

What's News

Business & Finance

FTX co-founder Sam Bankman-Fried plans to consent to extradition to the U.S. to face criminal charges related to the crypto exchange's collapse, people familiar with the matter said. A1

◆ **During the wildest year for global markets since 2008, individual investors have been doubling down on stocks while many professionals appear to have bailed out. A1**

◆ **Toyota's president said he is among the auto industry's silent majority in questioning whether electric vehicles should be pursued exclusively. A1**

◆ **L3Harris said it agreed to buy Aerojet Rocketdyne in a \$4.7 billion deal that would cement L3Harris's role as one of six prime defense contractors for the Pentagon. B1**

◆ **Ford was slated to lay out its arguments for a new trial in a truck-rollover lawsuit that resulted in a \$1.7 billion jury verdict in Georgia over the summer. B1**

◆ **Microsoft signaled it plans to challenge the FTC's lawsuit to block its \$75 billion deal for Activision and is expected to argue that it is an underdog in videogame developing. B1**

◆ **Elon Musk asked Twitter users to vote on whether he should step down as head of the social-media platform and pledged to abide by the results. B1**

◆ **"Avatar: The Way of Water" made waves at the box office, but lingering concerns over the coronavirus tempered ticket sales in China, where the film's makers hoped for a major hit. B1**

World-Wide

◆ **The battle for Bakhmut is shaping up as a critical test of Russia's prospects in the war, with Moscow's military commander in Ukraine under pressure to produce a victory to justify his appointment in October. A1**

◆ **A rocket strike killed at least one person in Russia's Belgorod region near Ukraine, local officials said, as Russia's defense minister made a rare visit to the Ukrainian war zone. A7**

◆ **The Jan. 6 panel was expected to vote Monday on potential criminal referrals for former President Trump and some of his allies related to an attempt to overturn the 2020 election results. A4**

◆ **Lawmakers will return to the Capitol this week with a singular focus of passing a sweeping bipartisan spending bill to avert a shutdown and fund the government through September, despite opposition from many House Republicans. A4**

◆ **El Paso, Texas, declared a state of emergency a week after the start of an influx of asylum seekers crossing the border illegally that overwhelmed immigration and city authorities. A3**

◆ **Biden's advisers are moving forward with plans for the president's likely 2024 re-election bid, with a focus on how a campaign would operate alongside the White House next year. A5**

◆ **North Korea launched two ballistic missiles off its east coast, adding to what has already been a historic year of weapons activity. A18**

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Messi Lifts Argentina to World Cup Victory Over France



FINAL: Lionel Messi lifts the World Cup trophy after Argentina won the championship in Qatar on Sunday, defeating France 4-2 in a penalty shootout after the match ended tied 3-3. It was the first World Cup win in Messi's professional career. A14

Small Investors Stay Bullish, Even as Pros Unload Stocks

By GUNJAN BANERJEE

During the wildest year for global markets since 2008, individual investors have been doubling down on stocks. Many professionals, on the other hand, appear to have bailed out.

U.S. equity mutual and exchange-traded funds, which are popular among individual investors, have attracted more than \$100 billion in net inflows this year, one of the

highest amounts on record in EPFR data going back to 2000.

Hedge funds, meanwhile, have been paring how much risk they are taking in stocks or making outright bets that major U.S. indexes will tumble.

Mutual funds have increased their cash positions to about 2.5% of their portfolios this fall, up from around 1.5% at the end of last year and the highest level since early 2020, according to Goldman Sachs

Group Inc.

Ben Snider, a managing director at Goldman Sachs, said institutional and individual investors often dump stocks in tandem when the economy is slowing and indexes are tumbling. That doesn't appear to have happened this year, despite the S&P 500's decline.

"The fact that you have not seen very much selling from households is surprising," Mr. Snider said. U.S. households typically

sell about \$10 billion in stocks after the S&P 500 falls at least 10% from its peak. Investors yanked money from stock funds in 2015 and 2018, the latest times the index suffered annual losses, EPFR data show.

The S&P 500 is on pace for its worst year in more than a decade, marked by volatility

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◆ SEC proposes tick sizes in tenths of a cent..... B9

FTX's Ex-Chief Plans to Agree on U.S. Trial

Bankman-Fried nears extradition from the Bahamas in crypto fraud, laundering case

FTX co-founder Sam Bankman-Fried is planning to consent to extradition to the U.S. to face criminal charges related to the cryptocurrency exchange's collapse, people familiar with the matter said.

By Alexander Saeedy, Justin Baer and James Fanelli

Mr. Bankman-Fried has been in custody in the Bahamas since he was arrested last Monday in connection with several U.S. criminal charges, which were unsealed a day later. Federal prosecutors in Manhattan have charged Mr. Bankman-Fried with fraud and money-laundering offenses, alleging he defrauded customers, lenders and investors. They also alleged he violated campaign-finance rules by making illegal political contributions.

Lawyers for Mr. Bankman-Fried didn't respond to requests for comment. A spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office declined to comment.

Mr. Bankman-Fried's case in Manhattan has been assigned to U.S. District Judge Ronnie Abrams. If and when he is transferred from the Bahamas to the U.S., he would be expected to make an initial court appearance shortly thereafter.

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◆ Some crypto fans call it quits in FTX's wake..... B3

Looming Battle to Test Kyiv, Moscow

By YAROSLAV TROFIMOV

BAKHMUT, Ukraine—Russian shells slammed closer as Ludmyla Bondarenko and Zoya Shilkova, clad in fur coats atop layers of clothing, sat on a bench outside their apartment block, chatting and getting some fresh air on a frigid afternoon in what remains of this eastern Ukrainian city.

At an intersection, Ukrainian troops used a crane to place concrete slabs, fortifying the neighborhood. Three freshly arrived tanks roared by, blue-and-yellow flags fluttering from their turrets. A distant staccato of machine-gun fire could be heard amid the thumps of artillery.

"We're so used to it by now, we no longer pay much attention," Ms. Bondarenko, 76, said as she pointed to a nearby crater left by a Russian shell in the morning. "It's been going on for months. When is it going to end?"

"It's probably never going to end," replied Ms. Shilkova, 75.

Their apartments have had no heating, power or running water for months. The only available food comes from volunteers. "It's a humanitarian catastrophe. That's how we live," Ms. Bondarenko said.

Russian soldiers and fighters from the Wagner private military company have been fighting to capture Bakhmut, a town of 70,000 people, for

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◆ Fears grow that Belarus could enter conflict..... A7

Hanukkah Decor Gets Upgraded: 'Is That a Santa in Blue?'

Welcome Mensch on the Bench and an inflatable T-Rex called Dinokkah

By CLARE ANSBERY AND ZLATI MEYER

Robbie Medwed added a new Hanukkah decoration this year to his classroom at a private Jewish School in Atlanta: a 6-foot-tall inflatable T-Rex called Dinokkah, holding a dreidel and wearing a blue sweater with a menorah.

"He's like the class mascot. The kids come in the morning and shake his hand," says Mr. Medwed. Decorations, long the domain of Christmas, have seeped into Hanukkah. Instead of the Elf on the Shelf,

there is the Mensch on the Bench, and blue and white tinsel garlands with tiny menorahs, as well as Hanukkah-specific items, such as "Live, love, latke" signs.

For lizard owners, there's a Reptile Hanukkah Ugly Sweater, with dreidels and the words "Just Keep Spinning," part of PetSmart's Merry & Bright line that also includes reptile wear featuring elves, reindeer and polar bears.

Every year, throngs drive by Moshe Isenberg's normally nondescript house in Chicago

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Oy Tannenbaum

Buydowns Ease Mortgage Hit

Higher borrowing costs are sparking interest in temporary mortgage buydowns, which fell out of favor after the 2008 financial crisis. B9

Average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage, weekly



Source: Freddie Mac via St. Louis Fed

Toyota Skeptical Of Going All-EV

By RIVER DAVIS AND SEAN MCLEIN

Toyota Motor Corp. President Akio Toyoda said he is among the auto industry's silent majority in questioning whether electric vehicles should be pursued exclusively, comments that reflect a growing uneasiness about how quickly car companies can transition.

