not recognise decisions of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Maduro regime declaring null and void the appointments made by the legitimate president to the board of directors of the BCV [Venezuela's central bank]."

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World Markets									
STOCK MARKETS					CURRENCIES				
	Dec 20	prev	%chg		Dec 20	prev	Dec 20	prev	
S&P 500	4547.20	4520.64	-1.59	\$ per £	1.129	1.127	£ per \$	0.756	0.754
Nasdaq Composite	14827.84	15169.68	-1.59	\$ per €	1.322	1.326	€ per \$	1.171	1.177
Dow Jones Ind	34760.42	35365.44	-1.71	£ per €	0.854	0.850	¥ per £	128.017	128.117
FTSE 100	1014.01	1039.24	-1.37	¥ per \$	113.395	113.635	E index	81.631	81.627
FTSE 250	4108.75	4161.35	-1.26	¥ per €	149.914	150.726	SFR per £	1.218	1.223
FTSE MIB	7198.03	7269.92	-0.99	SFR per \$	1.040	1.040			
FTSE AEX	4209.84	4130.34	-0.99	€ per \$	0.898	0.897			
CAC 40	6970.10	6928.63	-0.62						
Xetra Dax	15239.67	15531.69	-1.98						
Nikkei	27937.81	28545.68	-2.13						
Hang Seng	22744.86	23192.63	-1.93						
MSCI World	3139.75	3167.33	-0.87	Oil WTI \$	67.29	70.72	-4.85		
MSCI EM	1216.30	1223.89	-0.62	Oil Brent \$	70.27	73.52	-4.42		
MSCI ACWI	734.67	740.91	-0.84	Gold \$	1807.70	1795.70	0.67		

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## Behind a 'No,' Manchin's Role Backing Coal

### Climate Measures Tip Scales on Biden Bill

By JONATHAN WEISMAN  
and LISA FRIEDMAN

WASHINGTON — Senator Joe Manchin III on Monday cited a litany of issues that drove him to oppose President Biden's \$2 trillion Build Back Better bill, from Democrats' refusal to attach work requirements to social benefits to their failure to raise tax rates on the rich. But left almost unsaid was the issue that has always propelled his political career as a Democratic maverick: climate change.

The version of the bill that passed the House last month devoted \$555 billion to shifting the nation to renewable sources of energy, such as wind and solar power, and away from fossil fuels like West Virginia coal. Mr. Manchin, who defied gale-force political headwinds in 2010 by running for the Senate on his opposition to President Barack Obama's climate change legislation, killed a provision in Build Back Better that would have imposed stiff penalties on electric utilities that continued to burn coal and natural gas.

But even with the stick dropped from the House's bill, West Virginia's coal interests were working hard to kill off the measure's carrot, a package of tax credits to make clean energy more financially competitive, and, by extension, struggling coal even less so. Their lobbyists talked frequently to Mr. Manchin.

With every Republican opposing the bill in the evenly divided Senate, Democratic leaders could not afford to lose a single vote, and Mr. Manchin has said he had concerns about energy issues from the start.

"I said, this is absolutely a very, very far-reaching piece of legislation which changes so many categories in American culture and American society, revamping the

Continued on Page A14

## President Seeks To Salvage Plan From Defection

By EMILY COCHRANE  
and MICHAEL D. SHEAR

WASHINGTON — President Biden and his top aides tried on Monday to salvage hopes of passing their domestic agenda, acknowledging that their only path forward is to repair a broken relationship with Senator Joe Manchin III of West Virginia after a personal and policy breach over the weekend that left the legislation all but dead in the Senate.

Even as Mr. Manchin, a centrist Democrat, publicly expanded on his frustration with the administration and said White House officials had driven him to his "wit's end," administration officials tried to lower the temperature. They hope that despite a weekend of angry recriminations, they can eventually lure Mr. Manchin — who effectively holds the legislation's fate in his hands — back to the negotiating table.

Mr. Biden spoke with Mr. Manchin late Sunday, just hours after the White House issued a scathing rebuke to the senator's abrupt and public withdrawal from negotiations over Mr. Biden's sprawling, \$2.2 trillion climate, social spending and tax bill. A person familiar with the call described it as pleasant.

At the White House, Jen Psaki, the press secretary, repeatedly downplayed the breakdown in negotiations between Mr. Biden and Mr. Manchin, whose support is

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THE PHILIPPINES Churchgoers wore masks and maintained social distancing at a Mass in Manila.



ENGLAND A mobile vaccination site in Farnworth is offering doses as Omicron spreads in Britain.



UNITED STATES Many New Yorkers have waited in line for hours to get a Covid test this month.

## Panel May Push for Criminal Charges Over Riot

By MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT  
and LUKE BROADWATER

When the House formed a special committee this summer to investigate the Jan. 6 Capitol assault, its stated goal was to compile the most authoritative account of what occurred and make recommendations to ensure it never happens again.

But as investigators sifted through troves of documents, metadata and interview transcripts, they started considering whether the inquiry could yield something potentially more consequential: evidence of criminal conduct by President Donald J. Trump or others that they could

### A Referral by the House Would Pressure the Justice Dept.

send to the Justice Department urging an investigation.

That move — known as sending a criminal referral — has no legal weight, as Congress has little ability to tell the Justice Department what investigations it should undertake. But it could have a substantial political impact by increasing public pressure on Attorney General Merrick B. Garland, who in his first year in office has largely sidestepped questions

about what prosecutors are doing to examine the conduct of Mr. Trump and his aides as they promoted baseless allegations of voter fraud.

The questions of criminality go far beyond the contempt of Congress referrals that the House has sent to the Justice Department for Stephen K. Bannon, Mr. Trump's former chief strategist, and Mark Meadows, his former chief of staff, for their refusal to cooperate with the investigation. (Federal law requires prosecutors to bring contempt of Congress charges before a grand jury upon receiving such a referral.)

