

## What's News

## Business &amp; Finance

**Biden is considering** Sarah Bloom Raskin for a top role at the Fed as part of a slate of three nominees for central bank board seats, according to people familiar with the matter. **A1**

◆ **Home-price growth** in the U.S. slowed for the second straight month in October, an indication that the hot housing market may be starting to cool. **A3**

◆ **U.S. airlines continued** canceling flights at elevated levels on Tuesday amid staff shortages driven by Covid-19 and challenges posed by weather. **B1**

◆ **A venture led by Oak Hill Advisors** agreed to buy a controlling interest in a new 55-story office tower in Chicago in a deal that values the skyscraper at over \$1 billion. **B6**

◆ **Major U.S. stock indexes** ended mixed, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq losing 0.1% and 0.6%, respectively, while the Dow rose 0.3%. **B10**

◆ **Riot Games, the company** behind videogames such as "League of Legends" and "Valorant," has agreed to pay \$100 million to settle female workers' allegations of gender discrimination. **B4**

◆ **Ant Group will wind down** a "mutual aid" service that provided crowd-funded medical coverage for many ordinary Chinese citizens but was frowned upon by the country's insurance regulator. **B5**

◆ **Musk has exercised** the final batch of a package of vested Tesla stock options that have underpinned several weeks of share dealings by the chief executive. **B4**

## World-Wide

◆ **Many governors** who are grappling with the spreading Omicron variant are applying a lighter touch than during previous Covid-19 surges, as they are armed with more tools and increasingly mindful of the economic harm caused by sweeping restrictions. **A1**

◆ **The CDC added** research suggesting that the Omicron variant can lead to reinfections that are often accompanied by mild Covid-19 symptoms, as new cases soared across the U.S. **A2**

◆ **The U.S. and Russia** agreed to hold security talks on Jan. 10, amid tensions over Russian forces deployed near Ukraine and Moscow's demands that NATO renounce any expansion eastward into the former Soviet bloc. **A6**

◆ **A Russian judge** dissolved International Memorial, one of the country's oldest and most prestigious organizations dedicated to human rights. **A6**

◆ **Israeli missiles struck** Syria's port of Latakia, according to the Syrian Defense Ministry, causing large fires and major damage. **A11**

◆ **China filed** a complaint to the U.N., saying that astronauts aboard the country's space station had to take emergency action earlier this year to avoid colliding with satellites launched by SpaceX. **A8**

◆ **Died: Harry Reid**, 82, former Democratic Senate majority leader. **A3** ... **John Madden**, 85, NFL Hall of Fame coach and broadcasting icon. **A16** ... **James Cayne**, 87, former Bear Stearns chief. **B3** ... **Jonathan Spence**, 85, China scholar. **A10**

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## Former Afghan Female Troops Hide From Taliban to Survive



**AT RISK:** Samima, 26, formerly in the Afghan air force, is in hiding after the Taliban showed up at her parents' home, asking for people who served in the armed forces. Women who were in the military are among the most vulnerable left behind. **A11**

## Biden Eyes Pick for a Top Fed Post

President considers Raskin for job policing banks; her views would please progressives

By Andrew Ackerman  
And Nick Timiraos

President Biden is considering Sarah Bloom Raskin for a top role at the Federal Reserve as part of a slate of three nominees for central bank board seats, according to people familiar with the matter. The administration is eye-

ing Ms. Raskin, a former Fed governor and onetime Treasury Department official, to become the central bank's vice chairwoman of supervision, the government's most influential overseer of the U.S. banking system, the people said.

Mr. Biden, a Democrat, is also considering two economists for other Fed board seats that will soon be vacant: Lisa Cook, a professor of economics and international relations at Michigan State University; and Philip Jefferson, a professor and administrator at Davidson

College in North Carolina.

Ms. Raskin's nomination could mollify progressive Democrats, some of whom opposed Mr. Biden's decision in November to offer a second term to Fed Chairman Jerome Powell, a Republican first choice for the top job by former President Donald Trump.

They have called for the Fed to take a tougher stance in regulating big banks and a bolder approach in addressing financial risks posed by climate change.

In a speech in September 2009, Ms. Raskin blamed the

financial crisis on "a deregulatory fervor that marginalized the interests of many" and said the downturn had been "brought upon us through a combination of greed, weak regulation and weak enforcement."

While serving as a Fed governor from 2010 to 2014, Ms. Raskin was deeply involved in behind-the-scenes work to write rules implementing the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial-regulatory overhaul.

Since leaving the government, Ms. Raskin has spoken

## Movies Failed to Lure Older Audiences

By Erich Schwartzel

LOS ANGELES—A-list stars. Rapturous reviews. Release strategies that rely only on the big screen.

Even the biggest draws didn't draw audiences out of the house and back into the theater for many movies in 2021.

Will Smith's "King Richard," Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story" and more than a dozen other titles will end the year in a graveyard of disastrous grosses, further calling into question whether studios will continue releasing so many adult-oriented films in theaters at all.

The difficulty for such films was highlighted by the seismic success of "Spider-Man: No Way Home," which had the second-highest opening weekend of all time with \$260 million in the U.S. and Canada earlier this month and has so far grossed more than \$1 billion world-wide.

The result proved moviegoers will still turn out for a superhero movie, even as lower-budget films are heading into the holiday season with little to no traction. As studio chiefs assess what to do with their 2022 slate, some are already planning to ship even more of their non-tentpole titles to the streaming services, keeping their stock prices afloat.

The main culprit: an older moviegoing populace still reluctant to return to theaters. The successful movies of 2021 have been oriented toward younger audiences—"Spider-Man" as well as his similarly suited counterparts, "Black Widow" and "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings." The annual box office has rarely formed such a tiered system, with only one adult-

◆ **Heard on the Street:** Theater recovery still uncertain... **B11**

## INSIDE



## U.S. NEWS

Harry Reid, former Democratic Senate majority leader, dies at age 82. **A3**



## SPORTS

John Madden, NFL Hall of Fame coach and broadcaster, is dead at age 85. **A16**

## Elder Abuse Is Spreading, Stoked by the Pandemic

Seniors fall victim to fraud, physical violence and neglect

By Clare Ansberry

The pandemic's impact on older adults went far beyond Covid-19 infections. It also made them more vulnerable to abuse.

In Denver, a temporary caregiver on probation for a felony robbery conviction was hired to fill a Covid-related staff shortage at a long-term-care facility. She stole an engagement ring and credit cards from Barbara Gust, an 86-year-old mother and grandmother who was dying of Covid. A few hours after Ms. Gust died, the caregiver used one of the cards to make a \$2.37 purchase at a local Wendy's restaurant, Denver Police Department records show.

In Miami, Shirley Gibson's property, which had been in her family for a century, was stolen by three people, who forged the octogenarian's name on a deed and sold it in a virtual transaction that had become com-

monplace during the pandemic, according to Florida law-enforcement officials.

In Memphis, Tenn., Alfred Mayes has new locks on his doors after his son, who had been living with him, became abusive, at one point hitting Mr. Mayes with a crowbar. Family members say the pandemic kept Mr. Mayes's other children and grandchildren from visiting regularly to see how father and son were coping.

Cases like these cropped up across the country during the pandemic, contributing to a surge in elder abuse, typically defined as an intentional or negligent act that harms someone 60 or older in a physical, emotional or financial way.

The number of elder-fraud victims increased 55% between 2019 and 2020, the latest data available, according to a Federal Bureau of Investigation report on internet crime.

Another study conducted by Yale Univer-

Please turn to page A12

Want to Be an Actuary?  
Odds Are, You'll Fail the Test

Trying to become a human risk calculator is risky business

By Neal Templin

Kaylee Cohen studied two months for an actuarial exam last year—then failed it. She dreaded telling the actuaries at the insurance company where she was interning that she had flunked.