Auto makers are making big bets on fully electric vehicles, investments that have been bolstered by robust demand for the limited numbers of models that are now available.

Still, challenges are mounting—particularly in securing parts and raw materials for batteries—and concerns have emerged in some pockets of

the car business about the speed at which buyers will make the shift, especially as EV prices have soared this year.

"People involved in the auto industry are largely a silent majority," Mr. Toyoda said to reporters during a visit to Thailand. "That silent majority is wondering whether EVs are really OK to have as a single option. But they think it's the trend so they can't speak out loudly."

While major rivals, including General Motors Co. and Honda Motor Co., have set dates for when their lineups will be all-EV, Toyota has stuck to a strategy of investing in a diverse lineup of vehicles that includes hydrogen-powered cars and hybrids.

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Online Mental Health Fails To Meet Pandemic Hopes

Silicon Valley-style startups stumble with focus on rapid growth

By ROLFE WINKLER

Remote treatment of mental-health problems surged in the pandemic, as in-person treatment became difficult while pandemic-driven isolation increased anxiety and depression.

Digital mental-health companies plunged in, promising to provide millions with access to high-quality care by video, phone and messaging. Many of the businesses, however, put a premium on growth. Investor-backed, they deployed classic Silicon Valley tactics such as spending heavily on advertising and expansion while often using contractors instead of

employees to control costs. A strategy designed for mundane businesses such as food delivery, the formula can be badly suited to the sensitive activity of treating mental-health problems.

After Caleb Hill told his parents he was gay, he was kicked out of the house. He had been taught, growing up in a conservative Christian household in Tennessee, that his attraction to men was a grave sin.

Feeling isolated and depressed a few months later, Mr. Hill, then 22, thought therapy might help. He had heard podcast ads for BetterHelp, a company that provides therapy remotely and

promises "a personalized therapist match that is tailored to your preferences and needs."

His biggest concern was he missed his family. The therapist, he says, recommended he try to stop being gay so he could go back to them. "He said if I chose to go back to who I was and deny those feelings, he could get me where I needed to be," Mr. Hill said.

Mr. Hill had requested an LGBTQ+ therapist, a screenshot of his intake form shows. BetterHelp gave him one who didn't specialize in LGBTQ+ issues, according to the provider's profile on its

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Nouriel Roubini: it's not all doom and gloom
HENRY MANCE INTERVIEW, PAGE 15

Jingle bells ring in close of the working year
PILITA CLARK, PAGE 13

Messi's crown Argentina lift the World Cup

Argentina's footballers celebrate after winning the Fifa World Cup final in Qatar yesterday.

They beat the previous champions France in a penalty shoot-out after drawing 3-3 in extra time. The match at Lusail stadium was attended by almost 89,000 fans.

It is the third time Argentina have been world champions and marks the end of their captain Lionel Messi's career. He has made a record 26 appearances in World Cup matches.

The decision to host the event in Qatar has drawn years of scrutiny to the tiny Gulf kingdom. The 12-year run-up was dogged by allegations of corruption, criticism over LGBT+ rights and concerns for the treatment of the many thousands of migrant construction workers brought in to build the tournament's infrastructure.

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Julian Finney/Getty Images

Briefing

► **Credit Suisse financed Greensill insurance plan**
Credit Suisse gave funding for Greensill to set up an in-house insurance firm, weeks after it refused to renew the supply chain finance company's policy. — PAGE 6

► **EU to impose carbon tax**
EU nations have reached a deal on the world's first big carbon border tax, despite claims from the bloc's trading partners that it creates protectionist barriers. — PAGE 2

► **Pioneer defends stance**
The US's biggest shale oil operator has hit back at the White House for saying the sector is acting against the national interest by failing to increase drilling. — PAGE 8

► **UK groups urge state aid**
Electricity companies are urging the UK to boost access to a £40bn state-backed liquidity support scheme, amid fears that some might run out of cash. — PAGE 6

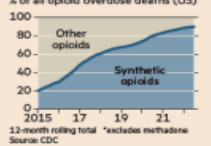
► **Warning on Doha-EU ties**
A Qatari diplomat has said that the EU's handling of a corruption scandal threatened to "negatively affect" Qatar-EU talks on energy security. — PAGE 4

► **Truphone founder bids**
A founder of the British telecoms group Truphone has submitted a bid to buy it back for \$250m from Roman Abramovich and his Russian associates. — PAGE 8

Datawatch

Deadly fentanyl

Deaths from synthetic opioids* as a % of all opioid overdose deaths (US)



US overdose deaths from synthetic opioids such as fentanyl* accounted for 90% of all opioid overdose deaths in the 12 months to July 2022. Fentanyl now dominates the illicit opioid supply and has driven a recent surge in overdoses.

Covid's rapid advance in China cities sparks disruption and staff shortages

◆ Normal life at standstill ◆ Pharmacies sell out of medicines ◆ Supply chain turmoil slows factories

RYAN MCHORROW — BEIJING
QIANRUI LIU AND
CHENG LING — HONG KONG

Covid-19 is spreading rapidly through China's biggest cities, leading to widespread illness, business disruption and medicine shortages.

The outbreak has brought normal life to a halt just a few weeks after Beijing abandoned President Xi Jinping's former zero-Covid policy of containment — which included lockdowns, quarantines and mass testing — with little forewarning.

Residents of Shanghai, Shenzhen and other cities reported yesterday that pharmacies had sold out of fever medicine and Covid tests. Social media images contrasted long queues outside Covid clinics with otherwise empty

streets. Shanghai and several other cities announced they would move classes online for most students from today.

Businesses are experiencing widespread disruption as staffing shortages threaten to close down factory production lines and truck drivers fall ill, bringing chaos to supply chains.

Companies have been left with no direction on how to handle the sudden surge in cases after previously operating under strict guidelines handed down by

'It only takes one driver to call in sick and then things are held up for another day'

local governments. Factory bosses are either loosening all controls or isolating workforces to keep production lines functioning.

Jörg Wuttke, president of the EU Chamber of Commerce in China, said it would be increasingly untenable for manufacturers to rely on isolation to protect production. He said the Covid wave's huge scale and the lack of measures to suppress its spread meant that the strategy would not work anymore.

Some plants would have to slow production because of a lack of components from suppliers, which had been forced to close operations, he added. "This is all about stocks and inventory," he said.

Jacob Cooke, chief executive of WPC Marketing + Technologies, which operates several warehouses across China,

said he had experienced delivery delays as drivers fell ill.

"The delivery routes between major cities have multiple stops where the drivers exchange cargo. It only takes one driver to call in sick and then things are held up for another day," he said.

There is a dearth of reliable data on the scale and speed of the outbreak after Chinese authorities curtailed Covid testing and stopped reporting what they deemed asymptomatic cases. The country reported only 2,028 new locally transmitted cases on Saturday.

Unofficial estimates vary. For example, an amateur statistician known as Chengxin who has analysed online search trends estimated that 39 per cent of Beijing had been infected. The methodology has not been validated by experts or

the Financial Times but has gained attention online in China in the absence of official numbers.

A running online survey started on Thursday by the state-owned Beijing News found that 45 per cent of 114,000 respondents had Covid or had already recovered from it.

In the southern city of Shenzhen, a pharmacy owner said that his store had run out of colds and fever medicine.

"I have been asking for supplies for two weeks but the factories are still postponing my orders," he said, adding that he planned to pick up any supply himself when it became available.

"There are no drivers... they are all testing positive."

