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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL WEEKEND



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What's News

World-Wide

The White House said it believes that Russia could invade Ukraine at any time with a major military action and urged Americans to leave the country as soon as possible. A1, A6

The FDA said that it needs more time to decide whether to authorize the Covid-19 vaccine from Pfizer and BioNTech for children under 5 years. A1

Messenger RNA vaccines' protection against Covid-19 hospitalization remained strong overall after three doses but did wane over time, the CDC said. A3

A Canadian judge said he would grant police permission to forcibly remove a group of protesters who have choked off most access to a U.S.-Canada trade corridor. A3

The Biden administration is moving to split \$7 billion in Afghanistan central bank reserves to provide humanitarian relief to Afghans and potential compensation for families of victims of the 9/11 attacks. A5

Taliban authorities have detained at least nine foreigners in Kabul, including one American and several British citizens. A5

The Biden administration is intensifying its campaign to persuade Equatorial Guinea to reject China's bid to build a military base on the country's Atlantic Coast. A5

Business & Finance

Tensions over Ukraine sent U.S. stocks lower as investors sought the safety of government bonds. The S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow fell 1.9%, 2.8% and 1.4%, respectively. Oil prices jumped. A1, B1

Cisco Systems has made a takeover offer worth more than \$20 billion for software maker Splunk, in what would be the networking giant's biggest acquisition ever. A1

The inventory crunch of dealership lots is turning the used-car market upside down, with once-depreciating vehicles rising in value and some recently purchased ones worth more than their original price. A1

Two senior Fed staffers reported a series of financial market trades in early 2020, as the central bank swung into action with its pandemic stimulus effort. A2

Apollo Global is nearing a deal to acquire the point-of-sale terminal business of European payments company Worldline for close to \$2.3 billion. B1

Apollo reported lower fourth-quarter profit, as the investment firm's private-equity portfolio underperformed the broader market. B3

Goodyear lost more than a quarter of its market value after the tire manufacturer said it expects significant pressure from rising input prices to persist into 2022. B3

NOONAN

Republicans, Stand Against Excess A15

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Sunday's Super Bowl Opponents Rev Up for the Big Game



WORKOUT: Defensive lineman Aaron Donald of the Los Angeles Rams, left, and running back Joe Mixon of the Cincinnati Bengals practice with their respective teams Friday ahead of Super Bowl LVII. Jason Gay previews the contest on page A12.

Used-Car Prices Surge Past Original Value of Some Models

By NORA ECKERT

The prolonged inventory crunch of dealership lots is turning the U.S. used-car market upside down: Once-depreciating vehicles are rising in value, and some recently purchased ones are worth more than their original price.

With car companies still trying to resume normal levels of factory output, dealers have been left with a scarcity of new vehicles to sell at stores, pushing many buyers into the used-car market where they are also encountering limited options.

Used-car prices rose 40.5% in January from a year ago, according to data released

Thursday by the Labor Department, a jump that helped accelerate U.S. inflation to an annual rate of 7.5% last month, a four-decade high.

The steep rise in resale values is undoing years of depreciation on many older models and causing others to appreciate in worth in the months after being driven off the selling lot, according to industry data.

"You see nutty things. Cars that were \$25,000 new three years ago are \$25,000 today," said Adam Lee, chairman of Lee Auto Malls in Maine. "It doesn't make any sense."

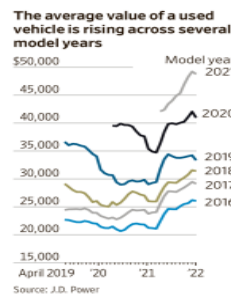
The shift is another example of how the auto market's recovery from the early days

of the pandemic continues to defy convention as the supply-demand imbalance becomes more lopsided the longer the car shortage drags on.

The higher used prices are also having a ripple effect throughout the car business, giving consumers more buying power when they trade in vehicles but also increasing costs for auto insurers and limiting the options for shoppers needing more affordable cars.

Typically, a new vehicle loses a big chunk of its value within the first year of ownership and then continues to depreciate each year it is on the road with age, wear and tear.

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Decision Delayed On Shots For Young Children

By JARED S. HOPKINS

U.S. health regulators said they need more time to decide whether to authorize the Covid-19 vaccine from Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE for children under 5 years, after the drugmakers notified them of additional data from a continuing study.

The Food and Drug Administration said Friday that it was delaying a decision to consider data from testing under way evaluating a third dose of the vaccine, not just the first two.

The agency didn't specify the additional data that it had received and had prompted its action, but it said it made the move to include data on the third dose in an authorization decision.

"The data that we saw made us realize that we needed to see data from a third dose in the ongoing trial in order to make a determination that we could proceed with doing an authorization,"

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Booster protection decreases after four months..... A3
FDA authorizes new Lilly antibody treatment..... A3

EXCHANGE



THE UPSSELL
The stealthy ways companies pass rising costs to consumers.

B1

The Quarterback's Gambit: Bengals Star Learns From Chess

Game helps Joe Burrow with tactics, but he gets flagged for trash-talking

By ANDREW BEATON
AND JOSHUA ROBINSON

Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow is unusually skilled at picturing plays before they happen, anticipating lines of attack and thinking through a dizzying range of tactics. Not only have those gifts helped him guide his team to the Super



Bowl. They've also shaped Mr. Burrow's game for his other great passion: the frantic two-minute drill known as speed chess.

Sunday's Super Bowl between the Cincinnati Bengals and Los Angeles Rams is sure to be referred to as a chess match by coaches, players, or broadcasters more than

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Beijing Games Vie For Saddest, Quietest Olympics

Isolation rooms, fear of positive Covid-19 tests drain athletes' joy

By BEN COHEN
AND JOSHUA ROBINSON

BEIJING—On the day Team USA flag bearer Elana Meyers Taylor was supposed to march her country into the Olympic Stadium, she was in a Chinese isolation hotel. She had tested positive for Covid-19 and watched the Opening Ceremony on TV in a room she wasn't allowed to leave.

Ms. Meyers Taylor was one of the lucky ones. She has since recovered and is scheduled to compete as one of the medal favorites in two bobsled events.

In the gloom of the Beijing Winter Olympics, luck is a relative term. The Games are

supposed to be an ebullient, global sporting bonanza, but they have never felt so downbeat. Rather than "Faster, Higher, Stronger—Together," the Olympic motto, the Beijing Games so far have been sadder and quieter.

Olympians compete in nearly empty arenas without friends or family. Some wear N95 masks, in practice and even in competition, to limit the risk of infection. The rest live with the daily fear of testing positive, being sent to isolation and watching years of training slip away.