"But when I told them, they said, 'Oh yeah, I failed that one too,'" says the 23-year-old student at Montreal's Concordia University. "It made me feel so much better knowing everybody else was in the same shoes." She finally passed that exam and now has several more to go for an actuarial credential.

Actuaries quantify risk. One of their riskiest endeavors is

trying to become one.

Among people taking at least one exam from the Society of Actuaries—the field's biggest U.S. credentialing body—15% eventually pass the multiple tests required to become an Associate, one of two designations allowing them to practice. Just 10% pass those and additional tests to become a Fellow, the group's higher designation, which affords bigger responsibilities and salaries.

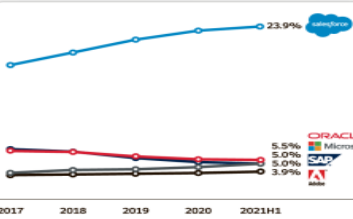
It's such an arduous process that the number of test-takers has been declining in recent years, and the society is making changes to keep candidates from dropping out.



Slim chances

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Source: IDC, Worldwide Semiannual Software Tracker, October 2021.

salesforce.com/number1CRM

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## Ticking clock

US-Iran nuclear talks enter a dangerous phase — BIG READ, PAGE 13

## Shaky foundations

Equity markets face tough challenge in 2022 — MERRYN SOMERSET WEBB, PAGE 15

## Prohibition day

The end looms for Libor after 45 years — MARKETS, PAGE 9

## Family pride Tutu's courage remembered

The late Desmond Tutu's daughter Nonombi Naomi Tutu speaking outside the family home in Cape Town yesterday ahead of remembrance services for the former Anglican archbishop today in that city and in Johannesburg.

Further commemorations of the dogged anti-apartheid campaigner and Nobel Peace Prize winner, who died on Sunday aged 90, will be held before his body is taken to St George's Cathedral in Cape Town, to lie in state until a funeral mass on Saturday.

Nonombi told Reuters her "proudest moment" was in 1985 when Tutu saved a young man accused of collaboration with the apartheid authorities from being burnt alive by a mob.

Obituary page 4



Sunday Mirror/Reuters

# Corporate cash haul hits \$12.1tn in 'blockbuster year' for markets

◆ Fundraising record ◆ Stock sales, debt and loans contribute ◆ 'Blank cheques' beat IPOs

ERIC PLATT, NICHOLAS MEGAW AND JOE REMINION — NEW YORK

Companies raised a record \$12.1tn in 2021 by selling stock, issuing debt and taking new loans, as central bank stimulus and recovery from the pandemic propelled many global markets higher.

With a few days still left in the year, the cash haul is already up almost 17 per cent from 2020, which was itself a record year, and almost a quarter above the take in 2019 before the coronavirus crisis, according to Financial Times calculations based on Refinitiv data.

The pace of fundraising underscores how easy financial conditions are in much of the world, notably the US, where more than \$5tn was raised.

"It's been a really blockbuster year," said Chris Blum, a BNP Paribas banker

who helps finance leveraged buyouts. "We anticipate it will continue into next year. Every year you think markets will go down from this frantic pace but it will still be robust."

Big sums have been raised as companies such as the electric vehicle maker Rivian and the South Korean e-commerce business Coupang went public.

Dozens of 10 and 11-figure loans were signed, including those to fund Discovery's merger with AT&T's WarnerMedia unit and the freight rail operator Canadian Pacific's takeover of rival Kansas City Southern. Investors in the roughly \$10tn US corporate bond market lapped up deal after deal.

Bond-buying programmes launched by central banks including the Federal Reserve and European Central Bank

during the pandemic have helped to push borrowing costs to historic lows. The environment was extremely favourable for companies to tap new investors and lenders, bankers said.

While high-grade corporate bond sales slowed in Europe and the US, a spurt of issuance from junk-rated companies meant total corporate bond sales dropped less than 5 per cent to \$5.5tn. That was in part bolstered by private equity activity, as buyout shops such as KKR, Blackstone and Apollo borrowed through credit markets to fund buyouts that have totalled some \$1.1tn this year.

Junk bond sales climbed 17 per cent from 2020 to just under \$650bn, while new issuance of leveraged loans (lending to highly indebted borrowers) more than doubled to \$614bn, according to

Refinitiv and S&P Global's Leveraged Commentary & Data service.

Global equity issuance smashed 2020's record, driven by surging volumes of initial public offerings in major markets. Equity issuance hit \$1.44tn, up 24 per cent year on year. In the US in particular, IPO volumes nearly doubled.

For the first time ever, more money was raised by special purpose acquisition companies in the US than through traditional IPOs. Issuance has slowed since a bumper first quarter but a stream of blank-cheque companies — which raise money then seek a company to buy — have come to market in the final months of the year, collectively raising more than \$152bn this year. Philip Coggan page 9

Merryn Somerset Webb page 15



Large sums were raised as companies such as electric vehicle maker Rivian went public

## Briefing

► **China warns business over listing abroad**  
Beijing has said companies need approval before listing overseas if they operate in sectors that are off-limits to foreigners, tightening a loophole for tech groups to raise capital in the US. — PAGE 7

► **Turkey policy critics face legal attack**  
A regulator has filed a criminal complaint against former central bank governors, journalists and an economist in a move that could chill criticism of the government's unorthodox economic policy. — PAGE 2

► **Alarm rises on eurozone inflation risk**  
An FT poll of economists has underlined the risks to growth in the region, with more than 40 per cent identifying inflation as a threat. It is the most cited risk factor for 2022 along with the Covid. — PAGE 2

► **Musk under fire over satellite near miss**  
Chinese social media users have attacked Elon Musk as it emerged that SpaceX satellites forced Beijing's space station to swerve out of the way to avoid collisions twice in 2021. — PAGE 6

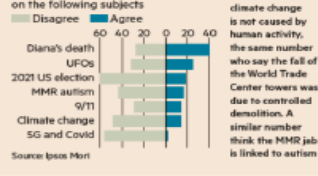
► **Audit critics scare off recruits, says PwC**  
Kevin Ellis, UK chair and senior partner, has said criticism from politicians and regulators, who have rounded on the industry after a string of corporate failures, risked making it harder to recruit. — PAGE 6

► **Japan and China set up military hotline**  
Officials in Tokyo have said the two countries have agreed to establish an emergency communication mechanism next year to defuse potential crises over disputed islands and the Taiwan Strait. — PAGE 4

► **UAE scraps merchant families' privileges**  
The Gulf state's government has said it intends to remove the monopolies on the sale of imported goods from some of its biggest business families as it deepens reform to attract investment. — PAGE 4

## Datawatch

**Conspiracy theories**  
% backing alternative explanations on the following subjects



Some 14 per cent of Britons believe climate change is not caused by human activity, the same number who say the fall of the World Trade Center towers was due to controlled demolition. A similar number think the MMR jab is linked to autism



## Asset managers fall their own racial diversity test

The asset management industry was quick to back calls for racial equity following George Floyd's death last year but it is not as keen to talk about its own diversity record. Despite its increased support for resolutions at company meetings seeking greater inclusion, when the FT contacted 23 firms for data, 15 declined. Minorities remain starkly under-represented and executives say making their rosters truly diverse could take years.

Race and finance — PAGE 8

## Russian court shuts civil rights group for flouting rules on 'foreign agents'

POLINA IVANOVA — ST PETERSBURG

Russia's Supreme Court has ordered the closure of Memorial, the country's oldest civil rights group, after prosecutors accused the organisation of failing to properly label itself a "foreign agent" and suggested it was depicting the Soviet Union too negatively.

The legal action capped a year of unprecedented crackdown on dissent by the Kremlin, including the jailing of opposition leader Alexei Navalny and pressure on activists and independent journalists as well as other political opponents of President Vladimir Putin. Two former local leaders of Navalny's movement were detained yesterday.

Memorial, dubbed "Russia's conscience" by the US, has worked since 1989 to document and preserve the memory of Soviet atrocities, from mass

executions in the 1950s to the many millions of people who went through the Gulag forced labour camp system.