Additional reporting by Eleanor O'Connell, Gloria Li and Joe Leary



Big Tech's capital markets incursions closely watched

Partnerships between the world's main share-trading platforms and tech giants such as Microsoft, Google and Amazon are becoming more common in the hunt for greater processing power. But lawmakers are closely monitoring the creeping interest of Big Tech in global capital markets, with some companies concerned that the US tech groups' growing presence in the infrastructure of markets could result in them evolving into the exchanges themselves.

Value of data — PAGE 7

Persistent underlying price pressures threaten to trigger more rate rises

VALENTINA ROMEO — LONDON

Underlying price pressures are still mounting in most big developed economies despite the recent falls in headline inflation, indicating that central banks will have to keep tightening policy in the coming months.

Core inflation, which excludes changes in food and energy prices and is viewed by rate-setters as a better measure of the persistence of price pressures, is accelerating in many parts of the world, according to an analysis of official statistics by the Financial Times.

Core rates were still rising in November in the majority of the 35 countries tracked by the FT and remain well above the 2 per cent level of inflation that most central bankers target. Only a third of countries saw headline infla-

tion rates rise between October and November.

Services inflation, another measure of the stickiness of price pressures, remains close to multi-decade highs in several major economies including the UK, the eurozone and the US.

"There is still the potential for plenty of pain ahead," said Susannah Streeter, senior investment analyst at asset manager Hargreaves Lansdown.

The surge in the pace of price growth was originally driven by soaring energy and goods prices as a consequence of the war in Ukraine and severe supply chain disruption during the pandemic.

However, rising costs have since become more broad-based, with high inflation reported in pockets of the economy that for many years have proved immune to price pressures.

Policy makers have increased interest

rates aggressively this year in response to the surge in headline measures of inflation but have recently begun to scale back the size of the rises. Last week the Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank and the Bank of England all shifted their inflation-fighting strategy from a recent pattern of rate rises of 0.75 percentage points down to a half point.

Last week policymakers at the Fed revised up their core inflation estimate for next year to 3.5 per cent, from the 3.1 per cent forecast in September. Eurozone core inflation is still at a record 5 per cent.

Silvia Ardagna, chief European economist at Barclays Bank, said policymakers at the ECB would be "worried that we are not seeing any easing of inflation dynamics at the core level".

Fears of long recession page 8
Martin Sandhu page 19

World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				GOVERNMENT BONDS				
	Dec 16	Prev	%Chg		Dec 16	Dec 9	%Chg		Yield (%)	Dec 16	Dec 9	Chg
S&P 500	3932.86	3856.75	+1.91	\$/£	1.082	1.054	+2.65	US 2 yr	4.23	4.25	-0.02	
Nasdaq Composite	10956.98	10810.53	+1.42	\$/¥	1.215	1.229	-1.14	US 10 yr	3.51	3.48	0.03	
Dow Jones Ind	32725.88	32002.22	+2.26	€/£	0.874	0.857	+1.98	US 30 yr	3.54	3.48	0.06	
FTSE Eurofirst 300	1678.73	1687.31	-0.51	¥/\$	136.885	136.595	+0.21	UK 2 yr	3.32	3.43	-0.11	
Carex Stock 50	3803.97	3826.70	-0.60	£/€	109.961	107.917	+1.85	UK 10 yr	3.32	3.24	0.08	
FTSE 100	7332.12	7426.17	-1.27	\$/¥	0.990	0.983	+0.07	UK 30 yr	3.87	3.85	0.02	
FTSE All-Share	4010.48	4063.59	-1.31					JPN 2 yr	-0.03	-0.01	-0.01	
CAC 40	6452.83	6522.77	-1.09	CRYPTO				JPN 10 yr	0.25	0.25	0.00	
Xetra Dax	13938.67	13966.23	-0.67		Dec 16	Prev	%Chg	JPN 30 yr	1.47	1.42	0.05	
Nikkei	27527.12	28051.70	-1.87	Bitcoin/BTC	11871.60	11252.17	+4.80	GER 2 yr	2.41	2.36	0.05	
Hang Seng	19430.87	19068.58	0.42	Ethereum	1094.32	1298.60	-5.71	GER 10 yr	2.15	2.08	0.07	
MSCI World	2636.91	2706.31	-2.53					GER 30 yr	1.98	1.88	0.10	
MSCI EM	980.22	973.71	+0.66	COMMODITIES	Dec 16	Dec 9	%/Week					
MSCI ACWI	812.22	827.88	-1.90	Oil WTI/\$	34.40	32.12	+3.36					
FT Wilshire 2500	5093.46	5183.58	-1.71	Oil Brent/\$	76.86	76.86	0.00					
FT Wilshire 5000	35454.09	40467.94	-13.1	Gold	1783.50	1796.15	-0.17					

Prices are latest for the day.
Data provided by Bloomberg

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LATE EDITION

Today, plenty of sunshine and windy, high 41. Tonight, mainly clear, winds diminishing, low 29. Tomorrow, sunshine and some clouds, high 40. Weather map appears on Page A20.



At 35, Lionel Messi hoisted the World Cup trophy at last. His two goals against France helped Argentina end its 36-year drought.

Messi's Magic Ends Anguish For Argentina

LUSAIL, Qatar — Lionel Messi had to wait, and wait, and wait. He had to wait until he was reaching the sunset of his glittering, glorious career. He had to wait until he had already tasted the sting of defeat in a World Cup final. He had to wait even after he seemed to have inspired Argentina's soccer team to beat France in this year's final on Sunday, first in regulation time, then again in extra time.

He had to wait until after he scored two goals — but Kylian Mbappé of France, his heir apparent on the world stage, had gotten three, becoming the first man to score a hat trick in a World Cup final in more than half a century. Regulation time ended 2-2; extra time ended 3-3; and then there were penalties, which Argentina won, 4-2, the last twist in the most extraordinary final in this tournament's long history.

Only then did Messi's wait, his agony, come to an end. Only then could he finally claim the one prize that had eluded him, the one honor he craved above all others, the one achievement that could further cement his status as the greatest player to have played the game: delivering a World Cup championship to Argentina, its third overall but first since 1986.

A wild, raw energy had swirled around Argentina throughout this tournament. It coursed through the streets of Doha, packed with tens of thousands of Argentine fans for the last month. It washed down from the stands during each of the country's seven games here, a pulsating, urgent electricity.

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Peruvian City Processes the Pain of a Fatal Clash

By JULIE TURKEWITZ

AYACUCHO, Peru — Beyond the burning tires and roadblocks guarded by angry protesters, after the justice palace had been set on fire and the military had been sent to intervene, a funeral was underway.

In a white coffin draped in the flag of Peru, the body of Clemer Fabricio Rojas, 22, traveled down the road on Saturday in a crowd so thick it seemed to float. His mother wailed. And then, just as the coffin passed an intersection, a second one was borne down the cross street, this one holding the body of Christopher Michael Ramos, just 15.

"Justice!" the mourners shouted.

Peru is reeling from mass pro-

9 Are Killed in a Protest Over the Arrest of the Ex-President

test more than a week after Pedro Castillo, the country's first leftist president in more than a generation, tried to dissolve Congress and rule by decree, setting off a dizzying drama that resulted in his arrest and the installment of his vice president as the new executive.

The protests, by supporters of Mr. Castillo, have led to confrontations with the police and the military that have left at least 25 dead, hundreds injured and a country deeply divided over the mandate

of the new president, Dina Boluarte, a former ally of Mr. Castillo's. Peru remains in a state of emergency, with many civil liberties suspended and the military and the police charged with enforcing a curfew in parts of the country.

In few places are the tensions more evident than in Ayacucho, an overwhelmingly poor, largely rural department far from the capital that on Thursday was the scene of a brutal encounter between protesters and the military. It left nine people dead, including Mr. Rojas and Mr. Ramos.

