

## What's News

## Business &amp; Finance

The SEC is examining the relationship between the U.S. arm of Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange, and two trading firms with ties to Binance's founder. **A1**

◆ **Senate Republicans** refused to attend a crucial committee vote on Biden's nominees to the Fed over a disagreement with Democrats on Raskin, delaying the confirmation of all five picks. **A4**

◆ **U.S. stock indexes** climbed, with the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow gaining 1.6%, 2.5% and 1.2%, respectively. Energy prices slumped and bonds sold off. **B13**

◆ **GM will restart** production of the Chevrolet Bolt electric car after pausing output last year to fix a battery defect that could lead to fires. **B1**

◆ **ViacomCBS** said that it is renaming itself Paramount Global. The company posted a 16% increase in revenue for the latest quarter. **B1**

◆ **CNN marketing chief** Gollust resigned, the CEO of the network's parent said in a memo to employees. A probe found that Gollust and ex-CNN boss Zucker violated company policies, the memo said. **B1**

◆ **The FAA plans** to inspect and sign off on individual 787 Dreamliner jets rather than allow Boeing to perform those routine tasks. **B2**

◆ **Altria didn't break** antitrust laws when it took a large stake in e-cigarette startup Juul in 2018, an administrative law judge ruled. **B3**

◆ **Facebook parent** Meta Platforms has dubbed employees "metamates." **B4**

## World-Wide

◆ **Putin said** Russia had withdrawn some troops from the Ukrainian border and was open to renewed talks to end a standoff with the West, but Biden said an invasion remained "distinctly possible." **A1, A7**

◆ **A woman in the New York City area** appears to have been cured of an HIV infection, a case detailed at a conference on Tuesday. **A1**

◆ **Remington Arms** will pay \$73 million to families who lost loved ones in the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. **A3**

◆ **The Senate narrowly** confirmed Robert Califf to lead the FDA after a pitched effort by the White House to shore up support. **A4**

◆ **Babies born to mothers** vaccinated during pregnancy were significantly less likely to be hospitalized for Covid-19, a study found. **A3**

◆ **The Biden administration** has told Congress it needs an additional \$30 billion in coronavirus response aid. **A2**

◆ **Honduran police** arrested former President Hernández after officials said the U.S. government had requested his extradition. **A18**

◆ **Prince Andrew** has settled a federal sex-abuse lawsuit filed by Virginia Giuffrè, one of Jeffrey Epstein's most prominent accusers. **A3**

◆ **A federal judge** concluded that the New York Times didn't defame Sarah Palin in a 2017 editorial. **A5**

◆ **Died: P.J. O'Rourke**, 74, author and political satirist. **A3**

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## Standoff With Protesters Intensifies in Canada's Capital



**CLOSED DOWN:** Demonstrators against Covid-19 mandates continued to clog streets in Ottawa on Tuesday after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he would invoke emergency powers aimed at forcing protesters to leave. **A18**

## SEC Probes Binance's U.S. Arm, Affiliates of Crypto Exchange

The Securities and Exchange Commission is examining the relationship between the U.S. arm of Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange, and two trading firms, the people said.

By Caitlin Ostroff, Patricia Kowalski and Dave Michaels

firms with ties to Binance's founder, people familiar with the probe said.

The two trading firms, Sigma Chain AG and Merit Peak Ltd., act as market makers that

trade cryptocurrencies on the Binance.US exchange. One area of focus for regulators is how Binance.US disclosed to customers its links to the trading firms, the people said.

On its website, Binance.US says that affiliated market makers may trade on the exchange, though it doesn't name which firms might do so.

The SEC requested information about the two entities from Binance.US, which is Binance's U.S. affiliate and is the subject of an existing enforcement probe, the people said.

Corporate documents from 2019 tie Changpeng Zhao, Binance's founder and chief executive officer, to the two trading firms, and former executives said that as of late last year Mr. Zhao controlled them both.

A spokesman for Binance.US, Zachary Tindall, declined to comment on the SEC probe and any relationship with the two trading firms. "Binance.US is committed to upholding the highest standards of compliance," he said.

A spokesman for Binance, Stephen Milton, said as a pri-

vate company it doesn't need to disclose details of its investor or corporate structure. "However, that information is shared with regulators when requested," Mr. Milton said. Mr. Zhao wasn't available to comment. Mr. Zhao is the majority owner of Binance and Binance.US, The Wall Street Journal previously reported.

Market makers are important actors in the trading world. Please turn to page A2

◆ Digital clues led to bitcoin arrests. **B1**

## Woman Appears Cured Of HIV Infection

By BETSY MCKAY

A woman in the New York City area appears to have been cured of an HIV infection, joining a small group of people whose recovery is providing researchers with road maps to beat one of nature's most resilient viruses.

The woman has shown no detectable signs of the human immunodeficiency virus in extensive testing since she stopped antiretroviral treatment in October 2020 following a transplant of stem cells with a rare genetic mutation that blocks HIV invasion, her doctors said.

The doctors said they consider her HIV to be in long-term remission, suggesting a cure if it holds. That would mean she has no virus able to replicate in her body, unlike people who have HIV but stay healthy by keeping the virus at low levels with long-term drug treatment.

"Everything is looking very promising," said Marshall Glesby, associate chief of the division of infectious diseases at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian, who is treating the woman. The details of her case were presented Tuesday at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, which is being held virtually.

The woman, who had a form of leukemia, received a transplant of stem cells from an adult relative and umbilical-cord blood from a newborn to whom she wasn't related. Please turn to page A6



**U.S. NEWS**  
Remington will pay \$73 million to families of victims in the Sandy Hook shooting. **A3**

## INSIDE



**BUSINESS & FINANCE**  
NASA warns of crowding risk as SpaceX boosts satellite plans. **B1**

## China Invented Many Things. It Says Skiing Is One of Them.

Nation uses Olympics to further a claim skis originated there 10,000 years ago

By JAMES T. AREDDY

The compass, gunpowder, paper and...skis?

China is using the Winter Olympics to further a claim that skiing originated there 10,000 years ago, and to advertise Xinjiang, a part of the country usually synonymous with political strife, as both the source and future of the sport.

Skiing's roots are often traced to Northern Europe. The basis for China's origin claim is 10 purplish humanlike silhouettes atop something that could be skis, painted thousands of years ago under a rock overhang in what is now Xinjiang. Accompanied by renderings of 22 animals,

perhaps yaks or moose, the scene, possibly created as the Pleistocene period became the Holocene, suggests to archaeologists hunters tracking their prey on skis.

So far, only archaeologists connected to Chinese research institutions have concluded the pictograms are 10,000 years old, based on their observations of other rock art. Sometimes, Chinese media cite a figure of 12,000 years.

The rock paintings are located near the ancient Silk Road, close to the borders with Mongolia, Russia and Kazakhstan, 9,800 feet above sea level. The closest city is Altay. Please turn to page A9

## Ukraine's Battle Is Already Yearslong

By JAMES MARSON

KOROSTEN, Ukraine—A 20-year-old Ukrainian soldier on the front lines spent weeks reassuring his mother about the firefighters waged last year in eastern Ukraine.

On Dec. 23, he revealed the true danger during a last call home. "It's hot," Ihor Tychyna told his mother. "Very hot." Four days later, a sniper's bullet pierced his head and put him into a coma. He died at a hospital far from home on New Year's Day.

Ukrainians aren't waiting for the war with Russia to

start. They have been fighting one since 2014, when Russia first invaded and seized portions of the country. Moscow has since used armed proxies in eastern Ukraine to pursue a grinding conflict aimed at bringing its former vassal to heel. The war has cost the lives of at least 14,000 people, drained billions of dollars from Ukraine's economy and displaced hundreds of thousands of residents.