According to people briefed on their efforts, investigators for the

Continued on Page A15

## Officials Try to Keep Pace As Variant Raises Alarms

### Close Down, or Not? Europe Is Split.

By NORIMITSU ONISHI  
and NICHOLAS CASEY

PARIS — The Dutch can now invite only two guests to their homes as part of a new lockdown. In Denmark, where masks and other social restrictions had all but disappeared thanks to a successful vaccination campaign, cinemas, amusement parks, zoos and other establishments are closed once again.

By contrast, France has ruled out lockdowns, curfews or closures on a continent where new Covid-19 rules are being announced every day in the face of the Omicron variant's rapid spread. "The French exception," the front page of one newspaper, Le Parisien, said on Monday.

For now, France — as well as Spain and, to a lesser extent, Italy — is betting that high vaccine and booster coverage, along with earlier restrictions it put in place, will be enough to keep the coronavirus variant manageable, adopting a wait-and-see attitude as a sense of urgency grips the Netherlands, Denmark and Britain.

The numbers show why. In London, the number of Covid cases rose by 30 percent last week, and the mayor declared a "major incident" — an emergency status that frees up resources. Denmark is now recording more than 9,000 new cases daily, one of the highest infection rates in the world. And the Netherlands became the first country in Europe to return to a full lockdown amid fears that its relatively low number of I.C.U. beds would be overwhelmed.

Spain, Italy and France all have lower Covid cases per 100,000 people than some of their northern neighbors, at least for now.

Antoine Flahault, director of the Institute of Global Health in Geneva, said that countries in northern Europe had "tended to be more proactive, in moving quickly in not wanting their hospitals to be overwhelmed." For countries in the south, he said, restrictions and lockdowns are "always an act of last resort."

In all the countries, economic and political concerns — just days before Christmas — are also guiding governments, amid uncertainty about just how big a risk the variant poses. Epidemiologists have warned that even if Omicron is eventually shown to cause less

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## For Music Stars, Time Is Right To Cash In on a Lifetime of Hits

By BEN SISARIO

In 1972, a struggling New Jersey musician hustled into Manhattan for an audition at Columbia Records, using an acoustic guitar borrowed from his former drummer.

"I had to haul it 'Midnight Cowboy'-style over my shoulder on the bus and through the streets of the city," the rocker, Bruce Springsteen, later recalled in his memoirs.

Half a century later, he can afford plenty of guitars. Last week Sony, which now owns Columbia, announced that it acquired Springsteen's entire body of work — his recordings and his songwriting catalog — for what two people briefed on the deal said was about \$550 million.

The price, which may be the richest ever paid for the work of a single musician, caused jaws to drop throughout the music industry. But it was only the latest mega-transaction in a year in which many prominent artists' catalogs have been sold, fetching

This article is by Campbell Robertson, Mitch Smith and Giulia Heyward.

With the holiday travel season already underway, new coronavirus cases are surging in the United States, prompting governors and mayors to once again wrestle with how far to go to combat the virus as federal officials said that Omicron has become by far the dominant form of new virus cases in the country.

In New York State, reports of new cases shot up more than 80 percent over two weeks. In Washington, D.C., where the mayor reinstated an indoor mask mandate on Monday, more than three times as many infections are being identified each day as at the start of December. In Boston, another place where cases are surging, Mayor Michelle Wu on Monday announced proof-of-vaccination requirements for certain indoor spaces like gyms and restaurants — but notably did not order any places to shut down.

"We remember the gravity and uncertainty as those early weeks turned into months," the mayor said of the grim spring of 2020, "as schools were shut down along with small businesses, child care and so many parts of our daily support systems."

There is a key difference between then and now, Ms. Wu said as she announced the new measures.

"Today, vaccines are available for every adult and even children as young as 5 years old," she said.

On Monday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that Omicron, which accounted for less than 1 percent of new Covid-19 cases in the United States as December began, now accounts for nearly three-quarters of new cases, underlining how stunningly infectious it is.

Still, even in hard-hit New York, officials were shying away from widespread lockdowns. In a news conference on Monday, Mayor Bill de Blasio of New York said the city must "move faster" in its response to the latest wave of new cases. The mayor said the city would focus on increasing vaccinations, broadening access to tests and ensuring hospital capacity. But he said that city employees would still be required to work in-person and insisted that another lockdown "would have hor-

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Bruce Springsteen is said to have received \$550 million.

eye-popping prices.

The catalog market was already bubbling a year ago when Bob Dylan sold his songwriting rights for more than \$300 million, but since then it has maintained a steady boil. The list of major artists who have recently sold their work, in full or in part, includes Paul Simon, Neil Young, Stevie Nicks, Tina Turner, Mötley Crüe, Shakira and the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

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INTERNATIONAL A4-11

**Secret Charms and Some Faith**  
"The cure," a type of folk medicine that weaves home remedies with religion and magic, persists in Ireland. PAGE A6

**Cyber Fortification for Ukraine**  
Russia has attacked Ukraine's power grid before, and experts say Moscow might take similar steps. PAGE A11

NATIONAL A12-21

**Haitian Migrants File Lawsuit**  
People who were confronted by Border Patrol agents on horseback, an incident captured in searing images, are suing over their treatment. PAGE A12

**Price Cut for Alzheimer's Drug**  
Biogen slashed the price of Aduhelm as the remedy faces weak sales and mounting criticism. PAGE A17

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**Scrambled by a Covid Surge**  
Because of postponed games, some N.F.L. teams are getting extra rest, but routines are being thrown off. PAGE B7



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**Naples Is in the Big Picture**  
For his movie "The Hand of God," Paolo Sorrentino returned to the city, where film crews are a common sight. PAGE C7

**An Eye on Young Visitors**  
As Covid-19 surges, arts organizations are trying to welcome their youngest audience members safely. PAGE C1