Natalia Maliszewska, a short-track speed skater, said:

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More Olympics news on A11-12 and at WSJ.com.

Cisco Bids \$20 Billion For Software Company

By DANA CIMILLUCA
AND CARA LOMBARDO

Cisco Systems Inc. has made a takeover offer worth more than \$20 billion for software maker Splunk Inc., according to people familiar with the matter, in what would be the networking giant's biggest acquisition ever.

The offer was made recently and the companies aren't currently in active talks, some of the people said.

Should there be a deal, it

would eclipse Cisco's biggest deal to date, its roughly \$7 billion acquisition of Scientific Atlanta in 2005. Its most recent deal of size was its nearly \$5 billion purchase of Acacia Communications Inc. in 2021.

Splunk is currently searching for a chief executive after Doug Merritt stepped down from the role in November after roughly six years following a series of disappointing earnings reports. The company named Chairman Graham

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Warning Stepped Up on a Russian Invasion

U.S. says Moscow could move on Ukraine any day now, sending stock markets lower

WASHINGTON—The White House said it believes Russia could invade Ukraine at any time with a major military action, and it urged Americans to leave the country as soon as possible.

By Gordon Lubold,
Vivian Salama
and Michael R. Gordon

The escalation of tensions sent U.S. stocks lower Friday afternoon, as investors sought the safety of government bonds, sending their yields lower. Oil prices jumped to fresh eight-year highs on the prospect of supply disruptions.

At the White House Friday, national security adviser Jake Sullivan said the U.S. wouldn't conduct a military evacuation of citizens from a war zone. He said Americans should leave Ukraine on their own in the next 24 to 48 hours while land, rail and air routes out of the country remain open, in the most pointed directive yet from the White House.

"We are in the window when an invasion could begin at any time," he said. [Russian President] Vladimir Putin decide to order it," Mr. Sullivan said. If the Russians attack Ukraine, it will begin with aerial bombing and missile attacks that could kill civilians, he added.

"A subsequent ground invasion..."

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Northern Ukraine feels extra stress..... A6
Blinken warns of threat to Indo-Pacific region..... A6



Inside China's Covid-zero bubble

Plus
50 years on
from Nixon
in China
LIFE & ARTS

Biden fears Ukraine attack is close

◆ Russia ramps up military threat ◆ US calls allies to crisis talks ◆ Kyiv bolsters defences

JAMES POLITI — WASHINGTON
ROMAN OLSARCHYK — KYIV
MAX SEDDON — MOSCOW

The US has warned that a Russian invasion of Ukraine could be launched within days as President Joe Biden summoned transatlantic leaders to a meeting to discuss the crisis and embassies stepped up warnings to their citizens to leave the country.

Russia is ramping up its military capability along Ukraine's border, sending additional troops and equipment to the region, and has also started a large military exercise in areas in Belarus.

"We continue to see very troubling signs of Russian escalation, including

new forces arriving at the Ukrainian border," said Antony Blinken, the US secretary of state.

"We're in a window when an invasion could begin at any time and, to be clear, that includes during the Olympics," he added, referring to the winter games in Beijing that conclude on February 20.

In a short statement the White House said Biden and counterparts, including the leaders of Germany, France and the UK, would be discussing "our shared concerns about Russia's continued build-up of military forces around Ukraine and continued co-ordination on both diplomacy and deterrence".

The new US warning follows a flurry

of high-level diplomatic activity in an effort to defuse the crisis, led this week by French president Emmanuel Macron, who met Vladimir Putin, his Russian counterpart, in Moscow.

The UK said it would withdraw some embassy staff from Kyiv while Japan, the Netherlands and Latvia advised nationals to leave Ukraine as soon as possible. "American citizens should leave, should leave now," Biden told NBC. "We're dealing with one of the largest armies in the world. Things could go crazy, quickly."

In Ukraine, the government stepped up defence preparations. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged officials to



Antony Blinken: "We're in a window when an invasion could begin at any time and that includes during the Olympics"

support efforts to bring 1.5mn to 2mn civilians into a newly formed territorial defence force under military command.

"This is a reliable rear for a professional and well-equipped army, which together form the basis of our state, a strong state," Zelenskyy said.

Valeriy Zaluzhnyi, commander-in-chief of the armed forces, said: "This is a force that can restrain the enemy and prevent them from thinking about setting foot on our land... The purpose of all this is to resist in every city, every village, on every street and in every house."

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Edward Luce page 9
John Dizard page 14

Back to reality Preparing for life after Covid

A message from the US that it is exiting "the full-blown pandemic phase"; moves by England and Denmark to remove all Covid-19 restrictions; and holiday bookings abroad soaring to pre-2020 levels have spurred hopes that a return to normal life is on the horizon.

Some governments are shifting strategies by relying on high levels of immunity and broad vaccine coverage to limit pressure on hospitals and reopen economies fully. As the world heads for its second anniversary since being forced to live with coronavirus, are lockdowns, social distancing, self-isolation, mask-wearing and tests relegated to the past?

Hopes stirred page 3



A crowded platform at Waterloo station in London on Thursday as final Covid-19 restrictions are lifted

Andy Rose/SPA-EPA/Outright



Plan for NY listing of Arm deals painful blow to UK

After the collapse this week of Nvidia's \$66bn deal to acquire UK tech group Arm amid antitrust concerns, owner SoftBank's plans to list Arm in New York was tantamount to a vote of no confidence in London. It comes as Britain is facing deep concerns about its ability to create and retain homegrown tech champions and piles pressure on the government to reverse a long-term decline in listings.

"Keep Arm in London" ► PAGE 10
Huge blow for UK ► PAGE 13

Investors crank up bets on aggressive Fed action to combat soaring inflation

TOMMY STUBBINGTON — LONDON
KATE DUGUID — NEW YORK

Investors are betting that the US Federal Reserve might deliver an extra-large rate rise in March, or even lift borrowing costs between scheduled meetings for the first time since 1994, as policymakers battle blistering inflation.

Expectations mounted of a more aggressive tightening in monetary policy after Thursday's US inflation data, which showed consumer prices rising at the fastest annual pace in 40 years and once again confounded forecasts that price pressures would begin to level off.

Investors had in recent weeks coalesced around the view that the Fed would increase interest rates by 0.25 percentage points at its March meeting. However, traders in money markets are now pricing in a more than 50 per cent

chance the central bank will boost rates by half a percentage point next month.