Even a partial withdrawal of Russian forces now threatening a larger invasion likely wouldn't mark the end of a

## The Fed's Slow Pivot To Tackling Inflation

After engineering a rescue in 2020, Powell must cool prices without causing a slump

By NICK TIMIRASO

During the first year of the pandemic, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell earned a reputation as a monetary dove, rolling out innovative policies aimed at preventing a financial and economic meltdown.

Today, he is changing into a hawk willing to be equally improvisational to tame inflation, now running at a 40-year high of 7.5%.

Whether he succeeds will go a long way to determine the future path of the economy as well as the central bank's credibility.

The need for the about-face is partly of the Fed's own making. Mr. Powell responded to the pandemic by doubling down on strategies

## GOP Senators Block Vote

Confirmation of Biden's Fed picks, including Powell, is delayed

By A4

developed by his predecessors to combat prolonged high unemployment and very low inflation. When the labor market healed rapidly and high inflation emerged as the bigger threat, he and his colleagues were caught by surprise.

"We're pretty far behind the curve. That's not where we wanted to be," said Eric Rosengren, who as president of the Boston Fed until last

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## A lost decade

Long financial Covid threatens political chaos — MARTIN WOLF, PAGE 15

## Emerging risks

The case weakens for investing in poorer countries — BIG READ, PAGE 13

## Deferred reckoning

Australian 'buy now, pay later' craze faces crunch — NIC FILDES, PAGE 5

# Putin open to talks but prolongs invasion threat against Ukraine

◆ Units leave border areas ◆ Grievances with Nato repeated ◆ Europe and US stocks rise

MAX SEDDON — MOSCOW  
POLINA IVANOVA — KYIV  
GUY CHAZAN — BERLIN  
SAN FLEMING — BRUSSELS

Vladimir Putin eased tensions in the Ukraine crisis yesterday, drawing down some Russian troops from border areas to enable "dialogue" with the west while keeping the threat of invasion hanging over his neighbour.

Russia's president said he was prepared to hold negotiations on intermediate nuclear missiles and confidence-building measures with the west if the US and Nato agreed to discuss Moscow's grievances with the transatlantic alliance — including its chief demand that it pledge never to admit Ukraine.

The comments, made after three hours of talks with Olaf Scholz, Germany's chancellor, were Putin's strongest indication that Russia is ready to de-escalate, despite western warnings of Moscow's plans for invading Ukraine.

Speaking alongside Putin, Scholz said diplomatic options were "not by any means exhausted". He added: "The fact that we're now hearing that some troops are being withdrawn is a good sign, and we hope that more will follow."

Putin said "a decision has been taken to partially withdraw forces" following what Russia claimed were exercises involving more than 150,000 troops near the border with Ukraine and in neighbouring Belarus.

But he said future negotiations would hang on the "real situation on the ground", which he said was unpredictable and "does not only depend on us".

Putin said Nato nations had suggested they would not admit Ukraine immediately but only when conditions were "ready". He added: "That might be too late for us. So we want to solve this issue right now ... as part of a peaceful negotiating process."

Addressing one of Russia's key demands, Scholz said Ukraine's Nato membership was "not on the agenda".

"That is not an issue that's going to



Vladimir Putin talks to the media after his meeting with Olaf Scholz in Moscow  
Key Note/Reuters

come up again while we're in office. I don't know how long the president intends to stay in office. I have the feeling that it will be a long time but not for ever," Scholz said.

The Scholz-Putin talks were the latest in a series of efforts by western leaders

to talk the Russian president out of invading Ukraine.

Jens Stoltenberg, Nato's secretary-general, said in Brussels he had not seen "any sign of de-escalation" by Russian troops but added there was reason for "cautious optimism", given signs that Moscow wished to continue diplomacy.

He warned that the security alliance had not seen signs of a reduced military presence and that Moscow still had the means to attack. "What we need to see is a significant and enduring withdrawal of forces, troops and not least the heavy equipment," Stoltenberg said.

Russia's defence ministry said earlier that units from the country's southern

and western military districts were heading back to base following drills. "The units ... have started loading on to rail and road transport and will start moving to their garrisons today," it said.

European and US equities rose after the announcement, the oil price fell.

Russia has threatened "the most unpredictable and grave consequences" if the west does not agree to two draft security protocols that would roll back Nato's presence in eastern Europe.

Additional reporting by James Politi in Washington  
Reports and analysis page 3  
Sebastian Payne page 14  
Lex page 16



Keith Alexander  
Page 15

Even if there is no invasion, Putin has put himself in a position where he must do something. The world has a front-row seat to what could be the first cyber war

## Power shifts on Wall St as private equity pay 'dwarfs' investment banks' rewards

ANTOINETTE GARA — NEW YORK

Top private equity firms set aside more than twice as much to pay each employee last year than leading investment banks, underscoring the shift of power and money towards the less regulated corner of Wall Street.

Flush with profits from buoyant equity markets, Blackstone, KKR and Carlyle Group earmarked \$22bn in pay and benefits per employee in 2021, according to calculations by the Financial Times.

That figure was at least twice as high as the equivalent amount at Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and the investment banking arm of JPMorgan Chase, which have much larger headcounts.

The five largest public buyout firms, a group that includes Apollo and Ares, recorded pay and benefits of \$23.2bn for their combined staff of about 11,700.

By contrast, Goldman set aside nearly \$18bn for its 45,900 workers, or about \$400,000 per employee. Evercore Partners, an investment banking advisory firm that rode the \$5.8tn M&A wave in 2021, set aside about \$1.9bn for its 1,850 staff, or roughly \$950,000 per employee, the most of any bank.

"The income and potential compensation at private equity firms dwarfs the banks," said Alan Johnson, head of pay consultancy Johnson Associates. "It's a different landscape than five or 10 years ago, when the banks were rocking and rolling and they were perceived to be the top of the heap."

About half the remuneration in private equity is unrealised carried interest, meaning employees' take-home pay is significantly lower than the reported figures. Private equity firms mark their unsold investments each quarter,

together with the corresponding carried interest their employees would receive at those values. That is contingent on future sales and can fluctuate wildly.

Investment banker pay also contains large, deferred bonuses, but these can be clawed back only in exceptional circumstances.

Top executives at private equity firms are also earning more than their counterparts in banking. Goldman chief executive David Solomon and JPMorgan's Jamie Dimon each earned about \$55m last year. That is likely to be a fraction of the earnings of Blackstone co-founder Stephen Schwarzman or KKR's Henry Kravis and George Roberts.

In 2020, Schwarzman received at least \$61.5m in pay and dividends, and Kravis and Roberts received about \$90m. Blackstone and KKR have not reported executive payouts for 2021.



### BP boss pledges beautiful future after faltering start

Bernard Looney accepts that his haste to advocate a greener BP once he took the helm two years ago failed to strike the right balance. A 2050 net zero pledge, low-carbon investment boost and vow to slash oil and gas output raised doubts inside and outside the company. But the Irishman, who joined BP in 1991, is upbeat again after strong results and a new plan for a smaller but more profitable fossil fuel division. "It's going to be beautiful," he tells the FT.