BUSINESS B1-5

**E.P.A. Tightens Emission Rules**  
Under the new plan, designed to reduce planet-warming tailpipe emissions, new vehicles would be required to average 55 miles per gallon, the highest level ever set, starting in 2026. PAGE B3

**Crypto Rises as Talent Magnet**  
Tech executives and engineers are leaving Silicon Valley en masse for Google, Meta and Amazon for what they see as a once-in-a-generation chance at blockchain start-ups. PAGE B1

OPINION A22-23

**Margaret Renkl** PAGE A23



SCIENCE TIMES D1-8

**Sickle Cell Ravages Nigeria**  
About 150,000 babies are born each year with the deadly disease in the African country. Tens of thousands die before their fifth birthdays. PAGE D1





**FREE CORONAVIRUS TESTING** is conducted at a site in the nation's capital. Nearly three-fourths of new cases in the United States last week were caused by the Omicron variant, according to federal data.

## Biden prepares for a wave of Omicron cases

Overwhelmed hospitals can expect a surplus of supplies and help from military doctors and nurses.

By CHRIS MEEGERIAN, ERIN B. LOGAN AND ANUMITA KAUR

WASHINGTON — President Biden will announce Tuesday that he's mobilizing military medical personnel and distributing emergency equipment in preparation for a wave of new infections caused by the Omicron variant, according to a senior administration official.

If hospitals become overwhelmed and face dwindling supplies, the administration can deliver gloves, masks and ventilators, as well as deploy 1,000 doctors, nurses and medics.

"God willing, we will not need all these service men and women," said the official, who requested anonymity to discuss the president's plans before they were announced. "But if we do, they're ready, and they're mobilized."

Additional federal assistance would help hospitals expand the number of beds available and quickly transfer patients to other facilities when they become too full.

The preparations are an acknowledgment that the United States' battle with the coronavirus is entering a grim phase, casting a shadow over holiday plans and forcing Americans to brace for a third year of living with a pandemic.

Although there are hopes that widespread vaccinations will make the coming wave less deadly than previous ones, surging caseloads could stretch the exhausted healthcare system past its

limit and demoralize a country that had hoped the crisis would be over by now.

Omicron is so contagious that it's expected to cause more breakthrough cases, and it has surpassed the Delta variant as the leading cause of infection faster than expected.

Nearly three-fourths of new cases last week were caused by Omicron, according to federal data released Monday.

The administration is scrambling to make more testing available to Americans, and the official said [See Biden, A6]

### ANALYSIS

## Democrats vow to tackle climate

Despite Manchin's 'no' vote, leaders say they'll take on crisis

By ELI STOKOLS AND CHRIS MEEGERIAN

WASHINGTON — Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin III's announcement Sunday that he opposed President Biden's massive spending package may be much more than a political setback for the White House.

In torpedoing a bill that included \$555 billion to combat climate change, the longtime West Virginia senator is, at least for now, singlehandedly preventing the U.S. from being able to reach Biden's emissions reduction targets — and



**PRESIDENT BIDEN**, exiting Marine One at the White House, faces an uphill challenge on his agenda.

undermining the president's credibility in persuading other countries to take steps to stave off a catastrophic future of extreme heat, drought, fires, storms and floods.

"The climate crisis isn't going away, and the devastating damages from heating the planet are being increasingly felt in communities across the country," said Nat Keohane, president of the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions. "Not investing in climate and clean energy infrastructure would be a setback for American credibility and global leadership on climate — but just as [See Climate, A7]

## A Marie Callender's closes. All hope is pie in the sky

By HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS

Alice Maltin got out of her car on Ventura Boulevard in Sherman Oaks with hungry anticipation.

Shocked at her luck in finding a prime parking spot, the septuagenarian took a few steps last month

toward one of her favorite places. And froze.

The last Marie Callender's in the San Fernando Valley — where she had come to get Thanksgiving pies as she did every year — had a thick padlock on the door. Closed for good.

"There were boards in the window, like they didn't want us sneaking in to get

the rest of the pies," Maltin said.

She peeled out of there. Burst into the home office of her husband, the renowned film critic — and self-described Marie Callender's "pumpkin pie aficionado" — Leonard Maltin. She dropped the news on him like a big-budget box-office bomb on a desperate Holly-

wood producer.

"We're still grieving," Leonard said, the wound still fresh days later.

"It's a slice of Americana. When you walk in, you don't feel like you're walking into a chain restaurant. It feels homey and you don't go there to be seen — you go there to get some good, honest food, alongside your

neighbors."

In a world racked by pandemic, political turmoil and natural disasters, this is a tale of heartache over the loss of one of those factories of nostalgia that feel as though they really come alive during the holidays: the family-dining chain restaurant. [See Restaurant, A7]

### COLUMN ONE

## Special souvenir is signed, sealed, delivered

Two Oxnard men connect over ball four Hall of Famers inscribed

By STEVE HENSON

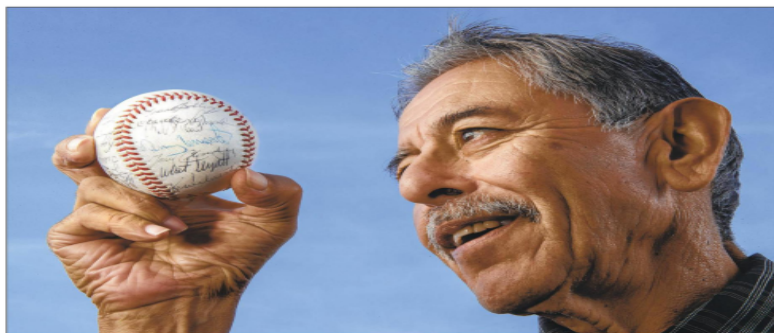
Feeling buoyant from his Oxnard High graduation ceremony and dinner with his mom and girlfriend, Denver Clayton Lemaster — everyone called him Denny — turned onto his narrow street and let out a nervous chuckle. Cars lined the curb, and about a dozen men stood in his driveway.