The group, which counts Nobel Peace Prize winner Andrei Sakharov among its founding members, was accused by government prosecutors last month of breaking a law requiring it to label its publications and online posts as having been produced by a foreign agent.

The government has said the law protects Russia from covert foreign influence. Many NGOs, media outlets and journalists are now required to display the label on each of their Twitter and other posts. Memorial, designated a foreign agent in 2016, has denied failing to mark its materials properly.

During yesterday's Supreme Court hearing, state prosecutor Aleksei Zhafayarov accused the civil rights group of being too negative about the past and

suggested it was doing so on the behest of foreign donors. "Memorial creates a false image of the Soviet Union as a terrorist state," Zhafayarov said before the verdict, in comments reported by the Novaya Gazeta newspaper.

Memorial has said it will try to continue its work, which includes archival research into the activities of security services during the Soviet era, including the KGB, where Putin once worked.

Putin has said that Memorial has supported extremist groups. It is an accusation also levied by authorities against the Memorial human rights centre, an affiliate that documents contemporary abuses and maintains a list of political prisoners. It also faces liquidation in a parallel trial in a Moscow court today.

Memorial's lawyers have said they will appeal against the court's decision. Putin's gambit tests Biden page 3

## World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				INTEREST RATES			
	Dec 28	prev	%chg		Dec 28	prev	%chg		price	yield	chg
S&P 500	4799.12	4791.19	0.17	\$ per £	1.130	1.132	-0.18	US Gov 10 yr	147.29	1.47	-0.01
Nasdaq Composite	15645.80	15617.26	-0.16	£ per \$	1.343	1.342	0.01	UK Gov 10 yr	0.85	0.85	0.00
Dow Jones Ind	36479.31	36302.38	0.48	¥ per €	0.842	0.844	-0.24	Ger Gov 10 yr	-0.25	0.00	0.00
FTSEurofirst 300	1894.53	1893.33	0.59	¥ per \$	114.765	114.885	-0.11	Japan Gov 10 yr	113.82	0.06	0.00
Euro Stoxx 50	4314.34	4297.98	0.61	¥ per £	154.072	154.152	-0.05	US Gov 30 yr	117.59	1.87	-0.01
FTSE 100	7372.10	7373.34	-0.02	SPR per €	1.037	1.039	-0.19	Ger Gov 2 yr	104.99	-0.88	0.00
FTSE All-Share	4194.35	4194.71	-0.01	€ per \$	0.885	0.884	0.11				
CAC 40	7161.11	7140.39	0.57								
Wall St Dow	16263.70	16235.25	0.21								
Nikkei	29679.16	29676.40	1.37								
Hang Seng	23260.56	23223.76	0.24								
MSCI World \$	3237.70	3236.85	0.26	Oil WTI \$	76.89	75.57	0.89	Fed Funds Eff	0.08	0.08	0.00
MSCI EM \$	1221.76	1220.55	0.10	Oil Brent \$	79.14	78.60	0.69	US 3m Bill	0.06	0.07	-0.01
MSCI ACWI \$	755.36	748.88	0.87	Gold \$	1805.20	1782.80	0.69	Euro Libor 3m	-0.59	-0.59	0.00
								UK 3m	0.25	0.24	0.01

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A lithium processing plant in Chile. Concerns over mineral wealth, global warming and water are at the heart of an effort to rewrite the nation's defining document.

## Chile Is Rewriting Constitution To Battle 'Ecological Emergency'

By SOMINI SENGUPTA

SALAR DE ATACAMA, Chile — Rarely does a country get a chance to lay out its ideals as a nation and write a new constitution for itself. Almost never does the climate and ecological crisis play a central role.

That is, until now, in Chile, where a national reinvention is underway. After months of protests over social and environmental grievances, 155 Chileans have been elected to write a new constitution amid what they have declared a "climate and ecological emergency."

Their work will not only shape how this country of 19 million is governed. It will also determine the future of a soft, lustrous metal, lithium, lurking in the salt waters beneath this vast ethereal desert beside the Andes Mountains.

Lithium is an essential component of batteries. And as the global economy seeks alternatives to fossil fuels to slow down climate change, lithium demand — and prices — are soaring.

### RACE TO THE FUTURE

A Country Rethinks Its Priorities

Mining companies in Chile, the world's second-largest lithium producer after Australia, are keen to increase production, as are politicians who see mining as crucial to national prosperity. They face mounting opposition, though, from Chileans who argue that the country's very economic model, based on extraction of natural resources, has exacted too high an environmental cost and failed to spread the benefits to all citizens, including its Indigenous people.

And so, it falls to the Constitutional Convention to decide what kind of country Chile wants to be. Convention members will decide many things, including: How should mining be regulated, and what voice should local communities have over mining? Should Chile retain a presidential system? Should nature have rights? How about future generations?

Continued on Page A9

## As Putin Airbrushes History, Gulag Chronicle Is Shut Down

By IVAN NICHEPURENKO and ANDREW E. KRAMER

MOSCOW — Russia's Supreme Court ruled on Tuesday that the nation's most prominent human rights organization must close, signaling President Vladimir V. Putin's longstanding determination to control the narrative of some of the most painful and repressive chapters of Russian history.

The court ordered the liquidation of Memorial International, which chronicled the harrowing persecutions in the infamous Stalin-era labor camps in an effort to preserve the memory of its victims. The group, founded by the Nobel Peace Prize laureate Andrei Sakharov and other dissidents more than three decades ago, became a symbol of the country's emerging democracy after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The decision comes after a year

of broad crackdown on opposition in Russia as the Kremlin moved aggressively to stifle dissent — in the news media, in religious groups, on social networks and especially among activists and political opponents, hundreds of whom have been harassed, jailed or forced into exile.

Shutting down Memorial is also another step in Mr. Putin's effort to recast Russia's legacy as a series of glorious accomplishments and soften the image of the often-brutal Soviet regime. While the state opened a comprehensive gulag history museum in Moscow and Mr. Putin laid flowers at a new monument to the victims of Soviet repression, the increasingly emboldened Kremlin has moved aggressively to remove alternative interpretations of Russian history

Continued on Page A8

## Tech Giants Exploit a Tax Dodge for Start-Ups

By JESSE DRUCKER and MAUREEN FARRELL

This is the story of the incredible cloning tax break. In 2004, David Baszucki, fresh off a stint as a radio host in Santa Cruz, Calif., started a tiny video game company. It was eligible for a tax break that lets investors in small businesses avoid millions of dollars in capital gains taxes if the start-ups hit it big.

Today, Mr. Baszucki's company, Roblox, the maker of one of the world's most popular video-gaming platforms, is valued at about \$60 billion. Mr. Baszucki is worth

### How an Incentive to Aid Small Businesses Got Twisted

an estimated \$7 billion.

Yet he and his extended family are reaping big benefits from a tax break aimed at small businesses.

Mr. Baszucki and his relatives have been able to multiply the tax break at least 12 times. Among those poised to avoid millions of dollars in capital gains taxes are Mr. Baszucki's wife, his four chil-

dren, his mother-in-law and even his first cousin-in-law, according to securities filings and people with knowledge of the matter.

The tax break is known as the Qualified Small Business Stock, or Q.S.B.S., exemption. It allows early investors in companies in many industries to avoid taxes on at least \$10 million in profits.

The goal, when it was established in the early 1990s, was to coax people to put money into small companies. But over the next three decades, it would be contorted into the latest tax dodge in Silicon Valley, where new bil-

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John Madden coaching in 1970. He later won a Super Bowl with the Raiders before moving to TV.

JOHN MADDEN, 1936-2021

## The N.F.L.'s Exuberant Face, Voice and Scribbler

By BEN SHPIGEL

John Madden, the Hall of Fame coach who became one of America's most recognizable ambassadors of professional football, reaching millions, and generations, from the broadcast booth and through the popular video game that bears his name, died on Tuesday. He was 85.