In an interview, the local head of the ombudsman's office, David Pacheco-Villar, said that after a group headed toward the airport, probably in an attempt to use it as a seat of protest, soldiers re-

Continued on Page A6



Clemer Fabricio Rojas, 22, was killed last week while protesting in the Ayacucho region of Peru.

Streaming's Golden Age Is Suddenly Dimming

By JOHN KOBLIN

American television viewers have become accustomed to it: Dozens of premieres every month, hundreds of shows every year, a guarantee from Hollywood that there's always going to be something new to watch.

The so-called Peak TV era has included unexpected gems ("The White Lotus"), huge hits

After Years of Growth, New TV Series Flag

("Stranger Things"), meat-and-potatoes fare (nine different series from the "Law & Order" producer Dick Wolf) and the utterly bewildering (five full seasons of the "Full House" reboot,

"Fuller House," on Netflix).

But a new reality has become increasingly clear over the past few months in Hollywood: Peak TV has peaked.

The never-ending supply of new programming that helped define the streaming era — spawning shows at a breakneck pace but also overwhelming viewers with too many choices — appears to be

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Telescope's Name Ignites Fight on Homophobia

By MICHAEL POWELL

For half a decade now, influential young scientists have denounced NASA's decision to name its deep-space telescope after James E. Webb, who led the space agency to the cusp of the 1969 moon landing. This man, they insisted, was a homophobe who oversaw a purge of gay employees.

Personal Barbs Driving Debate Over Webb

Hakeem Oluseyi, who is now the president of the National Society of Black Physicists, was sympathetic to these critics. Then he delved into archives and talked to historians and wrote a carefully

sourced essay in Medium in 2021 that laid out his surprising findings.

"I can say conclusively," Dr. Oluseyi wrote, "that there is zero evidence that Webb is guilty of the allegations against him."

That, he figured, would be that. He was wrong.

The struggle over the naming of the world's most powerful space

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Abortion Ban's Aftermath

Blue Haven Ranch provides temporary aid to new mothers in Texas. But how will they survive when it ends? PAGE A9

Critics Jam Highway Project

A \$10 billion plan to widen the New Jersey Turnpike near the Holland Tunnel is fueling heated debate. PAGE A16

INTERNATIONAL A4-8

Counting Russia's War Dead

Russian data journalists and volunteers use open-source information like news articles and tombstone photographs to tally losses from Ukraine. PAGE A5

A Hard Scotland Winter

In a Glasgow neighborhood, vital community hubs are struggling to stay afloat as energy costs rise. PAGE A4

SPORTS D1-12

Going Long in the N.F.L.

Overtime finishes and costly stumbles were plentiful in Week 15 as the race to the playoffs intensified. PAGE D10

BUSINESS B1-4

A 'Cash Grab' Tactic?

Albertsons wants to pay \$4 billion to shareholders before its proposed merger with Kroger. It would have to borrow \$1.5 billion to do it. PAGE B2

Where 4chan Owner Is a Star

In Japan, disenchanted young people flock to Hiroyuki Nishimura. He doesn't talk much about his ownership of the notorious website 4chan. PAGE B1

AMC's Woes Highlight a Trend

The company's struggles to earn enough from streaming to offset losses from its traditional cable business are common in the industry. PAGE B1



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Dripping With Technology

The "Avatar" sequel uses digital techniques to make the water that dominates the film so realistic. PAGE C1

Racism and the Monarchy

Salamishah Tillet takes a look at what the new Netflix docu-series "Harry & Meghan" says about race. PAGE C1

OBITUARIES B5-6

An Experimental Composer

Herbert Deutsch co-created the first synthesisers to make an impact on music of all genres. He was 90. PAGE B5

Artist and Realist

The life models painted by Philip Pearlstein, 98, represented a major departure in American art. PAGE B6

OPINION A18-19

Caroline Edwards

PAGE A18



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LIONEL MESSI basks in the moment as he holds the World Cup trophy after Argentina's win over France.

ANALYSIS

ICONIC END AFTER CONTENTIOUS START

LUSAIL, Qatar — A World Cup that opened with a beer ban ended with a champagne toast. A tournament that started with a call for cultural sensitivity finished with a cultural lion being celebrated.

The first World Cup held in the Middle East and the first played in a majority-Muslim country will someday be remembered for many things, but for now there's no reason to look past Sunday's epic final, which ended with Lionel Messi finally lifting the 14-inch, solid-gold World Cup trophy as fireworks exploded from the roof of a sold-out, 89,000-seat stadium, lighting up the night sky.

It was the only prize Messi, widely considered the greatest player in soccer history, had never won.

World-renowned star claims elusive World Cup crown to close tournament steeped in controversy

By KEVIN BAXTER

Crowning achievement

For Argentina's Messi, finally winning World Cup cemented his legacy as all-time great. **SPORTS, D1**

And when he came face to face with it for the first time after Argentina's penalty-kick win over France, he paused to give it a gentle kiss.

In football-mad Argentina, the late Diego Maradona, who led Argentina to its last world championship in 1986, is so revered, there was a religion — La Iglesia Maradoniana or the Church of Maradona — dedicated to him. In Messi's hometown,

Messi, meanwhile, can't even claim a pew. But that might soon change after tens of thousands of people poured into the streets of Buenos Aires to celebrate Sunday's title.

Messi's title. Argentina's captain scored seven goals. **[See World Cup, A4]**

Drinking water will spring from polluted aquifer

L.A. is winding up a \$600-million project to revitalize a contaminated site unused for decades.

By HAYLEY SMITH

As drought and climate change ravage California's once-reliable supply of drinking water, officials in Los Angeles are setting their sights on a relatively new, almost untapped resource for the city's 4 million residents: the Superfund site in their own backyard.

Nearly 70% of the city's 115 wells in the San Fernando Valley groundwater basin — the largest under the purview of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power — have been sitting unused for decades after dangerous contaminants seeped into the aquifer.

Now the city is nearing completion of a \$600-million

plan to bring that resource back online. Centered on three treatment facilities in the Valley, the groundwater remediation project will essentially create giant filters for the city's toxic plume, enabling Angelenos to regain full access to up to 87,000 acre-feet of water each year, or nearly a fifth of what they consume.

Some say it can't happen soon enough.

"What the drought does is it makes groundwater even more important as a source of water for us — that's really what it comes down to," said Anselmo Collins, DWP senior assistant general manager. "The ultimate goal is to be able to take this water and be able to put it into the drinking-water system."

The project has been years in the making, but the problem can be traced back even further.

In the mid-20th century, a postwar boom transformed the San Fernando [See Groundwater, A8]

Many have faith in Bass, poll says

Voters have favorable view, despite doubts about public safety. By contrast, City Council still deeply unpopular.

By BENJAMIN ORESKES

If the last week was any indication, Mayor Karen Bass starts her tenure with the wind at her back.

A clear indicator came when her campaign promise to declare a state of emergency on homelessness made its way through the Los Angeles City Council and was embraced by a body normally reluctant to relinquish power. Council members' approval provided the mayor with expanded control over the city's response to the homelessness crisis. That early win for Bass

reflects a political reality highlighted by a new poll of city voters: The mayor has more support than does the council, and a plurality of voters believe she can address the city's problems with homelessness and housing.

The poll found that the 15-member City Council is deeply unpopular after several years of scandals, indictments, trials and, this fall, the release of a recording of three council members making racist comments in a private meeting. A suspended member awaits trial. Two former members have either pleaded guilty or await trial. Two incumbents lost their seats this year on the wave of discontent stemming from the city's inability to adequately address the homelessness crisis.

The poll is generally favorable for Bass, but also [See Poll, A12]

COLUMN ONE

Riches to rags for an L.A. con man

Edgar Sargsyan was riding high in the criminal underworld, owning mansions and jets. By 2018, he was in bankruptcy court.