Futures contracts linked to the federal funds rate, which stands at a historic low of 0-0.25 per cent, also show the possibility of a move before the Fed meeting that starts on March 15.

"The Fed knows it has to hike rates," said Gennady Goldberg at TD Securities. "It's very likely that they will hike faster and probably will hike at consecutive meetings. There are a multitude of arguments for going more quickly and I think the market is realising it."

Two-year US government debt, which is highly sensitive to moves in short-term interest rates, suffered its biggest one-day sell-off since 2009 on Thursday after the data showed inflation hit 7.5 per cent in January. The two-year yield traded at 1.63 per cent yesterday, leaving it on track for the highest close since late

2019, from 0.4 per cent in November.

James Bullard, one of the Fed's more hawkish policymakers, fuelled the selling by saying he backed a half-point rate rise in March and that the Fed should be open to the idea of responding sooner.

A shift in Fed policy between meetings is rare. The central bank delivered emergency unscheduled rate cuts during the financial crisis in 2008 and the early stages of the pandemic in March 2020 but has not increased borrowing costs in this way since April 1994.

A move prior to the March Fed meeting would be "out of character" for policymakers who typically try to prime markets for policy changes, according to analysts at JPMorgan. It would also entail ending the Fed's bond-buying programme early, the analysts added.

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The Long View page 18

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World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				INTEREST RATES			
	Feb 11	prev	%chg		Feb 11	prev			price	yield	chg
S&P 500	4690.85	4684.08	+0.36	\$ per £	1.140	1.147		US Gov 10 yr	140.28	2.05	0.04
Nasdaq Composite	14095.30	14195.04	-0.71	\$ per €	1.360	1.362		UK Gov 10 yr		1.47	0.02
Dow Jones Ind	35242.81	35241.59	0.00	€ per £	0.838	0.842		Ger Gov 10 yr		0.29	0.01
FTSEurofirst 300	1835.09	1844.72	-0.52	¥ per \$	115.880	115.955		Japan Gov 10 yr	110.17	0.22	0.00
Euro Stoxx 50	4153.38	4197.07	-1.04	\$ per ¥	157.632	157.891		US Gov 30 yr	103.32	2.34	0.05
FTSE 100	7691.02	7672.40	-0.15	SFr per €	1.056	1.060		Ger Gov 2 yr	100.77	-0.33	0.01
FTSE All-Share	4296.38	4298.96	-0.25								
CAC 40	7011.60	7101.55	-1.27								
Xetra Dax	15425.12	15480.44	-0.42								
Nikkei	27696.06	27579.87	0.42								
Hong Kong	24939.66	24824.25	-0.07								
MSCI World \$	3057.98	3124.93	-1.18								
MSCI EM \$	1259.09	1239.79	0.91								
MSCI ACWI \$	726.31	733.20	-0.94								

COMMODITIES			
	Feb 11	prev	%chg
Oil WTI \$	92.06	96.88	-2.43
Oil Brent \$	93.44	91.41	2.22
Gold \$	1835.35	1827.80	0.41

FEED FUNDING			
	price	prev	chg
Fed Funds Eff	0.26	0.00	0.06
US 3m Rate	0.40	0.28	0.14
Euro Libor 3m	-0.58	-0.58	0.00
UK 3m	0.29	0.19	0.01

Prices are latest for edition Data provided by Morningstar

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A Ukrainian soldier at the front line in Zaitseve. U.S. officials believe Russia may not yet have made a final decision to invade.

TYLER HICKS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Ottawa's Police Reacted Slowly As Protest Built

By CATHERINE PORTER

OTTAWA — Steps from Canada's Parliament buildings, a sprawling festival erupted on Saturday. D.J.s played music for crowds dancing at intersections, singers belted out songs from an improvised stage and protesters' trucks still blocked the streets, blowing their horns to cheers.

A day after the premier of Ontario, home to Canada's capital, Ottawa, declared a state of emergency across the province and said that anyone involved in the protest would face "severe" consequences, including nearly \$100,000 fines or even jail time — nothing had changed on the streets of the capital.

The few police in sight were quickly swallowed up in overwhelming crowds of people, both protesting government pandemic regulations and enjoying the party atmosphere after almost two years of intermittent lockdowns.

"They don't have an easy job," said Scott Spenser, 36, looking up from a drum concert on Sparks Street, as a phalanx of six officers marched by. "Hopefully, this all ends peacefully and they lift the mandates and we all get back to living."

Throughout the day, the Canadian police sought to clear many of the trucks blocking the Ambassador Bridge, a vital crossing in Windsor, Ontario, connecting the United States and Canada. But there were still a few holdouts, and traffic remained blocked for a fifth straight day.

And in Ottawa, the police were still hanging back, circulating in small numbers and not visibly handing out tickets or making arrests.

Two weeks after Ottawa's downtown was transformed into a raging tailgate party, many in Canada wonder how this happened — why the police seemingly abandoned the country's seat of power, with no perceptible backup, and how a motley group of truckers, anti-government activists, anti-vaccine agitators and people just fed up after two years of stringent public health restrictions have

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Selling of Trump Blurs Lines of Politics and Profit

By SHANE GOLDMACHER and ERIC LIPTON

In early December, Donald J. Trump put on a tuxedo and boarded the private jet of a scrap-metal magnate and crypto-miner for a short flight across Florida, touching down at an airport in Naples. There, a long red carpet marked the pathway into a Christmas-decorated hangar filled with supporters of Mr. Trump who had paid \$10,000 to \$30,000 for the privilege of attending a party and taking a photo with him.

\$45 Drink, \$50 Hat and a \$1 Billion Start-Up

The event had all the trappings of a typical high-end fund-raiser: a giant American flag, a lectern, chandeliers and an open bar. Frank Stallone's band provided the music; an anti-Biden "Let's Go Brandon" banner hung from the rafters.

But the money raised did not go to Mr. Trump's political operation.

Instead, Mr. Trump's share of the evening's proceeds went straight into his pocket, according to a person familiar with the arrangement.

Multiple attendees said they bought their tickets from a private company, Whip Fundraising, whose founder, Brad Keltner, has asserted that "the lion's share" went to charity. But the website advertising the event listed no charitable cause. And Mr. Keltner, reached by phone, declined to discuss how money was distributed.

In the year since Mr. Trump has

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DARNELL SCOTT FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Randy's Donuts has endured throughout a quarter-century of change in Inglewood, Calif.

For Host City, Super Bowl Is Proof of Progress

By TIM ARANGO

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — First, the Lakers and the Kings abandoned Inglewood for a shiny new arena in downtown Los Angeles in 1999. Several years later, the horse racing track shut down. In between, there was the financial crisis, which sent home values plummeting. Things got so bad that the state took over the local school district.