The National Football League announced his death in a statement that didn't include the cause.

In his irrepressible way, and with his distinctive voice, Madden left an imprint on the sport on par with titans like George Halas, Paul Brown and his coaching idol, Vince Lombardi. Madden's influence, steeped in Everyman sensibilities and studded with wild gestures and paroxysms of on-

matopoeia — wham! doink! whoosh! — made the N.F.L. more interesting, more relevant and more fun for over 40 years.

"John Madden is as important as anybody in the history of football," Al Michaels, his broadcast partner from 2002 through 2008 with ABC and NBC, said in an interview in 2013. "Tell me someone who did all of the things that

Continued on Page A19

## TO KEEP SCHOOLS OPEN, CITY TURNS TO MORE TESTING

### MASS QUARANTINES OUT

### Mitigating the Disruption for Students While Battling Omicron

By ELIZA SHAPIRO

New York City, home to the nation's largest school system, will eliminate its current policy of quarantining entire classrooms exposed to Covid, and will instead use a ramped-up testing program to allow students who test negative for the coronavirus and do not have symptoms to remain in school.

The new policy, which Mayor Bill de Blasio referred to as "Stay Safe and Stay Open" during his announcement on Tuesday, will take effect on Monday, when the nearly one million students who attend the city's public schools are scheduled to return from holiday break. More than 27,000 new virus cases were reported in New York City on Tuesday, and more than 2,300 people were hospitalized with Covid-19, according to the state's most recent count.

Mr. de Blasio, Gov. Kathy Hochul and Mayor-elect Eric Adams, who takes office on Saturday, appeared together at a news conference to present a united front against school closures, despite an enormous surge in cases driven by the Omicron variant that has only worsened in the days since city schools closed for winter break last week.

"Your children are safer in school; the numbers speak for themselves," Mr. Adams said. Instead of delaying the start of in-person school and pivoting to remote learning, the city will double the amount of random surveillance testing in hopes of detecting more infections while mitigating disruptions.

Ms. Hochul on Tuesday called remote learning a "failed experiment" while lauding "the very best efforts of incredibly hard-

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## Children Crowd U.S. Hospitals; Few Dire Cases

By ANDREW JACOBS

The latest coronavirus surge sweeping the United States, much of it driven by the highly contagious Omicron variant, has produced a worrisome spike in hospitalizations among children, not to mention heightened anxiety among parents nationwide.

Several states have reported increases of about 50 percent in pediatric admissions for Covid-19 in December. New York City has experienced the most drastic rise, with 68 children hospitalized last week, a fourfold jump from two weeks earlier.

But even as experts expressed concern about a marked jump in hospitalizations — an increase more than double that among adults — doctors and researchers said they were not seeing evidence that Omicron was more threatening to children.

In fact, preliminary data suggests that compared with the Delta variant, Omicron appears to be causing milder illness in children, similar to early findings for adults.

"I think the important story to

Continued on Page A13

**U.S. CASE RECORD** The seven-day average of infections topped 267,000 on Tuesday. PAGE A14



NATIONAL A12-17

### Dreams Dashed by Stray Bullet

The family of a 14-year-old girl described the terrifying moments before she was killed in Los Angeles. PAGE A12

### Holding Off on Trump Records

The White House asked the Jan. 6 panel to withdraw or delay demands for some sensitive documents. PAGE A12

INTERNATIONAL A4-11

### India's Quest for Clean Water

An ambitious government project aims to put taps in every home, easing the burden on millions who fetch water from village pumps. PAGE A10

### Patron Saint of Basketball

Mad about hoops, a town in Italy wants the Vatican to recognize a venerated figure as the sport's patron. PAGE A4

SPORTS B6-8

### Will There Be a Champion?

As the virus derails a rising number of college bowl games, Friday's playoff matchups may be at risk. PAGE B7



ARTS C1-8

### Comb Over, Beethoven

A lock of the composer's hair, above, is among the treasures on display at the New York Public Library. PAGE C1

### Invincible, and Vulnerable, Too

Starring in the thriller "Yellowjackets," the actress Juliette Lewis has discovered how to regenerate. PAGE C1

BUSINESS B1-5

### Brexit's Blow to U.K. Trade

British exports to the European Union are down, and companies are frustrated by higher costs, time-consuming customs paperwork and countless lost opportunities. PAGE B1

### Added Expenses for Offices

Building owners may have saved on maintenance when workers went remote, but now pandemic-related costs like air filters and enhanced cleaning are part of the bill. PAGE B1

OPINION A20-21

### Michelle Cottle

PAGE A20



OBITUARIES A18-19

### Senate Power in the Obama Era

Harry M. Reid, a Nevada Democrat, used his pugilistic instincts to steer an economic stimulus deal and the health care act to passage. He was 82. PAGE A18





## Joy and unease as Rose Parade returns

'The bloom is back,' event organizers say, but surging cases are cause for concern.

BY JONAH VALDEZ AND HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS

New Year's Day 2021 started with a pang of sadness for Aida Bueno.

Her beloved Rose Parade had been canceled for the first time since World War II. And for the first time in more than a decade, she didn't get to spend a few joyous days decorating floats with volunteers from across the country, her "family from everywhere."

"I didn't know what to do with myself," said Bueno, a nurse from Pico Rivera.

The Rose Parade will return Saturday. And this week, Bueno was back in her element: flitting around a Pasadena warehouse with other decorators, slicing leaves, gluing dried fruit and seeds, blasting Stevie Wonder's "I Just Called to Say I Love You" from her phone and belting out the chorus.

"Coming back here every year is [about] trying to make people happy," Bueno said. "To give people something to smile about. Especially nowadays, when there's not a lot to smile about."

For many, the return of the Rose Parade will be seen as a cheerful respite from two painful pandemic years. But the parade — and its enormous crowd from across the country — is coming at a fraught time. Coronavirus infections and hospitalizations are soaring. [See Parade, A9]

## Hospitalizations are rising rapidly

Omicron has taken hold in L.A. and Orange counties as an increase in patients. CALIFORNIA, B1



**RESIDENTS** negotiate a slippery street in California's Nevada County. Snowfall totals broke records for December as storms dumped up to 15 feet across the Sierra Nevada and other mountain areas of the state.

## Snow buries Sierra towns, roads

Record-breaking powder piles up in a region recently under a drought emergency.

BY HAYLEY SMITH AND MELODY GUTIERREZ

COLFAX, Calif. — "Snowbound" was not a term Stephen Kulleke thought he would hear at the end of California's driest year in a century, but that's precisely the position the Sierra City resident found himself in this week.

"It's snowmageddon," said Kulleke, 71, whose mountain cabin was buried under at least 4 feet of powder Monday amid record-breaking snowfall in the Sierra Nevada. "It's just beyond belief how much snow there is."

Officials at the UC Berkeley Central Sierra Snow Lab at Donner Pass said the area's snowfall totals surpassed the previous December record of 179 inches set in 1970. By Tuesday morning, the lab had received 202.1 inches of snow, making it the third-snowiest month on record.

The bonanza of snow is much needed in a region where, only months ago, officials put residents under a state of drought emergency amid bone-dry conditions. During the long, hot summer, rivers and reservoirs dried up, and once-green fields sat fallow and turned to dust.

But December roared in like a lion, with back-to-back storms dumping up to 15 feet of snow across the Sierra Nevada and other mountain areas of California, prompting road closures and snarling holiday travel.

Though experts wouldn't go so far as to call it a drought-buster, they said every bit helps.

"It's a great start," said Mike Anderson, state climatologist at the California Department of Water Resources. "It alleviates the worst of the conditions that had accumulated, but it doesn't cure everything. We really need this to continue into the new year."

Andrew Schwartz, the station manager and lead scientist at the Berkeley snow lab, agreed, noting that "cautious optimism is the name of the game right now."