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World Markets											
STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				INTEREST RATES			
	Feb 15	prev	%chg		Feb 15	prev	%chg		Feb 15	prev	%chg
S&P 500	4469.25	4401.67	1.47	\$ per £	1.136	1.131	0.740	US Gov 10 yr	141.89	2.03	0.01
Nasdaq Composite	14082.13	13790.92	2.11	\$ per €	1.352	1.351	1.191	UK Gov 10 yr	1.50	-0.01	
Dow Jones Ind	35013.66	34599.17	1.29	€ per £	0.840	0.837	0.360	Gov 10 yr	0.31	0.03	
FTSE100	1827.96	1802.81	1.40	¥ per \$	115.726	115.585	0.120	Gov 10 yr	110.15	0.21	0.00
Euro Stoxx 50	4132.67	4094.45	0.93	¥ per €	158.482	156.152	1.521	US Gov 30 yr	102.68	2.34	0.02
FTSE 100	7608.92	7531.59	1.03	SFr per €	1.052	1.047		Gov 2 yr	103.86	-0.36	0.01
FTSE All-Share	4254.16	4211.74	1.02	€ per \$	0.881	0.884					
CAC 40	6879.57	6812.20	1.06								
Nikkei 225	15412.71	15113.67	1.96								
Hang Seng	24355.71	24059.57	-0.82								
MSCI World \$	3011.45	2939.18	-0.91	Oil WTI \$	82.14	85.46	-3.48	Feed Funds Eff	0.28	0.08	0.00
MSCI EM \$	1220.42	1240.51	-1.62	Oil Brent \$	93.39	96.40	-3.21	US 3m Bills	0.43	0.36	0.07
MSCI ACWI \$	700.34	715.46	-1.00	Gold \$	1886.15	1821.15	1.91	Euro Libor 3m	-0.58	-0.58	0.00
								UK 3m	0.89	0.86	0.03
								Prices are latest for action	Data provided by Bloomberg		
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## Families Settle Gunmaker Suit For \$73 Million

### Sandy Hook Case May Set Payout Record

This article is by Rick Rojas, Karen Zraick and Troy Closson.

The families of nine Sandy Hook school shooting victims settled a lawsuit for \$73 million on Tuesday against the maker of the AR-15-style rifle used in the massacre, in what is believed to be the largest payout by a gun manufacturer in a mass shooting case.

The agreement is a significant setback to the firearms industry because the lawsuit worked around the federal law protecting gun companies from litigation by arguing that the manufacturer's marketing of the weapon had violated Connecticut consumer law.

The families argued that Remington, the gunmaker, promoted sales of the weapon that appealed to troubled men like the killer who stormed into Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., on Dec. 14, 2012, killing 20 first graders and six adults. The lawsuit was filed by relatives of five of the children and four of the adults.

These nine families have shared a single goal from the very beginning: to do whatever they



Daniel Barden, who was killed in the Sandy Hook shooting.

could to help prevent the next Sandy Hook," said Josh Koskoff, the lead lawyer for the families. "It is hard to imagine an outcome that better accomplishes that goal."

In addition to the financial settlement, lawyers for the families said that Remington agreed to release thousands of pages of internal company documents, including possible plans for how to market the weapon used in the massacre — a stipulation that had been a key sticking point during negotiations.

The families have said that a

Continued on Page A15



Children taking speedskating lessons in Beijing. President Xi Jinping has made sporting success a pillar of the "Chinese dream."

## China Projects Power on Rink And Ski Slope

By AMY QIN

BEIJING — In the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, which has sweltering temperatures for much of the year, children are ditching their flip flops for skis and hitting the indoor slopes.

Out west, high up on the Tibetan Plateau, Qinghai Province has become an unlikely center for curling, the traditional Scottish sport known as "ice kettle" in Chinese.

Over in the northeastern province of Liaoning, a group of retired men gather every day in the winter to strap on helmets and hockey pads and face off on an outdoor ice rink.

Such scenes, once rare, are growing more common as the ruling Communist Party charges ahead with an ambitious campaign to transform China — large parts of which have never seen a single flake of natural snow — into a global winter sporting power.

The campaign was started in 2015 when China's leader, Xi Jinping, pledged that the country, which had just won the right to

Continued on Page B13

## For CNN's Chief, Walls Were Slowly Closing In

This article is by Emily Steel, Jodi Kantor, Michael M. Grynbaum, James B. Stewart and John Koblin.

Late in the day on Nov. 30, Jeff Zucker, the president of CNN Worldwide, summoned his star anchor and friend, Chris Cuomo, to a meeting in the network's skyscraper overlooking the Hudson River.

Mr. Zucker was joined by the network's chief marketing officer and his secret romantic partner — Allison Gollust. They had to deliver a delicate message.

Mr. Zucker told Mr. Cuomo that

### Sudden Exit by Zucker Came After Lengthy Series of Missteps

CNN was suspending him because of his unethical interactions with his brother, New York's governor. Mr. Cuomo was shocked and offered to resign. Mr. Zucker countered that the anchor might be able to return at some point, according to people with knowledge of the conversation.

Mr. Cuomo felt reassured. He and Mr. Zucker were confidants, their fortunes entwined. Mr. Cuomo didn't bother to consult a lawyer.

Barely 24 hours later, a letter arrived at CNN. It was from a lawyer representing a woman who had worked with Mr. Cuomo years earlier at ABC News. She said he had sexually assaulted her and that, in the heat of the #MeToo movement, Mr. Cuomo had tried to keep her quiet by arranging a flattering CNN segment about her employer at the time.

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LONDON: NOBUEKMAN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

### A Sneak Peek at Fall's Palette

Patterns from the Gabriela Hearst Fall 2022 show on Tuesday, part of New York Fashion Week.

## Stark Transformation From Ohio Moderate to Trump's 'No. 1 Ally'

By JENNIFER MEDINA  
and LISA LERER

BEACHWOOD, Ohio — In the fall of 2016, Donald J. Trump's presidential campaign was pressing Ohio's young state treasurer, Josh Mandel, to step it up. A former Marine, he held some sway

with Republican voters, and Trump aides wanted him doing more public events.

But Mr. Mandel couldn't quite find the time. He just had so many scheduling conflicts, he joked over breakfast with Matt Cox, a Republican lobbyist and, at the time, a friend. Mr. Cox recalled Mr. Man-

del rattling off the excuses he used to avoid being too closely linked to a candidate he wasn't sold on: Running after his three children, other political commitments, his observation of all those Jewish holidays.

Once Mr. Trump won, any reluctance from Mr. Mandel fell away

fast. Within weeks, he spoke at the president-elect's first victory rally, slamming those who were "avoiding Trump" during the election. Five days after the rally, he launched his second bid for Senate, borrowing Mr. Trump's catchphrases of a "rigged system" and

Continued on Page A16

## Jury Rejects Palin's Libel Claim Day After Judge Did the Same

By JEREMY W. PETERS

A jury rejected Sarah Palin's libel suit against The New York Times on Tuesday, a day after the judge said he would dismiss the case if the jury ruled in her favor because her legal team had failed to provide sufficient evidence that she — a stipulation that had been a key sticking point during negotiations.

The jury's verdict, and the judge's decision, served as a validation of the longstanding legal precedent that considers an occasional mistake by the media a necessary cost of discourse in a free society. And it came as those who

want to see journalists pay a steeper legal cost for getting something wrong are pushing the Supreme Court to reconsider the issue.

In absolving the Times of liability, the jury concluded that the newspaper and its former opinion editor James Bennet had not acted with the level of recklessness and ill intent required to meet the high constitutional burden for public figures who claim defamation.

Ms. Palin is expected to appeal, but appeals courts tend to be deferential.

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INTERNATIONAL A4-10

### Behind the Ottawa Protests

Self-appointed leaders, some with military and right-wing organizing backgrounds, have orchestrated a disciplined occupation.

