



STRATEGOS

PRIMERAS PLANAS

INTERNACIONALES

Calor sin tregua Y cortes de energía

Seregistraron 37,2°. Y en la Ciudad y el Conurbano, por la alta demanda, 43 mil usuarios quedaron sin luz.



Una chica se mató en Pinamar en un cuatriciclo

Tenía 25 años e iba sin casco, con otra mujer y dos chicos.

Tema del día • Se extiende la nueva ola de la pandemia

Récord de casos de Covid, reducen días de aislamiento y el intervalo entre vacunas

La Argentina registró ayer el récord de contagios desde que comenzó la pandemia de coronavirus: 42.032 casos en todo el país y superó los 41.080 del 27 de mayo, cuando se alcanzó el pico de la segunda ola. Hubo 26 muertos. El salto en las estadísticas coincide con la demanda de testeos, que arrojan una

positividad del 30%. Y el Gobierno anunció la reducción de los días de aislamiento: desde hoy, los contagiados no vacunados deberán aislarse 10 días, en vez de los 14 actuales. Los vacunados pasarán de 10 a 7 días. Y los contactos estrechos que están vacunados pasan a 5 días.

CASOS NUEVOS
42.032
20.105
casos promedio 7 días

16.279
8.992



Tercera dosis, de 5 a 4 meses

Larreta anunció que un lapso más corto para la tercera vacuna disminuye el riesgo.



Presencia. Clara Vega es la senadora opositora que dio el quórum al oficialismo.



JUAN MANUEL FOGLIA

Una aliada de JxC ayudó al Gobierno a aprobar un impuesto

El testeo positivo de Covid de un senador propio dejó al Frente de Todos sin quórum en la sesión por Bienes Personales. A último minuto, una senadora riojana aliada a Juntos por el Cambio se sentó en su banca y habilitó la sesión.

Del Editor

Héctor Gambini

Otra oportunidad, Argentina

P.2

TENSIÓN FINANCIERA

El dólar blue pasó el máximo de la historia: cerró en \$ 209

Aumentó 3 pesos y superó el techo de los \$ 207, que había tocado tras la derrota del Gobierno en las PASO. La suba se debe a que la gente tiene más pesos por el aguinaldo, a la incertidumbre que genera el Covid y a que se sigue demorando el acuerdo con el FMI.

P.16



'CASO EPSTEIN' Ghislaine Maxwell, culpable de tráfico sexual

P26



NBA Grave lesión de Ricky Rubio en su mejor momento

P36

Gobierno y autonomías acortan por unanimidad el aislamiento por covid

El presidente, sobre el encierro de siete días: "Hay que equilibrar salud pública, mental y economía". Sanidad notifica más de 100.000 nuevos casos

ORIOL GÜELL, Barcelona
España dio ayer un giro en la gestión de la pandemia, que ha quedado obsoleta ante la imparable ola de contagios provocada por la variante ómicron, más infecciosa

pero que cursa con síntomas generalmente más leves en la población vacunada. En una decisión tomada por unanimidad el mismo día en el que se notificaban más de 100.000 casos, el Ministerio

de Sanidad y las comunidades autónomas decidieron acortar los aislamientos de 10 a 7 días pese a que los expertos de la ponencia de vacunas habían pedido aplazar la decisión. No se exigirá nin-

guna prueba diagnóstica para volver a la vida normal. El presidente del Gobierno, Pedro Sánchez, fue muy explícito: "Hay que equilibrar salud pública, salud mental y economía".

PÁGINA 22

La falta de previsión está tras la escasez de test y su elevado precio

El coronavirus trastorna de nuevo la competición ligadera de fútbol

P23

Quique Bassat Epidemiólogo
"Si los niños tienen mocos hay que sospechar que es covid"

P25



Dolores, residente en el centro geriátrico Gure Etxea de Barcelona, bailaba el día 23 con María, codirectora de la residencia. / ALBERT GARCIA

La vacuna mitiga el impacto de la sexta ola en las residencias

La explosión de contagios no se traduce esta vez en multitud de casos graves y muertes

JESSICA MOUZO, Barcelona
La sexta ola ha entrado en las residencias, pero esta vez, con los ancianos ya vacunados, no muestra su peor rostro. Los centros registraron la semana pasada un 56% más de positivos que la anterior (613 contagios en 195 residencias)

y en apenas un mes, casi cuatro veces más. Sin embargo, la curva de enfermos graves y de fallecidos apenas aumenta: 29 muertes entre el 13 y el 19 de diciembre, frente a las 24 y 17 de las semanas anteriores. Preocupa ahora las bajas del personal.