According to Schwartz, the month's earlier storms were driven by a high-pressure system sitting off the coast. [See Snow, A6]

## After LAPD shooting, parents seek 'justice for our daughter'



**A PHOTO** of Valentina Orellana-Peralta, the teen killed by a police bullet last week, at a news conference outside LAPD headquarters.

BY RUBEN VIVES, KEVIN RECTOR, ALEJANDRA REYES-VELARDE AND HANNAH FRY

Soledad Peralta closed her eyes, wrapped her arms around her teenage daughter and prayed for their safety inside the Burlington store dressing room.

They could hear screams and commotion outside them as police searched for a man assaulting customers inside the North Hollywood store where Peralta and her daughter had gone to try on dresses two days before Christmas.

As they held each other, Peralta felt an explosion that threw them both to the ground. Her daughter's body convulsed then went limp.

A Los Angeles police officer had shot a round through the dressing room wall, killing 14-year-old Valentina Orellana-Peralta.

"She died in my arms. I couldn't do anything," Peralta said in Spanish. "Our sweet angel is gone forever."

Peralta fought back tears while describing the harrowing scene as she and the girl's father, Juan Pab... [See Parents, A6]

"The family thinks things could have been done differently, to where Valentina ... would still be here."

— BEN CRUMP, attorney

HARRY REID, 1939 - 2021

## Nevada Democrat was a Senate master

BY DAVID MONTERO AND JANET HOOK REPORTING FROM LAS VEGAS

**H**e grew up in poverty in a house made of creosote-soaked railway ties with no indoor plumbing. In his late 30s, after two high-profile failed runs at political office, he took on the job of heading Nevada's Gaming Commission at a time when organized crime still held sway on the Las Vegas Strip.

The oddsmakers might have hesitated to bet on Harry Reid's survival.

Yet he did more than survive. He became one of the most influential Democrats of his generation, whose shrewd political tactics helped turn Nevada into a reliably Democratic state and whose mastery of the Senate gave him a major role as majority. [See Reid, A12]



**SHREWD POLITICIAN**

Longtime Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid was one of the most influential Democrats of his era.



**'COACH'** John Madden, shown with the Oakland Raiders in 1973, had three highly successful careers. At his core, he was a regular guy, Sam Farmer writes. **SPORTS, B10**

JOHN MADDEN, 1936 - 2021

## He was football's everyman

Coach, analyst, video game star bridged generations

BY SAM FARMER

**J**ohn Madden answered to three distinct names, each coming from a different generation of NFL fans.

He was "Coach" to the people who followed his Super Bowl-winning Oakland Raiders, "John" to the millions who remembered him best as a broadcaster and "Madden" to the legions of

video-game devotees.

"I can always tell how somebody knows me," he told The Times in 2005. "Some guys will call me coach, and then some people will just call me Madden. 'Hey, Madden! Hey! Hey!' That's the game. They play Madden, and then they see Madden. 'Hey, there's Madden!'"

Madden, who reached the top of his profession in three fields, died unexpected-

ly Tuesday. He was 85.

On behalf of the entire NFL family, we extend our condolences to Virginia, Mike, Joe and their families, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said, referring to Madden's wife and their sons. "We all know him as the Hall of Fame coach of the Oakland Raiders and broadcaster who worked for every major network, but more than anything, he was a de- [See Madden, A7]

## Denver shooting aftermath toll rises

A fifth victim dies a day after gunman's rampage. Police say he knew some of those he targeted. **NATION, A5**

## Some Trump records shielded

Jan. 6 panel holds off in its pursuit of the documents at the request of the White House. **NATION, A7**

## UCLA cancels bowl over virus

Bruins cite COVID protocols at last minute. North Carolina State coach "felt lied to." **SPORTS, B10**

## Weather

Cool with rain. L.A. Basin: 56/51. **B6**

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# The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

SU V1 V2 V3 V4

Rain 56/50 • Tomorrow: Cloudy 56/51 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2021 • \$2



BRITANNY GREENSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## 'We need this money just to survive'

BY KYLE SWENSON  
AND YEGANEH TORRATI

The payment wasn't there when she checked at midnight, so Lydia Coe was nervous as she thumbed open her bank account on her phone the morning of Dec. 15. It couldn't be much of a Christmas for her kids — 5 and 2 — without the money, she knew.

Luckily, there it was — \$300 from the expanded child tax credit program. The monthly payments had become the only financial constant for the 24-year-old living in Mason, Mich., over the past six months, even though she only received payments for one of her two children due to a filing glitch. But every bit helped.

Apart from artistic home decorations and colorful prints that she makes and sells on Etsy, Coe had no cash coming in. A painful

Expanded child tax credit, which families have put toward babysitting, gas and food, expires at year's end

Lydia Coe, 24, makes lunch for her 2-year-old daughter, Molra, not pictured, as her 5-year-old daughter, Alice, plays on a tablet in their Mason, Mich., home on Dec. 21. Coe, who has a painful physical condition and doesn't work, is one of the millions of people who have used the expanded child tax credit program.

physical condition — Ehlers-Danlos syndrome — kept her from working. But when the tax-credit payments started in July, the money afforded her some much-needed independence as she separated from a long-time partner. Later, the money kept the car's gas tank filled as she shuffled to weekly medical appointments for her younger daughter, who has her own genetic condition. Later still, the money meant she could give something each month to her landlord, even if the payments failed to cover her growing balance, and still pay for groceries despite rising costs.

"I've never seen so many foods rise in price until this year," she said.

The December monthly payment, however, is likely to be the last for Coe's family and an estimated 36 million others. They will still receive a refund on their next tax return.

SEE TAX CREDIT ON A8

## Societal function drove CDC's call to cut isolation time

FEAR OVER LOSS OF  
ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Guidance is criticized as virus cases hit new highs

BY YASMEEN ABUTALEB,  
SEAN SULLIVAN  
AND ELI ROSENBERG

Health officials' recommendation this week to shorten the isolation period for people with asymptomatic coronavirus infections to five days was driven largely by the concern that essential services might be hobbled amid one of the worst infection surges of the pandemic, said senior officials familiar with the discussions.

The administration's top health officials met over Christmas weekend to discuss the trajectory of the U.S. outbreak, with several expressing fear about how high case levels might climb in the coming weeks, according to four senior officials briefed on the discussion. They worried the sheer volume of infections could mean that tens of thousands of police, firefighters, grocery workers and other essential employees would be out of work, making it challenging to keep society

SEE QUARANTINE ON A4

Despite omicron surge, early data shows fewer hospitalizations

BY YASMEEN ABUTALEB

Healthy individuals who have been vaccinated, and especially those who have been boosted, appear unlikely to develop severe infections from the omicron variant that would land them in the hospital, say medical experts who have monitored the effects of the newest coronavirus variant since it was identified over four weeks ago.

While omicron has sent U.S. infections soaring to levels not seen since last winter's wave, it appears to have less severe effects than the delta variant, according to a handful of international studies and early data from several U.S. hospitals.

Those infected by the omicron variant are 15 to 20 percent less likely to go to an emergency room, and 40 percent less likely to be hospitalized overnight, compared with those infected with delta, according to English data analyzed by scientists from Imperial College London. That aligns with early U.S.

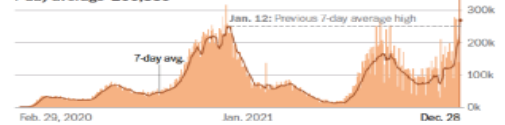
SEE VIRUS ON A4

### New coronavirus cases in the U.S., by day

As of 8 p.m. Tuesday

Total 53,240,080

7-day average 266,889



Surge continues: Hospitalizations are skyrocketing in the D.C. region. B1

JOHN MADDEN 1936-2021

## NFL coach, TV and video game icon

BY MARK MASKE

John Madden, a towering figure in professional football as a Super Bowl-winning coach, a legendary broadcaster and a video game icon, died Dec. 28 at age 85.

