

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

DOW JONES | News Corp ***** THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2021 ~ VOL. CCLXXVIII NO. 153 WSJ.com ★★★★★ \$5.00

DJIA 36488.63 ▲ 90.42 0.2% NASDAQ 15766.22 ▼ 0.1% STOXX600 487.98 ▼ 0.1% 10-YR.TREAS. ▼ 18/32, yield 1.542% OIL \$76.56 ▲ \$0.58 GOLD \$1,805.10 ▼ \$5.10 EURO \$1.1351 YEN 114.97

What's News

Business & Finance

After a selloff in high-growth stocks during the waning days of the year, two-thirds of the companies that went public in the U.S. this year are now trading below their IPO prices. **A1**

◆ **Google and its rivals** are making big investments in companies that agree to sign on to their cloud-computing services, wielding a new weapon in the battle for market share. **A1**

◆ **Employee turnover** at Amazon warehouses poses a potential challenge for labor organizers preparing for a second unionization election at an Alabama facility. **B1**

◆ **The S&P 500 and Dow** closed the session at records, posting gains of 0.1% and 0.2%, respectively. The Nasdaq slipped 0.1%. **B9**

◆ **Deutsche Bank** was fined nearly \$10 million by Germany's BaFin for not having strong enough controls around data submissions that help set an interest-rate benchmark. **B1**

◆ **JetBlue** said it would trim its schedule through mid-January as more of the airline's crews are sickened by the latest coronavirus variant. **B3**

◆ **Didi** said third-quarter revenue fell 11.5% from the preceding three months, after Chinese regulators launched a cybersecurity probe into the firm and forced many of its apps to be taken down. **B3**

◆ **Swedish battery maker** Northvolt said it created a lithium-ion battery cell, the first by a European firm, and plans to ship it to companies to power electric vehicles next year. **B4**

World-Wide

◆ **A high-stakes legal battle** is taking shape over lucrative patent rights for Covid-19 vaccines, with drug companies pitted against each other and government and academic scientists over who invented what. **A1**

◆ **Covid-19 cases** in the U.S. have continued to climb, reaching a pandemic record on Tuesday of 265,427 cases a day on average, according to a Wall Street Journal analysis of Johns Hopkins University data. **A4**

◆ **A federal judge** rejected Oklahoma's attempt to halt a Covid-19 vaccine mandate for its National Guard members, in a test of the federal government's ability to require shots. **A4**

◆ **Ghislaine Maxwell** was found guilty on five of six criminal counts in her sex-trafficking case, capping federal prosecutors' push to bring the longtime confidante of disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein to justice. **A3**

◆ **Biden and Putin** plan to talk Thursday ahead of high-level negotiations to deal with what a senior U.S. official described as a "moment of crisis" over Russia's military buildup near Ukraine. **A6**

◆ **The Biden administration** asked the Supreme Court to consider its bid to end the Trump-era "Remain in Mexico" immigration policy, following legal setbacks that have forced the government to continue the program. **A3**

◆ **National security police** in Hong Kong arrested seven people linked to pro-democracy news site Stand News, prompting it to close. **A8**

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Maxwell Found Guilty of Procuring Teen Girls for Epstein



DECISION: Ghislaine Maxwell, shown as the verdict was read, was found guilty of five of six counts in her sex-trafficking case, capping prosecutors' pursuit of the longtime confidante of disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein. **A3**

Patents for Covid-19 Vaccines Prompt High-Stakes Disputes

By PETER LOFTUS

A high-stakes legal battle is taking shape over lucrative patent rights for Covid-19 vaccines, with drug companies pitted against each other and government and academic scientists over who invented what.

The U.S. government and Moderna Inc., whose collabora-

tion led to one of the most widely used shots, have fought over who discovered a key component and owns its rights. Meantime, Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE, makers of another leading vaccine, are in a patent battle with a smaller company, and some analysts think they could end up facing off against Moderna.

At the heart of the disputes:

Who can claim to have invented important elements of the Covid-19 vaccines?

Hundreds of millions of dollars are at stake. If anyone succeeds in establishing a role in the discovery of the vaccines, Pfizer and Moderna would have to share with others a bigger cut of the tens of billions of dollars in vaccine sales being generated.

"It's scientific credit and money. That's what people want," said Jacob Sherkow, a professor who specializes in biotechnology intellectual property at the University of Illinois College of Law. "This is a major biotech invention, for

Please turn to page A4

◆ New U.S. Covid-19 cases and hospitalizations climb..... **A4**

IPOs' Big Year Ends Low With 11th-Hour Selloff

Two-thirds now trade below debut price as looming rate increases give investors pause

By CORRIE DRIEBUSCH AND PETER SANTILLI

Looming behind a record-breaking run for IPOs in 2021 is a darker truth: After a sell-off in high-growth stocks during the waning days of the year, two-thirds of the companies that went public in the U.S. this year are now trading below their IPO prices.

Traditional initial public offerings raised more money than ever before in 2021, as startup founders and early investors tried to cash in on sky-high valuations. In the first eight months of the year, IPO shares rose. In November, 2021's class of IPOs were trading up 12% on average, according to Dealogic. By late December, they traded 9% below their IPO prices.

The IPO market, full of volatility and companies of all shapes and sizes, is hard to track as a whole. So The Wall Street Journal plotted every traditional IPO of 2021 and mapped out how they performed for the entire year to illustrate what happened with the market.

The data show a dramatic slide, sparked by investor fears that planned interest-rate rises could curb the appetite for riskier assets. The list

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◆ Dow, S&P 500 edge up to records..... **B9**

Rivals Tap Cash Piles To Win In Cloud

By TRIPP MICKLE AND AARON TILLEY

Google and its rivals are wielding a new weapon in the battle for cloud-computing market share: big-dollar investments in companies that agree to sign on to their services.

With Thomas Kurian serving as cloud chief executive since 2019 after a long tenure at Oracle Corp., the Alphabet Inc. unit has been tapping its \$142 billion treasure chest of cash to make it more attractive to customers.

Google has taken equity stakes over the past year in companies including Univision Communications Inc. and CME Group Inc., in turn winning multiyear commitments to its cloud service worth as much as \$1 billion or more.

The deals make Google among the most aggressive of several big companies seeking to gain ground on Amazon.com Inc., the cloud market leader. Microsoft Corp. has also taken stakes in several startups as part of deals that entail them using its cloud.

And Oracle tried last year to buy a major stake in TikTok as part of a deal to have the China-owned social-media app use its cloud service—and cited the boost to its cloud business this month in announcing its biggest deal ever, the planned \$28.3 billion acquisition of the medical-reCORDS company Cerner Corp.

The nascent strategy has helped Google boost its market share in a huge and rapidly expanding industry that is key for its growth. Google now claims 6% of the cloud market, up 1 percentage point from a year earlier, though still far behind Amazon's 41% share

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INSIDE



PERSONAL JOURNAL
Caregivers find they have to take steps to support their own health. **A11**

BUSINESS & FINANCE
Turnover at Amazon warehouses hinders union organization efforts. **B1**

A Master of Penny-Pinching Draws a Following in Japan

She offers fans tips on how to spend less, not exactly what the economy needs

By MIHO INADA

TOKYO—On a recent afternoon, Megumi Nakano signed copies of her book for some of her 117,000 Instagram followers, who oohed and aahed at seeing her in the flesh.

Ms. Nakano is no movie star or Olympic medalist. Her path to social-media fame came through champion-level penny-pinching.

With tips on how to use a left-over radish and what to buy at a dollar store, the 40-year-old mother of two has tapped into one of Japan's enduring passions—to the chagrin of government officials who think the economy could get out its pandemic funk a lot faster if people would stop being so frugal.



Ms. Nakano says saving yen is a lot more rewarding. "I feel like I'm more affluent at heart now than when I was spending more money and possessed more things," she said. "It is an affluent frugality."

The popularity of Ms. Nakano and other celebrity savers might help explain why Japan isn't experiencing the inflation now afflicting the U.S.

The flip side is that Japan's economy shrank at a 3.6% annual pace in the quarter through September. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's administration hopes to spur consumption by handing out the equivalent of \$870 for each child via local governments.

