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What's News

World-Wide

Biden said he's convinced that Russia's Putin has decided to invade Ukraine and that he expects an attack in the coming days, with targets including the Ukrainian capital. **A1, A8**

◆ **Trump** had classified government records at his Florida residence, the National Archives told a congressional panel, saying it was in communication with the Justice Department on the matter. **A4**

◆ **The FDA** delayed its review of Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine in children under 5 years old because the initial two-dose series so far wasn't working well against the Omicron variant during testing. **A5**

◆ **The Senate** unanimously passed legislation to require Supreme Court justices and federal judges to promptly post online their stock trades and financial holdings. **A4**

◆ **Former Brooklyn Center, Minn., police officer** Kimberly Potter was sentenced to two years in prison for the killing of Daunte Wright. **A3**

◆ **Police in Ottawa** towed heavy-duty trucks and made dozens of arrests as they moved to clear a protest against Covid-19 mandates. **A7**

Business & Finance

◆ **America's largest frackers** are reporting huge profits but plan to keep oil production in low gear this year, adhering to an agreement with Wall Street, even as prices approach the \$100-a-barrel mark for the first time since 2014. **A1**

◆ **The hot U.S. housing market** extended into the new year as buyers rushed to buy homes in the face of record-low inventory and climbing mortgage rates. **A1**

◆ **Fed officials** pushed back against the prospect that they would begin raising interest rates next month with a larger half-percentage-point increase. **A2**

◆ **Major U.S. stock indexes** posted weekly losses amid the threat of an invasion of Ukraine and the uncertain path of monetary policy. **B1**

◆ **GE warned** that supply-chain problems, labor shortages and inflation would weigh on its financial results in the first half of the year. **B1**

◆ **The SEC pushed back** on Tesla's allegation that regulators are harassing Musk over his compliance with a 2018 regulatory settlement. **B12**

NOONAN

San Francisco
Schools the Left **A15**

NOTICE TO READERS

WSJ.com and WSJ mobile apps will publish throughout the weekend. The print edition won't appear on Monday, Washington's Birthday (or Presidents' Day), but a daily edition will be available in WSJ iPad and Android apps.

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Residents of the Ukrainian-controlled town of Stanytsia Luhanska in the Luhansk region clean up debris in a home on Friday after shelling by Russia-backed separatists.

Russia Is Set To Invade, Biden Says

President Biden said Friday he's convinced Russian President Vladimir Putin has decided to invade Ukraine and that he expects an attack in the coming days, with targets including the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv.

By Gordon Lubold,
Michael R. Gordon,
and Yaroslav Trofimov

U.S. officials said a Russian attack could involve a broad combination of jet fighters, tanks, ballistic missiles and cyberattacks, with the ultimate intention of rendering Ukraine's leadership powerless. The officials said Mr. Putin has laid the groundwork in recent days through a series of destabilizing activities and false-flag operations—long predicted by U.S. and allied officials—that intended to make it

look as if Ukraine has provoked Russia into a conflict, thus justifying the Russian invasion.

Speaking at the White House, Mr. Biden referred to the Kremlin's efforts to fabricate a pretext for Russian forces to attack, which he said is expected in coming days.

"We believe that they will target Ukraine's capital Kyiv, a city of 2.8 million innocent people," Mr. Biden said. He said he was providing the information because "we're doing everything in our power to remove any reason that Russia may give to justify invading Ukraine and prevent them from moving."

Asked about whether Mr. Biden

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◆ **Russian naval exercises** jeopardize Kyiv's exports... **A8**
◆ **Stock indexes** post weekly losses amid invasion threat... **B1**

Frackers Hold Back Production As Global Oil Market Tightens

By COLLIN EATON

America's largest frackers are reporting huge profits but plan to keep oil production in low gear this year, adhering to an agreement with Wall Street, even as prices approach the \$100-a-barrel mark for the first time since 2014.

Three of the largest shale companies, Pioneer Natural Resources Co., Devon Energy Corp. and Continental Resources Inc., this week re-

ported their highest annual profits in more than a decade for 2021. The companies said they collected record amounts of extra cash by hanging on to the money they earn selling oil and natural gas and reinvesting only what they needed to keep output roughly flat. All three said they would continue to limit production growth this year.

They are pledging austerity despite a tightening oil-market supply. Global oil production

growth isn't keeping pace with renewed demand as economies recover from the pandemic, and the threat of a Russian invasion of Ukraine is rattling markets. Those dynamics have alarmed the White House, which has asked U.S. producers to drill more as it confronts soaring gasoline prices and broad inflation.