The National Football League announced Madden's death, saying only that he died "unexpectedly" Tuesday. The league did not cite a cause of death.

"Nobody loved football more than Coach," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said in the league's written announcement. "He was football. He was an incredible sounding board to me and so many others. There will never be another John Madden, and we will forever be indebted to him for all he did to make football and the NFL what it is today."

Madden was a beloved and pioneering figure who was instrumental in establishing the NFL as the nation's most popular and prosperous pro sports league.

"I am not aware of anyone who has made a more meaningful impact on the National Football League than John Madden, and I know of no one who loved the game more," Dallas Cowboys



BEN MARGOT/ASSOCIATED PRESS

John Madden won nearly 76 percent of his games as an NFL coach, then won 16 Emmy Awards as a television broadcaster.

owner Jerry Jones said in a written statement. "When I think of a person of sports who is worthy of the term, 'larger than life,' I have always thought of John. And I always will."

His contributions to the sport's growth came in three acts, first as the coach of the Oakland Raiders for 10 years between 1969 and '78.

He was hired at age 32 and proceeded to win nearly 76 percent of his games, never having a losing season. He coached the Raiders to a Super Bowl triumph over the Minnesota Vikings at the

SEE MADDEN ON A18

'He was football': Sports world reacts to death of a legend. D1

HARRY M. REID 1939-2021

## Pugnacious Senate majority leader

BY MICHAEL H. BROWN

Harry M. Reid, a Nevada Democrat who rose from a hard-scrabble mining town to become one of the longest-serving Senate majority leaders in history and a political force during the presidencies of George W. Bush and Barack Obama, died Dec. 28 at his home in Henderson, Nev. He was 82.

The death was confirmed by David Krone, a former chief of staff. Mr. Reid was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2018.

A combative but soft-spoken former amateur boxer, Mr. Reid displayed an economy of personal magnetism and embraced the art of the scrappy insult. Columnist Molly Ivins called him "charismatically challenged." Obama, a friend and political ally, euphemistically remarked on his "curiously charming."

Mr. Reid was never a commanding presence before a crowd or on television. Sometimes he was barely audible, and he tended to litter his speeches with awkward pauses. But he was the consummate inside player, exercising his political



LINDA DAVIDSON/THE WASHINGTON POST

Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid (D-Nev.) in 2008. The next year he engineered passage of the landmark Affordable Care Act.

and legislative skills behind the scenes.

He was Senate majority leader from 2007 through 2014. Since the position's creation in the 1920s, only two senators have held it longer: Democrats Mike Mansfield of Montana, from 1961 through 1976, and Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky,

from 1937 through 1946. After overcoming long odds to achieve political leadership, Mr. Reid was not one to apologize for being who he was.

"I didn't make it in life because of my athletic prowess," he said in his 2016 retirement speech, at the end of five terms

SEE REID ON A6

## IN THE NEWS



JOHN MCCONNELLY/THE WASHINGTON POST

Secrets revealed Conservators in Richmond opened a second time capsule found beneath a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. A5

### THE NATION

Despite support among experts and the public for Supreme Court term limits, the idea appears to be a no-go on Capitol Hill. A3  
In Philadelphia, a harsh debate unfolds as the city's White prosecutor and a Black former mayor clash over a record number of homicides this year. A9  
Family members of a teenage girl killed by law enforcement at a

store are demanding justice from the L.A. Police Department. A9

### THE WORLD

The photographer who chronicled the family life of Pablo Escobar confronts the Colombian drug lord's complicated legacy. A10  
Russia's high court ordered the liquidation of the nation's most prominent human rights group, signaling the Kremlin's determination to stifle dissent. A11

### THE ECONOMY

Five Republican-led states are extending unemployment benefits to people who have lost their jobs for refusing to get vaccinated. A12

### THE REGION

The White's Ferry crossing over the Potomac River remains closed one year after a land dispute. B1  
The Supreme Court of Virginia unanimously approved new congressional and General Assembly maps, ending a contentious redistricting process. B1  
The University of the District of Columbia landed a record \$2.3 million gift to support scholarships. B1  
As the District grapples with a rise in reckless driving, officials are urging better enforcement to bring violators to account. B1

### OBITUARIES

Sarah Weddington, who as a young Texas lawyer appeared before the Supreme Court to successfully argue *Roe v. Wade*, was 76. B6

## INSIDE



### FOOD

Plating futures A Cleveland restaurant is a training ground for people exiting prison. E1

### STYLE

2021 in apologies Celebrities issued mea culpas for some weird antics this year. C1

BUSINESS NEWS	A12
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TELEVISION	A4
WORLD NEWS	A10





1969-2021

**Hugo Maradona.**

A la sombra del "marciano"

—deportes

Hermano menor de Diego, así lo calificó cuando le preguntaron si quería ser como "el 10"; murió ayer de un paro cardíaco en Nápoles. Página 4

**CULTURA 2022, HITOS PARA EL AÑO DE LA RECONSTRUCCIÓN**

—cultura

Llegan Frida Kahlo y Van Gogh, vuelve la Feria del Libro a la Rural y será una temporada de grandes aniversarios para la literatura. Página 24

**FLORENCIA RAGGINO AÑORA: "HOY SOY MÁS FELIZ QUE A LOS 30"**

—espectáculos

Luego de filmar dos películas en Uruguay, donde reside, está a punto de protagonizar la comedia *Ella en mi cabeza* en un escenario de la calle Corrientes.

# LA NACION

MIÉRCOLES 29 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

## Subirán luz y gas hasta un 20% y quitarán el subsidio a unos 500.000 usuarios

**ENERGÍA.** Habrá tarifas diferenciadas en el AMBA según el valor de la vivienda o del terreno**Santiago Dapelo**  
LA NACION

El Gobierno autorizará un aumento de las tarifas de luz y de gas de entre 17% y 20% para el año próximo. Además, en las primeras semanas de 2022 se pondrá en marcha la segmentación de las tarifas, lo que, en

primera instancia, impactará en unos 500.000 usuarios del área metropolitana que tendrán que abonar el consumo total de la energía.

En la ciudad perderán los subsidios los que vivan en propiedades cuyo precio del metro cuadrado supere los US\$3700. Mientras que en la provincia se tomará como referencia

el valor de la tierra. Además, dejarán de percibir la asistencia los usuarios de barrios cerrados, la actividad financiera, el transporte ferroviario, el juego y las oficinas públicas.

Así lo establecieron el ministro de Economía, Martín Guzmán, y el secretario de Energía, Darío Martínez. Continúa en la página 14

### Marcha atrás con el pago de un adicional de 9% en salud

Página 15

### Analizan reducir el aislamiento por Covid a cinco días

**MEDIDAS.** No hisoparán a los contactos estrechos; ayer hubo 33.902 casos

Frente a la alta demanda de tests en momentos en que ya se cursa la tercera ola de Covid-19, el Consejo Federal de Salud (Cofesa) analizará hoy medidas como reducir el tiempo de aislamiento a solo cinco días (en lugar de diez) y considerará casos positivos a los contactos estrechos. Ayer se informaron 33.902 contagios—13.639 más que anteayer—, y 20 muertos por el virus. Aunque el aumento de infectados no cesa, se mantiene bajo el nivel de decesos. El lunes habían sido 31 los muertos. Página 20

### Marta Cohen: "Ómicron es seis veces más contagiosa que delta"

Fabiola Czubaj  
Página 22

### Catamarca cobrará la atención a los no vacunados

El gobernador de Catamarca, Raúl Jalil, firmó ayer un decreto que establece que los gastos de tratamiento e internación de personas que no se hayan vacunado correrán por cuenta del paciente. Quedarán exceptuados quienes puedan acreditar razones médicas o de fuerza mayor. Página 20

### Revisarán el sobreseimiento de Cristina en la causa Hotesur

**CORRUPCIÓN.** El tribunal oral aceptó el pedido del fiscal Velasco

Página 12



En Diputados (foto) y el Senado, la mayoría del oficialismo y de la oposición votó por el reclamo de los intendentes