Please turn to page A6

Facebook's Pushback: Political Spin, No Apologies

CEO Zuckerberg drove response to whistleblower's disclosures

the facebook files Latest in a series

The day after former Facebook employee and whistleblower Frances Haugen went public in October, the company's team in Washington started working the phones.

By Keach Hagey, Georgia Wells, Emily Glazer, Deepa Seetharaman and Jeff Horwitz

To lawmakers and advocacy groups on the right, according to people familiar with the conversations, their message was that Ms. Haugen was trying to help Democrats. Within hours, several conservative news outlets published stories alleging Ms. Haugen was a Democratic activist.

Later, Facebook lobbyists warned Democratic staffers that Republicans were focused

on the company's decision to ban expressions of support for Kyle Rittenhouse, the teenager who killed two people during unrest in Kenosha, Wis., and who was later acquitted of homicide and other charges.

The company's goal, according to Republicans and Democrats familiar with the company's outreach, was to muddy the waters, divide lawmakers along partisan lines and forestall a cross-party alliance that was emerging to enact tougher rules on social-media companies in general and Facebook in particular.

Ms. Haugen's revelations, and the throu-

Please turn to page A10

The best place to find more people is in the people you already have.

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Leading lights

Having a decent boss makes all the difference — SARAH O'CONNOR, PAGE 15

Off the charts

The FT graphics that captured an extraordinary year — BIG READ, PAGE 13



The Italian job

Trawling my ancestry to secure an EU passport — PATTI WALDMEIR, PAGE 14

Stand down HK raid mutes freedom voice

Patrick Lam, acting editor of Stand News, is held by Hong Kong police yesterday after 200 officers raided the pro-democracy media outlet's offices.

Lam was one of seven arrested for alleged "conspiracy to publish seditious publications". Journalistic material was seized and Stand News's assets frozen under the national security law imposed by Beijing. Steve Li, a national security unit officer, accused the outlet of publishing articles that "incited hatred" against the city government and "stirred up dissatisfaction".

Stand News announced that it would close in the wake of a raid seen as another sign of the growing threat to freedoms in the city.

Hong Kong news site page 4



AP Photo/Vincent Yu

Musk rejects claims his satellites are squeezing out rivals in space

◆ Spacecraft compared to cars ◆ Room for 'tens of billions' ◆ Calculations face challenge

RICHARD WATERS — SAN FRANCISCO

Elon Musk has rejected criticism that his Starlink satellites are hogging too much space in space, arguing that there could be room for "tens of billions" of spacecraft in orbits close to Earth.

"Space is just extremely enormous, and satellites are very tiny," Musk said. "This is not some situation where we're effectively blocking others in any way. We've not blocked anyone from doing anything, nor do we expect to."

His comments in an interview with the Financial Times came in response to a claim from Josef Aschbacher, head of the European Space Agency, that Musk was "making the rules" for the new commercial space economy. He told the FT this month that Musk's rush to

launch thousands of communications satellites would leave fewer radio frequencies and orbital slots for others. SpaceX, Musk's space company, has launched nearly 2,000 satellites for its Starlink broadband network and has plans for tens of thousands more.

Rejecting suggestions he was "squeezing out" competitors, Musk compared the number of satellites in low Earth orbit to the 2bn cars and trucks on Earth. Each orbital "shell" around the Earth is larger than the planet's surface, he said, with an additional shell every 10 metres or so further out into space.

"That would imply room for tens of billions of satellites," he said. "A couple of thousand satellites is nothing. It's like, hey, here's a couple of thousand of cars on Earth — it's nothing."

Some experts challenged Musk's claim that satellites in low Earth orbit could safely match the density of cars and trucks on Earth.

Spacecraft travelling at 17,000mph need far greater separation than cars to leave time to adjust their orbits if a collision seems likely, said Jonathan McDowell, an astrophysicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. At that speed, a three-second gap would only leave room for about 1,000 satellites in each orbital shell, he calculated.

Potential collisions can only be identified close to when they might occur because of the difficulty of calculating the trajectory of multiple satellites and because changes in solar weather affect their trajectories, McDowell said.

"For many space users, planning an



Elon Musk told the FT: "Space is just extremely enormous, and satellites are very tiny. We've not blocked anyone from doing anything"

avoidance manoeuvre is at least hours if not days, so this suggests space is already too crowded," he said.

Beijing complained this month that two Starlink satellites had forced the Chinese space station to take "preventive collision avoidance control" measures in October and July to "ensure the safety and lives of in-orbit astronauts".

Laura Porczyk, a space analyst at consulting group Astralytical, said Musk's comparison of satellites to vehicles on Earth was "flippant", but added: "It's essentially correct that it's a traffic management problem."

The race to launch thousands of satellites had revealed a need for co-ordination to decide "how orbital space is to be managed", she said.

Lex page 16

Briefing

► **ETF investment poised to smash records**
Net global inflows had reached \$1.14tn last month, compared with last year's record haul of \$762.5bn. The tally put managed ETF assets on course to break the \$10tn barrier this year. — PAGE 6

► **Biden and Putin to discuss Ukraine**
The White House and Kremlin have confirmed that the presidents will today talk by telephone amid tension over a Russian troop build-up on Ukraine's border and rising gas prices. — PAGE 2; FT VIEW, PAGE 14

► **Streaming arms race spurs \$115bn outlay**
The FT has calculated that the top eight US media groups plan to spend big on movies and TV shows next year in pursuit of a video streaming business that loses money for most of them. — PAGE 6

► **Ex-Bear Stearns chief Cayne dies at 87**
James "Jimmy" Cayne, who presided over the US lender in the run-up to its fall in the financial crisis and became a caricature of reckless bank management, has died. — PAGE 7



► **Northvolt wins European battery race**
The start-up backed by VW, BMW and Volvo Cars has said its Swedish gigafactory produced its first cell on Tuesday, the first group on the continent to design and produce a battery. — PAGE 7; LEX, PAGE 16

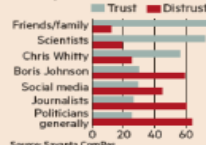
► **Banned Russian rights group defiant**
Memorial, which was dissolved by courts this week, pledged to find legal ways to continue its work of documenting Soviet abuses, despite doubt over its collection of artefacts and archival material. — PAGE 2

► **Khan austerity bid in push for IMF aid**
The government is poised to present parliament with austerity measures as Pakistan's premier seeks to resume a stalled \$6bn loan programme, risking a backlash at a time of deep economic pain. — PAGE 3

Datawatch

Who do you trust for Covid advice?

% of respondents (19 Dec 2021)



Source: Savanta ComRes

Britons trust their family and friends more than any other source of information on how to respond to Covid-19, according to a recent survey. Politicians and journalists are the least trusted



Virtual jobs abroad help Turks beat lira decline

The surge in remote working sparked by the pandemic has turned into a virtual brain drain from Turkey's tech sector as outward-looking young people find online jobs for foreign companies that come with one crucial perk: they do not get paid in lira. The wave has grown as the currency has sunk lower. Earning in dollars and spending in lira is more appealing to me compared to living in Berlin and spending in euros, says one worker.

Brain drain — PAGE 3

WHO warns of Omicron 'tsunami' as US and Europe break infection records

FT REPORTERS

The World Health Organization yesterday warned of a global "tsunami" of Covid-19 cases as countries including France and the US reported record-breaking infection tallies.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO director-general, said the tidal wave analogy reflected how the higher transmissibility of the Omicron variant was adding to the existing circulation of the Delta strain.

"This... will continue to put immense pressure on exhausted health workers and health systems on the brink of collapse and again disrupt lives and livelihoods," he said as the health body marked the two-year anniversary of the emergence of Covid-19.

Preliminary studies from several countries have shown that the Omicron

variant produces less severe outcomes but Tedros warned against complacency. "There is this narrative that it's milder or less severe," he said. "But we're undermining the other side... It could be dangerous because the high transmissibility could increase hospitalisations and deaths."

His comments came after the seven-day average for Covid cases in the US passed 265,000 on Tuesday, the highest tally since the start of the pandemic, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said: "In a few short weeks, Omicron has rapidly increased across the country and we expect will continue to circulate."