For now, most large shale companies aren't answering the White House's call, sticking to commitments they

made to limit production and return more cash to shareholders, an effort to win back investors who fled the industry after years of poor returns. U.S. oil prices fell almost 1% Friday to \$91.07 a barrel.

Oklahoma-based Devon, the top performer in the S&P 500 last year, said it has expanded a share-buyback program by 60% and raised its dividend to a record level. The company also said it collected \$2.8 billion.

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EXCHANGE



POWER STRUGGLE

Why America's electrical grid is increasingly unreliable.

B1

Inside Facebook's \$10 Billion Breakup With Advertisers

Privacy changes prompt e-commerce businesses to cut ad spending

Facebook was long one of the surest bets in digital advertising. No longer. Martha Krueger, who runs a gift-basket business called Giften Market, used to spend

By Suzanne Vranica,
Patience Haggin
and Salvador Rodriguez

her entire advertising budget on Meta Platforms Inc.'s Facebook and Instagram. She picked up a new customer for every \$14 she spent.

When Apple Inc. introduced a privacy feature for mobile devices last year that restricts user tracking, she said, her costs to

acquire such customers rose 10-fold. In October, she shifted her whole ad budget to search ads on Alphabet Inc.'s Google.

Lots of other companies that depend on e-commerce sales, including makers of nutritional powders, eyebrow stencils and toilet sprays, are taking a look at their bottom lines and deciding the same thing. They are slashing their spending on Facebook and Instagram and sending their ad money to Google, Amazon.com Inc., Snap Inc. and other platforms, according to ad buyers and e-commerce companies.

The privacy change is hitting the heart of Meta's business: its ability to target ads at

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Moon, June Left Marooned: Pop Songs Embrace Imperfect Rhymes

Artists rely more on unusual echoes than ones that land right on the mark

By JAMES R. HAGERTY
AND ANNE STEELE

In her recent hit song "Btural," the pop star Olivia Rodrigo confesses:

And I'm not cool and I'm not smart

And I can't even parallel park

Wait. Does "smart" rhyme with "park?"

Not exactly, but both words contain an "ar"

sound, creating an ear-pleasing echo. "I would give her great

marks for that," said Erin Chase, who teaches songwriting at Boston's Berklee College of Music.

Songwriters are growing more inclined to take liberties with their rhymes, as artists find imperfect ones can sound better than those that land right on the mark. In the music business, rhymes are more of an art than a science. Approximate rhymes have been around forever but

Please turn to page A10

A Sour Skating Final Prompts Soul Searching

After a wrenching night at the Olympics that ended with Russian teenagers in tears and the sport in tatters, figure skating began to sift through the wreckage of what appeared to

By Georgi Kantechev,
Ben Cohen
and Louise Radnofsky

be a systemic failure of the people who were supposed to be the adults in the rink.

All of the sport's darkest fears—about pushing ever-younger athletes through more grueling training to achieve ever-more dizzying achieve-

ments—exploded in one historic night of collective meltdown.

Fifteen-year-old Kamilla Valieva, faltered and slipped under the glare of a doping scandal, only to be confronted by her coach, Eteri Tutberidze, who demanded: "Why did you stop fighting?"

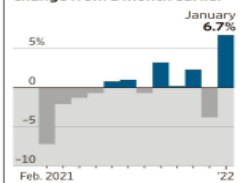
Another Russian teen, 17-year-old Alexandra Trusova who finished second, fell apart over failing to win and declared, "I hate this sport!"

And gold medalist Anna

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◆ **Jason Gay: Grim Olympics** stumble to the finish... **A11**

U.S. existing-home sales, change from a month earlier



Note: Seasonally adjusted annual rate. January 2022 is preliminary. Source: National Association of Realtors

Sales Rise As Supply Of Homes Dwindles

By NICOLE FRIEDMAN
AND BRYAN MENA

The hot U.S. housing market extended into the new year as buyers rushed to purchase homes in the face of record-low inventory and climbing mortgage rates.

Existing-home sales rose 6.7% in January from the prior month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.5 million, the National Association of Realtors said Friday, with sales increasing in regions across the country. January sales fell 2.3% from a year earlier.

The housing market remains extremely competitive. Rising mortgage rates in recent weeks have prompted buyers to move quickly in case interest rates climb further, real-estate agents say. Homes are frequently selling within days for more than their list prices. More houses are being purchased with cash, and first-time buyers are getting squeezed out.