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BUSINESS B1-6

### Fed Confirmations Stalled

Republicans unhappy with President Biden's pick for the nation's top bank supervisor retaliated with a no-show on a key Federal Reserve vote.

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OBITUARIES B15-16

### Conservative Political Satirist

P.J. O'Rourke was a voice from the right who skewered Democrats and Republicans alike. He was 74.

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### Third Person Cured of H.I.V.

A novel treatment using blood from an umbilical cord instead of bone marrow could open a door to helping more people of diverse racial backgrounds overcome their infections.

PAGE A19

### The Climate Leader Is Back

The Biden administration is restoring California's power to set its own limits on tailpipe pollution and is largely adopting the state's rules regarding heavy trucks.

PAGE A19



ARTS C1-8

### A Basquiat, or Not?

Questions have arisen about 25 vibrant paintings said to be by the artist that are now on display in Florida.

PAGE C1



FOOD D1-8

### Fancying Basic Chocolate

Sometimes, the most expensive ingredients aren't needed. Take a bite of the flourless cake, above, with melted chocolate chips, and you'll see why.

PAGE D1

### Chicken That Never Chirped

Some companies are racing to bring laboratory-grown meat to the market. "We are changing the paradigm," one company owner said. "We are detaching the meat from the animal."

PAGE D1

OPINION A20-21

### David Axelrod

PAGE A20



SHOP AT GRAFF

GRAFF  
WILD FLOWER

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## ANALYSIS

### Sandy Hook families' moment

Their breakthrough \$73-million settlement with gun maker is not just about money. It's about accountability.

By JENNY JARVIE, RICHARD WINTON AND MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE

For gun control advocates, the Sandy Hook settlement represents a rare and historic victory.

The families of nine people killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., announced Tuesday they had reached a \$73-million settlement in their lawsuit against Remington, the maker of the AR-15-style weapon the gunman used in the 2012 massacre.

The settlement is the largest in U.S. history involving a gun maker and relatives of mass shooting victims — but its significance goes beyond money. The legal agreement also offers an unusual step toward transparency: It requires Remington Arms Co., America's oldest gun manufacturer, which filed for bankruptcy in 2020, to release thousands of pages of internal company documents, including plans for how to market the weapon.

"This case was never about damages in the sense of compensation," Josh Koskoff, the families' lead attorney, said in a Tuesday news conference. "It was about damages in the sense of forcing change. It was about damages in the sense of realizing the goals of these families, to do whatever they can to prevent the next Sandy Hook."

For the firearms industry, the settlement is a major defeat that opens up the prospect of further litigation. For 17 years, gun makers have faced almost unique immunity from lawsuits thanks to the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, or PLCAA, a sweeping 2005 federal law championed by the National Rifle Assn. and signed into law by President George W. Bush. It protects firearms manufacturers and dealers from being held liable when their products are used in deadly crimes.

"This is a pivotal moment in the effort to use civil litigation to hold gun manufacturers accountable for how they market and sell their products," said Heidi Li Feldman, a professor of law at Georgetown University. "It is a big defeat for Remington ... but I wouldn't be surprised if it also leads to renewed calls for legislative [See Sandy Hook, A10]



A UKRAINIAN serviceman fires an antitank weapon during an exercise Tuesday in the Donetsk region. Russia announced that a number of troops it massed near Ukraine would be returning to their garrisons.

## Biden sees war risk despite Russia's troop pullback plan

### U.S., NATO seek proof that Moscow is living up to its claim

By NABIH BULOS

KYIV, Ukraine — Even as Moscow said it was withdrawing troops near Ukraine on Tuesday, signaling a possible easing of tensions with the West, President Biden warned that an invasion by Russian forces was "distinctly possible" in a standoff that has ignited concerns over a new and dangerous Cold War.

The Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement that large-scale exercises involving land, sea and air units were ongoing. But as combat training was completed, Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov indicated that a number of troops would be returning to their permanent barracks and garrisons.

The statement offered a measure of hope that Moscow was pulling back from a

full-scale invasion of its neighbor, a former Soviet republic. In recent weeks, Russia has massed more than 130,000 troops that have nearly encircled Ukraine. The deployments have raised alarm among Western governments as U.S. and NATO officials have warned of an imminent attack.

Hours after the Russian announcement, Biden said he wanted to "give the diplomacy every chance," even

as he noted that an invasion was "still very much a possibility."

"The Russian defense minister reported today that some military units are leaving their positions near Ukraine. That would be good, but we have not yet verified that," Biden said from the East Room of the White House. "Our analysts indicate that they remain very much in a threatening [See Ukraine, A6]

## Report predicts major rise in sea level

Flooding and erosion could put property and infrastructure at risk, study says.

By HAYLEY SMITH

Los Angeles and other coastal areas of the United States will experience frequent flooding, degraded infrastructure and other profound challenges as sea levels rise by as much as 1 foot by 2050, a federal study released Tuesday found.

The report outlines an alarming new future for communities, ecosystems and economies along the nation's seaboard, and predicts that the U.S. coastline will experience as much sea level rise in the next 30 years as it did in the last hundred years.

"It is eye-opening — 30 years, 2050, is not that far away," said Ben Hamlington, a research scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in La Cañada Flintridge and one of the report's lead authors.

Researchers found the United States coastline was, on average, 10 to 12 inches of sea level rise by 2050. On the West Coast, the anticipated rise will be as high as 8 inches.

Although a foot of sea level rise may not sound like much to some people, it would contribute to a significant increase in the frequency of coastal flooding — even in the absence of storms or heavy rainfall, researchers said.

The two primary causes of sea level rise are the expansion of ocean water as it warms, and the melting of [See Sea level, A16]

## Lost stories of Boyle Heights

### Former Black residents meet to reminisce, preserve fragile history



SHIRLEE SMITH, who once lived in Boyle Heights, created a Facebook book page to highlight the neighborhood's earliest Black residents.

By BRITNEY MEJIA

If you learn just one thing about Boyle Heights — a famously Latino neighborhood, home to Mariachi Plaza — Shirlee Smith hopes it's this: "We were there."

And, she said, we left our mark, although it is fading today in numbers and in memory.

Smith is 85 years old, a daughter of the Great Migration of Black people fleeing the segregated South. She grew up in Boyle Heights, once considered the Ellis Island of the West Coast, home to Mexicans and Jews, Russians and Italians, people of Japanese descent.

She created a Facebook group, Black Boyle Heights, to preserve and archive the fragile history of the neighborhood's earliest Black residents and the ones who followed. And on Feb. 6, as Black History Month kicked off, she convened a virtual celebration of the old days with [See Boyle Heights, A8]

## A Honduran leader's steep fall from grace

By KATE LINTHICUM, TRACY WILKINSON AND PAULO CERRATO

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — For years, U.S. officials faced an uncomfortable dilemma: The president of Honduras was one of Washington's top allies in Central America — but evidence was mounting that he was also a drug trafficker.

U.S. prosecutors identified President Juan Orlando Hernández as a co-conspirator in a drug smuggling case against his brother and by last fall appeared ready to indict him.

But the Biden administration

resisted. White House officials were reluctant to go after a sitting head of state — especially one whose government had received hundreds of millions of dollars and other crucial support from the Americans.

They urged prosecutors to wait at least until Jan. 27, when Hernández left office and a new president was sworn in.