In France, Olivier Veran, health minister, echoed the WHO, saying the country was facing a two-pronged "tidal

wave" from Omicron and Delta. France was set to register 208,000 positive cases yesterday, Veran added, a daily record since the start of the pandemic.

Germany recorded 13,129 Omicron cases, a 26 per cent increase on the previous day, according to figures released by the Robert Koch Institute, the country's main public health agency.

Karl Lauterbach, health minister, said the situation was much worse than the official data suggested, estimating that the actual incidence of coronavirus in Germany was twice or three times as high as official statistics showed.

He appealed to people to celebrate New Year's Eve in a way that did not lead to new chains of infection. "Please celebrate in small groups," he said.

Reporting by Donato Paolo Mancini in London, James Politi in Bolzano, Sarah White in Paris and Guy Chazan in Berlin

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World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				INTEREST RATES			
	Dec 29	prev	%chg		Dec 29	prev	%chg		price	yield	chg
S&P 500	4795.07	4786.35	-0.03	\$ per £	1.135	1.130	-0.44	US Gov 10 yr	147.29	1.54	0.07
Nasdaq Composite	15725.31	15701.72	-0.15	\$ per €	1.349	1.343	-0.45	UK Gov 10 yr	0.94	0.09	-0.19
Dow Jones Ind	36481.95	36399.21	-0.23	£ per €	0.842	0.842	0.00	Gov Gov 10 yr	-	-	-
FTSE100	1891.51	1894.53	-0.16	¥ per \$	114.935	114.795	-0.12	Japan Gov 10 yr	113.02	0.08	0.00
Euro Stoxx 50	4292.24	4311.93	-0.45	₹ per \$	155.001	154.072	0.60	US Gov 30 yr	117.59	1.96	0.09
FTSE 100	7420.69	7372.10	-0.66	SFr per €	1.037	1.037	0.00	Gov Gov 2 yr	104.59	-0.64	0.04
FTSE All-Share	4224.78	4194.35	-0.72	€ per \$	0.891	0.895	-0.45				
CAC 40	7181.52	7181.11	-0.27								
Asian Stoxx	15812.25	15863.70	-0.32								
Nikkei	29356.08	29399.18	-0.15								
Hong Kong	23085.54	23090.58	-0.02								
MSCI World \$	3238.29	3237.70	-0.02								
MSCI EM \$	1227.12	1221.76	-0.44								
MSCI ACWI \$	756.06	755.36	-0.09								

Prices are latest for edition. Data provided by Morningstar

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BOVET

1822
Engineering Brilliance

Awarded 'Hyper GT of the Year' - Top Gear

Battista Tourbillon

Unique Automobili Pininfarina Design. Battista Hyper GT Details Throughout. Brand-New Patented Double-Sided Flying Tourbillon. 18-day Power Reserve with Patented Sphérol Rewinding System. Double-Sided Box Sapphire Crystal. Asymmetrical Dials. Limited to 30 Pieces in Titanium.

bovet.com

Late Edition
Today, cloudy, showers, high 48. To-
night, evening showers, mostly
cloudy, low 43. Tomorrow, clouds,
some sunshine, unseasonably mild,
high 56. Weather map, Page A20.



A mobile testing site in Queens on Wednesday. Over 100,000 people in New York City have tested positive since Christmas Day.

MAXWELL GUILTY OF TRAFFICKING

Recruited Underage Girls
Abused by Epstein

This article is by Benjamin
Weiser, Rebecca Davis O'Brien and
Cotlin Moynihan.

Ghislaine Maxwell, the former
companion to the disgraced finan-
cier Jeffrey Epstein, was con-
victed on Wednesday of conspir-
ing with him for at least a decade
to recruit, groom and sexually
abuse underage girls.

A federal jury in Manhattan
found Ms. Maxwell, 60, the daugh-
ter of a British media mogul, guilty
of sex trafficking and four of the
five other charges against her.
She was acquitted of one count of
enticing a minor to travel across
state lines to engage in an illegal
sexual act.

Ms. Maxwell's trial was widely
seen as the courtroom reckoning
that Mr. Epstein never had. Mr.
Epstein, who was arrested in July
2019 at the age of 66, killed himself
in a Manhattan jail cell the follow-
ing month, the medical examiner
ruled. In two cases, including that
of the man with the Uzi, family

members had called the police for
help because their relatives had
threatened to kill themselves.
The most recent death was last
month, when Trooper Splain shot
an unarmed man in his Volks-
wagen Beetle. After learning that
the officer had previously killed
three other people over nearly 15
years, the man's sister, Autumn
Krouse, asked, "Why would that
person still be employed?"

Trooper Splain is an outlier.
Most officers never fire their
weapons. Until now, his full record
of killings has not been disclosed;
the Pennsylvania State Police
even successfully fought a lawsuit
seeking to identify him and pro-
vide other details in one shooting.
In the agency's more than a cen-
tury of policing, no officer has
ever been prosecuted for fatally
shooting someone, according to a
spokesman. That history aligns
with a longstanding pattern
across the country of little ac-
countability for police officers' use
of deadly force.

Prosecutors and a grand jury
concluded that Trooper Splain's
first three lethal shootings were
justified, and an inquiry into the
most recent one is ongoing.
Rather than have independent
outsiders look into the killings, the
police agency has conducted its

Continued on Page A14

After 4 Killings, State Trooper Is Still on the Job

This article is by Kim Barker, Steve
Eder and David D. Kirkpatrick.

In November 2008, Pennsylvan-
ia Trooper Jay Splain was hon-
ored at a county law enforcement
banquet as a hero, the police officer
of the year. The reason: He
had shot and killed a suicidal man
who allegedly pointed an Uzi sub-
machine gun at him.

That was the first killing.
Trooper Splain went on to fatally
shoot three more people in sepa-
rate incidents, an extraordinary
tally for an officer responsible for
patrolling largely rural areas with
low rates of violent crime. All four
who died were troubled, strug-
gling with drugs, mental illness or
both. In two cases, including that
of the man with the Uzi, family

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Continued on Page A14

Cleared for Duty After Inquiries by His Unit in Pennsylvania

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Continued on Page A14

City Struggling To Keep Going As Virus Spikes

No Lockdowns Despite
a Crushing Caseload

By ANDY NEWMAN
and DANA RUBINSTEIN

On the day that New York City
set a one-day coronavirus case
record for the third time in a week,
an entire subway line that con-
nects Queens to Manhattan was
closed because so many transit
workers had fallen ill. Other lines
faced delays.

The Fire Department, where
nearly a third of paramedics were
out sick, begged New Yorkers not
to call 911 unless it was a real
emergency, after a spate of calls
from mildly ill people who were
just looking for an ambulance ride
to a hospital to get a Covid test.

And while New Yorkers across
the city were lining up scores deep
to get coronavirus tests, 20
CityMD locations that provide
those tests were closed because of
staffing shortages caused by the
virus.

New York City — exhausted, be-
leaguered and riddled with cor-
onavirus thanks to the Omicron
variant — remains officially open.
But as Year 2 of the pandemic
makes way for Year 3, the city is
operating at half speed simply be-
cause so many people are sick.

From restaurants to libraries to
courts to cruise ships to city agen-
cies, services have been reduced,
businesses temporarily closed
and events canceled as the entire
city struggles to navigate through
a sort of Omicron haze.

"It's kind of a nightmare," Su-
sannah Koteen, the owner of two
bars and the Harlem restaurant
Lido, said on Wednesday. About a
fifth of her staff have been out
thanks to Covid and business is
down at least 20 percent. "We
were kind of seeing the light at the
end of the tunnel, and it feels like
we've taken several steps back-
ward."

The city logged 39,591 new cor-
onavirus cases on Wednesday,
the governor's office said, smash-
ing the old record, set on Christ-
mas Eve, by more than 8,000.
More than 100,000 people have
tested positive just since Christ-
mas Day, and the positivity rate in
some neighborhoods is approach-
ing 30 percent.

On the city's website, the test
positivity rate was off the chart:
The chart goes up to only 20 per-
cent, and the seven-day average
stood at 20.97 percent.

Mayor Bill de Blasio told New
Yorkers shortly before Christmas
that Omicron would provide the
city with a "challenging few
weeks." But because Omicron ap-
pears to cause milder disease
than earlier variants, because
more than 80 percent of New

Continued on Page A11

OFFICIALS DEBATE CRITICAL PHRASE: FULLY VACCINATED

IS A BOOSTER REQUIRED?