Still, the shortage of homes on the market is holding back the number of sales, economists say. On top of that, some buyers have been sidelined as rising prices and higher interest rates have made homeownership less affordable.

The median existing-home price rose 15.4% in January from a year earlier, NAR said, to \$350,300.

"Buyers were likely anticipating further rate increases

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◆ **Fed officials** dispel prospect of half-point rate rise... **A2**
◆ **Heard on the Street:** Rates will rain on house party... **B14**

Big money, big stars and big impact



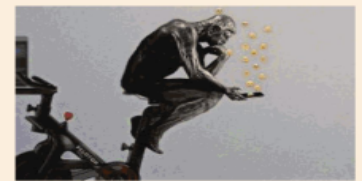
Simon Kuper on 30 years of the English Premier League

LIFE & ARTS

Kaja Kallas, Estonian premier
There is 'naivety over Moscow'
LUNCH WITH THE FT



The parable of Peloton
A cautionary tale
LIFE & ARTS



Maitre d' for the world
Jeremy King of the Wolseley
PERSON IN THE NEWS



Seasonal notes
The diaries of Darwin's father
HOUSE & HOME



Putin blames Kyiv for 'escalation' and brings forward nuclear drills

◆ Tensions rise in east Ukraine ◆ Invasion fears heightened ◆ US lifts Russian troop count

MAX SEDDON — MOSCOW
ROMAN OLEARCHYK — KYIV
GUY CHAZAN — BERLIN

Vladimir Putin blamed Kyiv for "escalating" tensions in eastern Ukraine yesterday as Kremlin-backed separatists ordered an evacuation of civilians from the region to Russia, and Moscow revealed plans for nuclear exercises to test ballistic and cruise missiles.

Putin will personally supervise the drills, which will include units from the air force, army and navy. Speaking after meeting his Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko, the Russian president said: "We are seeing an escalation in the Donbas."

Moscow's moves heightened fears that Russia is planning to invade Ukraine after the US warned that an attack was "imminent" and raised its estimate of Russian troops massed on Ukraine's border to more than 169,000.

Putin denied that Russia was planning to invade Ukraine but said: "Of course, we are looking at what is happening around the world and around us. But we have clearly defined guidelines in line with the national interests of the Russian people and the Russian state."

The timing of the nuclear drills, which US officials see as a show of strength by Moscow, will add to the sense of foreboding in western capitals over Putin's intentions in Ukraine. Joe Biden, US president, warned on Thursday that Russia was set to invade within "several days", saying Washington believed that the Kremlin had engaged in "a false flag operation to have an excuse to go in".



A Ukrainian border patrol near the Russian frontier in Chernihiv — Valeriy Gumenyuk/Reuters

Inside

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"A new war threatens to break out in the middle of our Europe," Annalena Baerbock, Germany's foreign minister, told the Munich Security Conference yesterday. "This is one of the most dangerous moments, where from provocation and disinformation we can see escalation."

As Ukraine and Russia accused each other of shelling in the Ukraine region of Donbas, the separatists fighting Kyiv said they would evacuate women, children and the elderly to Rostov in southern Russia, the nearest big city.

Denis Pushilin, head of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, claimed in a video that Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, had given the Ukrainian army orders to attack the separatists "in the next few hours".

But Dmytro Kuleba, Ukraine's foreign minister, "categorically" denied what he called "Russian disinformation". "Ukraine does not conduct or plan any such actions in the Donbas," he said.

Ukraine said ceasefire violations in the war-torn region, including 43 artillery salvos in the past 24 hours, were

attempts by Russia and its proxies to trigger a pretext for further aggression.

Although the Kremlin said the annual nuclear exercises — which were not held in 2020 or 2021 because of the pandemic — were long planned, the last time the exercises were moved to February from their usual autumn timeframe was shortly before Russia invaded Crimea in 2014.

Dmitry Peskov, Putin's spokesperson, said the exercises were regular and should not "give anyone cause for questions and concern".

Illegal crossings from Hong Kong pose threat to mainland's 'zero-Covid' drive

PRIMOISE RIORDAN AND
CHAN HO-HIM — HONG KONG
TOM MITCHELL — SINGAPORE

China's rigorous "zero-Covid" policy is facing an unexpected threat in the form of illegal border crossings by people fleeing the worsening outbreak in Hong Kong.