It all came to a dramatic head late Monday when State Department officials formally requested his extradition on drug trafficking and weapons charges. The request alleged that [See Honduras, A4]

## County drops mask rule

Revised guidance ends mandate for face coverings outdoors at schools, child-care facilities and "mega" events. CALIFORNIA, B1

### UC Berkeley may face a freeze

Campus could be forced by court to cut 3,000 undergraduate seats and restrict enrollment. CALIFORNIA, B1

### Weather

Sunny, warmer. L.A. Basin: 66/47. B6

Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper.



JEFF ROBERSON Associated Press

## ASTERISK ON ICE

Figure skater Kamila Valieva's top score is tarnished by her positive drug test. SPORTS, D7



## Coastal waters to rise 1 foot by 2050

Revised federal estimate could mean heightened risk for 140,000 homes

BY SARAH KAPLAN  
AND BRADY DENNIS

The shorelines of the United States are projected to face an additional foot of rising seas over the next three decades, intensifying the threat of flooding and erosion to coastal communities across the country, according to a report released Tuesday by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Human-caused climate change, driven mostly by the burning of fossil fuels, has accelerated global sea level rise to the steepest rate in more than 3,000 years. The report by NOAA and other federal agencies — updating a study from 2017 — predicts that ocean levels along U.S. coasts will increase as much by 2050 as they did over the past century.

This amount of water battering the coasts “will create a profound increase in the frequency of coastal flooding, even in the absence of storms or heavy rainfall,” NOAA said.

“We’re unfortunately headed for a flood regime shift,” said William Sweet, an oceanographer at the NOAA National Ocean Service and the nation’s top scientist on sea level rise. “There will be water in the streets unless action is taken in more and more communities.”

Drawing on data from tidal gauges and satellite imagery as well as cutting-edge models from the most recent United Nations report on climate change, the NOAA analysis gives decade-by-decade projections for sea level rise for all U.S. states and territories over the next 100 years. Advances in ice sheet modeling and better observational data allowed the authors to give more definitive near-term projections than ever before, Sweet said.

“If the United States takes swift action to curb carbon emissions, he said, the trajectory for sea level rise “is more or less set over the next 30 years.”

Kristina Dahl, a principal climate scientist with the Union of

SEE SEA LEVEL ON A16

“I didn’t know if I was going to go back home without anybody.”

Chris Crouch



MARK FELIX FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## He was anti-vaccine. Then his pregnant wife got covid-19.

BY ARIANA EUNJUNG CHA

KINGWOOD, TEX. — Chris Crouch had low expectations for online dating. He was a police officer in his 30s, almost a year out from a painful divorce, and, he said, the woman he had met had been “playing games” in ways that left him dispirited.

Then he met her.

Diana Garcia Martinez was 24 and a busy single mom whose sister had set up her profile without her knowing. She was intelligent, empathetic and upfront, and by the third date, he was in love. “It was just a feeling. ... I felt like I knew her my whole

life,” he recalled explaining to his cousin Gilbert, knowing it was a cliché but also true.

Now, four years later, he was in a hospital intensive care room remembering their courtship as his wife lay unconscious, hooked up to a tangle of machines keeping her alive.

Diana was 20 weeks pregnant, and he had a decision to make.

If doctors delivered the baby now, they told him, she would have the best shot at surviving. But the baby was so premature that it would almost certainly die. If Chris waited, he could lose them both.

SEE DECISION ON A6

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SEE DECISION ON A6

## CDC: ‘Excess deaths’ during pandemic top 1 million

BY JOEL ACHENBACH

The United States has recorded more than 1 million “excess deaths” since the start of the pandemic, government mortality statistics show, a toll that exceeds the officially documented lethality of the coronavirus and captures the broad consequences of the health crisis that has entered

its third year.

The excess-deaths figure surpassed the milestone last week, reaching 1,025,916, according to Robert Anderson, chief of the mortality statistics branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center for Health Statistics. The center updates its estimate weekly.

Although the vast majority of

the excess deaths are due to the virus, the CDC mortality records also expose swollen numbers of deaths from heart disease, hypertension, dementia and other ailments across two years of pandemic misery.

“We’ve never seen anything like it,” Anderson said.

In 2019, before the pandemic, the CDC recorded 2.8 million

deaths. But in 2020 and 2021, as the virus spread through the population, the country recorded roughly a half-million deaths each year in excess of the norm.

The virus emerged in China in late 2019 and began killing people there in January 2020. It did not spread significantly in the United States until that February,

SEE DEATHS ON A5

### PERSPECTIVE

## Zimmerman makes his exit as the forever face of Nationals

BY BARRY SVRLUGA

He grew up here, right in front of us. When Ryan Zimmerman was 20 and played third base and the Washington Nationals made him the first draft choice in the history of the franchise, there were teenagers in the District who had no idea what it was like to have a Major League Baseball team at home. As he retires as a 37-year-old part-time first baseman — with all of his 1,799 games, his 1,846 hits, his 284 home runs in the same uniform — there are Washington teenagers who can’t imagine having

no home team for which to root. That’s a career, in full.

Zimmerman ends his professional life with the scars of a wrecked shoulder, a balky hip, feet that occasionally forced him to walk gingerly, not to mention so many other nicks he never discussed. The Nationals have a full-blown fan base with scars of its own, first from four excruciating losses in the division series, now from a rebuild that feels — well, it feels not unlike what needed to

SEE SVRLUGA ON A16

‘I’ve accomplished a lot’: Star spent 16 seasons with Nats. D1



JOHN MCCORMELL / THE WASHINGTON POST

Ryan Zimmerman embraces Washington teammate Gerardo Parra at Nationals Park on Oct. 3 after being removed from his last game.

## Sandy Hook families reach settlement with Remington

BY KIM BELLWARE

When the families of nine of the victims of the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School began their lawsuit against the gunmaker of the Bushmaster AR-15-style rifle, their goal was to spare other families the pain that had upended their own lives.

On Tuesday, the victims’ families marked a victory in that effort with the announcement of a \$73 million settlement with the now-bankrupt Remington Arms, which manufactures the Bushmaster.

“They had the motivation to do whatever they could ... so that other families — whether they are

in a suburb or township or city — would not have to go through the kind of pain and the loss that they had,” Joshua Koskoff, an attorney for the families, said during a Tuesday news conference.

The settlement, reached with the families of five children and four adults who were killed in the 2012 shooting, draws in all four of Remington’s insurers and allows the families to share thousands of pages of company documents it obtained during discovery — provisions that legal experts and attorneys for the families say represent a landmark victory in forcing a gun manufacturer to face responsibility for how it markets its

SEE REMINGTON ON A20

### IN THE NEWS



STEPHANIE KEITH FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

At odds in Ottawa Vaccine mandate protesters pledged to “stay to the end.” Many residents said it’s time for them to go. A3

**THE NATION** Robert M. Califf was confirmed to lead the FDA, giving the agency its first permanent head in more than a year. A3  
**Clashes between** Republican leaders and candidates backed by former President Donald Trump show his hold on the party may be weakening. A4

**THE WORLD** Prince Andrew of Britain has settled the sex abuse lawsuit brought

by a woman who says she was trafficked to him by financier Jeffrey Epstein. A9  
**Residents in** wealthy U.S. enclaves sent millions of dollars to support trucker convoys in Canada, an analysis of leaked data shows. A10  
**The government of** Nicaragua President Daniel Ortega has launched trials that could imprison most of his political opposition for years. A11

### THE ECONOMY

**The White House** and Democrats are pondering a tax holiday from federal pump fees as midterm elections loom and frustration grows over rising fuel costs. A17

### THE REGION

**A recent poll** found three-quarters of D.C. residents supported the vaccine requirements for businesses that Mayor Muriel E. Bowser recently rescinded. B1  
**Arlington County’s** largest adult homeless shelter moved all its residents to a motel for

weeks to contend with a coronavirus outbreak. B1  
**Bridge work** will complicate the commute into D.C. just as workers are starting to return in greater numbers. B1  
**At the halfway mark** of the Virginia General Assembly legislative session, the House and Senate are on markedly different paths. B1  
**A donation of** \$104 million to Virginia Commonwealth to fund liver research is thought to be the second-largest publicly shared gift to a college. B4

### INSIDE



**FOOD** 6 baking myths What you think you know about salt, sugar, bread and more.

BUSINESS NEWS.....A17  
COMICS.....C6  
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LOTTERIES.....B3  
OBITUARIES.....B4  
WORLD NEWS.....A6

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## deportes

Champions League  
Messi pudo festejar  
por su socio Mbappé

El PSG se aseguró un agónico triunfo, por 1 a 0, ante el Real Madrid; el rosarino erró un penal.