Variant Gives Companies
and the Government
a New Quandary

By EMILY ANTHES
and NOAH WEILAND

Goldman Sachs and Jeffries,
the investment banks, are de-
manding that employees get
booster shots. The University of
Oregon and other institutions are
requiring that students and staff
members get boosters. New York
State has said it plans to stop con-
sidering residents fully vac-
cinated unless they've gotten the
shots.

As the highly transmissible Om-
icron variant spreads from coast
to coast, corporations, schools,
governments and even sports
leagues are reconsidering what it
means to be "fully vaccinated."

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leagues are reconsidering what it
means to be "fully vaccinated."

For Elections, Michigan Maps Are a Step Toward a Fair Fight

By NICK CORASANTI

One of the country's most ger-
rymandered political maps has
suddenly been replaced by one of
the fairest.

A decade after Michigan Re-
publicans gave themselves seem-
ingly impregnable majorities in
the state Legislature by drawing
districts that heavily favored their
party, a newly created independ-
ent commission approved maps
late Tuesday that create districts
so competitive that Democrats
have a fighting chance of recap-
turing the State Senate for the
first time since 1984.

The work of the new commis-
sion, which includes Democrats,
Republicans and independents
and was established through a ci-
tizen ballot initiative, stands in
sharp contrast to the type of hy-
perpartisan extreme gerryman-

An Independent Panel Levels a Tilted Field

dering that has swept much of the
country, exacerbating political po-
larization and it may highlight a
potential path to undoing such
gerrymandering.

With lawmakers excluded from
the mapmaking process, Michi-
gan's new districts will much
more closely reflect the overall
partisan makeup of the hotly con-
tested battleground state.

"Michigan's a jump ball, and
this is a jump-ball map," said Mi-
chael Li, a senior counsel who fo-
cuses on redistricting at the Bren-
nan Center for Justice. "There's a
lot of competition in this map,
which is what you would expect in
a competitive election."

Continued on Page A16



INTERNATIONAL A4-9

11 Years Later, a Face to Face
A former Marine meets up in Afghan-
istan with a Taliban. In a major battle, they
had tried to kill each other. PAGE A6

Push to Unify the French Left

A citizens' initiative is pressuring the
fragmented force to unite behind a
single presidential candidate. PAGE A9

NATIONAL A10-18

Adams to Select Chief of Staff

Frank Carone, a longtime adviser
whose business dealings have drawn
scrutiny, will play a key role for the
incoming mayor. PAGE A15

Pentagon's Secret Courtroom

A Guantanamo Bay facility for war
crimes trials will exclude the public, in
a retreat from transparency. PAGE A18

SPORTS B6-9

The Face of a Gaming Empire

The expertise and exuberance of John
Madden formed the backbone of E.A.'s
iconic video game franchise. PAGE B6



ARTS C1-6

Crumbling Monuments
Some New York public memorials, like
a Brooklyn work by Richmond Barthé,
above, are deteriorating. PAGE C1

Learning to Share a City

As "Emily in Paris" returns for Season
2, Jason Farago reflects on being just
another American in Paris. PAGE C1

BUSINESS B1-5

Metaverse Beckons Big Tech

The power brokers of Silicon Valley are
joining game makers and artists in an
attempt to become the gatekeepers
of a vast, immersive and, they hope,
profitable virtual universe. PAGE B1

Dread on Slaughterhouse Floor

Workers say factories are still glossing
over virus safety, as the meatpackers
that dominate beef production harvest
record profits. PAGE B1

OPINION A22-23

Daniela Lamas

PAGE A22



THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

Glassware Goes Wild
The look of Murano glass is on the rise,
propelled by a wave of home goods
inspired by the centuries-old aesthetic.
Above, Toshie Adachi's wares. PAGE D1



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Heavy police tactics trace to '97 heist

North Hollywood robbers of 24 years ago prompted the LAPD to militarize.

BY CONNOR SHEETS AND ROBERT J. LOPEZ

Policing in Los Angeles changed forever on the morning of Feb. 28, 1997, when Americans watched on live TV as a 44-minute firefight unfolded between two heavily armed bank robbers and outgunned LAPD officers outside a Bank of America in a bustling North Hollywood shopping district.

In the end, nearly 2,000 bullets were fired, the two robbers were killed, and multiple officers and civilians were injured in the now-infamous showdown, which helped usher in the modern era of militarized police.

Last week, another shocking incident just three blocks away offered a tragic postscript to the high-powered approach that police adopted after the bank shootout.

A Los Angeles police officer carrying an assault-style rifle rushed with several other officers into a Burlington department store after receiving reports that a man was attacking people inside. The officer charged ahead to confront a man who had attacked shoppers with a bike lock, firing three rounds and killing the man seconds after first laying eyes on him.

But those shots also killed 14-year-old Valentina Orellana-Peralta, who was hiding in a nearby changing room with her mother and was struck by one of the rounds after police say it ricocheted off the floor and pierced a wall.

Those two violent events — 24 years apart — demonstrate the pendulum swing in American law enforcement that has become a part of the outrage that followed Valentina's killing.

[See Police, A8]



THE GREAT CALIFORNIA MIGRATION

In Nashville, 'neighbors that you could call friends'

Some from Golden State flock to Texas or Nevada, but others find Tennessee's charm, affordability more alluring

By Sarah Parvini
REPORTING FROM NASHVILLE



TODD HOOD, above, moved from Norco to Nashville in 2019 and opened a brewery called Bold Patriot Brewing Co. the next year. At top is a night view of Broadway in downtown Nashville.

The din of Tuesday Trivia Night filled the Nashville brewery, as patrons clustered at tables puzzled over answers to questions posed by a woman on stage.

"What river separates Texas and Mexico?" the dark-haired emcee asked the people scattered around the taproom. A hush fell as the groups jotted down their replies.

Across the room, Todd Hood — owner of Bold Patriot Brewing Co. and happily transplanted ex-Californian — sipped his coconut porter, his back facing the flintlock pistols that decorate the bar's door handles and the walls painted with American Revolution-themed murals of Benjamin Franklin and the Declaration of Independence.

The bar's Patriotic Taproom was birthed in 2012 in an 800-square-foot brewery in Riverside County. But it reopened in Nashville in 2020, after Hood and his partners decided against expanding in California.

"California, they get you for car registration, they get you for gas. Any way that California can screw you they will," said Hood, still sport-

[See Migration, A9]



THE SENIORS in Downtown Magnets High School's class of 2022 don't take college for granted. Nick Saballos, above, has a love of physics and a 4.47 GPA.

COLUMN ONE

These standout students are humble — and ambitious

By Teresa Watanabe

The moment had finally come for Kiana Portillo, a senior at Downtown Magnets High School in Los Angeles. She had worked so hard and overcome so much to get to this point: an abrupt move from Honduras to Los Angeles as a fifth-grader, merciless teasing over

her limited English and heavy Spanish accent, financial hardship and the emotional void left by an absent father.

But supported by teachers who tutored her over lunchtime and fed her intellectual hunger, Kiana had built a standout college resume: mostly A's and rigorous courses heavy in math and leadership roles, including co-founding the school's first feminist club.

[See Students, A11]

Trump-like leader splits Brazil apart

Oldest friends stop speaking, relatives avoid the topic, and politicians duke it out.

By KATE LINTHICUM

SAO PAULO, Brazil — Inara Couto, a 54-year-old teacher here, won't shop at stores whose owners support Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro.

She stopped speaking to some of her oldest friends for the same reason.

Her husband, Sergio, is so at odds politically with his

Bolsonaro-backing, COVID-vaccine-refusing brother that the two mostly limit their conversations to a single topic: soccer.

Ten months before the next presidential election, Brazil is more polarized than at any point in recent memory, with political conflicts and raging culture wars souring friendships, wrecking family gatherings and spilling into the streets.

At the center is Bolsonaro, 66, a far-right nationalist who rode into office three years ago on a wave of populist anger over corruption and who now insists

[See Brazil, A4]



PRESIDENT Jair Bolsonaro, who consults with Stephen Bannon, will face a test at polls in October.