Some mainland cities have offered rewards for information about people smuggling after 15 individuals illegally entered Zhuhai, in Guangdong province, by boat from Hong Kong. At least four had Covid-19 and travelled to other parts of China, according to reports.

The cases come days after President Xi Jinping said containing the outbreak was Hong Kong's top priority. The city is weighing mandatory testing for its entire population followed by quarantine for anyone found to be infected.

Anyone arriving in China from overseas or Hong Kong must spend two weeks in a hotel or quarantine centre before continuing their journey.

Fences and fortifications along Hong Kong's long land border with Shenzhen, Guangdong's second-largest city, were originally built to stop illegal immigration from China into the territory. But it is relatively easy to travel by boat into Guangdong, whose long coastline and river networks are difficult to police.

"Mainland cities are concerned about arrivals from Hong Kong," said Tam Yiu-chung, Hong Kong's most senior representative in China's National People's Congress. "They are worried that cases might get into their community."

One Hong Kong resident, who asked not to be identified, told the FT that his family was considering fleeing to Fujian province. "I've been in Hong Kong for

nearly seven years and I've never seen [anything like this]," he said.

Hong Kong reported 3,629 Covid cases yesterday. Its zero-Covid strategy, with some of the toughest curbs in the world, has prevented mass deaths but heightened business concerns that the financial centre is being hurt by being, in effect, cut off from the outside world.

The curbs have prompted some companies to base executives outside the city. Mark FitzPatrick, interim boss of insurer Prudential, said its next chief executive could be forced to start the role outside Hong Kong because of the "friction" of Covid rules.

Meanwhile, HSBC closed six branches in the city yesterday, including floors of its head office, after staff tested positive.

Additional reporting by Ian Smith and Tabby Kinder
Australia reopens page 2



Teenage skater's turmoil cuts into Olympic legacy

The sight of a distraught 15-year-old skater being harangued by her coach after her calamitous routine will cast a long shadow over a Winter Olympics that was controversial even before the first event. After failing a drugs test, in the biggest scandal since Russia's Sochi doping scheme, Kamila Valieva's very participation raised questions. But Beijing will also be remembered for a strict Covid regime and tensions over the treatment of Xinjiang's Uyghurs.

Doping scandal — PAGE 3

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World Markets

| STOCK MARKETS | | | | CURRENCIES | | | | INTEREST RATES | | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|-------|------------|---------|---------|----------|----------------|--------|-------|-------|
| | Feb 18 | prev | %chg | | Feb 18 | prev | | | price | yield | chg |
| S&P 500 | 4340.46 | 4380.26 | -0.91 | \$ per € | 1.134 | 1.137 | € per \$ | 0.736 | 1.93 | -0.04 | |
| Nasdaq Composite | 13525.09 | 13716.72 | -1.40 | \$ per £ | 1.358 | 1.362 | £ per € | 1.198 | 1.30 | -0.05 | |
| Dow Jones Ind | 34059.93 | 34312.03 | -0.73 | € per ¥ | 0.035 | 0.035 | ¥ per € | 130.581 | 0.19 | -0.04 | |
| FTSE100 | 1802.85 | 1816.03 | -0.78 | ¥ per \$ | 115.145 | 114.985 | £ index | 83.114 | 0.22 | 0.00 | |
| Euro Stoxx 50 | 4071.75 | 4113.19 | -1.01 | ¥ per € | 156.407 | 156.583 | \$ per £ | 1.251 | 1.25 | -0.04 | |
| FTSE MIB | 7513.62 | 7537.37 | -0.32 | \$ per € | 1.044 | 1.046 | | | 103.90 | -0.48 | -0.05 |
| FTSE AEX | 4198.45 | 4212.97 | -0.34 | € per \$ | 0.882 | 0.880 | | | | | |
| CAC 40 | 6929.83 | 6948.02 | -0.25 | | | | | | | | |
| Nikkei | 15042.51 | 15267.83 | -1.47 | | | | | | | | |
| Hang Seng | 27122.07 | 27232.87 | -0.41 | | | | | | | | |
| MSCI World | 3009.09 | 3060.29 | -1.67 | | | | | | | | |
| MSCI EM | 1242.92 | 1244.19 | -0.10 | | | | | | | | |
| MSCI ACWI | 709.39 | 720.10 | -1.49 | | | | | | | | |

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Biden Says He's 'Convinced' Putin Has Decided to Invade



A Ukrainian military front line position on Friday near Troitske, in Luhansk Oblast. It was struck by an overnight mortar attack.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Enigmatic Figure at Heart of Crisis

By ANTON TROIANOVSKI
MOSCOW — At this moment of crescendo for the Ukraine crisis, it all comes down to what kind of leader President Vladimir V. Putin is.