"Oh, my," his mother said from the back seat. "What's all this?"

The men were major league baseball scouts jockeying to shovel more money to Denny than he'd ever imagined. The year was 1958, a major league baseball draft had yet to be implemented, and prospects could sign with any team upon graduating high school. Denny, a left-handed pitcher with an explosive fastball and knee-buckling curve, was the subject of a bidding war.

The Lemasters invited the scouts into their home and politely asked them to line up in an orderly fashion. One after another they made their pitch.

"You've got a country mother who didn't know anything about baseball and the son who just turned 19 bargaining with these [See Baseball, A12]



**BUDDY SALINAS**, 69, holds a baseball that was signed by the 1963 Milwaukee Braves, including star players and Denny Lemaster, the finest pitcher to come out of Oxnard.

### Moderna touts booster strength against Omicron

Drugmaker says a third shot of its COVID-19 vaccine provides ample protection against the variant. **NATION, A5**

### Duggar verdict's reality hits TLC

There's been trouble behind the wholesome images the channel projects about large families. **CALENDAR, E1**

### Weather

Mostly cloudy. L.A. Basin: 68/48. **B6**

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# The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.



Partly sunny 48/35 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny, breezy 50/28 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2021 • \$2

## Threats, hoaxes add to school stressors

Online posts lead to tough closure decisions, time-consuming probes

BY HANNAH NATANSON  
AND LAURA MECKLER

Nine days after the mass shooting at Michigan's Oxford High School, a disturbing message on social media shook a tiny Virginia town. A 15-year-old boy wrote of "shooting up the school tomorrow," police say, apparently referring to the high school he attended — spurring worried classmates to report the message to Manassas Park City Schools administrators.

School officials contacted the police, setting in motion a full-scale investigation, and the school system decided on a fairly drastic step — closing all campuses, not just the targeted school, for all of its 3,500 students the next day.

"Out of an abundance of caution, we switched all schools to virtual learning," said schools spokeswoman Kara Grasser. "The immediate information we received was not specific. . . . We are a very small school system with only four schools."

It was one among hundreds of examples of school systems grappling with how to respond to vague threats afloat on social media in the wake of the tragedy at Oxford High, which left four dead and seven seriously injured. These kinds of disturbing messages are spiking in the D.C. area and nationwide: At least 60 schools in Michigan closed this month in the wake of the Oxford shooting, as did districts in Ohio and Pennsylvania. And in a "chal-

SEE THREATS ON A16



DEMETRIUS FREEMAN/THE WASHINGTON POST

President Biden walks to the Oval Office after arriving at the White House on Marine One. Press secretary Jen Psaki declined to say Monday whether Biden still trusted Sen. Joe Manchin III (D-W.Va.) after Manchin said he couldn't support the Build Back Better bill.

## Manchin's 'no' draws bitterness from Democrats

Stance by senator on social policy spending enrages many in party, but some signal more talks

BY JOHN WAGNER  
AND CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.

The White House vowed Monday to "work like hell" to get President Biden's \$2 trillion social policy overhaul through Congress following the bombshell announcement by Sen. Joe Manchin III (D-W.Va.) on Sunday that he could no longer support the president's signature legislation.

But despite efforts by various Democrats to signal that the bill could be revised in the new year, Monday saw evidence of fissures and retrenchment, as Manchin complained that he'd been badgered by fellow Democrats and liberals accused him of betrayal. His cooperation is crucial in an evenly divided Senate where every Democratic vote is needed to change the country's health-care, education, climate, immigration and tax laws.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki declined to echo the most scathing assertions about Manchin by his congressional colleagues, but she would not say whether Biden still trusted the senator. Her tone was less accusatory than her blistering response a day earlier, when she called Manchin's

unexpected rejection of the Build Back Better bill a "breach of his commitments."

Psaki sought to walk a fine line, appearing to leave the door open to further discussion by saying that Biden and Manchin "share fundamental values, they're longtime friends. That has not changed."

Liberals were less diplomatic, in part because many supported Biden's bipartisan infrastructure package with the understanding that Manchin in exchange would

SEE BIDEN ON A4

**Manchin's offer:** Before the bitter blowup, he made a private pitch to the White House. A4

**The Take:** Will Biden have to scale back further to revive his legislative agenda? A3

## Biden has test in virus message

ADDRESS TO NATION WEARY OF PANDEMIC

Few palatable options as variant fuels winter surge

BY DAN DIAMOND  
AND TYLER PAGER

Four days before Christmas, as coronavirus cases spike and testing lines snake around city blocks, President Biden on Tuesday will again attempt to persuade Americans to take precautions to fend off the fast-spreading omicron variant.

But at a moment of great urgency — both for the nation's health and the president's standing — he has few new tools at his disposal, at least not politically palatable ones, and public health experts fear that exhausted Americans have tuned out their warnings.

Biden, who campaigned on a platform that some of the ravages of last year's pandemic were preventable, is now faced with the challenge of explaining that omicron infections may be near-inevitable even in the vaccinated. The fast-moving variant accounted for nearly three-quarters of coronavirus cases in the past week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Monday. That astonishing advance

SEE VIRUS ON A14

**Supreme Court:** Separate vaccine mandate cases involve businesses and health-care workers. A2

**D.C. mask mandate:** Mayor brings back requirement as cases rise. B1

## 'Havana Syndrome' mystery complicates aid to diplomats

No diagnosis, no pattern of victims as U.S. pushes to strengthen response

BY MISSY RYAN  
AND SHANE HARRIS

The Biden administration is scrambling to develop plans for providing compensation and improved medical care to diplomats, intelligence officers and other personnel affected by mysterious health incidents, part of an attempt to strengthen the response to a phenomenon known as "Havana Syndrome."