Health warning: Scale back parties

Amid a record virus surge in U.S., officials urge people to avoid New Year's crowds.

By Luke Money, Rong-Gong Lin II and Anumita Kaur

With the highly infectious Omicron variant sending coronavirus cases soaring to unprecedented levels, California's winter surge has entered another perilous phase, prompting renewed calls by health officials to dial back celebratory plans and avoid crowded settings over the New Year's holiday weekend.

The warnings come as the nationwide number of newly confirmed coronavirus infections soared to a record high and hospitalizations in California and elsewhere continue to increase.

Though officials said preliminary evidence is increasingly showing Omicron causes less severe illness than the still-prevalent Delta variant — especially for otherwise healthy people who have been vaccinated — the number of people getting infected has raised alarms as officials work to shore up hospital capacity and ensure other vital services aren't interrupted.

"We know the Omicron variant is airborne and highly transmissible, and that a combination of colder weather, indoor gatherings and holiday-related household mixing would likely result in an increase in cases," officials with the California Department of Public Health said in a statement.

That's why it's crucial, state health officials said, "that everyone take steps to protect their health and slow the spread of COVID-19."

While those include long-cited measures such as getting vaccinated and boosted, getting tested, wearing masks indoors while in public and staying home if you feel sick, officials also say more cautious New Year's celebrations can help.

"Small intimate gatherings is the way to go this New Year's. It's not the time to go to a large gathering," said Dr. Sara Cody, the public health director and health officer for Santa Clara County. "The only exception would be if you're going to spend the entire gathering out."

[See Caution, A8]

Jeffrey Epstein's friend convicted

Ghislaine Maxwell is found guilty of luring teen girls to be sexually assaulted by late millionaire. NATION, A6

O.C. finishes spill cleanup

As officials declare the shoreline restored, the focus turns to aging oil platforms. CALIFORNIA, B1

James closes in on scoring title

The Lakers star is chasing Karl Malone and Abdul-Jabbar on the NBA's all-time list. SPORTS, B10

Weather

Heavy morning rain. L.A. Basin: 56/47. B6

Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper.



Ghislaine Maxwell guilty on 5 counts

Jurors find Epstein's paramour conspired to traffic girls for sex acts

BY SHAYNA JACOBS

NEW YORK — Ghislaine Maxwell, the longtime paramour of financier Jeffrey Epstein, was convicted on sex-trafficking charges after a trial that centered on what types of enabling conduct — including befriending young girls and teaching and scheduling them to massage an older man — should be considered criminal.

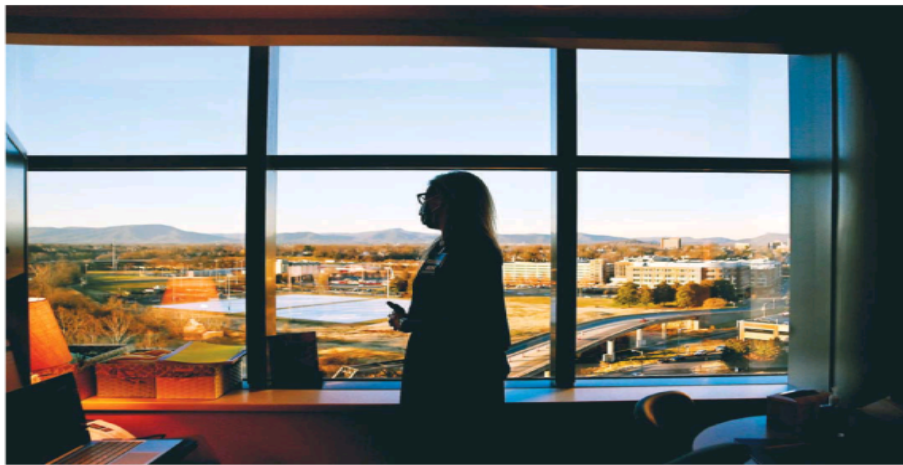
Maxwell, 60, was accused of recruiting teenage girls to massage Epstein at his homes in Palm Beach, Fla., New York, New Mexico and elsewhere between 1994 and 2004.

Epstein allegedly paid the girls hundreds of dollars in cash for the massages, which involved sexual touching and which he expected three times a day. He died by suicide 28 months ago, while awaiting his own trial.

The jury found Maxwell guilty on five of six counts, including conspiracy to commit sex trafficking and sex trafficking of an individual under 18. She was found not guilty of enticement of one individual under 17 with the intent to engage in illegal sexual activity.

"A unanimous jury has found Ghislaine Maxwell guilty of one of the worst crimes imaginable, facilitating and participating in the sexual abuse of children," said Damian Williams, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York. "The road to justice

SEE MAXWELL ON A18



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL S. WILLIAMSON/THE WASHINGTON POST

A breaking point on the front line

BY ANNIE GOWEN

ROANOKE — Respiratory therapist Alva Daniels fought in covid hot spots throughout the pandemic, but it was only in recent months that the strain began to show.

He started calling his wife from the hospital bathroom, crying, when he lost a patient. "We can't save them. All we do is bag 'em and tag 'em," he told a friend. Then, as coronavirus cases fueled by the delta variant rose over the summer, he told his wife: "Things are getting bad again and we don't have enough people to fight it. If something happens to me — if I die — I want to be buried next to my mom."

Alicia McAllister-Daniels, a nurse, thought her husband was

Health worker's suicide shows mental toll at pandemic-battered hospitals



MICHAEL S. WILLIAMSON/THE WASHINGTON POST

ABOVE: A photo of Alva McAllister Daniels and her husband, Alva Daniels, while camping. TOP: Alva at the Roanoke children's hospital where she is a nurse.

talking about a breakthrough case of covid-19. Instead, Daniels, 38, died by suicide just five days later, his body found in a wooded area near the apartment in Fredericksburg where he was living while on a travel assignment.

As the omicron variant threatens to bring a punishing fifth wave this winter, the country faces an unprecedented mental health crisis brought on by the nearly two-year pandemic. Hospitals and health-care facilities are woefully understaffed as capacity peaks once again — and workers, emotionally battered, burned out and suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, are leaving the field in droves. Efforts to help them have taken on a new urgency, with Congress

SEE ALVA ON A10

Variant poses trouble for tests

RAPID KITS LESS CLEAR ON OMICRON

Findings make it tougher to weigh risks in daily life

BY JOEL ACHENBACH AND YASMINE ABUTALEB

As the coronavirus spawns a record-breaking wave of infections, new research suggests that rapid tests widely used to identify potential covid-19 cases might be less effective at identifying illness caused by the swiftly spreading omicron variant.

The finding is the latest complication for anyone trying to strike a common-sense balance between being vigilant and returning to normalcy as the country approaches the third year of the pandemic.

The research, issued Tuesday by the Food and Drug Administration and produced by the National Institutes of Health, said the rapid antigen tests — which have been in high demand and often hard to find this holiday season — "do detect the omicron variant but may have reduced sensitivity."

Although rapid tests showed reduced sensitivity to omicron compared with earlier variants in a lab study, the real-world implications are not clear, said Bruce J. Tromberg, director of NIH's National Institute of Biomedical

SEE VIRUS ON A9

Return after holidays: D.C. Public Schools to require negative test. B1

Continuing inflation set to be a top issue in 2022

BY RACHEL SIEGEL AND LAURA REILEY

Strong consumer demand, continuing supply chain troubles and the emergence of the omicron variant of the coronavirus threaten to prolong sharply rising prices well into 2022, potentially making inflation the premier economic challenge of the new year.

Prices defied many economists' expectations in 2021 by rising at the fastest pace in nearly 40 years. Everything from rent to the price of used cars to groceries climbed higher as the nation's economy has recovered from the pandemic.

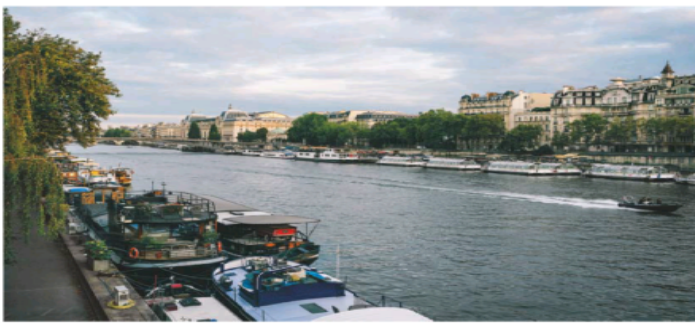
That caused pain for consumers — eating into sizable wage gains. It also caused headaches for the Federal Reserve, which had forecast much less inflation, and the White House, which faced concerns even from some Democrats about whether plans for more federal spending would drive inflation higher still.