EL PRÍNCIPE ANDRÉS  
EVITA EL JUICIO POR  
ABUSO SEXUAL

—el mundo

Llegó a un acuerdo extrajudicial con la mujer que lo acusa de haber abusado de ella cuando era menor; deberá pagarle una compensación económica. **Página 6**

LA ESCRITURA  
MANUSCRITA, UN  
HÁBITO EN EXTINCIÓN

—sociedad

En los últimos dos años, la virtualidad debilitó la técnica de escribir en cursiva; es un fenómeno que abre un debate entre docentes y pedagogos. **Página 23**

## LA NACION

MIÉRCOLES 16 DE FEBRERO DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

Fernández defendió  
a Cristina ante la Justicia  
y se enfrentó a un fiscal

**CORRUPCIÓN.** Declaró que no hubo arbitrariedad en la obra pública, pese a que en el pasado cuestionó las licitaciones dadas a Lázaro Báez; se enojó cuando le marcaron la contradicción

El presidente Alberto Fernández declaró ayer como testigo en el juicio por el direccionamiento de obras públicas para el empresario Lázaro Báez durante los tres gobiernos kirchneristas y defendió a Cristina Kirchner, la principal acusada. Lo hizo personalmente, en el marco de una audiencia.

Fernández argumentó en favor de la vicepresidenta, y sostuvo que el reparto de obras no era una decisión "judicial". Durante su declaración, el Presidente embistió contra el fiscal Diego Luciani, a quien denostó diciéndole que tenía "un problema de comprensión". Luego se retractó. El momento más tenso

se produjo cuando el fiscal le pidió explicaciones sobre declaraciones de Fernández de 2016, cuando decía que le había advertido a Cristina Kirchner por la corrupción en la obra pública de Santa Cruz. El tribunal aceptó un pedido de las defensas de los acusados para que Fernández no respondiera. **Página 8**

## EL ESCENARIO

La pasó mal y se  
alineó con su vice

Hernán Cappiello

Página 9



El Presidente declaró frente al tribunal que juzga a Cristina Kirchner en la causa Vialidad

CAPTURA DE TV

Por los  
alimentos,  
la inflación  
de enero  
fue de 3,9%

**PRECIOS.** Las verduras y las frutas se dispararon; también pesó la hotelería

Con una significativa suba en el precio de los alimentos, la inflación de enero fue de 3,9% y se mantiene en niveles altos. En términos interanuales marcó un 50,7%.

Según informó el Indecyer, el capítulo de alimentos y bebidas —el que más pesa en el índice— subió 4,9%, debido a los aumentos en frutas y verduras. También tuvo una fuerte alza el precio del pan, entre otros productos de esa canasta. Se sumaron aumentos en prepagas, hotelería y en los planes de los celulares. **Página 16**

## EL ANÁLISIS

Los Kirchner  
no quieren  
el acuerdo

Joaquín Morales Solá

—LA NACION—

**S**í, es mejor que calle. El ala libertista del Gobierno tenía razón cuando decía que lo mejor que podía hacer Cristina Kirchner para colaborar con el acuerdo con el Fondo Monetario era callarse. Se calló a medias, de todos modos. Su vocero más inconfundible en el Senado, José Mayans, habló en nombre de ella. **Continúa en la página 14**

Reconstruyen  
la huida de los  
asesinos del  
comerciante

**CASEROS.** Revisan sus movimientos a través de videos y analizan varias huellas dactilares. **Página 26**

Europa y EE.UU. reciben con desconfianza  
una señal de Rusia para distender la crisis

Rafael Mathus Ruiz  
CORRESPONSAL EN EE.UU.

WASHINGTON.— Estados Unidos y sus aliados europeos recibieron con escepticismo y desconfianza la señal de distensión más nítida

que ha ofrecido hasta el momento el presidente de Rusia, Vladimir Putin, para intentar desescalar la crisis en Ucrania: el retiro de parte de los 150.000 soldados que el Kremlin mantiene desplegados en esa frontera y en territorio de

Belarús. Sin embargo, los líderes occidentales mantuvieron la esperanza y la expectativa de poder llegar a una solución diplomática con Moscú que permita evitar una nueva guerra en Europa. **Continúa en la página 2**

Ordenan que  
Jones Huala  
vuelva  
a la cárcel

**CAMBIO.** Lo decidió la Corte de Chile; se desconoce el paradero del líder de la RAM

Página 10



**Ilustrada C1**

## Morre Jabor, diretor do cinema novo e jornalista

Arnaldo Jabor, jornalista e cineasta que fez parte da geração do cinema novo, morreu na madrugada de ontem, aos 81 anos. Internado desde dezembro em São Paulo, não resistiu a complicações de um AVC.

O carioca dirigiu sucessos como "Toda Nudez Será Castigada" (1973), pelo qual venceu o Urso de Prata em Berlim, e "Eu Te Amo" (1981). Dado à polêmica, era conhecido também por comentários em telejornais da TV Globo.

**ANÁLISE**

**Inácio Araújo**

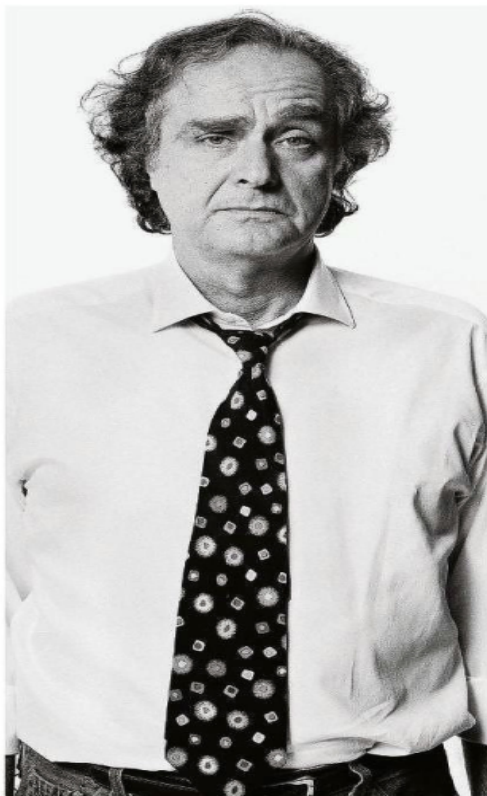
Cineasta foi quem melhor traduziu Nelson Rodrigues

**Ilustrada C2**

**Fernanda Torres**

Jabor explorava idiosincrasias de sua própria classe

**Ilustrada C8**



Arnaldo Jabor em retrato de 1996 Bob Wolfenson

## Negros são maior alvo de abordagem policial no Rio, mostra estudo

Menos da metade da população, pretos e pardos sofrem 63% das revistas, indica Datafolha; PM nega ter viés racial

Pretos e pardos são 63% das pessoas que dizem terem sido abordadas e revistas pela polícia no Rio, embora representem 48% da população da cidade. Segundo relatório publicado pelo Centro de Estudos de Segurança e Cidadania da Universidade Cândido Mendes a partir de pesquisa do Datafolha, a discrepância ocorre em todos os tipos de situações.