But the evolving effort to deal with the episodes, which have spanned the globe and generated fears of stealth foreign attacks, is complicated by officials' inability to establish a clear diagnosis for a spate of symptoms that while sometimes debilitating are also common, and to identify who or what is causing them.

Officials have detected no patterns among apparent victims in their effort to better understand and attribute the incidents, despite an extensive, ongoing investigation by the government, which includes the CIA and other agencies, according to officials. And, deepening the mystery, most of those who do report symptoms — labeled anomalous health incidents (AHI) by the government — turn out to have some other identifiable condition.

"In a significant majority of cases where individuals have come forward with symptoms, they can be attributed to some particular illness or condition, or they're reporting out of an abundance of caution and the symptoms do not meet AHI criteria," said a person familiar with the matter, who, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive topic.

Under the Havana Act, which President Biden signed into law in October, the administration has six months to establish a

SEE HAVANA ON A12

PANDORA PAPERS | A GLOBAL INVESTIGATION

## 'COWBOY COCKTAIL': THE RECIPE THAT MADE WYOMING A TOP TAX HAVEN

BY DEBBIE CENZEPER  
AND WILL FITZGIBBON

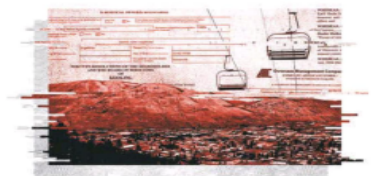
JACKSON, WYO. — The honky-tonk bar under neon lights on the town square serves Grand Teton Amber Ale and Yellowstone Lemonade. The Cowboy Coffee Co. offers bison chili, and the Five & Dime General Store sells Stetson hats and souvenirs made from bullets.

In this tourist-friendly Western town, home to four celebrated arches fashioned from elk antlers, lawyers and estate planners draw customers with something far more exclusive.

It's called the "Cowboy Cocktail," and in recent years the coveted financial arrangement has attracted a new set of outsiders to the least populated state in America.

The cocktail and variations of it — consisting of a Wyoming trust and layers of private companies with concealed ownership — allow

An oligarch, a dictator's aide and a beverage tycoon turned to America's least populated state to shelter assets



THE WASHINGTON POST

Financial advisers in Jackson, Wyo., draw a global clientele with trusts wrapped in layers of secrecy.

the world's wealthy to move and spend money in extraordinary secrecy, protected by some of the strongest privacy laws in the country and, in some cases, without even the cursory oversight performed by regulators in other states.

Millionaires and billionaires around the world have taken note. In recent years, families from India to Italy to Venezuela have abandoned international financial centers for law firms in Wyoming's ski resorts and minor towns, helping to turn the state into one of the world's top tax havens.

A dozen international clients who created Wyoming trusts were identified in the Pandora Papers, a trove of more than 11.9 million records obtained by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) and shared with The Washington Post that expose the movement of wealth around the

SEE WYOMING ON A6

## IN THE NEWS



JOSHUA LOTT/THE WASHINGTON POST

**A mother's fight** Karen Hylton stood at the front lines of anti-police protests in D.C. after losing her son in an encounter with officers. B1

**Missionaries' escape** Leaders of an aid group detailed how a dozen hostages freed themselves from their kidnappers in Haiti. A3

### THE NATION

**The Pentagon** is updating its rules to address extremism in the military after revelations that service members and veterans participated in the Jan. 6 attack at the U.S. Capitol. A2

**The jury** began deliberations in the trial of the former suburban Minneapolis police officer charged in the killing of Daunte Wright. A5

**A problem** with a common piece of computer code means that much of the Internet is vulnerable. A10

**The Biden** administration introduced new lim-

its on tailpipe emissions from cars, SUVs and pickup trucks for model years 2023 to 2026, its biggest step to date on climate change. A10

**Jurors** began deliberations in Ghislaine Maxwell's sex-trafficking trial after closing arguments focused on her relationship with Jeffrey Epstein. A16

**The world** Three years after the start of Sudan's revolution, hope is fading into despair even as protesters continue to fill the streets. A11

**Tigrayan** rebels fight-

ing the Ethiopian government confirmed a plan to withdraw from two regions neighboring their own. A11

**In a new video**, Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai claimed that her sexual assault allegations against a former senior Chinese official were misunderstood and she remained "very free." A12

**The economy** Joplin, Mo., which was ravaged by a devastating tornado 10 years ago, offers lessons on recovery for the communities hit by the recent catastrophe. A13

**The region** D.C. Public Schools

will extend the winter break by two days to provide time for coronavirus testing before in-person classes resume next month. B1

**Virginia Gov.-elect** Glenn Youngkin (R) has named school data consultant Aimee Rogstad Guidera as his choice for education secretary. B1

**Rival vigils** are planned in D.C. on the first anniversary of the Jan. 6 riot, with a right-wing group and liberal organizations planning events. B5

## INSIDE



### HEALTH & SCIENCE

#### An environmental trailblazer

The youngest chief in his First Nation's history is leading a fight against climate change. E1

**STYLE** Is DogTV barking up the right tree? Its founder and customers say dogs enjoy it, though experts aren't so sure. C1

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## deportes

## Boca necesita paz

Cansado de desplantes, depura el plantel

Tras varios actos de indisciplina, el club prescindirá de los colombianos Villa y Cardona.