Now, companies and economists are bracing for inflation continuing into the new year.

SEE INFLATION ON A16

Paris wants to make the Seine swimmable for Olympics and the public

Seeking a clean break from a dirty past



LAURENCE GEAU FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

The Seine winds through Paris. Officials have big plans for the river, a no-swim zone since 1923.

BY RICK NOACK

PARIS — For decades, the Seine was the smelly companion of the City of Lights.

Declared biologically dead in the 1960s, the river only ever appeared to awaken when floods threatened to spill brown mud water onto the Parisian cobblestone sidewalks. Advances in wastewater treatment have helped. But swimming has been

officially banned since 1923. More than two-thirds of all French have a negative perception of the river.

And yet when French officials unveiled their ambitions this month for the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, the Seine was treated like a resurrected national monument, "the most beautiful avenue of the capital" and a place of "unlimited possibilities."

SEE PARIS ON A13

REPORTED ESSAY

The 'American tradition' of conspiracy theories

A reporter reflects on his time writing about conflicts over truth, trust and belonging

BY JOSE A. DEL REAL
REPORTING FROM DEALEY PLAZA IN DALLAS

The old textbook depository at 411 Elm St. isn't especially eye-catching, but for nearly 60 years its awful past has loomed over downtown Dallas and, perhaps, all of American public life. "On November 22, 1963," notes a modest historical marker fixed to its red-brick facade, "the building gained national notoriety when Lee Harvey Oswald allegedly shot and killed president John F. Kennedy from a sixth floor window as the presidential motorcade passed the site."

Every few minutes, visitors pause to read the engraving — by the Texas Historical Commission, a government agency — and then point to an emphatic etch around "allegedly" that someone has scratched into the plate, in case the point was too subtle.

"They did that because they

know it's not true," a man tells a companion one November afternoon, and then it happens again, and again, but no one is interested in sharing these private thoughts with a reporter, at least not on the record.

Nobody wants to risk being called "a conspiracy theorist," a "truther," and they especially do not want to have their names lumped together with those of other people, the ones with the Trump-Kennedy signs down the street.

Yet nearly six decades after JFK's assassination, a significant majority of Americans believe that what really happened here was covered up or at least very seriously distorted by ... someone.

Among the conspirators listed in limitless unsubstantiated theories are the mafia, international communists, segregationists, the Central Intelligence Agency, various other factions within the federal

SEE ESSAY ON A6

IN THE NEWS



MARIE ERIEL HOBBO FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Pearl Harbor water crisis Families had unexplained illnesses predating the Navy's notification of jet fuel in the water supply. A8

THE NATION
Flight disruptions eased slightly, but airlines are still struggling to get thousands of travelers to their destinations. A2
Federal agents from Homeland Security Investigations detailed in a report why they want to operate separately from their parent agency, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. A5
In tributes, liberal Democrats remembered

the late Harry M. Reid as a "fighter" and mentor. A4
THE WORLD
Stand News, one of the last independent media outlets in Hong Kong, shut down after its executives were arrested and assets frozen. A12
President Biden planned to speak with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday amid tensions surrounding the military buildup on the border

with Ukraine. A14
Elon Musk faced a backlash in China over what Beijing said were "close encounters" between China's space station and SpaceX satellites. A14
THE ECONOMY
Usage of exposure notification apps, developed early in the pandemic, has remained low despite hopes it could help halt transmission. A15
THE REGION
The Robert E. Lee statue and other Confederate monuments could go

to Richmond's Black History Museum under a deal with the state. B1
Metro's safety panel has again ordered the 7000-series cars out of service, saying the agency hadn't followed the terms of a plan to safely reintroduce them. B1
Vaccinated people who followed guidelines but still got mild cases of covid felt "defeated" by their positive tests. B1
Montgomery County police killed a man who opened fire on them during a traffic stop, authorities said. B1

INSIDE



STYLE
Had to be there
Post reporters describe what they witnessed at pivotal moments in 2021. C1
LOCAL LIVING
Back in 2022
The section is taking a break and will return next Thursday.

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deportes

Pedrito Heguy

El chico del milagro y su deseo de volver a jugar

Sufrió un grave accidente en un partido de polo; sorprendió su recuperación y pudo disfrutar del Abierto de Palermo.



PATTI SMITH CUMPLIÓ
75 Y LE REGALARON LAS
LLAVES DE NUEVA YORK

—espectáculos

A esa ciudad le dedicó gran parte de su obra; recibió el Premio Nobel de Bob Dylan a su pedido, cantó para el papa Francisco y se convirtió en emblema del feminismo.

EN PUNTA DEL ESTE
LOS PRECIOS ASUSTAN
A LOS ARGENTINOS

—sociedad

El bajísimo valor del peso hace carísimo el consumo para los turistas; un café a \$750, una pizza para 2 a \$3500, una gaseosa a \$625 son solo algunos ejemplos. Página 23

LA NACION

JUEVES 30 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2021 | LANACION.COM.AR

Con más de 42.000 casos en un día, el país alcanzó el pico histórico de contagios

COVID-19. Se superó el récord que se había registrado en mayo de este año; baja mortalidad

La Argentina entró ayer en una nueva fase de la pandemia tras haber alcanzado el récord absoluto de casos positivos detectados en un día. Con 42.032 contagios en las últimas 24 horas, se llegó, según los registros oficiales, a un total de 5.556.239 infectados desde el inicio de la pandemia. Superaron la enfermedad

5.283.910 personas y son consideradas casos activos 155.218.

El reporte de ayer es el mayor desde el inicio de la pandemia y supera al del 27 de mayo pasado, que había sido de 41.080 casos. El segundo más alto fue el del 19 de mayo con 39.652 y el tercero, el del 28 de ese mismo mes con 39.207 infectados.

En tanto, los centros de salud de todo el país registraron 26 muertes por coronavirus y la cantidad de víctimas mortales desde que comenzó la pandemia es de 117.111.

La buena noticia, ligada a los altos índices de vacunación, es que los índices de mortalidad están en niveles bajos. Página 20

AISLAMIENTO

Desde hoy la Ciudad reducirá el aislamiento para contagiados y contactos estrechos vacunados. Página 20

Otra vez la tragedia con un cuatriciclo en la playa

seguridad— Una joven de 25 años murió ayer al volcar el cuatriciclo que conducía por la zona de médanos en el norte de Pinamar. De los tres acompañantes (dos de ellos, menores), dos sufrieron heridas y uno resultó ileso. Ninguno llevaba casco. Página 27



Primeros peritajes tras el accidente en los médanos en el norte de Pinamar

Con polémica y la ayuda de una opositora, el oficialismo aprobó la reforma de Bienes Personales

Gustavo Ybarra
LA NACION

En una sesión impugnada por Juntos por el Cambio por supuestas irregularidades en la conformación del quórum, el Frente de Todos logró sancionar ayer en el Senado

la actualización del impuesto a los bienes personales. Lo consiguió gracias al sorpresivo aporte de la peronista disidente Clara Vega (La Rioja), quien ayudó al oficialismo a alcanzar el quórum.