By MATTHEW ORMSETH

Edgar Sargsyan's journey to bankruptcy court began with a one-way ticket from Armenia.

It descended into the underworld of Los Angeles, where he learned at the elbow of a crime figure how deals are made and dirty money can underwrite a glittering facade of legitimacy.

Sargsyan shook hands with governors and presidents at a Beverly Hills cigar club and conferred with gangsters in jail. He made a fortune through fraud and drug dealing while surrounding himself with an entourage of corrupt lawyers.

But by 2018, the fun was over, the money was drying up and Sargsyan found himself in bankruptcy court, where what remained of his companies' assets — two jets, a penthouse in Beverly Hills and a stake in a Sharon Stone film, among [See Sargsyan, A6]



A UCLA study found that the "mansion tax" will affect only about 4% of overall real estate transactions in a given year. Above, a March for Housing in 2019.

Wealthy look for ways to dodge L.A. 'mansion tax'

Some homeowners, developers rush to sell before levy takes effect April 1. Others get more creative.

By JACK FLEMMING

Death and taxes are life's two certainties — but not if the rich can help it.

Just weeks after Los Angeles voters backed a new measure that puts a one-time transfer tax on property sales above \$5 million to generate money for affordable housing and homelessness prevention, the city's affluent homeowners are exploring potential ways of avoiding the tax.

Known as Measure ULA — for United to House L.A. — the ordinance marketed as a "mansion tax" will impose a 4% tax on property sales above \$5 million, rising to 5.5% on sales above \$10 million. So a \$5-million sale would include a \$200,000 tax, and a \$10-million sale would include a \$550,000 tax, which is typically paid by the seller.

It's set to take effect April 1, and it's already causing shock waves in the L.A. housing market. Although some analysts say high-end transactions will remain highly profitable, others fear the tax will not only drive developers elsewhere but also discourage the construction

of multifamily housing that it was meant to foster.

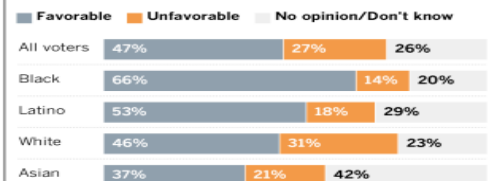
Agents say homeowners and developers are already rushing to sell before the deadline.

"For owners who were on the fence about selling, this will speed up the process," Compass agent Bret Parsons said.

He said he had one client who was planning to slowly downsize and sell sometime in the next six months but called Parsons right after the measure passed saying he'd clean the place up immediately so they could list it in the next few weeks. The new tax would take a chunk out of his retirement fund, and he needs to sell before [See Mansion tax, A8]

Views of L.A. Mayor Karen Bass

Bass starts her tenure with a favorable image among voters. Black voters favor her the most, while Asian voters are the most likely to say they don't know enough about her.



A total of 1,005 registered voters in Los Angeles were drawn from an online survey panel and interviewed Nov. 28 to Dec. 12 in English and Spanish. The credibility interval is +/- 3.1 percentage points for the full sample. Strategies360

DAVID LAUTER Los Angeles Times

'A war between darkness and light'

Jews in Ukraine gather in Kyiv for the Jewish Festival of Lights and a menorah ceremony. **WORLD, A3**

Bass to launch 'Inside Safe' plan

L.A. mayor's program will help people living in tents on streets move into hotel and motel rooms. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather
Mostly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 65/46. **B6**

Dicker wins it for Chargers, 17-14

Kicker poils game-clinching field goal with four seconds left to beat the Titans. **SPORTS, D1**



The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

Breezy 43/29 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 44/30 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2022 • B3

Sinema's party exit months in the making

BY YVONNE WINGETT SANCHEZ AND LIZ GOODWIN

Sen. Kyrsten Sinema caught many by surprise earlier this month when she announced she was leaving the Democratic Party and registering as an independent, saying in a slickly produced video that the change is "a reflection of who I've always been."

But the decision was months in the making, according to current and former aides and allies close to the senator from Arizona, and it reflected Sinema's longtime dissatisfaction with the Democratic Party. Her consternation deepened in recent years, said these people, who, like others interviewed for this article, spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

The unhappiness has run in both directions and loomed over Sinema's political future, prompting some critics to see a calculated ploy for survival in Sinema's announcement. She is unpopular with Democrats at home following some high-profile party-line defections. Polls also suggested she could lose a Democratic primary if she sought reelection in 2024 — a hurdle she would no longer need to clear as an independent.

Now Sinema, 46, has caused what many see as the first big potential political earthquake in the battle for the Senate in 2024. Her shift is the latest of several reinventions throughout her career, as she has climbed the ladder from Green Party activist to state

SEE SINEMA ON A6

Musk says he is staking his leadership on a Twitter poll

BY FAIZ SIDDIQUI, CAT ZAKRZEWSKI AND MARISA IATI

Elon Musk apologized and launched a poll asking whether he should step down as head of Twitter on Sunday night after the company launched a new policy that would suspend accounts linking to certain other platforms, a move that ignited massive backlash from individuals including some of Musk's own supporters.

Musk apologized after putting the policy in place and wrote: "Going forward, there will be a vote for major policy changes. My apologies. Won't happen again."

He then launched a Twitter poll, surveying users on whether he should step down. Musk had abided by past polls, despite them being unscientific and unrepresentative.

SEE TWITTER ON A6

Alleged stalker: Police see no link to Twitter account Musk blamed. A14



MIKE ROSE/GETTY IMAGES

Argentina beat France, 4-2, on penalty kicks after a 3-3 draw in the World Cup final. Lionel Messi's side blew leads of 2-0 after 79 minutes and 3-2 after 108 minutes, but the 35-year-old global star still was able to take home the trophy he had chased through five tournaments.

With a final win, Messi finally gets his due

Argentina claims the World Cup title for the first time in 36 years after an unreal finish to the tournament

BY CHUCK CULPEPPER

LUSAIL, QATAR — Occasionally, a game will wriggle out of its standard definition and start taking on certain human characteristics. It will defy assumption after assumption, dazzle and dumbfound, stun and stir, swerve and swerve back almost as if cackling. It will soar off into some life of its own — uncommonly alive and maybe even delighted by its own caprice.

Then sometimes, as with this

festival of endorphins of a World Cup final between Argentina and France on Sunday night in an outlandish din at Lusail Stadium, it will pull a trick the rest of the world can't: It will go ahead and prove immediately deathless.

That's where this one heads now as the billion or so who watched begin the hard art of processing how Argentina and its 35-year-old global hero, Lionel Messi, edged France and its 25-year-old global hero, Kylian Mbappé, 4-2

much of the rest of the world, from 2-0 Argentina after 79 minutes to 2-2 after 90 to 3-2 Argentina after 108 to 3-3 after 120 to the penalties. Here this whole episode goes, breathing on into the future.

In cafes and hair shops and pubs and classrooms and dens, people can talk forever about a night in which one manager, Argentina's Lionel Scaloni, said, "The match was completely insane," while the other, France's

SEE WORLD CUP ON A12

Hard road home for Ukraine's amputees

For most soldiers in need, best prosthetics and new standards of care out of reach

BY ALEX HORTON

The ground was a thicket of Russian land mines. Lethal. Too many to avoid. Oleksandr Fedun, a soldier in the Ukrainian army, remembers driving through the field and then a roar of fire, shrapnel and light.

He leaped from the wreckage of his self-propelled howitzer. What was left of his legs snapped and splintered when he hit the earth, alive miraculously — and with enough presence of mind to slip on two tourniquets. The field hospital, though, was hours away.

That was in May, as Ukrainian troops in the country's southeast blitzed pockets of Russian forces in limited counteroffensives. Six months later, Fedun, 23, was in suburban D.C., ready to attempt what his doctors back home had said was unlikely ever to happen.