## INÉDITO DESPLIEGUE DE POLICÍAS EN LA COSTA BONAERENSE

—seguridad

En una temporada en la que se prevé un récord de turistas, el Operativo Sol movilizará a casi el doble de efectivos que el año pasado. **Página 28**

## LO MEJOR Y LO PEOR DE SPIDER-MAN, GRAN SUCESO DE TAQUILLA

—espectáculos

La película de Marvel superó el millón de espectadores el último fin de semana; puntos a favor y en contra de esta remake de un clásico. **Página 6**

## LA NACION

MARTES 21 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

## La oposición busca votar un alivio en Bienes Personales para 600.000 personas

**CONGRESO.** El oficialismo hizo una contraoferta para evitar otra derrota en Diputados

Laura Serra  
LA NACION

Tras el golpe que la oposición le propinó al oficialismo con el rechazo al presupuesto 2022, la Cámara de Diputados será epicentro hoy de un nuevo enfrentamiento, en esta oportunidad por las alícuotas a cobrar

por el impuesto a los bienes personales a partir del año próximo.

La discusión no es menor: si no se actualiza antes de fin de año la base imponible del patrimonio a tributar, alrededor de 600.000 contribuyentes ingresarán en el pago del impuesto aunque no hayan incrementado su número de bienes.

El oficialismo contraofertó ayer un nuevo proyecto. Sin embargo, envalentonados tras la demostración de fuerza que hicieron el viernes al rechazar el presupuesto, la oposición de Juntos por el Cambio y el interbloque Federal se proponen convertir en ley el proyecto que tiene media sanción del Senado. **Continúa en la página 8**

## ASADO EN OLIVOS

El Presidente recibió anoche a los diputados oficialistas tras la fallida sesión por el presupuesto 2022. **Página 10**

## La victoria de Boric provocó temor en los mercados

**CHILE.** El dólar tocó su techo histórico y la Bolsa retrocedió 6,83%

SANTIAGO, Chile (Para LA NACION).— Luego de la contundente victoria del candidato de la izquierda Gabriel Boric sobre el conservador José Antonio Kast, los mercados chilenos reaccionaron ayer con desconfianza: el dólar tocó un pico histórico de 872,61 pesos y la Bolsa se derrumbó 6,83%. Tras reunirse con el presidente Sebastián Piñera en el Palacio de La Moneda, Boric afirmó que su gobierno tendrá responsabilidad fiscal. **Página 2**

## OPINIÓN

Luciana Vázquez

La chilénización no llega al kirchnerismo  
**Página 12**

## Más violencia en Chubut pese a las promesas de Arcioni

**INCIDENTES.** En un clima de máxima tensión, manifestantes antiminería atacaron anoche el edificio del diario *El Chubut*, a pesar del anuncio del gobernador Mariano Arcioni de que derogará la ley de zonificación que habilitó la explotación minera en dos departamentos de la provincia. Parte del edificio, en el que había periodistas, quedó en llamas. **Página 14**

## Colectivos: se agranda la brecha tarifaria con el interior

**BOLETOS.** Congelados en el AMBA desde 2019, en las provincias tuvieron subas de 100%. **Página 16**



RODRIGO NÉSPOLO

**Más testeos.** El gobierno de la ciudad resolvió desplegar desde esta semana una nueva estrategia contra el aumento de los contagios por Covid-19, cuyos ejes son la duplicación de los testeos diarios (pasarán de 20.000 a 40.000) y un trabajo de "cientización" sobre la población. El primer objetivo se puso en marcha ayer con la reapertura del centro de testeos en el complejo Costa Salguero (foto) y seguirá mañana con la duplicación de la capacidad del centro instalado en la Rural. Los gobiernos nacional, bonaerense y porteño descartaron por ahora disponer nuevas restricciones. **Página 20**

## La Provincia flexibiliza el pase sanitario, que debuta hoy para actividades sociales

**VACUNACIÓN.** Se aceptará una sola dosis si no venció el intervalo hasta la segunda

A principios de mes, el gobierno de Axel Kicillof anunció que a partir de hoy iba a regir en la provincia de Buenos Aires el pase sanitario que obligaría a acreditar el esquema

completo de vacunación contra el Covid para participar de eventos masivos o en espacios cerrados. Sin embargo, ayer voceros del Ministerio de Salud bonaerense acla-

raron que se aceptará también una sola dosis, siempre que el intervalo hasta la segunda no esté vencido. El pase también entra en vigor hoy en Córdoba y en Santa Fe. **Página 21**

## La OMS advierte que ómicron se propaga con celeridad

La agencia de la ONU dijo también que infecta a los ya vacunados

**Página 23**

# FOLHA DE S. PAULO

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Mathilde Missionheiro/Folhapress

## PROGRAMAS ACOLHEM VÍTIMAS DE VIOLÊNCIA SEXUAL NA BAHIA

Carolaine de Jesus, 21, na Casa Rosa de Cândido Sales, cidade baiana junto à BR-116, rodovia na qual ela se prostitui; ONGs da região acolhem meninas vítimas de abuso sexual Cotidiano B4 e B5

## Chapa de Lula e Alckmin avança, mas tem limites

O jantar no domingo em que estiveram presentes Lula e Geraldo Alckmin fez avançar a tratativa de uma chapa na qual o ex-tucano seria vice do petista em 2022, mas ao mesmo tempo expôs arestas e limites da combinação.

Rival, Sergio Moro ironizou o evento, que classificou de "comemorativo da impunidade". Poder A4 e A5

**Imigrantes sofrem para registrar filhos no país**  
Cartórios negam documentos para crianças em famílias de imigrantes e refugiados, mesmo as nascidas no Brasil. Mundo A9

## EDITORIAIS A2

**Cordilheira a escalar**  
Sobre eleição de Gabriel Boric e desafios no Chile.

**Assédio telefônico**  
A respeito de abusos do telemarketing no Brasil.

## ATMOSFERA



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## Ilustrada B9

### Natal além de Simone

País tem rica tradição de canções natalinas que mostram a tristeza de uma terra desigual



Torneira de vinho no Futuro Refeitório João Neto/Dhruvgação

## Comida B15

Vinho que sai direto da torneira é a mais nova moda entre bares paulistanos

## Ciência B6

Pesquisa reforça que objeto extraterrestre gerou cratera na zona sul de SP

**Renata Mendonça**  
Cruzeiro aposta em novidade com Ronaldo

Esporte B7

# Brasil cresce menos do que o resto do mundo por 16 anos

Estudo mostra desempenho irregular desde 2011, que deverá se prolongar até o final do próximo mandato

O crescimento da economia do Brasil deve completar ao menos 16 anos abaixo da média mundial, um período que começou no governo de Dilma Rousseff (PT, 2011-16) e deve se estender até o fim do próximo mandato presidencial em 2026. O quadro sombrio foi esmiuçado em estudo confeccionado a pedido da Folha.