PÁGINA 24

Sánchez se resigna a un Poder Judicial bloqueado toda la legislatura

Las plazas vacantes en los tribunales no podrán cubrirse

J. MARCOS / R. RINCÓN, Madrid
Pedro Sánchez hizo ayer balance y admitió que ve improbable que pueda renovarse el Poder Judicial esta legislatura ante el bloqueo del PP. Eso dibuja un grave panorama, dado que no se pueden cubrir vacantes en los tribunales. El presidente aseguró ayer que ahora "la prioridad es superar la pandemia y afrontar la recuperación".

PÁGINAS 14 Y 15

Alberto Rodríguez reabre la batalla con Batet

P17

El Ejecutivo aplaza el peaje en autopistas por impopular

RAMÓN MUÑOZ, Madrid
El Gobierno ha decidido aplazar el peaje en las autopistas ante la impopularidad de la medida y la falta de consenso político. Ni los transportistas, ni la oposición, ni su socio, Unidas Podemos, ni los nacionalistas veían con buenos ojos este plan que el Ejecutivo quería implementar cuanto antes y que debe estar aprobado para finales de 2023, según se prometió a Bruselas.

PÁGINA 37

Rusia continúa su acoso a la sociedad civil al cerrar otra ONG

JAVIER G. CUESTA, Moscú
Un tribunal de Moscú rubricó ayer un año negro para las ONG y los medios independientes rusos. La justicia dictaminó el cierre del Centro de Derechos Humanos Memorial, una veterana organización activista que se gestó a través de la fundación Memorial Internacional, liquidada el martes en otro juicio tras más de tres décadas de lucha por la memoria de los crímenes soviéticos.

PÁGINA 3

Si somos más,
la oscuridad
es menos

DESCUBRE MÁS



EL PAÍS

THURSDAY 30 DECEMBER 2021

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

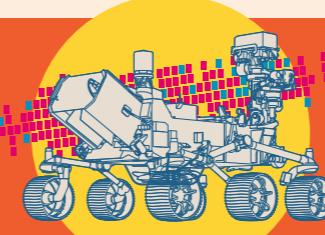
UK £2.90 Channel Islands £3.20; Republic of Ireland €3.20

Question of Truss

Her popularity shows where Tories are heading — ROBERT SHRIMESLEY, PAGE 21

Off the charts

The FT graphics that captured an extraordinary year — BIG READ, PAGE 19



The Italian job

Trawling my ancestry to secure an EU passport — PATTI WALDMEIR, PAGE 20

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 6



AP Photo/Vincent Yu

'Nightingale' hospitals return as Johnson seeks to avoid new curbs

► PM wary of resistance ► Test shortage undermines caution call ► Patient numbers surge

GEORGE PARKER AND OLIVER BARNES

Temporary "Nightingale" field hospitals are to be revived under plans that envisage using gyms and education centres to cope with a surge of Covid cases in England, as ministers seek to avoid new restrictions.

The number of Covid patients in English hospitals has been rising since the emergence of the Omicron variant of coronavirus, and went above 10,000 yesterday for the first time since early March, according to the official data. The number of new cases across the UK also jumped to 183,037, although the figures are likely to be inflated by reporting backlogs over the festive period.

Sajid Javid, health secretary, hopes that expanding emergency hospital

capacity will take pressure off the NHS and remove the need for new curbs on the economy.

"Javid wants to do everything possible to avoid further restrictions," said one government official, adding that the booster vaccine rollout, testing, antiviral treatments and increasing hospital capacity were the priorities.

Boris Johnson would face huge resistance from his cabinet and Tory MPs if he tried to stem the flow of Covid cases into hospitals by imposing new restrictions on social mixing and hospitality.

However, the prime minister's plea for "cautious" new year celebrations has been undermined by shortages of tests. The government's online ordering platform said yesterday morning that there were "no home delivery slots left for

lateral flow tests right now" and no available slots for PCR bookings.