Sin el principal bloque opositor en el recinto, que se presentará

ante la Justicia para impugnar el trámite, el oficialismo sancionó la ley con los cambios introducidos por Diputados la semana pasada. La votación concluyó con 37 votos a favor y el solitario rechazo de Alejandra Vigo (Hacemos por Córdoba). Continúa en la página 8



Clara Vega
SENADORA
POR LA RIOJA

Ingresó al Senado en 2019 en reemplazo de la radical Inés Brizuela

EL ESCENARIO

Un entramado mafioso en el centro de la democracia

Carlos Pagni

—LA NACION—

Una de las consecuencias de la polarización que organiza el tablero del poder en blanco y negro es que infantiliza el debate hasta extremos delirantes. Es decir, satisface la fantasía pueril según la cual el propio mundo es un paraíso de valores immaculados y luminosos, y el del rival concentra todos los vicios y las miserias. Ese antagonismo irreflexivo presta un servicio invaluable: impide entrar en contacto con las perturbadoras contradicciones de las que está plagado el propio campo. Sobre todo, con una, principal: que el sector al que uno pertenece presenta algunos rasgos del contrincante al que se abomina. Continúa en la página 14

En los barrios sin subsidios la luz aumentará un 400%

TARIFAS. La segmentación de las tarifas de luz y gas que aplicará el Gobierno en 2022 hará que unos 500.000 usuarios residenciales del AMBA paguen el costo total de ambos servicios, sin subsidio. La suba resultante sería de 400%. "Un departamento que hoy paga \$500 de luz en un barrio de altos ingresos pasaría a \$2500 mensuales", indicaron en el Gobierno. Puerto Madero, Recoleta, Palermo y Núñez serían los barrios con mayor impacto. Página 16

Habilitan a Kicillof a sumar otros 25.000 empleados

ACUERDO. Es parte de lo que sancionó la Legislatura, con apoyo de la oposición. Página 10

Bolsonaro constrange aliados com caos na Bahia

A folga do presidente Jair Bolsonaro (PL) em praia de Santa Catarina no momento em que baianos enfrentam tragédia pelas chuvas constrange aliados e membros do governo federal. Nesta terça (28), a hashtag #BolsonaroVagabundo entrou na lista de "assunto do momento" do Twitter. A Bahia contabilizava até ontem mais de 34 mil desabrigados e 24 mortes em decorrência dos temporais. **Poder A4**

Turismo B11

Brasil 'à la française'

Hotel Rosewood São Paulo alia materiais nacionais a técnica e design franceses em conceito de alto luxo.

Ilustrada B6

Cinema teve mulher no comando e flerte com o streaming

Guia B10

Relembre quais bares e restaurantes fecharam em 2021

Governo ignora casos de desaparecimento forçado

País tem apagão de dados de ocorrências após abordagens por forças do Estado

O Brasil vive um apagão de dados e de controle de desaparecimentos ocorridos após abordagem por forças do Estado, ao mesmo tempo que casos do tipo são recorrentes nas unidades onde a polícia mais mata. Em 2020, 6.416 morreram durante intervenções policiais, segundo a ONG Fórum Brasileiro de Segurança Pública.

O Ministério da Justiça e Segurança Pública ignorou, em um plano elaborado para vigorar até 2030, a definição de políticas, metas e indicadores relativos a essa modalidade de ocorrências. Além disso, o governo Jair Bolsonaro (PL) também não tem exigido dos estados os dados referentes a desaparecimentos forçados.

Uma lei de 2019 criou o cadastro nacional de pessoas desaparecidas, que ainda não está estruturado. Cabe ao Ministério da Justiça e Segurança Pública coordenar a organização e a integração de bases de dados. Não há atualmente informação estatística disponível sobre desaparecimentos pela polícia em todo o país.

Em nota, o Ministério da Justiça e Segurança Pública afirmou que, em cooperação com os estados e o Distrito Federal, "busca padronizar a forma de registro, a coleta e o tratamento dos dados relacionados ao desaparecimento". Não mencionou, porém, iniciativas relacionadas a desaparecimentos forçados. **Cotidiano B1**

Chuvas avançam e podem durar dez dias no Sudeste

As fortes chuvas que provocaram estragos na Bahia estão se deslocando para o Sudeste do país. A previsão é de que os temporais, que já deixaram alagadas cidades de Minas Gerais, causando mortes, permaneçam na região por de sete a dez dias. **Cotidiano B2**

Presidente despreza vida humana, afirma Rui Costa

O governador baiano Rui Costa (PT) diz ter como maior desafio em sete anos de mandato o enfrentamento às chuvas. Ele criticou a ausência de Jair Bolsonaro no estado. "O presidente durante toda a sua gestão demonstrava desprezo em relação à vida humana". **Poder A6**

Acabou a mamata sob Bolsonaro? Episódios negam

Poder A8

Moro diz que Lava Jato combateu PT, mas depois recua

Poder A7

Governo adia plano de incluir famílias no Auxílio Brasil

O presidente Jair Bolsonaro não cumprirá a promessa de ampliar o número de atendidos pelo Auxílio Brasil em 2021. Segundo técnicos do governo, não houve tempo para operacionalizar o pagamento às famílias restantes ainda em dezembro. **Mercado A14**

EDITORIAIS A2

Lava Jato 2014-2021
A respeito de declínio da operação anticorrupção.

É renúncia

Sobre distorções dos incentivos fiscais do Simples.



Karlene Xavier/Folhapress

EVANGÉLICOS CONSTROEM VILA PARA CRISTÃOS AFEGÃOS QUE FUGIRAM DO TALIBÃ

Crianças refugiadas em comunidade em Colombo, no Paraná; grupo de 73 pessoas pôde celebrar Natal abertamente pela primeira vez **Mundo A9**



Eduardo Knapp/Folhapress

SP SUBTERRÂNEA GUARDA GRANITOS PRÉ-DINOSSAUROS

Geólogo do metrô Hugo Cassio Rocha, 61, com pedaço de mineral retirado de escavações; amostras ficam guardadas em caixas sob linha vermelha, perto da estação Brás **Cotidiano B2**

Maurílio, sertanejo que fez dupla com Luiza, morre aos 28

O cantor maranhense, do sucesso 'S de Saudade', morreu ontem vítima de tromboembolia pulmonar. Ele teve um mal súbito em gravação de um DVD em Goiânia. A dupla Luiza & Maurílio ficou conhecida pelos vocais graves de Luiza. **Ilustrada B7**

Maurício Stycer 'Não Olhe para Cima' atesta talento da Netflix

A comparação entre sátira de Adam McKay e os anos Bolsonaro gerou discussões virtuais às vezes até melhores que o filme e confirmou o apitidão da Netflix para repercutir nas redes. **Ilustrada B7**

Justiça dá aval a troca de IGP-M por IPCA no aluguel

Mais empresas estão conseguindo na Justiça trocar o IGP-M pelo IPCA em contratos de aluguel, com o argumento de que a alta do índice desequilibrou acordos fechados antes da pandemia. Em maio, o IGP-M acumulado em 12 meses bateu 37%. **Mercado A11**

Economistas erram durante pandemia e põem em xeque modelo de projeção A11

Servidores federais vão paralisar em janeiro e fazer greve em fevereiro por reajuste salarial **A13**

Ômicron deixa sistemas de saúde à beira do colapso, alerta OMS **B3**

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DNCP cerró caso de supuestas irregularidades del intendente Óscar Rodríguez

Contrataciones blanquea a Nenecho por compras Covid

Ente argumenta carecer de competencia y que tampoco hay indicios suficientes que ameriten una investigación de oficio.

Internaciones se duplicaron en Ineram y HNI

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PÁGINAS 2 y 3

CORRUPCIÓN DE POLÍTICOS

Se destraba causa de Hugo Javier y jueza debe fijar audiencia

PÁGINA 8

Diputado Cuevas sigue ganando tiempo: Su juicio dejan para mayo

PÁGINA 9

Algo de alivio en un año muy difícil
Recuperación: Repunte de eventos y en CDE mejoran los negocios

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Declaran irregular a casa de juegos
Fiscalía tiene manos libres para investigar operación sospechosa

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Doble regalo para niños

Clínicas. Pacientes de Nefrología Pediátrica fueron sorprendidos con un arbolito lleno de regalos. Salud aprobó inmunización con Coronavac a niños de 5 a 11 años.