MATÍAS ADHEMAR

## En trámite exprés, habilitaron una nueva reelección a los intendentes bonaerenses

**LEGISLATURA.** La votación dividió a los bloques del Frente de Todos y de Juntos; modificaron la norma aprobada en 2016

Con una rápida aprobación que sorteó las dos cámaras en una sola jornada, la Legislatura de la provincia de Buenos Aires flexibilizó ayer la ley que limitaba a dos los mandatos consecutivos permitidos a intendentes, legisladores, concejales y consejeros escolares

bonaerenses. La modificación permite que el primero de los dos períodos a contabilizar sea el que comenzó en 2019 y no el iniciado en 2015, como indicaba la norma aprobada en 2016. El segundo mandato se contará como total más allá de ser cumplido parcialmente. La

votación dividió a los bloques de Juntos y del Frente de Todos. Los legisladores que responden a María Eugenia Vidal y a Elisa Carrió, en la oposición, y a Sergio Massa, en el oficialismo, votaron en contra. Pero la mayoría de ambas bancadas apoyó las modificaciones. Página 6

**EL ESCENARIO**

Mariano Spezzapria

Una victoria del poder político permanente

Página 8





Vitoria Rocha, 81, com foto dos pais achada nos escombros da casa dela destruída em Itambé (BA) Amanda Perobelli/Reuters

## Salários caem a seu menor patamar em quase 10 anos

Reabertura de vagas após crise do início da pandemia tem remuneração mais baixa, e inflação achata renda

Após a destruição de empregos na fase inicial da pandemia, a reabertura de vagas vem sendo marcada por salários mais baixos no Brasil.

No trimestre encerrado em outubro de 2021, quando a taxa de desemprego recuou para 12,1%, a renda média do trabalho voltou a cair e atingiu o menor nível em quase dez anos no país.

Essa é uma das conclusões da Pnad Contínua (Pesquisa Nacional por Amostra de Domicílios Contínua), cujos dados foram divulgados ontem pelo IBGE (Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística).

No período que foi até outubro, a renda média real, habitualmente recebida pelos trabalhadores ocupados, foi estimada em R\$ 2.449 por mês. É o valor mais baixo de todos os trimestres da série histórica do IBGE, iniciada em 2012.

Na comparação com o trimestre anterior, finalizado em julho de 2021, a queda no rendimento foi de 4,6%.

Os dados levam em conta a inflação, que ganhou força ao longo de 2021, rompendo a barreira de dois dígitos no acumulado de 12 meses.

A disparada dos preços é um dos fatores que reduzem a renda média e o poder de compra da população ocupada. A criação de vagas com salários mais baixos, em grande parte associada ao mercado informal, também ajuda a explicar o rendimento inferior.

Até outubro, o Brasil tinha 38,2 milhões de informais. O número correspondia a 40,7% da população ocupada (94 milhões) com algum tipo de trabalho. Mercado A14

**Endividamento das famílias bate recorde, diz Banco Central** Mercado A15

**Juros bancários sobem de novo e taxa é a mais alta desde 2019** Mercado A15

**Auxílio-doença do INSS sem perícia chega ao fim; entenda** Mercado A20

Marcelo Coelho

Bolsonarismo pode se tornar intervalo absurdo na história do país no futuro

Ilustrada B13

## Enchentes destroem vacinas e medicamentos na Bahia

As fortes chuvas que atingem a Bahia, deixando ao menos 21 mortos, 350 feridos e milhares de desabrigados, também afetaram a vacinação contra a Covid.

Postos de saúde de algumas cidades tiveram estoques de vacina destruídos com a enchente, disse o governador Rui Costa (PT). O número não foi divulgado. O óbito mais recente ocorreu na segunda-feira, de um rapaz que tentou atravessar uma enxurrada em Ilhéus.

Ontem, estiveram na região os ministros da Saúde, Marcelo Queiroga, do Desenvolvimento Regional, Rogério Marinho, e da Família e dos Direitos Humanos, Damara Alves. Queiroga deve editar portaria para liberar R\$ 12 milhões para áreas afetadas. Cotidiano B3

## Presidente anda de jet ski e fala em não interromper folga

Poder A6



O presidente Jair Bolsonaro com a filha, Laura, em praia de Itaguaçu, em São Francisco do Sul (SC) Dieter Gross/IShoot/Agência O Globo

### EDITORIAIS A2

**Trator paulistano**  
A respeito de desempenho do prefeito Ricardo Nunes.

**Dois biólogos**  
Sobre mortes de Thomas Lovejoy e Edward Wilson.

### Avanço da ômicron faz disparar casos de Covid-19 no mundo

O planeta voltou a ter recorde de casos de Covid-19 na segunda (27) com o avanço da ômicron, potencialmente mais transmissível. Segundo a Our World in Data, a média diária é de 854.603 casos, contando os sete dias anteriores. A cifra mais alta era de 25 de abril. Mundo A12

### Risco de ter doença sobe 6 meses após Coronavac, até em jovens, diz estudo

Saúde B1

### Prefeitura de São Paulo libera vacina contra a gripe para todas as idades

Saúde B1

### Deportados dos EUA relatam maus-tratos durante detenção

Brasileiros deportados dos EUA que ficaram em centros de detenção denunciaram humilhação, racismo e maus-tratos ao tentarem entrar no país. A embaixada americana, em nota, diz que as instituições governamentais estão comprometidas com o tratamento respeitoso. Mundo A12

### Cotidiano B2

Nova CNH entra em vigor a partir de junho de 2022; veja como será o modelo

### Esporte B7

Cuca pede para sair do Atlético-MG, e Jorge Jesus deixa o português Benfica

### Mercado A17

Cartórios terão até 2023 para oferecer serviço online de forma unificada

### Ilustrada B8

Artistas indígenas e negros alcançam consagração nas exposições em 2021



Allanan siete inmuebles de la conexión Arza, quien movió G. 9 billones

## Más sospechas de lavado en esquema que involucra a RGD

Fiscal que indaga sistema Ponzi, que vincula a Ramón González D., cruzará datos con la Unidad de Crimen Organizado, tras saltar audio en el que se menciona la muerte de Schwartzman.

PÁGINA 48

Industriales, Ejecutivo y Congreso  
Impulsan una ley que  
endurezca las penas  
contra el contrabando

PÁGINA 15

Hará estudio a fondo de los hechos  
CIDH admitió demanda  
presentada por Lugo  
contra su juicio político

PÁGINAS 6 y 7

Condenado ex intendente de Lambaré  
En marzo será el quinto  
juicio a Cárdenas por  
corrupción y sigue libre

PÁGINA 50



### La solidaridad abre corazones

**Apoyo.** Primer día de feria de Corazones Abiertos recibió a muchos compradores. Con lo recaudado adquirirán tabletas para niños de casas hogares.

PÁGINA 23

CON ESTA EDICIÓN

ANIMAR EN CASA 3



COMPRA OPCIONAL

COLECCIÓN  
MINERALES DE LA  
TIERRA 25

50.000



## Si población no se cuida, ómicron puede poner contra las cuerdas sistema de salud

PÁGINAS 2, 3 y 44

UNA INDESTRUCTIBLE  
SIEMPRE DESPIERTA TU LADO  
INDESTRUCTIBLE



TOYOTA



lefigaro.fr

## LE FIGARO

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



**REPORTAGE**  
LES RAVAGES DE LA RUÉE  
VERS L'OR DANS L'AMAZONIE  
VÉNÉZUELIENNE PAGE 14



**PASSE VACCINAL**  
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FIGARO NON**  
Réponses à la question  
de mardi:  
Covid-19: êtes-vous  
favorable au retour  
du port du masque  
obligatoire dans  
les centres-villes?