The creation of surge capacity in the NHS reflects concerns of a mid-January peak in hospitalisations that threatens to overwhelm a health system already struggling with severe staff shortages.

NHS England said that temporary structures, each capable of housing about 100 patients, would be put up in the grounds of eight hospitals across the country, with work starting as early as this week.

The additional facilities, which will be located at sites including St George's Hospital in London and Solihull Hospital near Birmingham, will take patients who are too ill to be discharged but only require basic monitoring. NHS chiefs welcomed the initiative but warned that



NHS trusts have been asked to find locations such as gyms and education centres that could be converted to accommodate patients

a depleted workforce would make staffing them a challenge.

NHS trusts have also been asked to identify locations such as gyms and education centres that could be converted. More temporary Nightingale sites could be added to create up to 4,000 "super surge" beds across the country.

The units will be staffed by consultants and nurses, alongside non-clinical staff who will be trained to provide routine checks. Professor Stephen Powis, NHS national medical director, said the health service was "on a war footing".

The previous iteration of Nightingale hospitals, built in the early months of the pandemic in 2020, were closed in March after treating fewer than 400 patients, according to official data.

WHO warns of tsunami of cases page 4



Business struggles to get ready for import controls

Business groups are warning that the introduction of post-Brexit import controls next month will pile pressure on companies struggling to adjust to life outside the EU. Small businesses are particularly vulnerable, with only a quarter ready, their trade body says. But there is concern for bigger groups. The Institute of Directors found a third were not prepared. The changes, put off by a year to ease the transition, include real-time customs declarations. **New rules** ► PAGE 3

Musk rejects claims his satellites are hogging space and squeezing out rivals

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.

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".

Lex page 22

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World Markets

STOCK MARKETS

Dec 29 prev %chg

S&P 500 4785.07 4786.35 -0.03

Nasdaq Composite 15725.31 15701.72 -0.36

Dow Jones Ind 36461.95 36398.21 0.18

FTSEurofirst 300 1891.51 1894.53 -0.16

Euro Stoxx 50 4282.24 4311.93 -0.69

FTSE 100 7420.69 7372.10 0.66

FTSE All-Share 4224.78 4194.35 0.73

CAC 40 7161.52 7181.11 -0.27

Xetra Dax 15852.25 15963.70 -0.70

Nikkei 28906.88 29069.16 -0.56

Hang Seng 23086.54 23280.56 -0.83

MSCI World \$ 3239.28 3237.70 0.05

MSCI EM \$ 1227.12 1221.76 0.44

MSCI ACWI \$ 756.06 755.36 0.09

CURRENCIES

Dec 29 prev

\$ per € 1.135 1.130

\$ per £ 1.349 1.343

€ per \$ 0.842 0.842

¥ per \$ 114.935 114.765

¥ per £ 155.001 154.072

SFr per € 1.037 1.037

€ per \$ 0.881 0.885

Dec 29 prev

£ per \$ 0.742 0.745

€ per £ 1.188 1.188

¥ per £ 130.457 129.644

£ index 81.856 81.886

SFr per £ 1.232 1.233

INTEREST RATES

Dec 29 prev

US Gov 10 yr 147.29 154 0.07

UK Gov 10 yr 0.94 0.09

Ger Gov 10 yr -0.19 0.07

Jpn Gov 10 yr 113.02 0.06 0.00

US Gov 30 yr 117.59 1.96 0.09

Ger Gov 2 yr 104.59 -0.64 0.04

Fed Funds Eff 0.08 0.08 0.00

US 3m Bills 0.06 0.06 0.00

Euro Libor 3m -0.59 -0.59 0.00

UK 3m 0.25 0.24 0.01

Prices are latest for edition

Data provided by Morningstar

COMMODITIES

Dec 29 prev %chg

Oil WTI \$ 75.72 75.98 -0.34

Oil Brent \$ 78.40 78.67 -0.34

Gold \$ 1805.20 1792.80 0.69

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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 Movement; 10-day Power Reserve with Patented Spherical Rewinding System; Double-Sided Box Sapphire Crystal; Asymmetrical Dials; Limited to 30 Pieces in Titanium.

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bovet.com

Datawatch

Who do you trust for Covid advice?