Ele utiliza como base dados e projeções do FMI e da pesquisa Focus, do Banco Central, complementando trabalho do FGV Ibre.

Há dez anos o Brasil alterna baixo crescimento com estagnação e recessão. Governos também esvaziaram políticas de controle de gastos, com reflexos na inflação e no câmbio, como agora.

O Produto Interno Bruto brasileiro cresceu 1,4 ponto percentual abaixo da média global desde 1987, o intervalo estudado. Na média, o país cresceu 2% ao ano, enquanto o resto do planeta avançou a um ritmo de 3,4%.

Houve alguns momentos de reversão dessa tendência, sob gestões de Itamar Franco, FHC e Lula. Mercado A11



Zanone Fraissat/Folhapress

## COM GRUPOS MENORES, FAMÍLIAS RETOMAM ENCONTROS NO NATAL

Família da professora Maria Gildamar Benício Souza, 48, (segunda da esq. para dir.), que se reunirá neste ano após fazer celebração restrita com chamada de vídeo em 2020; médico recomenda vacina, máscara e teste para reduzir riscos Cotidiano B3

## Bolsonaro briga só por aumento de policiais federais

Enquanto o presidente Jair Bolsonaro insiste em incluir aumento a 45 mil policiais federais, sua base presumida de apoio, no Orçamento, cerca de 1 milhão de servidores ativos e inativos estão com suas remunerações congeladas há cinco anos. Os dados são do governo. Mercado A11

## Governo publica portaria para exigir passaporte vacinal

Saúde B1

**NATAL**  
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## El Indert adjudica 4.000 ha. a socia de investigado por droga

Gabriela Ortellado Talavera, de 19 años de edad, fue beneficiada con una propiedad en el Chaco. Está vinculada a Diego Benítez, salpicado por caso de megacarga de cocaína.

PÁGINA 10

Para enfrentar a Carlos  
Abdo afirma que  
en marzo definirá  
candidatura para  
Junta de Gobierno

PÁGINA 4

Es importante inmunizarse  
Con la aplicación de  
tercera dosis los  
vacunatorios vuelven  
a cobrar vida

PÁGINA 2

Las transacciones  
electrónicas  
alcanzaron nuevo  
techo histórico

PÁGINA 12



## Masiva Llegada

A paso lento. Incesante arribo al país de compatriotas, especialmente de la Argentina. En Control Migratorio de Falcón se observan largas filas para trámites de ingreso.

PÁGINA 16

Corte releva a la contadora del  
PJ tras extravío de 900 cheques

PÁGINA 42

Itaipú Nane Mba'e asegura que el  
Gobierno le sigue el juego al Brasil

PÁGINA 17



## HUMOUR

LA FÉDÉ DE LA LOSE, CE MÉDIA QUI CÉLÈBRE LES ÉCHECS DU SPORT FRANÇAIS **PAGE 16**

## JUSTICE

LE PARQUET EUROPÉEN, NOUVELLE FORCE DE FRAPPE ANTIFRAUDE **PAGE 18**



# Le projet de passe sanitaire inquiète les entreprises

Consultés par la ministre du Travail sur un dispositif de contrôle des salariés sur les lieux de travail pour accélérer la vaccination, les syndicats sont opposés et le patronat, très réservé.

Une généralisation du passe sanitaire à toute la sphère professionnelle - au-delà des secteurs de la santé et au contact du public - est mal acceptée. Les syndicats y sont opposés et le patronat est très réservé. « Rien n'est acté à ce stade », a

précisé Elisabeth Borne, la ministre du Travail, qui a consulté lundi les partenaires sociaux. Les représentants des entreprises doutent qu'un passe pourrait pousser les récalcitrants à se faire vacciner. Et ils s'inquiètent surtout de la com-

plexité d'un tel dispositif et des tensions sociales que sa mise en place pourrait engendrer. Tous ont proposé des pistes alternatives à l'extension du passe. Elles vont du renforcement du télétravail jusqu'à trois ou quatre jours par semaine, à une

plus forte mobilisation sur site de la médecine du travail en passant par l'interdiction des réunions en présentiel. Mardi, la ministre de la Fonction publique, Amélie de Montchalin, consultera les syndicats de la fonction publique sur le sujet.

➔ **MACRON CHERCHE À CONCILIER LE FREINAGE DE L'ÉPIDÉMIE AVEC LE MAINTIEN DE L'ÉCONOMIE**  
➔ **COVID-19: QUE SAIT-ON DE LA DANGÉROSITÉ DU VARIANT OMICRON?**  
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Roberta Metsola, une anti-IVG favorite pour le perchoir du Parlement européen **PAGE 8**

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FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON  
Réponses à la question de lundi : La France doit-elle se reconfiner, comme les Pays-Bas, face au variant Omicron ?

QUI 29% NON 71%  
TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 217 388

Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr  
Êtes-vous favorable à l'obligation du passe sanitaire en entreprise ?