O estudo, lançado ontem, aponta ainda que nas abordagens de pretos e pardos abusos ou constrangimentos são mais recorrentes.

Gênero, endereço, renda e idade pesam: 75% dos alvos são homens; 66% vivem na periferia ou em favela; 60% ganham até três salários mínimos; 48% têm até 40 anos. E 17% dizem já ter sofrido mais de dez abordagens.

A Polícia Militar fluminense nega que exista viés racial em suas ações e diz seguir protocolos rígidos.

O Datafolha ouviu 3.500 indivíduos em maio passado, a partir dos quais foi formada uma amostra de 739 pessoas que espelha a população municipal. Na segunda etapa, foram realizadas conversas com diferentes grupos, inclusive PMs. **Cotidiano B3**

## Putin promete saída parcial de tropas

Sem oferecer detalhes que cessassem o ceticismo americano e europeu, o russo Vladimir Putin anunciou a saída parcial das tropas que fazem exercícios militares perto da Ucrânia. Este dia 16 foi aventado por agências de inteligência estrangeiras como o de uma possível invasão do país vizinho.

O anúncio foi feito às agências de notícias russas pelo Ministério da Defesa e não especifica quantos dos 130 mil soldados serão removidos, limitando-se a dizer que são efetivos instalados próximos à fronteira.

O americano Joe Biden elogiou a manobra e acenou com possíveis negociações.

Disse, porém, que a retirada não foi verificada.

Moscou, que nega buscar guerra, quer conter a expansão da Otan, aliança militar capitaneada pelos EUA, entre ex-aliados. **Mundo A10**

**Em Moscou, Bolsonaro segue protocolos para se encontrar com russo A10**

## Boom de carros usados agrava escassez de peças

A falta de carros novos para pronta entrega levou em 2021 a uma alta de 18,8% nas negociações de modelos usados ante 2020. O fenômeno agravou a escassez de peças para conserto. Clientes chegam a aguardar até quatro meses para retirar seu veículo da oficina por não haver componentes. **Mercado A14**

**A pandemia em 15.fev** Dados das 20h

**POPULAÇÃO VACINADA**

**No Brasil**

Ao menos uma dose (dose única ou 1ª dose)

**81,2%**

1º ciclo vacinal completo (dose única ou 2ª dose)

**71,1%**

Dose de reforço

**26,6%**

**ESTÁGIO DA DOENÇA**

**Óbitos**

Média móvel

**847**

Casos ↓ -31,1%\* (acelerado)

\*Variação em relação a 14 dias

Em 24 h

909

Total

639.822

## EUA e Europa derrubam maioria das restrições contra Covid A12

## Podcasts viram via para políticos atingirem bolhas longe de regras

Os podcasts de entrevistas viraram alvo de marqueteiros que cuidam de campanhas dos candidatos, que participam longe das restrições da legislação eleitoral.

Febre no YouTube, os programas dão aos políticos a chance de falar por horas e serem vistos por um público que não acompanha o noticiário tradicional. **Política A4**

**Helio Beltrão**

**Obsessão por subsídio e tabelamento**

A obsessão por tabelar preços e brincar com as contas do governo impacta negativamente o risco percebido do Brasil por investidores, causando a alta do dólar e do preço dos combustíveis. O populismo faz o estrago e o brasileiro paga. **Mercado A22**

## Pactos com plataformas para eleições ficam aquém dos EUA A7

## Militar que levou droga em avião oficial é condenado

Sargento da FAB Manoel Rodrigues é punido com 14 anos de prisão. Ele foi detido em 2019 com 37 kg de cocaína em avião de apoio à comitiva presidencial. **B4**

**EDITORIAIS A2**

**Bonança estadual**

A respeito de sobras nos caixas dos governadores.

**Idas e vindas**

Sobre programas para a população de rua em SP.

**ATMOSFERA**

São Paulo hoje

29° 17°

Hoje Amanhã  
Rio 21 29 20 32  
Brasília 19 27 19 26  
Ribeirão 21 33 20 30

Fonte: www.climatempo.com.br



Pedro Ladeira/Folhapress

## PF FAZ OPERAÇÃO NO PARÁ CONTRA GARIMPO ILEGAL QUE TURVOU ÁGUA DO CARIBE DA AMAZÔNIA

Integrante do Ibama em ação conjunta que ocorreu em pontos de extração de ouro nos rios Crepori e Tapajós, próximos à terra indígena Mundurucu **Ambiente B6**



Votos de la bancada en Diputados son cruciales para que prospere iniciativa

## Llanistas esperan retorno de Llano para decidir suerte de Quiñónez

Directorio del PLRA recordó a sus diputados que la posición es a favor del juicio político a la fiscal general. El Ministerio Público es muy selectivo en sus investigaciones.

PÁGINA 6 a la 10

Encuesta del Banco Central

**Agentes económicos esperan menor suba del PIB y más inflación**

PÁGINA 17

Familiares rechazan desalojo en Ingavi

**La curva de contagios por el Covid-19 sigue en caída libre**

PÁGINAS 2 y 3

Presuntas irregularidades

**El Ejecutivo dispone cambios en Conajzar tras imputaciones**

PÁGINA 15

**Narco vivía en medio de lujos y con orden de no ser molestado**



**Hernandarias.** Lindomar Reges Furtado, con 67 causas en el Brasil, gozaba de un hábeas corpus. Guardias del Paraná Country Club facilitaron escape.

PÁGINA 40

El mercado es desfavorable en materia de precios

**MIC y emblemas buscan reducir costos para minimizar suba de combustibles**

PÁGINA 14

Uso de los fondos de emergencia por la pandemia

**Contraloría no avanza en investigar los gastos del 2021 de Nenecho**

PÁGINA 4

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**RAIZE**

LA SUV FÁCIL  
DE CONDUCIR  
PARA UNA VIDA  
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L'EUROPE VEUT RÉDUIRE SA DÉPENDANCE AU GAZ RUSSE PAGES 22 ET 23


**PRÉSIDENTIELLE**  
Pécresse veut garder le cap face aux vents contraires PAGE 6

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Mbappé donne la victoire au PSG face au Real PAGE 13

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Antoine Arnault : « Un nouveau Berluti droit dans ses bottes » PAGE 34

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- La chronique de Bertille Bayart
- L'analyse de Philippe Gélie

 PAGES 16 À 19

**FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON**
**Réponses à la question de mardi :**  
Faut-il une nouvelle loi pour interdire le franglais dans la communication publique ?