**OUI 49% NON 51%**

TOTAL DE VOTANTS: 174 609

**Votez aujourd'hui  
sur lefigaro.fr**  
Vingt ans après, l'adoption  
de l'euro a-t-elle été  
bénéfique aux Français?

JUAN BARRETO/AFP; CORINNE SIMON/  
HANS LUCAS VIA AFP;  
NATALIA KOLESNIKOVA/AFP

## Voitures brûlées de la Saint-Sylvestre: pourquoi l'État reste impuissant



Alors que l'épidémie de véhicules incendiés risque, cette année encore, de gâcher la nuit du réveillon, le ministre de l'Intérieur demande aux préfets la plus grande fermeté. Mais, face aux incendiaires comme aux feux d'artifice, les autorités semblent paralysées. Une note de la Fondation Jean-Jaurès souligne à quel point ce phénomène, désormais enraciné, gagne d'autres événements festifs. PAGES 2 ET 3

**ÉDITORIAL** par Gaëtan de Capèle gdecapelle@lefigaro.fr

## La voix de la raison

C'est une incongruité dans une campagne présidentielle placée sous le signe de la reconquête de notre souveraineté perdue: pas un des candidats les plus hostiles à l'Europe ne remet sur la table le retour au bon vieux franc, dont nous serions les seuls et uniques gestionnaires. La douloureuse expérience de Marine Le Pen, qui s'y est hasardée en 2017, a vacciné tout le monde. Car les Français ont beau vouer aux gémonies Bruxelles, sa bureaucratie et ses technocrates, ils ont fini par adopter l'euro, plus par raison que par passion. Ils n'ont simplement aucune envie de hasarder leur épargne dans une autre aventure. À dire vrai, vingt ans après la création de la monnaie unique, le débat sur son abandon semble épuisé: la crédibilité budgétaire de la quasi-totalité des États repose sur elle et les circuits financiers européens sont à ce point imbriqués que tout retour en arrière est illusoire. À deux pas de la sortie au plus fort de la crise financière, les Grecs ont pu en mesurer le risque devant les portes closes et les caisses asséchées de leurs banques.

La vérité est que l'euro, consacré en deux décennies à peine comme la deuxième grande monnaie internationale, derrière le dollar, apparaît aujourd'hui comme une balise de sécurité indispensable aux Européens dans le grand bain de la mondialisation. Aux particuliers, il assure, quoi que l'on pense, une relative maîtrise des prix qui protège leur épargne. Il met les entreprises à l'abri de nombreuses fluctuations monétaires. Il apporte aux États des capacités financières incomparables avec celles des anciennes devises.

Cette force de frappe, accompagnée de faibles taux d'intérêt, se révèle d'un grand secours pour financer des investissements d'avenir ou résister à une crise majeure comme celle du Covid. Elle peut aussi inciter au laxisme, comme chez nous, en permettant à ceux qui gèrent les finances publiques de dépenser au-delà de toute raison. Ce qui promet des débats tendus au sein de l'Europe ces prochains mois. ■

# Vingt ans après, le pari réussi de l'euro

La monnaie unique a remplacé le franc et onze autres devises le 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 2002. Soutenue par une majorité d'Européens, elle s'est imposée à l'international.

Il y a vingt ans, la construction de l'Europe faisait un grand pas en avant en dotant douze de ses États membres, dont la France, d'une monnaie unique. Partagé par des pays aux profils économiques très différents, dominé par l'Allemagne, qui en a tiré les plus grands bénéfices, l'euro

a traversé plusieurs crises, dont celle de la dette grecque du début des années 2010, qui faillit conduire à son explosion. Son sauvetage, au prix de graves tensions, l'a renforcé et a consacré le rôle de la Banque centrale européenne. En deux décennies, l'euro,

aujourd'hui largement approuvé par les opinions publiques européennes, est devenu une devise de référence dans le monde derrière le dollar. Il est un atout pour les États, une arme géopolitique qui donne du poids à l'Europe et un instrument qui facilite les échanges commerciaux.

→ UNE MONNAIE QUI A PROTÉGÉ NON SANS MAL → LA CROATIE ET LA BULGARIE DANS L'ANTICHAMBRE PAGES 18, 19 ET L'EDITORIAL



## La justice russe dissout Memorial, dernier îlot d'opposition à Poutine

En prononçant mardi la liquidation pure et simple d'une organisation emblématique, fondée en pleine glasnost par d'anciens dissidents, comme le Prix Nobel de la paix Andreï Sakharov, la Cour suprême de Moscou a causé une

onde de choc au sein de la société civile engagée en Russie. Memorial était devenu de plus en plus gênant pour le Kremlin, dans un contexte de répression généralisée et de volonté politique de réécrire l'histoire. PAGE 8

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## UK households warned of 'year of the squeeze' as cost of living soars

Families face £1,200 hit as wages fall and bills rise, says thinktank

Hilary Osborne

UK households face a hit of £1,200 next year, with stalling wages and rising tax and energy bills causing a "cost of living catastrophe" in spring, a leading thinktank has warned.

Government measures, including the new social care levy on national insurance and the freezing of the personal income tax allowance, will combine with high inflation to make 2022 the "year of the squeeze", the Resolution Foundation said.

It warned that in April the introduction of tax changes, together with a new price cap on energy bills, will cost families £1,200 overnight.

"The months ahead will not be easy for households who see their wages fall back as energy bills and taxes rise," the report said. "As

Omicron hopefully fades in the early months of 2022 we will come to realise the scale of the challenge posed to household finances."

UK inflation hit a 10-year high in November, and economists have suggested it will rise further in 2022.

One of the biggest factors has been energy bills, driven up by rising wholesale gas prices and the failure of many of the cheapest suppliers. Households have been shielded from some of the increases by an energy price cap, which means suppliers have to offer gas and electricity at or

**"The months ahead will not be easy for households"**

Resolution Foundation  
Thinktank

below a unit price set by the regulator, Ofgem. The cap will be reviewed in February and the new rate come into effect in April. Record wholesale gas prices in recent weeks have led to

speculation that it could allow households bills to go above £2,000.

Kwasi Kwarteng, the business secretary, was locked in talks with energy bosses on Monday but failed to secure a breakthrough. The founder of Ovo Energy has warned that household bills will "almost certainly" double in April without government intervention.

The Resolution Foundation's calculations are based on an average £600 rise in prices, which would take bills to about £1,900 a year. It said an increase in

## Sacked PC took selfies at scene of murder

Exclusive  
Vikram Dodd  
Police and crime correspondent

A police officer took selfie photos at a murder scene where a teenager had been stabbed to death, and sent "appalling" racist, homophobic and offensive images via WhatsApp, the Guardian has learned.

Police constable Ryan Connolly, from the Merseyside force, committed a litany of disciplinary offences over six years as a serving officer, a tribunal has decided.

While on duty, he also took photos on his phone of people in mental health crisis, in hospitals, who had been sectioned under police powers.

His case echoes that of the two Metropolitan police officers who used mobile phones to take pictures at the scene where two sisters lay murdered. The two Met officers were convicted in court and sacked in a case that rocked policing.

Details of Connolly's wrongdoing have been confirmed by Merseyside police after



**Over and out  
England  
crushed as  
Australia  
retain Ashes**  
Sport Page 50→

▲ Captain Joe Root reflects on his team's woeful batting performance after England lose the third Test in Melbourne

## Daily Covid cases hit record high of 138,831

Nicola Davis  
Jessica Murray  
Richard Adams

The UK has seen another record rise of daily Covid cases, with 138,831 reported yesterday in England, Scotland and Wales alone - but a leading scientist said the Omicron variant was "not the same disease we were seeing a year ago".

According to official figures from the UK government's coronavirus dashboard, a record 117,093 cases - infections that are picked up through testing - were reported for England yesterday, up from a previous high of 113,628 on Christmas Day.

In Wales 12,378 cases were reported, also a record high.

The Scottish government reported 9,360 cases in the



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