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Fruit d'une collaboration entre la Nasa et l'ESA, cet engin à 12 milliards de dollars doit être lancé vendredi par une fusée Ariane 5 depuis Kourou, en Guyane. Objectif principal : débusquer les premières étoiles de l'Univers. **PAGE 15**

## ÉDITORIAL par Jacques-Olivier Martin jomartin@lefigaro.fr

### Bénéfice et risques

Tout sauf le confinement ! Depuis des mois, les employeurs, privés, publics, PME, grands groupes, sont au front et se démenent pour protéger leurs salariés et continuer à faire tourner l'économie. Ils font feu de tout bois. Avec leurs armes. Et si le gouvernement juge que cela doit passer par la mise en place d'un passe sanitaire sur le lieu de travail pour pousser à la vaccination, nul doute que les entreprises s'y plieront, comme s'y sont pliés les bars, les restaurants, les cinémas, les théâtres et les professions de santé... Le passe n'enthousiasme personne en vérité. Les syndicats n'en veulent pas et le patronat n'est pas franchement allant. Sans être médecins, ni ministres de la Santé, les chefs d'entreprise passent au trébuchet les bénéfices et les risques pour leur organisation de ce contrôle médical des salariés que les pouvoirs publics veulent leur faire assumer. Ce qu'ils redoutent par-dessus tout ? La mise en place d'une (nouvelle) usine à gaz. Souvenons-nous des premiers guides ubuesques et inapplicables pondus par les fonctionnaires pour per-

mettre la reprise du travail au printemps 2020... Les plus petites entreprises tremblent devant le coût d'une telle mesure et la menace qu'elle ferait peser sur la responsabilité des dirigeants. Et puis, les acteurs économiques redoutent les effets secondaires, notamment la détérioration des relations sociales lorsqu'il faudra sanctionner ou écarter tous ceux qui refuseront le passe travail. N'y a-t-il pas plus simple et plus efficace ? Les entreprises ont montré qu'elles pouvaient limiter les interactions entre les salariés grâce au télétravail, aux nouvelles technologies et à la réorganisation des usines. Lundi, elles ont réaffirmé à la ministre du Travail qu'elles sont prêtes à aller plus loin dans l'activité à distance et la vaccination sur le lieu de travail. À Emmanuel Macron de peser le pour et le contre, d'évaluer soigneusement le bénéfice-risque social et sanitaire s'il veut éviter de créer le passe de la discorde. ■

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C'est un changement de dimension. Jamais les start-up n'ont levé autant d'argent. Et jamais l'Europe n'a vu éclore autant de licornes, ces entreprises innovantes valant plus de 1 milliard de dollars (plus de 100 licornes en un an). Cette accélération reflète l'ambition plus forte des entrepreneurs et l'existence d'un vivier de talents plus expérimentés. **PAGES 22 ET 23**



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## Covid surges, but cabinet split means no extra curbs – for now

PM accused of failing to follow science as businesses left in limbo

Aubrey Allegretti  
Peter Walker  
Sarah Butler

New Covid restrictions are unlikely to be imposed before Christmas amid deep cabinet divisions but Boris Johnson warned that further

measures remain on the table, with data on the threat of Omicron monitored “hour by hour”.

The prime minister was accused of failing to follow scientists’ advice on the need for immediate restrictions while leaving millions of people and businesses in limbo after a two-hour cabinet meeting ended with no decision yesterday.

During the meeting, scientific advisers briefed ministers on the latest data including a steep rise in hospitalisations in London, the centre of the UK’s Omicron variant,

while 91,743 people tested positive for Covid yesterday. The prime minister said the arguments for and against stricter measures were “finely balanced” and the situation was “extremely difficult”.

With some people having already departed on Christmas breaks, government sources told the Guardian that fresh curbs were unlikely to be imposed before 25 December – though an announcement could be made in the coming days on rules to be brought in before New Year’s Eve.

Measures under consideration

**‘Follow Sage advice and return to step two of the roadmap’**

Prof Christina Pagel  
UCL research director

include limits on households mixing indoors, social distancing and curfews for the hospitality sector. Parliamentary authorities are preparing for a possible request for the

Commons to be recalled on Tuesday 28 December for a vote on any new measures.

Among the cabinet ministers pushing for swift action were Sajid Javid, the health secretary, and Nadine Dorries, the culture secretary. However the chancellor, Rishi Sunak, the foreign secretary, Liz Truss, and the education secretary, Nadhim Zahawi, were said to be holding out for “incontrovertible evidence” that a plan C for tackling Omicron was needed.

Among the plans considered by cabinet yesterday

## ‘Flagrant disregard’: fury over No 10 event

Peter Walker  
Jamie Grierson

Bereaved families have accused Boris Johnson of showing “flagrant disregard” for the public as ministers struggled to explain the justification for a wine and cheese event in Downing Street garden in May 2020.

A Cabinet Office inquiry into other alleged government parties in breach of Covid rules could be expanded after the Guardian published an image showing the prime minister with his wife and up to 17 staff in the Downing Street garden in May 2020.

Amid growing fury over the photograph, Johnson insisted yesterday: “Those were meetings of people at work, talking about work.”

Labour dismissed No 10’s



## ‘I will unite Chile,’ vows new leftist president

John Bartlett Santiago  
Sam Jones Madrid

Gabriel Boric has vowed to unite Chile, fight “the privileges of the few” and tackle poverty and inequality after winning a decisive victory over his far-right opponent to become the South American country’s youngest president.

The 35-year-old leftwing former student leader won 56% of the vote in Sunday’s second-round presidential election, cruising past his ultra-conservative opponent, José Antonio Kast, who took 44.2%.

The triumph of Boric, who belongs to a generation deeply opposed to the extreme economic model bequeathed to Chile by the Pinochet dictatorship, comes two years after a rise in metro fares triggered huge protests and demands for drastic changes to the political and economic system.

The president-elect, who will be sworn in on 11 March, said the time had come for a radical overhaul of Chilean society and



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▲ Supporters of Chile’s president-elect, Gabriel Boric, celebrate his election win on the streets of the capital, Santiago