"The only thing that was left, ef-

fectively, was a Sizzler and a big doughnut," said James T. Butts Jr., the mayor of Inglewood, referring to the gigantic steel sculpture that sits atop Randy's Donuts near the airport, long a strange welcome sign for visitors to Southern California.

Now when you fly into Los Angeles, the first sight to grab your eye is the gleaming, futuristic football cathedral called SoFi Stadium that sits on land left vacant by the horse track. It is one of the priciest sports arenas ever built at

more than \$5 billion, and lured professional football back to Los Angeles with the Rams and Chargers relocating from St. Louis and San Diego. It opened in the pandemic year of 2020, hosting games but not fans. On Sunday, it will be crammed for the Super Bowl, and Inglewood will command the nation's attention. The fact that the hometown Rams are in the game makes it even sweeter.

For Inglewood, one of Los Angeles's last communities with a

Continued on Page 22

Biden Tries to Sway Putin, Warning of 'Severe' Costs

Aiming to Avert War With Information

By JULIAN E. BARNES and HELENE COOPER

WASHINGTON — After decades of getting schooled in information warfare by President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia, the United States is trying to beat the master at his own game.

In recent weeks, the Biden administration has detailed the movement of Russian special operation forces to Ukraine's borders, exposed a Russian plan to create a video of a faked atrocity as a pretext for an invasion, outlined Moscow's war plans, warned that an invasion would result in possibly thousands of deaths and hinted that Russian officers had doubts about Mr. Putin.

Then, on Friday, Jake Sullivan, President Biden's national security adviser, told reporters at the White House that the United States was seeing signs of Russian escalation and that there was a "credible prospect" of immediate military action. Other officials said the announcement was prompted by new intelligence that signaled an invasion could begin as soon as Wednesday.

All told, the extraordinary series of disclosures — unfolding almost as quickly as information is collected and assessed — has amounted to one of the most aggressive releases of intelligence by the United States since the Cuban missile crisis, current and former officials say.

It is an unusual gambit, in part because Mr. Biden has repeatedly made clear he has no intention of sending U.S. troops to defend Ukraine. In effect, the administration is warning the world of an urgent threat, not to make the case for a war but to try to prevent one.

The hope is that disclosing Mr. Putin's plans will disrupt them, perhaps delaying an invasion and buying more time for diplomacy, or even giving Mr. Putin a chance to reconsider the political, economic and human costs of an invasion.

At the same time, Biden administration officials said they had a narrower and more realistic goal: They want to make it more difficult for Mr. Putin to justify an invasion with lies, undercutting his standing on the global stage and building support for a tougher response.

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U.S. Pulls Most Staff at Kyiv Embassy

This article is by Andrew E. Kramer, Anton Troianowski, Katie Rogers and Lara Jakes.

KYIV, Ukraine — President Biden warned President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia that invading Ukraine would result in "swift and severe" costs to Russia, diminish his country's standing and cause "widespread human suffering," the White House said on Saturday, as Western officials made a forceful diplomatic push to dissuade Mr. Putin from pressing forward with an attack.

It remained uncertain whether Mr. Putin would invade, according to senior Biden administration officials. But after the call, one official said that the situation remained as urgent as it was on Friday when the administration said Russia could invade at any moment and Jake Sullivan, the president's national security adviser, warned Americans to leave the country in the coming days.

White House officials said that Mr. Biden discussed a range of diplomatic options with Mr. Putin, but that it was unclear if Mr. Putin was persuaded to take that route.

A foreign policy aide to Mr. Biden said that the administration was "businesslike" but overshadowed by American "hysteria" over a possibly imminent Russian invasion of Ukraine. He said that Mr. Putin would consider Mr. Biden's proposals, but that they ignored Russia's key demands for "security guarantees" in Eastern Europe, including a legally binding halt to NATO expansion and a pullback of the alliance's military presence in the region.

And Mr. Ushakov continued to

Continued on Page 10



SERGEY DOLZHENKO/UPA, VIA SHUTTERSTOCK
President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine last week in Kyiv.

Modern Crime, a Tech Couple And a Trail of Siphoned Crypto

By ALI WATKINS and BENJAMIN WEISER

When anonymous hackers infiltrated the cryptocurrency exchange Bitfinex in 2016, it shook the nascent world of digital currency and prompted speculation about who might have stolen what was then \$71 million in Bitcoin.

But unlike traditional financial transactions, Bitcoin trades are publicly visible, moving the coins risked revealing who was behind the heist. And so for six years, as the value of Bitcoin soared, the lost sat in plain sight online as tiny fractions of the giant sum occasionally disappeared in a blizzard of complex transactions.

It was as if a robber's getaway car were permanently parked outside the bank, locked tight, money still inside.

And then on Feb. 1, the car sped off.

In the strange and sometimes shadowy world of cryptocurrency,

it was as if the earth shook. In the years since the Bitfinex hacking, crypto had exploded into the mainstream, and the theft had become notorious: a bounty worth over \$4 billion. At last, it seemed, the hackers had emerged from hiding.

But it was not the hackers who had moved the stolen Bitcoin — it was the government, which had seized it as part of an investigation into two New York City entrepreneurs: one a little-known Russian émigré and tech investor; the other, his wife, an American businesswoman and would-be social media influencer with an alter ego as a satirical rapper named Razzlekhan.

Charged with conspiring to launder billions of dollars in Bitcoin, the couple, Ilya Lichtenstein, 34, and Heather Morgan, 31, were

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METROPOLITAN

The Real Price of Convenience

In Germany's capital, the expansion of rapid delivery services offers a glimpse of the threats facing New York City's corner stores and street life.

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SUNDAY STYLES

What Is Black Love Today?

A collaboration between Modern Love and Black History Continued gathered stories that illuminate how Black people live, and love, in this moment.

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ARTS & LEISURE

Sharing, and Airing, Secrets

Will, Jada, Jaden and Willow Smith have sought out a higher profile, transforming their family for an era of reality-driven celebrity.

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SUNDAY BUSINESS

She Tracked Her Husband

Apple AirTags and other devices promise to help you find your keys. They're also helping to create a surveillance state. One couple's adventures.

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SUNDAY REVIEW

Lisa Taddeo

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Amid crisis, a push for water reform

Experts seek to update California's laws in the face of climate change and social inequities.