% of respondents (19 Dec 2021)

Friends/family

Scientists

Chris Whitty

Boris Johnson

Social media

Journalists

Politicians generally

Source: Savanta ComRes

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

Memorial, la fin d'un symbole démocratique russe

► La Cour suprême de Russie a prononcé mardi la dissolution de l'ONG mondialement reconnue pour son travail sur la mémoire des crimes du stalinisme

► Memorial est accusée de créer «une image mensongère de l'URSS», alors que le pouvoir revendique l'héritage des services de sécurité soviétiques

► Signe d'un grave recul démocratique, cette décision illustre la détermination de Vladimir Poutine à réécrire l'histoire et à contrôler la société civile

► Le Centre de défense des droits humains, la branche de l'ONG consacrée aux exactions de la période actuelle, est lui aussi menacé

PAGES 2-3

M ÉDITORIAL
LA MÉMOIRE VERROUILLÉE

PAGE 25

LES 7 PROFILS DES DJIHADISTES FRANÇAIS

► Pour la première fois, une étude portant sur l'ensemble des hommes incarcérés pour terrorisme islamiste permet de dessiner un portrait-robot du djihadisme en France

► Prosélyte, indigné, viriliste, délinquant... Cette radiographie distingue sept profils parmi les 353 détenus étudiés et interroge leur rapport à l'islam et leur radicalisation

► Des points communs se dégagent : un milieu urbain, la précarité économique, une famille stable, un faible niveau d'études et un endocrinement sur Internet

PAGES 12-13

Hongkong
Arrestation de personnalités prodémocratie

PAGE 5

Environnement
Les pesticides néonicotinoïdes en voie de réautorisation

PAGE 7

Sports
Le retour de jauge plonge les clubs dans l'incertitude

PAGE 10

Théâtre
Dans la Maison de Molière, la jeune garde divisée face au «patron»

PAGE 18

Salvador Quête de justice pour les suppliciés d'El Mozote



A El Mozote, le 13 juin. JEFFREY GUILLEMIN/HAYTHAN POUR « LE MONDE »

EN DÉCEMBRE 1981, au moins 988 personnes, dont 558 enfants, étaient assassinées par les forces armées du Salvador à El Mozote. Le village, perdu dans la jungle, est alors accusé d'aider le Front Farabundo Martí de libération nationale, une guérilla en lutte contre la dictature. Ce massacre

est resté impuni. Pendant des années, la tuerie a été niée par les autorités et par Washington, qui, à l'époque, forme, équipe et finance l'armée du Salvador. Quarante ans plus tard, les proches des victimes se battent pour que les suspects soient condamnés.

PAGES 16-17

Covid-19 Israël se prépare à une quatrième dose dans un climat de doute

Incité par son conseil scientifique à organiser ce deuxième rappel vaccinal, le gouvernement temporise face aux réticences dans la population

PAGE 6

Cinéma Notre palmarès des films de l'année

« Memoria », « Titane », « First Cow », « Drive My Car »... Les critiques du « Monde » reviennent sur les longs-métrages qui les ont marqués en 2021

PAGE 19

IMAGINÉE PAR Yayoi Kusama



CHAMPAGNE

LA GRANDE DAME Veuve Clicquot

L'ABUS D'ALCOOL EST DANGEREUX POUR LA SANTÉ, À CONSOMMER AVEC MODÉRATION.

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.