PÁGINA 3

Criptomonedas: Posible vía de salida de los millones que movió el esquema RGD

PÁGINA 48

UNA INDESTRUCTIBLE SIEMPRE DESPIERTA TU LADO INDESTRUCTIBLE

TOYOTA

TOYOTOSHI

800 000 000



MONTAGNE
VAL-D'ISÈRE, UN ESPRIT
VILLAGE DANS UN DÉCOR
DE RÊVE **PAGES 24 ET 25**

HOMMAGE

SABINE WEISS,
PHOTOGRAPHE DE
L'HUMANITÉ SOURIANTE **PAGE 26**



GAUCHE
Les mises en garde
contre les tentatives
d'union **PAGE 5**

COVID-19
Les députés
entament l'examen
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RUSSIE
Glouchkova:
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effacer l'effet de
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Retrouvailles
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Les Français
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Les start-up de la viande cultivée s'activent pour débarquer dans les assiettes **PAGES 15 ET 21**

CHAMPS LIBRES

- En Tanzanie, la France et l'Aga Khan se liguent contre le cancer
- La chronique de Luc Ferry
- La tribune d'Alexandre Jardin

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FIGARO OUI
FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question de mercredi :
Vingt ans après, l'adoption de l'euro a-t-elle été bénéfique aux Français?

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Houellebecq, miroir vrai de notre temps

Trois ans après «Sérotonine», l'écrivain français le plus connu dans le monde revient avec «Anéantir», un grand roman sur les maux de notre société.

- UN ROMAN LANCÉ COMME UN PRODUIT « BEAU ET DÉSIRABLE »
- UN MINISTRE DES FINANCES NOMMÉ BRUNO → LE DROIT DE VIEILLIR DANS LA DIGNITÉ → HOUELLEBECQ ET JÉSUS → IL Y A DEUX MOIS, COMME UNE ROCK STAR, LE POÈTE REMONTAIT SUR SCÈNE [PAGES 2 À 4 ET L'EDITORIAL](#).

L'hôpital face au défi de la vague Omicron

Alors que le nombre de nouveaux cas devient vertigineux, l'hôpital se prépare à subir une déferlante. Mais chaque variant amène son lot de surprises et certaines études laissent espérer un Omicron moins dangereux que le Delta. Une chose

semble acquise : les malades graves sont quasiment tous des non-vaccinés. Le gouvernement compte sur le passe vaccinal pour convaincre les réticents et passer ainsi la vague avec le moins de dommages possibles. **PAGES 6, 11 ET 15**



Record de fusions d'entreprises en 2021

Faisant fi des vagues de Covid, les entreprises ont multiplié les fusions, cessions et acquisitions partout dans le monde, pour un montant total de plus de 5 650 milliards de dollars. Celui-ci est supérieur de 24 % au précédent

record datant de 2007. Le marché des fusions et acquisitions a été dopé par l'abondance des liquidités distribuées par les banques centrales, la faiblesse des taux d'intérêt et la hausse continue des Bourses. **PAGE 18**

F ÉDITORIAL par Étienne de Montety edemontety@lefigaro.fr

Contre la froideur du monde

Depuis près de vingt-cinq ans, la publication d'un roman de Michel Houellebecq est toujours un événement éditorial. Sa description naturaliste de la misère d'une condition humaine moderne, coincée entre consumérisme exacerbé et mélancolie existentielle, fascine. C'est comme si notre époque cherchait dans ses livres une lumière crue lui permettant de comprendre ce qu'elle vit.

Il faudrait aussi parler de l'ironie constante qui cingle ses récits, raillant les travers contemporains et les idoles du temps présent. Ce style désabusé et narquois est désormais sa marque littéraire.

Houellebecq est-il un oracle ? Plutôt un écho de notre temps. Tonitruant quand il décrit l'*homo occidentalis* hanté par la sexualité, ou qu'il imagine une France gouvernée par un dirigeant musulman. Mais cet écho sait aussi être plaintif, douloureux même, quand, dans *Anéantir*, l'écrivain exprime sa propre préoccupation de la souffrance et de l'âge qui vient.

Dans une société vieillissante qui s'efface à célébrer la vitalité, la productivité, l'efficacité, que vaut une vie à bout de souffle ? Et comment l'homme contemporain peut-il

faire face à la maladie et à la perspective de la mort s'il est privé de réponse religieuse ou seulement métaphysique ? C'est chez lui une vieille hantise dont témoignent nombre de ses poèmes : « *Il y aura la mort tu le sais mon amour/ Il y aura le malheur et les tout derniers jours.* » Nul besoin donc d'évoquer explicitement la crise du Covid ou la pression en faveur de la légalisation de l'euthanasie pour considérer que son nouveau roman est au cœur des tourments du moment.

Mais Houellebecq n'est pas philosophe, pas davantage sociologue ; il est romancier. Les intuitions qu'il porte, il les exprime à travers des personnages de chair et de sang qui tentent de vivre, travaillent, souffrent, espèrent ou désespèrent. Plus apaisés que dans d'autres romans de l'auteur, ils cherchent autour d'eux un sens à l'existence, et, cette fois, les liens conjugaux et familiaux, même abîmés, même chaotiques, les y aident.

Qu'ils accompagnent leurs parents jusqu'à leurs derniers instants, ou qu'un cancer soit l'occasion de raffermir un couple, ses héros éveillent chez le lecteur une réflexion : contre la froideur du monde, quelle issue, sinon l'amour ? ■



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Hospitals urged to find space for 4,000 extra beds as cases surge

NHS plans emergency 'Nightingale' facilities as infections reach 183,000

Rowena Mason
Aubrey Allegretti

Hospitals have been asked to identify sites for up to 4,000 emergency beds to deal with a potential wave of Omicron admissions in England as cases hit a record 183,000.

More than 10,000 patients were in hospital yesterday with Covid, a figure last reached in March.

NHS England confirmed it was creating new small-scale "Nightingale" facilities with up to 100 beds each at eight hospitals across the country. The health service said it had asked trusts to identify empty spaces to accommodate beds in places such as gyms or teaching areas. NHS bosses are aiming to create up to 4,000 beds as surge capacity if needed, with work on the first tranche in temporary structures starting this week.

In the first wave of the pandemic huge temporary hospitals, called the "Nightingales", were built in exhibition halls but dismantled without being used to capacity.

The new approach will ask for surge capacity to be built in the grounds of hospitals to make it easier for staff to move between new and old sites and keep patients closer to diagnostics and emergency care. The first sites will be at Preston, Leeds, Birmingham, Leicester, Stevenage, St George's in London, Ashford and Bristol. There are currently almost

Inside

Boris Johnson has been accused of presiding over a 'total shambles' as people struggled to get access to Covid tests after a huge surge in demand. There were reports that key workers were unable to access tests allowing them to do their jobs **Page 6** →

90,000 adult acute and general beds available in England, with occupancy at about 90% on December 19.

The announcement came as data showed there were 10,462 people in hospital in England with Covid yesterday, although it is still unclear how many were admitted with the disease and how many were there for another reason while also testing positive.

The number of patients who are on mechanical ventilation has remained fairly stable in recent weeks and even reduced since November, **7** → while the number of deaths

Ghislaine Maxwell Former socialite found guilty in sex trafficking trial

Victoria Bekiempis
New York

The British former socialite Ghislaine Maxwell has been found guilty of sex trafficking in her US federal court trial.

Maxwell, 60, was arrested in July 2020, charged with involvement in her ex-boyfriend Jeffrey Epstein's sexual abuse of teenage girls, some as young as 14. She was convicted on five of the six charges she faced yesterday.

Following the verdict, Damian Williams, the US attorney for Manhattan, said: "A unanimous jury has found Ghislaine Maxwell guilty of one of the worst crimes imaginable - facilitating and participating in the sexual abuse of children. Crimes that she committed with her long-time partner and co-conspirator, Jeffrey Epstein."

"The road to justice has been far too long. But, today, justice has been done. I want to commend the bravery of the girls - now grown women - who stepped out of the shadows and into the



▲ Ghislaine Maxwell committed crimes against teenage girls with Jeffrey Epstein PHOTOGRAPH: AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Starvation, chaos and fear stalk Afghans

Emma Graham-Harrison
Kabul

In his seven decades, Mehruddin has been a police commander, a fighter for the mujahideen, a district governor and a prosecutor, and even briefly worked in Europe. Until this year, he has never struggled to feed his family.

Now they have just one meal a day, hard discs of stale bread soaked in water until they soften to mush. "All the family are starving," he says bluntly as he waits at a food distribution hub in Kabul for a hand-out of lentils, rice, flour and oil. "I even worry about dying ... if it happens tomorrow, how will my family pay for my funeral?"

His pension from the **20** →



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