By Ian James

California's mountain snowpack is shrinking, and climate change is intensifying the severe drought. Streams have dwindled and reservoirs have declined as vast quantities of water are diverted for farms and cities. Endangered fish are struggling to survive. And in farming areas in the Central Valley, hundreds of families are struggling with dry wells as groundwater levels continue to drop.

A group of prominent legal experts has presented a blueprint for updating California's system of water laws to fix long-standing weaknesses and adapt to the worsening effects of climate change. They say their proposals, if adopted by the Legislature, would help the state better manage surface water and groundwater, protect vulnerable communities and ecosystems, and improve state oversight of the water rights system.

The group presented their 11 proposals this month, saying the reforms would represent a major revision of laws that govern diversions from streams and rivers, and would give state officials better tools to deal with mounting strains on [See Water, A12]



UKRAINIANS rally in Kyiv, the nation's capital, to show unity as worries mount that a Russian invasion is imminent. U.S. and Western leaders have promised to impose strict economic sanctions if Russia attacks.

BIDEN WARNS PUTIN OF 'SEVERE COSTS'

He tells the Russian leader that invading Ukraine would cause widespread suffering.

By Eli Stokols, Del Quentin Wilber, Nabih Bulos and Tracy Wilkinson

WASHINGTON — President Biden warned Russian leader Vladimir Putin on Saturday that the U.S. would "respond decisively and impose swift and severe costs" if Moscow attacked Ukraine, the White House said, as the U.S. government ordered the evacuation of most of its personnel from its embassy in Kyiv amid dire signs an invasion was imminent.

The hourlong call was among several held by U.S. officials with their Russian counterparts on Saturday as they sought to forestall an attack by Russia on its neighbor and former Soviet republic. The discussions came as the U.S. government has offered increasingly urgent assessments of the situation in recent days, with a senior administration official telling reporters on Saturday that it appeared the two countries were headed "toward some kind of active conflict."

In warning all Americans to evacuate Ukraine, the official said: "It isn't just time to leave Ukraine. It is past time for private citizens to leave." [See Ukraine, A4]

Staring down Russia's barrel

It's hard to find a more tranquil place than this hamlet on the edge of northern Ukraine. A collection of huts sprinkled along a barely there road, it abuts the Zheveda and Tsata rivers. In winter, when the Tsata freezes, the town's 70 or so residents, many of them old with long memories, punch holes in the riverbed and fish amid a hushed birch forest draped in snow.

"Oh, I just started two weeks ago. I'm a beginner, but I have no luck. The fish aren't coming," said Vladimir, a grizzled, affable man in his late 50s who preferred not to give his last name. He adjusted his ushanka, or ear-flap hat, squatted down and gingerly dipped his line for another attempt.

Vladimir has lived in Klyusy all his life. Like other villagers near the border linking Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, he

Villagers in northern Ukraine say Putin's army is 20 miles away, and they aren't worried

By Nabih Bulos
REPORTING FROM KLYUSY, UKRAINE

remembered the Soviet Union days when the boundary was little more than a line on paper. Every June, residents would stream through the Senkivka border crossing, six miles west of Klyusy, and join tens of thousands of Ukrainians, Russians and Belarusians celebrating the Slavic Unity Festival held near the Monument of Friendship called the Three Sisters.

But these days there's more menace than friendship along the border.

"The Russian army is 20 miles from here," Vladimir said, pointing upstream across the border.

The buildup, comprising tens of thousands of troops, tanks, artillery, advanced S-400 antiaircraft missile systems as well as SU-30 warplanes, is ostensibly for "Allied Resolve 2022" — 10 days of joint [See Village, A4]

COLUMN ONE

Imports' pride in the game of hockey is made in China

By David Wharton
REPORTING FROM BEIJING

The players agreed to take different names. Names they couldn't necessarily pronounce at first. Jeremy Smith became Jerumi Shimisi and Jake Chellos chose Jieke Kaiaios, and maybe it seemed weird.

"A little bit," said Spencer Foo, who became Fu Jiang. "Yeah, I picked it up pretty quick."

Few of them spoke Chinese or had spent time in China, but they knew the difference between a forecheck and a cross check. That sufficed to draw these hockey players together, transport them halfway

around the globe and plunk them down in a new country.

Which made perfect sense to them.

"There's a bigger picture," said Ye Jinguang, who grew up in Canada's British Columbia as Brandon Yip. "We're here to grow the game."

The Chinese men's hockey team made its Winter Olympic debut in Beijing last week, part of a grand experiment by the government to build a national hockey program from scratch, in a hurry.

The roster featured minor-league talent gleaned from throughout North America — players with some Chinese ancestry or who were willing to live in country for several years. Team officials also asked them to [See Hockey, A6]

BEIJING OLYMPICS: Photos, results, analysis and more in Sports, D14

A Black soldier's pioneering spirit

Bernard Benedict James, who turned 101 last week, helped launch U.S. into space in the 1960s. CALIFORNIA, B1

LeBron James hits milestone

Combining playoffs and regular season, he has scored the most points in NBA history. Lakers lose anyway. SPORTS, D13

Weather

Hot. L.A. Basin: 87/58. B10



NATHAN DENETTE Canadian Press

PROTESTERS DISPERSE

Police officers, right, clear demonstrators blocking the Ambassador Bridge in Windsor, Canada, a day after a judge's order. WORLD, A3

SUPER BOWL LVI



KRIVIN MAZUR Getty Images

NFL COMMISSIONER Roger Goodell, left, and rapper and Roc Nation founder Jay-Z announce a long-term entertainment partnership in 2019 in New York.

Can Jay-Z change the NFL?

Partnership challenges league's record on race

By Mikael Wood

The paint was still wet on the field at SoFi Stadium as Deshaun Watson strode toward the 50-yard line, a pair of ringing-and-dinging smart-phones tucked inside her boxy leather handbag.

Perez, the chief executive of Roc Nation, superstar rapper Jay-Z's wide-ranging entertainment firm, had dropped in at the Inglewood stadium last week as part of preparations for the Super Bowl halftime show her company is producing for Sunday's game — an all-star hip-hop blowout featuring Dr. Dre, who helped pioneer West Coast rap while coming up in nearby Compton,



CÉSAR CANSECO For The Times

SUPER DAY IN L.A.

The Rams take on the Cincinnati Bengals in Super Bowl LVI at SoFi Stadium. SPORTS, D1

along with Snoop Dogg, Eminem, Mary J. Blige and Kendrick Lamar.

It was just past 8 a.m., but already there were set pieces to approve, musical mixes to hear, sight lines to investigate, and, as one NFL rep gently reminded Perez, freshly sprayed turf to avoid spiking with her stiletto heels.