He grasped the parallel bars, took a breath and hoisted himself up on his new carbon-fiber legs. It was a start. But Fedun's goal isn't

SEE UKRAINE ON A10



BILL O'LEARY/THE WASHINGTON POST

Ukrainian soldier Oleksandr Fedun watches as technicians at Medical Center Orthotics and Prosthetics in Silver Spring, Md., prepare to make plaster casts of what remains of his legs.

Trump's lack of restraint endures

FLOUTING NORMS
DRAWS LEGAL PERIL

Chaos of White House reigns at Mar-a-Lago

BY ROSALIND S. HELDERMAN, JOSH DAWSEY, ASHLEY PARKER AND JACQUELINE ALEMANY

PALM BEACH, FLA. — When Donald Trump invited the rapper formerly known as Kanye West and white supremacist Nick Fuentes to join him for dinner on the patio of his Florida club last month, the former president had no chief of staff or senior aide at his side.

There was no scheduler, either, nor a press aide. Only one person staffed Trump at the gathering with antisemitism that drew days of denunciations: Walt Nauta, a cook and military valet in the Trump White House who is now employed as an all-purpose gofer for the former president and who ushered the group to the table before leaving them alone to talk. Nauta has continued to serve Trump loyally at Mar-a-Lago, even as he has emerged as a key witness in the Justice Department's investigation of whether Trump purposely hid classified documents from authorities.

The Nov. 22 dinner, described by three people familiar with the event, neatly encapsulates

SEE TRUMP ON A4

D.C. leaders vexed by rise in juvenile shootings

BY EMILY DAVIES

The boys had come to say goodbye to their 14-year-old teammate.

They stood on the same football field where they had played together as kids, dressed in the same black and orange jerseys they had worn to win championships. But now their baby faces were starting to show facial hair. And Antoine "Twon" Manning, their former wide receiver, was dead, fatally shot outside of his family home.

The Nov. 3 vigil in Southeast Washington was supposed to give the boys a chance to share what they loved about Antoine. Their coaches and parents hoped it would help them process his loss. But the night was almost over, and the boys had hardly shared a word.

"Young men," said Bob Brown, a coach. "Each and every one of y'all should get up here and pour your heart out."

SEE SHOOTINGS ON A7

IN THE NEWS



HECTOR RETAMAL/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

China's coronavirus wave Several analyses predict 1 million or more deaths after the nation loosened its strict covid-19 policies. A11

Fear amid festivities As Hanukkah arrived, Jews in the area also were contending with a unnerving rise in antisemitic incidents. B1

THE NATION
Prominent retired U.S. military officers are calling on Congress to act immediately to bolster support for Afghans who assisted the American war effort. A2

President Biden's advisers are preparing a strategy for his likely 2024 bid that would expand efforts to organize content-sharing between supporters and their friends on platforms such as TikTok and WhatsApp. A3

THE WORLD
Facing blackouts and Iranian-made drones

amid Russia's invasion, Ukrainian Jews are urging Israel to boost its support. A8

Ukraine revealed its entry to the 2023 Eurovision song contest, choosing the winner live from a Kyiv metro station that doubles as a bomb shelter. A9

THE ECONOMY
YouTube is pushing educational children's videos, but can parents trust them? The Help Desk's Shira Ovide weighs in. A15

THE REGION
D.C.'s public school system could soon have a

budget model requiring that campuses get at least as much funding as they did the previous year. B1

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY
President Biden meets with Ecuadorian President Guillermo Lasso at the White House.

The Senate considers the nomination of Martin J. Gruenberg to chair the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

A Senate committee holds a hearing regarding oversight of the U.S. Capitol Police.

TUESDAY
The House meets in a

pro forma session.

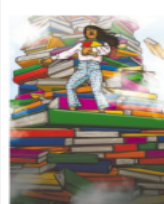
WEDNESDAY
The House meets to consider the omnibus spending bill.

THURSDAY
Jobless claims for the week ended Dec. 17 are expected at 225,000, up from 211,000 the week before.

The Commerce Department issues the third estimate of third-quarter GDP, which is expected to show no change from the second estimate for the quarter.

FRIDAY
Durable-goods orders for November are expected to fall 0.7 percent.

INSIDE



STYLE
Tossing tomes
America is drowning in old books. Getting rid of them can bring backache and heartbreak. C1

Never-ending story
Mughan and Harry made a fairy-tale escape, writes Monica Hesse. But they still seem trapped, telling us of their break with the crown over and over. C1

BUSINESS NEWS.....A15
COMICS.....C6
OPINION PAGES.....A16
LOTTERIES.....B1
OBITUARIES.....C5
TELEVISION.....A8

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YUKIHTO TAGUCHI/USA TODAY SPORTS

E2

Inflation, economy concerns for 2023

Majority polled say US is headed in wrong direction

Susan Page and Sarah Elbeshbishi
USA TODAY

Americans are braced for an unhappy new year.

Two-thirds of respondents in a new USA TODAY/Suffolk University poll say the country has gotten off on the wrong track, and they express little confidence in either political party or any branch of government to effectively address the challenges they see ahead.

Their priority for President Joe Biden and the new Congress in 2023 is clear: inflation and the economy, chosen as the No. 1 or No. 2 issue by 54% of those surveyed. That's double the number for any other issue.

"I'm hopeful, but I'm also doubtful," said Janet Brown, a Republican and mortgage broker in Petaluma, California. Peter Grant, a Democrat who owns a small marine business in Waldoboro, Maine, described himself as "weary."

"We're in for some tumultuous times," Grant, 62, predicted in a follow-up interview after participating in the poll. "Things are not good in this country right now in a lot of ways."

The survey of 1,000 registered voters, taken by landline and cellphone Dec. 7-11, has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

There were few signs of a burst of optimism as the new year nears.

By 65%-26%, Americans say the country has gotten on the wrong track,

See POLL, Page 6A



MIKE DE SISTI/USA TODAY NETWORK

Winter's early rush of illness explained

Why is everyone getting a cold or the flu? Experts say it's a combination of factors, including the pandemic, masking and other virus patterns. But could we have seen the worst of it already? We'll tell you what the experts say.

Story on 2A



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AMERICA IN PAIN

Why we hurt

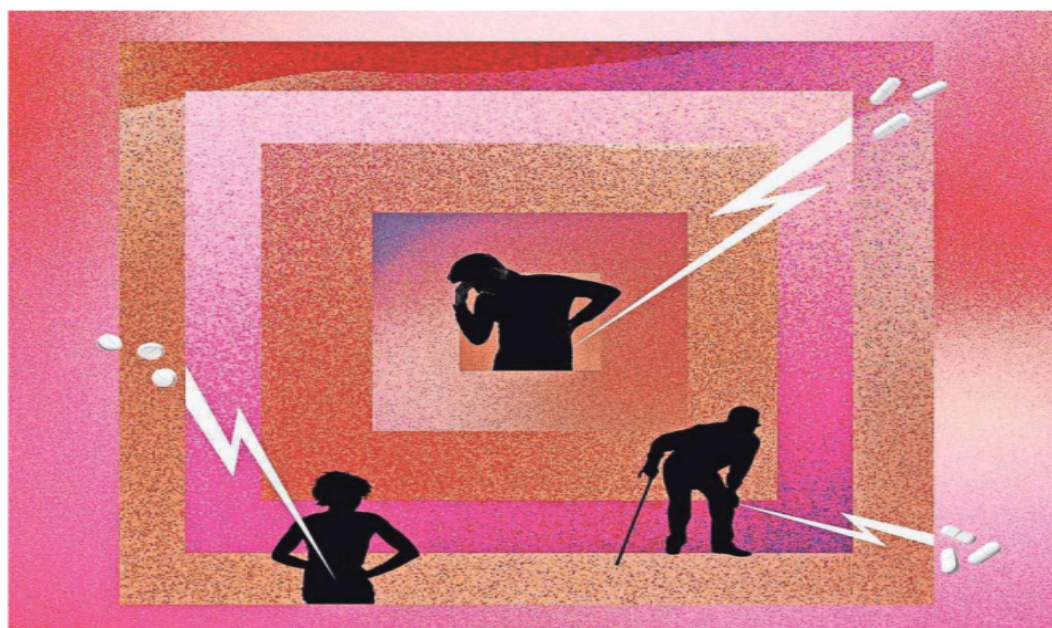


ILLUSTRATION: ANDREA BRUNTY, USA TODAY; AND GETTY IMAGES

Our country has a chronic pain problem.
How can we find relief without exacerbating it?