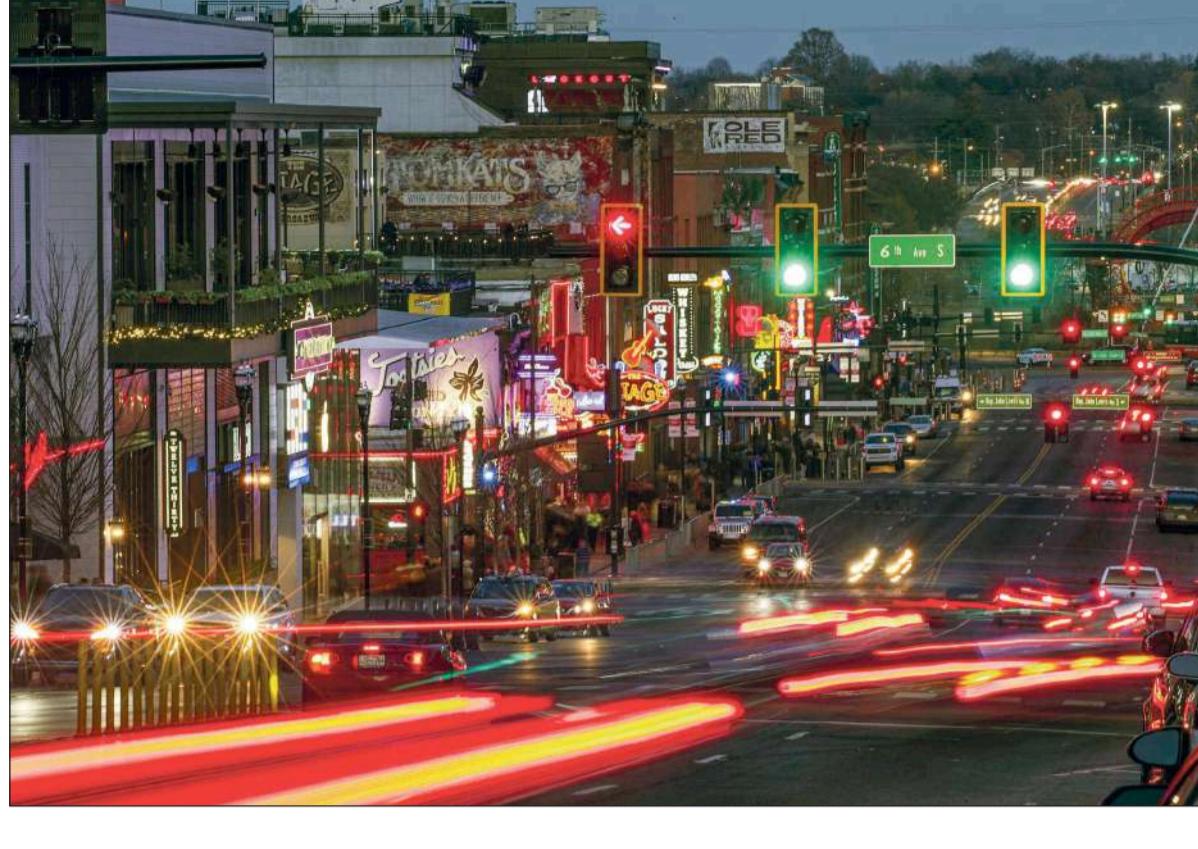
Last week, another shocking incident just three blocks away offered a tragic postscript to the high-powered approach that police adopted after the bank shootout.

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



Photographs by IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times
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.

By Sarah Parvini

REPORTING FROM NASHVILLE

The din of Tuesday Trivia Night filled the Nashville brewery, as patrons clustered at tables puzzled out 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]



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

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 — Iara 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]



ANDRESSA ANHOLETE Getty Images
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 roared 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.



BUSINESS INSIDE: Airlines aim for zero emissions by 2050. Will their lofty plan fly? A10



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 Kim Barker, Steve Eder and David D. Kirkpatrick.

In November 2008, Pennsylvania Trooper Jay Splain was honored 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 submachine gun at him.

That was the first killing. Trooper Splain went on to fatally shoot three more people in separate 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, struggling with drugs, mental illness or both. In two cases, including that of the man with the Uzi, family

Ghislaine Maxwell, the former companion to the disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein, was convicted on Wednesday of conspiring 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 daughter 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 following month, the medical examiner ruled, while awaiting his own trial on sex trafficking charges. Ms. Maxwell was arrested a year later.

The verdict came late in the afternoon of the jury's fifth full day of deliberations. After the jury sent a note saying it had reached a decision, Ms. Maxwell, wearing dark clothes and a dark-colored mask, was ushered into the courtroom and sat at the corner of the defense table. She poured water from a plastic bottle into a paper cup and took a sip.

The jurors filed into the courtroom at 5:04 p.m., and Judge Alison J. Nathan read the verdict aloud: guilty on five of the six counts. Ms. Maxwell sat still through the reading of the verdict. She then touched her face and again poured water into a cup and drank. She leaned over to speak with one of her lawyers, who patted her on the back.

After the jurors filed out of the courtroom, Ms. Maxwell stood, cast a brief glance in the direction of her siblings — two sisters and a brother who were seated in the first row of the spectator gallery — and was escorted quickly out of the courtroom, without speaking to her lawyers.