"It's a lot of moving parts," she said of the elaborate production that will take place halfway through the Los Angeles Rams' championship battle against the Cincinnati Bengals.

Behind Perez, 53, the words "END RACISM" stood out starkly against the [See Roc Nation, A14]

BUSINESS INSIDE: A glimpse behind the scenes of a matchmaker to the super-rich. A17

Biden doesn't want to change China. He wants to beat it.
OPINIONS ESSAY, A23



Changing faces
All but 7 high court justices in history have been White men **NATION, A14**



Oldies but goodies
At the Olympics, 'seasoned' athletes are having their moment **SPORTS**

The Washington Post

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Saga shows Trump's disdain for records act

Recovering documents from Mar-a-Lago was a months-long process

BY ASHLEY PARKER, JACQUELINE ALEMAN, JOSH DAWSEY AND TOM HAMBURGER

For the 15 boxes of documents — some classified and marked “top secret” — the long journey from former president Donald Trump's gilded Mar-a-Lago residence in Palm Beach, Fla., to a secure facility in the Washington area began last summer, when the National Archives and Records Administration contacted Trump's team to alert it that some high-profile documents from his presidency appeared to be missing.

But it was not until the end of the year that the boxes were finally readied for collection, according to two people familiar with the logistics, one of whom described the ordeal as “a bit of a process.”

At one point, Archives officials threatened that if Trump's team did not voluntarily produce the materials, they would send a letter to Congress or the Justice Department revealing the lack of cooperation, according to a third person familiar with the situation.

“At first it was unclear what he was going to give back and when,” said one of these people, who, like the others, spoke on the condition of anonymity to share candid details of a sensitive situation.

SEE TRUMP ON A11

Battle lines emerge over ‘stop-woke’ effort in Fla.

Parents take sides amid DeSantis's plan to allow school lesson lawsuits

BY TIM CRAIG AND LORI ROZSA

MIAMI — The school system in Florida's most populous county includes students whose families moved here from 160 nations.

Its expansive cultural mix is represented in the district's curriculum, which includes not only American history, but also the stories of violent government upheavals, such as the revolution of enslaved people who founded Haiti, and the more recent political trauma of protesters who fled or perished in Castro's Cuba.

But as Florida lawmakers consider legislation to police what students are taught, Miami Beach Senior High School teacher Russell Rywell wonders if he will still be able to discuss how some of his students' ancestors arrived in the United States.

“How do you teach slavery? The slave trade? The Holocaust?” asked Rywell, a speech and debate teacher who has taught in Miami-Dade County's public schools for 11 years. “How do you teach these issues without talking about the participants and the roles they played?”

As part of the “stop-woke” agenda of Gov. Ron DeSantis (R), Florida lawmakers are now considering bills that would allow almost

SEE FLORIDA ON A22

Biden warns Putin of ‘severe costs’



People in Kyiv, Ukraine, participate in a march to show solidarity and patriotism as tensions with Russia escalate. President Biden, in an hour-long call with Russian President Vladimir Putin, said the United States and its allies would “respond decisively” to any attack.

West to bulk defenses if Russia invades Ukraine

BY PAUL SONNE AND DAN LAMOTHE

The United States will consider rotating additional U.S. troops through NATO member countries on Europe's eastern flank, should Russia mount a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, and NATO would also bulk up its presence in those countries with forces and armaments, U.S. and European officials said.

The White House has repeatedly warned Russian President Vladimir Putin that if he is concerned about NATO's presence near the Russian border now, that posture will only increase if he chooses to invade

U.S., NATO consider increased presence in eastern flank of Europe

Ukraine. Already, eastern European members of the alliance are clamoring for more U.S. forces as a deterrent against an irredentist Kremlin that once controlled their lands in addition to Ukraine.

But despite the warnings to Putin from the White House, the Biden administration hasn't detailed what an enhanced presence would look like on NATO's

eastern border after a full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. Nor have warnings about a bolstered NATO halted Russia's buildup of forces, missiles and armored vehicles around Ukraine.

Already, the United States has deployed about 2,000 additional forces from Fort Bragg in North Carolina, primarily to Poland, in response to the Russian building on the Ukrainian border to reassure allies close to Russia. On Friday, U.S. officials said 3,000 from the 82nd Airborne Division would join them, taking the total to 5,000 within days.

Meanwhile, 1,000 U.S. soldiers were to arrive in Romania from a U.S. installation in Ger-

many, adding to the 900 U.S. troops already in that eastern European country.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has said the alliance is considering what adjustments to make to its eastern posture in the longer term.

“If Russia really wants less NATO close to the borders, they get the opposite,” Stoltenberg said Feb. 7 during a joint news conference with Polish President Andrzej Duda. “We saw that after 2014 when Russia went in and annexed Crimea and went into Donbas,” referring to Russian-backed separatist enclaves in eastern Ukraine.

SEE FORCE ON A19

KREMLIN DECRIES ATTACK ‘HYSTERIA’

American diplomats evacuated from Ukraine

BY STEVE HENDRIX, MISSY RYAN, ROBYN DIXON AND AMY CHENG

KYIV, UKRAINE — President Biden warned Russian leader Vladimir Putin on Saturday of “swift and severe costs” if Russia invades Ukraine, the White House said, as the United States evacuated diplomats in preparation for a potential assault.

Biden, in an hour-long call with the Russian president, said the United States and its allies would “respond decisively” to any attack, the White House said in a statement. But the call produced no breakthrough, as the exchange of recriminations over Ukraine threatened to erupt into what could be the largest military conflict Europe has seen in decades.

With the drumbeat of warnings accelerating, a growing list of nations have urged their citizens to depart Ukraine. On Saturday, the Biden administration took a further step, announcing it would reduce its embassy in Kyiv to a skeleton staff and pull military trainers back from western Ukraine.

The Kremlin, describing the two leaders' first conversation since late last year, accused the United States of stoking conflict and portrayed Ukraine, rather than Russia, as the aggressor. U.S. officials have said Moscow, now conducting major military exercises in neighboring Belarus, could launch an attack at any time.

“The Americans are artificially inflating the hysteria around the so-called planned Russian invasion,” Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov told reporters following the call.

SEE UKRAINE ON A20

Diplomatic efforts: European leaders are in the spotlight. **A19**

National identity: The Ukrainian language has a big moment. **A21**

Drilling in Ukraine: Volunteers and veterans train for war. **A18**

Automakers, dealers clash as vehicle prices overtake MSRP

BY JACOB BOGAGE AND AARON GREGG

Soaring car prices have set off a battle between automakers and independent dealers, with consumers routinely paying hundreds, often thousands, more than the listed price amid a protracted vehicle shortage.