Karen Weintraub
USA TODAY

Every morning, even before opening her eyes, Pamela Bobb begins to scan her body. She pays attention to how each foot feels, then each leg, working her way up. By the time she gets to her neck and shoulders, she's breathing deeply and relaxing.

She knows the shooting pain will strike as soon as her feet reach the floor, but this 20 minutes of meditative thinking and breathing means less misery to start her day.

Bobb, 59, who lives west of Knoxville, Tennessee, has never known

ABOUT THIS SERIES

This is the first of a five-part series exploring chronic pain, the challenges of treatment and the scientific advances offering hope for the future.

Today: The biology of pain.

Tuesday: Complementary therapies for pain.

Wednesday: Pediatric pain.

Thursday: Cannabis for pain control.

Friday: The future of pain control.

life without pain. Born with a malformed pelvis, she had surgery within a day of delivery and 18 more pelvic operations before she turned 40 until finally there was nothing more surgeons could do.

Every day since — "every single minute of every day since" — Bobb has felt as if there's a rubber band stretched tightly between her belly button and her back.

Many Americans know all too well the reality of such endless suffering.

At least 1 in 5 live with chronic pain. Some experts put the figure at

See PAIN, Page 4A



The panel will vote whether Donald Trump and others should be referred for prosecution. ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Jan. 6 panel's decision key to public legacy, DOJ probe

Referrals would send a message, analysts say

Kevin Johnson
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The special House committee examining the U.S. Capitol attack has had its share of signature moments during an 18-month inquiry that has featured riveting testimony from former top Trump administration officials, police officers and a rioter across nine public hearings this year.

On Monday, the bipartisan panel is

set to take its most defining actions when lawmakers vote on whether key figures in the inquiry, including Donald Trump, should be referred to the Justice Department for criminal prosecution.

Federal prosecutors already are leading two criminal investigations that could directly implicate the former president who sought to overturn the 2020 election after he lost.

Yet the committee's final act, while not binding on Justice, is expected to render a long-awaited verdict of its own on the conduct of Trump and a constellation of other figures.

See COMMITTEE, Page 3A

LA NACION

LUNES 19 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

Argentina campeón Gloria eterna

Messi marcó dos goles y se coronó junto a la selección en la mejor final de todos los tiempos; un arrebató de Mbappé convirtió el partido en una batalla épica; los penales desataron la fiesta nacional



Messi besa la Copa en el estadio Lusail: una imagen soñada que consagra una carrera inigualable

GETTY IMAGES

Messi selló su ingreso al Olimpo del fútbol

Juan Manuel Trenado
Página 4

Del dominio total a la angustia y los penales

Diego Morini
Página 6

Fervor popular en las calles de todo el país y eufórico festejo en el Obelisco

Página 16

La intimidad de la fiesta de los argentinos en Doha

Federico Águila
Página 20

Suplemento especial
El camino de los héroes de Qatar: el mes que nunca olvidaremos

26 argentinos ayudaron a que **47** millones de personas seamos las más felices del mundo.

¡Vamos, Argentina!

 **Santander**
#QueremosAyudarte

Los accionistas de Banco Santander Argentina S.A. no responden en exceso de su integración accionaria.

EDITORIAL A2

Retrocesso à vista

Não é só na compatibilização de boa gestão orçamentária com responsabilidade social que o governo eleito emite sinais confusos. Preocupa o diagnóstico sobre o saneamento, que pede revogação de parte do marco regulatório aprovado em 2020.

Onovo governo deve dar continuidade às parcerias público-privadas e ao aperfeiçoamento institucional. Mudar o marco do saneamento por ideologia e corporativismo será um grave retrocesso.

Acabar com as privatizações põe projetos em xeque

A decisão de pôr fim às privatizações no país, anunciada pelo futuro governo, afeta diretamente seis processos de desestatização de ativos federais que já vinham sendo tocados, como o dos Correios.

Há risco de impacto na situação fiscal, já que as privatizações podem abater dívida. Mercado A15

ENTREVISTA DA 2ª Mayank Bidawatka

Twitter é um clube exclusivo de quem se vê importante

Cofundador do microblog indiano Koo, que faz sucesso no Brasil, Mayank Bidawatka diz que a plataforma será rigorosa na moderação de conteúdos. Ele critica o Twitter por cobrar por verificação e "falta de transparência". "Somos uma plataforma muito mais inclusiva." A14

Venezuelanos relatam desafios e vitórias no Brasil

Diariamente, dezenas de famílias cruzam a pé a fronteira da Venezuela com Roraima. Em diários escritos a pedido da Folha, contam as adversidades da migração e descrevem futuro incerto, mas também conquistas, relata Flávia Mantovani, de Boa Vista. Mundo A10 e A11

Maria Homem

É reconfortante ter um lugar para se refugiar

Maria Homem deixa de escrever sua coluna em Cotidiano

EDITORIAL A2

Contra a dengue

A respeito de vacina desenvolvida no Butantan.

São Paulo hoje

23°
18°
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Fonte: www.climatempo.com.br

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copa 2022

Messi ganha a Copa, a Copa ganha Messi

Argentina é tri nos pênaltis após final dramática com a França



Messi segura troféu de melhor jogador do torneio e toca na taça da Copa, algo só permitido aos atletas vencedores Foto de Kai Pfaffenbach/Reuters, com fundo digitalmente ampliado

A Copa tem novo tricampeão, a Argentina, que bateu a França nos pênaltis em final dramática, após empate por 3 a 3. Eleito o melhor jogador do Mundial, Messi fez dois gols e chega à consagração aos 35 anos.

Superiores em boa parte do jogo, os argentinos abriram 2 a 0 no tempo normal e 3 a 2 na prorrogação, mas Mbappé, a outra estrela da competição, marcou três (o que só ocorrerá uma vez em finais) e forçou os penais.

Marcada por protestos contra a política de direitos humanos do Qatar, a Copa teve recorde de gols (172) e pôs Messi —multicampeão por clubes, único premiado 7 vezes melhor do mundo— em seu panteão.

Herdeiro de Maradona, o craque repete o ídolo e levanta a taça que a Argentina não ganhava desde 1986. O triunfo quebra a sequência de seleções europeias no topo, iniciada após o penta brasileiro de 2002.

Em Buenos Aires, a "final do infarto" teve comoção, invocação de Maradona e concentração de milhares no Obelisco, tradicional ponto de comemoração na cidade, relata Sylvia Colombo. Copa 2022

Paulo Vinicius Coelho

Nunca houve uma final de Mundial como esta

Tony Goes

Galvão se despede da TV ao seu estilo, bombástico

Seleções campeãs

	Brasil	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	Alemanha	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	Itália	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	Argentina	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	França	★ ★
	Uruguai	★ ★
	Espanha	★
	Inglaterra	★



Festa perto do Obelisco, em Buenos Aires Agustín Marcarian/Reuters

Juca Kfourri

Ninguém mereceu tanto a taça neste século como ele

Mathias Alencastro

Contestada, Copa do Qatar foi golaço geopolítico



LANZAMIENTO
CARPETA +
FASCÍCULO
ORQUÍDEAS:
UN MISTERIO
DE LA
NATURALEZA
Nº 1

COLECCIÓN
MITOLOGÍA
PARA
NIÑOS
Nº 10



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DARDO RAMÍREZ

Victoria clara de Honor Colorado en las internas partidarias simultáneas

En la ANR eligieron a Peña y la Concertación optó por Alegre

- Ahora queda el desafío de curar las heridas que dejó el proselitismo.
- Varios políticos escombros volvieron a ser electos candidatos.
- Se habla de unir a la oposición en torno a una sola candidatura.