Ms. Maxwell's conviction closed another chapter in the saga of Mr. Epstein, whose lurid exploits, dealings with the criminal justice system and cast of famous

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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.

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Pentagon's Secret Courtroom

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

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The Face of a Gaming Empire

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

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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WSJ.com

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NASDAQ 15766.22 ▼ 0.1%

STOXX 600 487.98 ▼ 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**

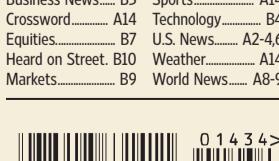
◆ Ghislaine Maxwell was found guilty on five of six criminal counts in her sex-trafficking case, capping federal prosecutors' push to bring the longtime confidante of disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein to justice. **A3**

◆ 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 Sherko, 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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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**

Facebook's Pushback: Political Spin, No Apologies

CEO Zuckerberg drove response to whistleblower's disclosures

the facebook files

Latest in a series

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 thou-

Please turn to page A10

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 leftover 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 of 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.

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The Washington Post

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SU V1 V2 V3 V4



Shower 56/50 • Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy 62/54 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2021 • \$2

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

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

IN THE NEWS



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. A3
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 feel "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



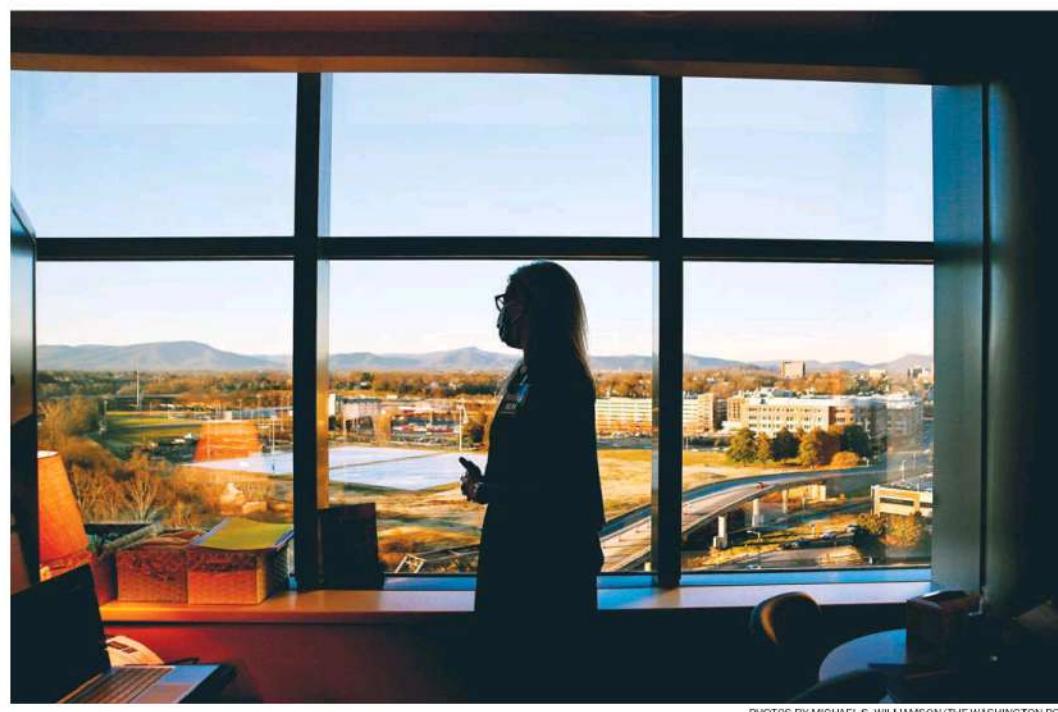
STYLE
Had to be there
Post reporters describe what they witnessed at pivotal moments in 2021. C1

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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 Alicia McAllister Daniels and her husband, Alva Daniels, while camping. TOP: Alicia 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

RAPID KITS LESS CLEAR ONOMICRON

Findings make it tougher to weigh risks in daily life

BY JOEL ACHENBACH AND YASMEEN 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

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

Seeking a clean break from a dirty past



LAURENCE GEAI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

The Seine wends 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 depositary 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 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

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