Ford and General Motors recently upbraided dealers for ignoring the manufacturer's suggested retail price, or MSRP, a practice that was practically unheard of a year ago and GM calls “unethical.” They've threatened to withhold deliveries of their most popular offerings, including Ford's buzzer-generating F-150 Lightning pickup, and other forthcoming electric vehicle models.

But data shows such markups are pervasive across the industry: More than 80 percent of U.S. car buyers paid above MSRP in January, according to auto market research firm Edmunds. That compares with 2.8 percent the same month a year ago and 0.3 percent in 2020.

SEE CAR PRICES ON A12

Along the Ohio, title hopes spring eternal

Super Bowl bid validates unwavering Bengals fans, whose struggles go far beyond gridiron futility

BY ANNIE GOWEN

CINCINNATI — Even in the worst years, when fans sat freezing in the stands of the old Riverfront Stadium here wearing paper bags over their heads while rooting for the losing Bengals, Ricardo Grant's dad always said the same thing: “This year they're going to go to the Super Bowl!”

“My hopes were always high for them!” Ricardo Lewis, 63, said Monday, standing with his son in the snow outside his home as Super Bowl week kicked off.

“Took him 30 years to predict it right. Now that statement is true,” said Grant, 36, a Cincinnati entrepreneur.

Then they laughed and laughed.

This sports-crazy, blue-collar city on the banks of the Ohio River didn't have much to celebrate until recently, when the Bengals' young quarterback Joe Burrow — the NFL's No. 1 draft pick in 2020 — led the team in a thrilling comeback from behind overtime victory over

SEE CINCINNATI ON A8

On the receiving end: Super Bowl matches stars in Chase, Kupp. **D1**



Cincinnati Bengals player C.J. Uzomah takes a selfie with fans during a Monday pep rally at Paul Brown Stadium, just before the team flew out for Sunday's game vs. the Los Angeles Rams.

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The Washington Post / Year 145, No. 70

0 70628 27100 7

Vacinação infantil no Brasil é lenta

País fica em penúltimo entre dez com dados detalhados analisados; limitação de doses e desinformação pesam contra

A despeito da ampla cobertura vacinal para outras doenças e da alta adesão de adultos à imunização contra a Covid, o Brasil é o nono entre dez países na aplicação de doses em crianças, mostra levantamento da Folha.

O Ministério da Saúde festejou na terça (8) o limiar de 15% de crianças de 5 a 11 anos cobertas com uma dose. Os 23 dias que o país demorou até a marca são quase o triplo do que levaram Canadá, Austrália, Argentina e Uruguai.

Alemanha, EUA, Chile e Itália também suplantaram a velocidade brasileira, e só a França, onde grassa o ativismo antivacina, ficou para trás. Foram consideradas nações que disponibilizam dados por data e idade.

Em termos absolutos, o Brasil era o terceiro país com mais injeções ministradas entre os dez analisados: 3,4 milhões, atrás de Argentina (9 milhões) e EUA (15,8 milhões). O ritmo é bem inferior ao potencial nacional.

Segundo o governo, o Brasil tem capacidade de aplicar 2,4 milhões de doses por dia. Especialistas citam a oferta limitada de doses e a desinformação — parte dela vinda do Planalto — como principais fatores a pesar contra.

Segundo o Datafolha, 79% apoiavam a imunização infantil em janeiro. Para adultos, eram 94%. **Saúde B3**

Zé Gotinha 'caça' crianças, e super-heróis se unem para atrair pequenos B4



Torcedor ferido é carregado perto do Allianz Parque, na zona oeste de SP, onde um homem foi morto em confusão após transmissão da final Nelson Almeida/AFIP

Esporte B1

Palmeiras sem título

Na prorrogação, time alviverde perde Mundial de Clubes para o Chelsea por 2 a 1, em Abu Dhabi. Em São Paulo, houve confusão perto do estádio do Palmeiras. Um torcedor foi baleado e morreu; o suspeito do tiro foi preso.

Juca Kfoury

É necessário se habituar a celebrar o 2º lugar **B1**

Tostão

Chelsea teve total domínio do jogo **B2**



Ilustração Daniel Lannes

22 + 100

Semana ainda diz muito sobre barbárie e grandeza do Brasil, escreve Wisnik **C4**

Modernismo paulista de 1922 liderou atualização das artes negociada com elite **C8**

MÔNICA BERGAMO

Não quero vingança, diz Shantal Verdelho, que denunciou médico Kalil **C2**

Lições de 22

Sobre revisitar ideia de país criada por modernistas.

Biden diz a Putin que atacar Ucrânia terá 'custos severos'

Em telefonema, Biden afirmou que EUA estariam prontos para "outros cenários", deixando a diplomacia. Ao francês Emmanuel Macron Putin disse que EUA fazem "especulação provocativa" ao invocar invasão iminente. **Mundo A13**

EUA têm vistos sobrando para trabalhador acima da média **A16**

Lula e Alckmin querem divulgar chapa em março

Em encontro na sexta-feira (11), o ex-presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (PT) e o ex-governador Geraldo Alckmin (sem partido) avançaram nas negociações para a formação da aliança e estabeleceram que a chapa deve ser anunciada em março. **Poder A4**

A pandemia em 12.fev

Dados das 20h

POPULAÇÃO VACINADA

No Brasil	
Ao menos uma dose (dose única ou 1ª dose)	80,9%
1º ciclo vacinal completo (dose única ou 2ª dose)	71,0%
Dose de reforço	26,0%

Nos estados	Ao menos uma dose	1º ciclo completo	Dose de reforço
SP	89,7%	79,9%	39,2%
PI	88,5%	77,6%	20,8%
MG	80,8%	74,2%	26,8%

ESTÁGIO DA DOENÇA

Óbitos	
Média móvel	Em 24 h
894	70,7%*
	Total 638.124

Casos nos estados

	Média móvel (variação*)
MG	20.395 (-25,0%)
PR	15.167 (-22,7%)
SP	13.958 (+21,6%)

*Variação em relação a 14 dias

Atacar antivacinas é aceno de Macron à base, diz analista

Mundo A13

Carnaval sem blocos frustra lojistas e turismo

Mercado A18



Ricardo Borges/Folhapress

A MULHER DO BONDINHO DO PÃO DE AÇÚCAR

Anna Caroline Boyd Martine, 38, que, em novembro, se tornou a primeira operadora do cartão-postal carioca em 109 anos; antes atendente, ela superou o medo de altura para ser a única mulher entre os 21 aptos a conduzir o teleférico **Mercado A19**

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Fonte: www.climatempo.com.br

- MÉTODO NO DIETA 7
- REVISTA PAUSA



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GOLPES DE ESTADO 2



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G. 25.000

Mañana se reúnen los legisladores para ver si avanzan con el proceso

Mientras Añetete analiza juicio, la Policía condecora a Quiñónez

La suerte de la fiscalía general es estudiada por los diputados. Los opositores consideran que la visita del encargado de Negocios de la Embajada de EEUU calmó los ánimos en el oficialismo.