**NON 29% OUI 71%**

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 170 663

**Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr**  
Faut-il supprimer le passe vaccinal ?

KIM HONG-BY/REUTERS - MARK GARLICK / SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRA / MGA / SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY VIA AFP

## Ukraine : Poutine joue l'apaisement



Moscou a annoncé l'amorce d'un retrait de ses troupes à la frontière ukrainienne. Un geste de désescalade après des semaines de montée en tension. PAGES 2 À 4 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

## Levée des restrictions sanitaires : pas d'accélération en vue

Réouverture des discothèques, retour de la consommation debout dans les bars, fin du masque dans certains lieux, allègement du protocole à l'école... mais maintien du

passe vaccinal. Les autorités lâchent du lest alors que l'épidémie reflue, mais attendront que l'hôpital soit vraiment hors de danger pour accélérer le calendrier. PAGES 8 ET 9



## Internet : l'Europe veut se doter de sa propre constellation de satellites

Le commissaire européen Thierry Breton a dévoilé les détails du projet européen de flotte de satellites dédiés à internet, avec une mise en service à partir de 2024. La constel-

lation servira à apporter le haut débit dans les zones mal raccordées, mais aura aussi un intérêt pour la sécurité du continent, avec des communications sécurisées. PAGE 14

**ÉDITORIAL** par Patrick Saint-Paul psaintpaul@lefigaro.fr

## Désescalade

Ce n'est pas encore la grande retraite vers les casernes de Russie. Mais alors que l'on disait l'Europe au bord de la guerre en Ukraine, après des semaines de montée en tension, il s'agit bien de l'amorce d'une désescalade ; la voie s'ouvre pour une sortie diplomatique. Les Américains et leurs alliés multiplient les mises en garde : Vladimir Poutine possède encore assez de troupes à la frontière - un neuvième des effectifs de son armée - pour envahir l'Ukraine. Demain, si c'est sa volonté ! Aussi fragile soit-il, le retrait de troupes et de chars concédé par le maître du Kremlin porte cependant un coup d'arrêt à un fol engrenage.

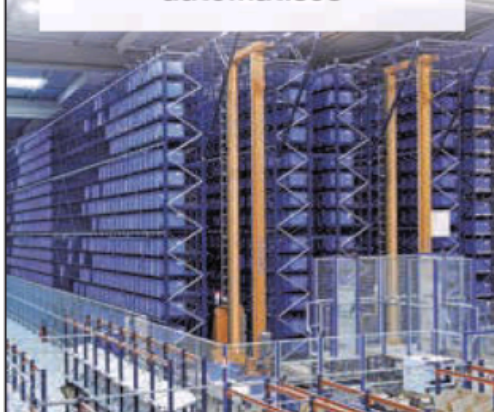
La stratégie de la tension maximale a projeté les Occidentaux et les Russes au bord d'une débâcle diplomatique qui aurait pu conduire à une guerre dévastatrice. Washington annonçait l'invasion russe de l'Ukraine pour ce mercredi, alors que Moscou ne cessait de masser des troupes à la frontière. Chacun peut désormais prétendre sortir gagnant de cette crise. Sans faire la guerre, Poutine a semé le chaos en Ukraine, montrant son pouvoir de déstabilisation. Il a obtenu la garantie que l'adhésion à l'Otan de ce pays de

l'espace russe ne sera pas pour demain et que ses préoccupations sécuritaires seront prises en compte à l'avenir. Il a fait comprendre à Kiev que ni les États-Unis ni l'Europe n'iraient se battre en Ukraine... Mais il a aussi redonné une raison d'être à une Otan que l'on disait en état de « mort cérébrale ». Après les divisions provoquées par les années Trump et les ratés de la présidence Biden (Afghanistan, affaire Aukus), les Occidentaux ont serré les rangs pour montrer un front uni. Et, contrairement aux précédents en Géorgie et en Crimée, l'Amérique

peut se targuer d'avoir fait reculer Poutine. Cela suffira-t-il à enrayer définitivement la dynamique de la guerre ? Poutine ne se privera pas de souffler à nouveau le chaud et le froid, et de poursuivre sa diplomatie de l'incertitude. Même s'il garde toutes les options ouvertes, un optimisme prudent est permis. À quoi bon faire la guerre sans certitude de gagner plus et prendre le risque de tout perdre ? ■

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→ Interview G2



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# Prince settles Giuffre sex assault case out of court

● Deal spares Andrew humiliation of giving evidence at civil trial

● Costs 'to exceed \$10m' and donation to go to victims' rights charity

Caroline Davies  
Harriet Sherwood  
Richard Adams

The Duke of York settled the sex assault case filed against him by Virginia Giuffre for an undisclosed sum yesterday, sparing him the humiliation of giving evidence in a trial and protecting the royal family from further reputational damage.

The out-of-court settlement in the US civil case means Prince Andrew makes no admission of guilt over claims by Giuffre that he sexually assaulted her on three occasions when she was 17, allegations he has repeatedly denied.

In a letter filed to the judge, Lewis A Kaplan, yesterday lawyers for Andrew, 61, and Giuffre, 38, said the two had reached a "settlement in principle". A statement read: "The parties will file a stipulated dismissal upon Ms Giuffre's receipt of the settlement (the sum of which is not being disclosed)."

It added that Andrew would make a "substantial donation" to Giuffre's charity in support of victims' rights. International lawyers told the Guardian that the cost to Andrew was likely to be more than \$10m (£7m) even before paying his own legal bill that is expected to run into millions.

The legal statement continued that Andrew had "never intended to malign Ms Giuffre's character" and that he recognised she had "suffered both as an established victim of abuse and as a result of unfair public attacks". Andrew also pledged to "demonstrate his regret for his association" with the sex offender financier Jeffrey Epstein, by supporting the "fight against the evils of sex trafficking, and by supporting its victims".



▲ Prince Andrew: the settlement means he will not have to give evidence under oath in a civil trial  
PHOTOGRAPH: MAX MUMFORD/INDIGO/GETTY IMAGES

**'This was always the only outcome for the royal family in terms of damage limitation'**

David McClure  
Royal author

He commended the "bravery of Giuffre and other survivors in standing up for themselves and others".

The move is a remarkable turnaround for the prince, who had promised to fight to clear his name in court, and whose lawyer had described Giuffre's claim as "baseless" and her of seeking a "payday". Andrew has always denied having a sexual relationship with Giuffre when she was a teenager.

The duke's legal team declined to comment on the settlement. Giuffre's lawyer, David Boies, said of the statement: "I believe the event speaks for itself." The settlement was

announced weeks before Andrew was due to give a sworn deposition to Giuffre's lawyers. It means there will be no civil trial, and he will not have to give evidence under oath or in front of a jury.

Buckingham Palace declined to comment. Last month, the Queen stripped her second son of his royal patronages, honorary military titles, and his official use of his HRH style in an attempt to distance the institution of the monarchy from the case. It is understood there are no plans for those patronages to be restored to him with the duke continuing not to undertake any

## Biden warns Ukraine invasion is still possible

Julian Borger Washington  
Andrew Roth Moscow  
Philip Oltermann Berlin

Joe Biden has said that 150,000 Russian troops remain in a "threatening position" around Ukraine despite claims of a withdrawal, and he warned that an invasion "remains distinctly possible".

In a televised address from the White House last night, the US president combined a repeated offer of security talks with a warning of severe repercussions if Russia carries out an attack that US intelligence has reportedly assessed could take place as early as today.

He said he would "rally the world" to oppose Russian military action but made clear that the response would be primarily economic, saying: "I will not send American servicemen to fight in Ukraine."

But he made clear that any attack on Nato territory or harm to Americans would be treated differently.

"We're not seeking direct confrontation with Russia, though I've been clear that if Russia targets Americans and Ukraine, we will respond forcefully," Biden said. "If Russia attacks the United States or our allies through asymmetric means, like disruptive cyber-attacks against our companies or critical infrastructure, we're prepared to respond."

Earlier in the day, the websites run by the Ukrainian defence ministry, the armed forces and the country's largest

**Labour leader: government must cancel national insurance rise and act on bills**

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