Horacio Cartes es el nuevo presidente de la Junta de Gobierno

PÁGINAS 2 a la 11 y 40



Candidatos. Santiago Peña derrotó a Arnoldo Wiens por una diferencia de 92.618 votos. Triunfo de Efraín Alegre fue contundente en la Concertación.

Messi por fin alzó la Copa de Campeón del Mundo

Argentina se quedó con la mejor final de la historia de los mundiales

SUPLEMENTO DEPORTIVO



Qatar. La Albiceleste en lance dramático conquistó el trofeo máximo al vencer a Francia en penales 4-2, tras un 3-3 en tiempo normal y alargue.

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LE FIGARO

« Sans la liberté de... point d'éloge flatteur » Beaumarchais



Dans la légende

Au terme d'une finale extraordinaire, l'Argentine, menée par un Lionel Messi impérial, a été sacrée championne du monde pour la troisième fois de son histoire. PAGES 2 À 9 ET L'EDITORIAL



La tristesse et le panache

Malgré le match phénoménal de Kylian Mbappé, auteur d'un triplé, l'équipe de France s'est inclinée, après une éprouvante séance de tirs au but. Elle aura montré durant toute la compétition une force collective impressionnante.

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Confronté à des foudres en interne, Mélenchon se voit en « paratonnerre »
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ASIE
La vague Omicron déferle sur la Chine
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FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON
Réponses à la question de samedi :
Didier Deschamps doit-il rester sélectionneur de l'équipe de France ?

OUI 80 % NON 20 %
TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 112 411

Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr
Coupe du monde : la victoire des Argentins est-elle méritée ?

EDITORIAL par Yves Thérard ythear@lefigaro.fr

Époustouflant !

Il fallait un vainqueur et un vaincu. C'est la loi du sport. Au bout du suspense et des tirs au but, l'Argentine a donc triomphé. Après un match qui restera dans la légende, ce sont Leo Messi et ses amis qui ont accroché une troisième étoile sur le maillot de l'Albiceleste. Comme Diego Maradona à son époque, l'idole des stades a été dimanche à la hauteur de sa réputation. Il est plus que jamais la fierté de tout un peuple. Quant à son pays, plongé dans une interminable crise économique, il peut savourer un moment de bonheur. Le football y est souvent plus qu'un sport. À l'approche de Noël, cette Coupe du monde est un magnifique cadeau ! Cette rencontre exceptionnelle avait bien mal commencé pour la France, vite menée au score. Et puis, à la 80^e minute, Mbappé a frappé. Et une, et deux, et trois fois, pour réveiller des Bleus jusque-là absents, transparents, inexistants. Il a sonné la révolte pour un final renversant, exaltant, époustouflant. La France a perdu, et pourtant elle n'a pas à rougir. En vingt-cinq ans, elle a obtenu deux titres de championne du monde, disputé quatre finales de Mondial, sans oublier son sacre européen. Elle est devenue un temple du ballon rond, une grande nation de foot-

ball. Si ses clubs n'occupent guère le haut de l'affiche sur la scène internationale, ils forment dès le plus jeune âge des joueurs qui comptent parmi les meilleurs. À l'heure des compétitions entre nations, certains d'entre eux décident de défendre les couleurs de leur pays d'origine, comme le Maroc, qui profite de leur talent. Les autres, français, enfilent la tunique du coq gaulois. Et cela donne Kylian Mbappé, Antoine Griezmann, Hugo Lloris... Didier Deschamps, aussi, l'ancien capitaine des Bleus devenu un entraîneur d'exception. L'un des seuls au monde à avoir gagné le trophée sur le terrain et comme sélectionneur. Chapeau, l'artiste !

En football, la France est désormais une école de l'excellence. Une fabrique de virtuoses qui n'a plus rien à envier au Brésil ou à l'Argentine. En un temps où l'on déplore le déclin de notre pays dans le concert international, ce rayonnement redonne un peu notre blason. Il faut le prendre pour ce qu'il est mais, à l'heure de la défaite, ne boudons pas ce succès. ■

Et Mbappé est arrivé. Et une, et deux, et trois...



L'EXCELLENCE FRANÇAISE DU MAÎTRE TAILLEUR

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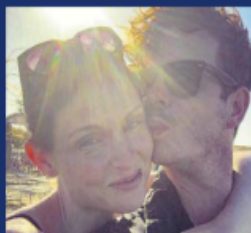
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Champions! Messi's crowning glory

Barney Ronay
Lusail Stadium, Qatar



After 12 years, shredded schedules and a whirl of geopolitics; after death and ghosts and suffering; after armbands, hard power, the Davos in the desert vibe; after 64 games of the Qatar 2022 World Cup, the Lusail Stadium dished up a purely sporting surprise.

This was the greatest Fifa World Cup final ever played. It was also a third World Cup victory for Argentina, who beat France on penalties at the end of a wildly oscillating 3-3 draw.

More tellingly, it was also a kind of coronation, belatedly, for the greatest footballer of the age, probably of any age, the mooching 35-year-old mobile brain Lionel Messi, a thousand games into his astonishing career.

This was, frankly, an emotional overload, a game that seemed to have been won



▲ Argentina's Lionel Messi lifts the Fifa World Cup trophy as his teammates celebrate their victory over France yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: SHAWN BOTTERILL/FIFA/GETTY

Workers who made jeans for Tesco 'trapped in effective forced labour'

Exclusive Supermarket faces landmark lawsuit in the UK from 130 former factory workers

Emily Dugan
Mae Sot

Burmese workers who produced F&F jeans for Tesco in Thailand report being trapped in effective forced labour and working 99-hour weeks for illegally low pay in appalling

conditions, a Guardian investigation has found.

Tesco faces a landmark lawsuit in the UK from 130 former VK Garment factory (VKG) workers, who are suing the supermarket chain for alleged negligence and unjust enrichment. The workers made jeans, jackets and other F&F clothes for the Thai branch of Tesco's business between 2017 and 2020.

Tesco said the garments were sold only on the Thai market, although the Guardian has seen images of labels written in English on clothes understood to be made there.

Profits from sales in Thailand went back to the UK.

It is believed to be the first time a UK company has been threatened with litigation in the English courts over a foreign garment factory in its supply chain that it does not own.

The factory is in Mae Sot, a city at the Myanmar border that relies on Burmese migrant labour, and which has developed a reputation over the past decade as a "wild west" for workers' rights.

The lawsuit argues that Tesco should have known the area was notorious for exploitation.

The Guardian has investigated the allegations made by the former factory workers and interviewed 21 of them in Mae Sot. They described being paid as little as £3 a day to work from 8am to 11pm with just one day off a month. Detailed records kept by supervisors seen by the Guardian show the majority of workers on their lines were paid less than £4 a day, depending on their productivity. The Thai minimum wage then was £7 for an eight-hour day.

Workers said they had to work through the night for 24 hours at least once a month to fulfil large F&F

orders, and became so exhausted they fell asleep at their sewing tables.

Some reported serious injuries: one man described slicing open his arm carrying a dangerously heavy interlock sewing machine, requiring 13 stitches. Another said he had lost the tip of his index finger after slicing it in a button machine while making F&F jackets. Many said they had been shouted at and threatened by factory managers if they did not keep working overtime and meet targets.

More than a dozen of the workers interviewed said the factory had opened bank

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