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Informe de la Contraloría General

Los ministerios que más recursos manejan tienen un pobre control interno

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Merma de granos llega hasta el 70%

Los sojeros quieren reducir pérdidas por sequía con la zafraña

PÁGINA 20

Inmunización, la principal inquietud

Docentes piden que los niños se vacunen antes de volver a las aulas

PÁGINA 30



JOSÉ BOGADO

San Ber y el desafío de crecer sin perder atractivo

Capital del Verano. San Bernardino tiene auge en plena pandemia y sus autoridades quieren un plan de crecimiento que respete su patrimonio.

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Cancelar la visa, una nueva herramienta de EEUU para castigar a los corruptos

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Narcotraficantes prefieren a los jóvenes para expandir sus actividades delictivas

PÁGINA 54

Aprovechan los cargos para acomodar a sus leales
Políticos tienen apetecibles cupos en el servicio exterior

PÁGINA 10

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LE FIGARO

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À L'OCCASION DE
LA SAINT-VALENTIN
LE FIGARO SE MET
AUX COULEURS
DE MISS DIOR



BORDEAUX
BONS VINS, BONNES TABLES,
LA NOUVELLE VAGUE
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DONALD TRUMP
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Marine Le Pen
assume une défense
en solitaire PAGE 4

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Quatre civils tués
lors d'un raid
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**FIGARO OUI
FIGARO NON**

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Comment Valérie Pécresse veut remobiliser son camp

Confrontée au départ d'élus LR vers Emmanuel Macron et à la concurrence de Le Pen et Zemmour dans les sondages, la candidate va chercher à relancer sa campagne lors d'un grand meeting à Paris.

Faire taire les critiques et rassembler la droite autour d'un cap et d'une incarnation. Valérie Pécresse jouera gros, dimanche après-midi, pour son premier grand meeting parisien au Zénith. Depuis plu-

sieurs jours, la candidate planche sur son discours, durant lequel elle devrait insister sur son lien avec les Français. Un moment clé de sa campagne qui intervient à l'issue d'une semaine difficile marquée par

les ralliements de plusieurs élus LR à Emmanuel Macron : après Éric Woerth, c'est la maire de Calais, Natacha Bouchart, qui a annoncé au Figaro son soutien au président sortant. En coulisses, plusieurs

ministres et conseillers de l'exécutif travaillent activement à l'obtention de nouveaux débauchages - venant de droite comme de gauche - avant l'entrée officielle en campagne du chef de l'État.

→ **LA MACRONIE DÉCLARE OUVERTE LA CHASSE AUX RALLIEMENTS**
→ **GÉRARD LARCHER ET LAURENT WAUQUIEZ MONTENT AU FRONT POUR DÉFENDRE LEUR CANDIDATURE**
PAGES 2, 3, 16 ET L'EDITORIAL



La reconstruction de Notre-Dame, une aventure scientifique et technique

Une centaine de chercheurs travaillent sur le chantier de la cathédrale meurtrie par le feu en avril 2019. Avec un double objectif : aider à la restauration, mais aussi mieux connaître et comprendre ce joyau du patrimoine. PAGE 15

Ukraine : Joe Biden s'alarme d'une invasion imminente

Malgré les efforts diplomatiques d'Emmanuel Macron pour obtenir une « désescalade », le président américain estime que la crise ukrainienne atteint un stade critique, au point d'appeler ses concitoyens à quitter le pays sans délai. Tout en s'alarmant d'une montée en puissance de l'armée et de la marine russes, Joe Biden réaffirme qu'il n'envoiera pas de troupes en Ukraine, même pour évacuer les derniers Américains. PAGE 5

ÉDITORIAL par Yves Thérard ythear@lefigaro.fr

En attendant la musique

Après sa victoire à la primaire, Valérie Pécresse était, pour son parti, la promesse de lendemains qui chantent. Un peu plus de deux mois après, chez Les Républicains, entre défections, trahisons et petites phrases assassines, le climat est plombé. Le moral est sapé. Pourtant, à la lecture des sondages, les courbes n'ont pas vraiment bougé. Derrière Emmanuel Macron, qui fait la course en tête sans s'être encore déclaré, la candidate LR reste dans un mouchoir de poche avec Marine Le Pen, talonnée par Éric Zemmour. Rien n'est donc joué, d'autant moins que les électeurs se disent plus incertains que jamais. Mais c'est ainsi : une campagne présidentielle, comme la météo, c'est aussi une affaire de resenti, d'air du temps.

Dans son camp, nul ne conteste les qualités de Valérie Pécresse : une tête bien faite et, dit-on, une volonté de fer. D'apparition en apparition, l'impétrante, telle une bonne élève, déroule son catalogue de propositions avec application. Et, en supplément d'âme, comme si l'époque l'y obligeait, elle entend faire vibrer la corde féminine pour la première fois à droite. Tout y est, ou

presque, sauf que l'amalgame prend difficilement. On lui reproche de ressasser le passé au lieu d'embrasser l'avenir, de faire du neuf avec du vieux, de vouloir coller à toutes les sensibilités de sa famille politique. On cherche son identité, sa personnalité, son originalité. Bref, il y a les paroles, manquent la musique et cet entrain qui emporte les foules. La partition est là, manquent l'inspiration, le rythme et les percussions. Dimanche, Valérie Pécresse tiendra son premier grand meeting à Paris. Tout commence donc. C'est l'occasion pour elle de s'affirmer, de s'affirmer, de briser les chaînes, de donner envie d'avoir envie. C'est la chance de pouvoir marquer des points alors que son principal adversaire - Emmanuel Macron, qu'elle est seule à pouvoir battre au second tour - n'est pas encore entré en scène. La droite a quitté le pouvoir en 2012, mais son électoral est toujours là. Il n'attend qu'une étincelle pour se mobiliser. ■