In Moscow, many analysts remain convinced that the Russian president is essentially rational, and that the risks of invading Ukraine would be so great that his huge troop buildup makes sense only as a very convincing bluff. But some also leave the door open to the idea that he has fundamentally changed amid the pandemic, a shift that may have left him more paranoid, more aggrieved and more reckless.

The 20-foot-long table that Mr. Putin has used to socially distance himself this month from European leaders flying in for crisis talks symbolizes, to some longtime observers, his detachment from the rest of the world. For almost two years, Mr. Putin has ensconced himself in a virus-free cocoon unlike that of any Western leader, with state television showing him holding most key meetings by teleconference alone in a room and keeping even his own ministers at a distance on the rare occasions that he summons them in person.

Speculation over a leader's mental state is always fraught, but as Mr. Putin's momentous decision approaches, Moscow commentators puzzling over what he might do next in Ukraine are finding some degree of armchair psychology hard to avoid.

"There's this impression of irritation, of a lack of interest, of an unwillingness to delve into anything new," Ekaterina Schulmann, a political scientist and former member of Mr. Putin's human rights council, said of the president's recent public appearances. "The public is being shown that he has been in practical isolation, with ever fewer breaks, since the spring of 2020."

A large-scale invasion of Ukraine, many analysts point out, would be an enormous escalation compared with any of the actions that Mr. Putin has taken before. In 2014, the Kremlin's subterfuge allowed Russian forces stripped of identifying markings to capture Crimea without firing a single shot. The proxy war that Mr. Putin fomented in Ukraine's east allowed him to deny being a party to the conflict.

"Starting a full-scale war is completely not in Putin's interest," said Anastasia Likhacheva, the dean of world economy and international affairs at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. "It is very difficult for

Continued on Page A6

Urges Russia to Shun a 'War of Choice' in Ukraine

This article is by Michael D. Shear, Valerie Hopkins, Marc Santora and Ivan Nechevrenko.

WASHINGTON — President Biden said on Friday that the United States has intelligence showing that President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia has made a final decision to reject diplomatic overtures and invade Ukraine, in what Mr. Biden said would be a "catastrophic and needless war of choice" in Eastern Europe.

Speaking from the Roosevelt Room in the White House, Mr. Biden said "we have reason to believe the Russian forces are planning to and intend to attack Ukraine in the coming week, in the coming days," adding that "we believe that they will target Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, a city of 2.8 million innocent people."

Asked whether he thinks that Mr. Putin is still wavering about whether to invade, Mr. Biden said, "I'm convinced he's made the decision." Later, he added that his impression of Mr. Putin's intentions is based on "a significant intelligence capability."

Still, Mr. Biden implored Russia to "choose diplomacy."

"It is not too late to de-escalate and return to the negotiating table," Mr. Biden said, referring to planned talks between Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken and



Surveying the damage to a home that was hit by artillery.

Russia's foreign minister on Thursday. "If Russia takes military action before that date, it will be clear that they have slammed the door shut on diplomacy."

In the hours before Mr. Biden's late afternoon remarks, Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine called for mass evacuations in two contested regions of the country, claiming, with little evidence, that Ukraine's military was about to launch a large-scale attack there, an assertion that appeared intended to provoke Russian military intervention.

The ominous messaging of the rebels in the regions of Donetsk and Luhansk was loudly echoed by Moscow, raising fears that Russia was setting the stage for an imminent invasion that could ignite

Continued on Page A6

Trump Shipped Classified Files To Mar-a-Lago

By LUKE BROADWATER and MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT

WASHINGTON — The National Archives confirmed on Friday that it had found classified information among material that President Donald J. Trump had taken with him to his home in Florida when he left office last year and that it had consulted with the Justice Department about the matter.

The agency "has identified items marked as classified national security information within the boxes," according to a letter posted on the National Archives and Record Administration's website.

Last month, the archives retrieved 15 boxes that Mr. Trump took with him to his Mar-a-Lago home from the White House residence when his term ended. The boxes included material subject to the Presidential Records Act, which requires that all documents and records pertaining to official business be turned over to the archives.

"The items in the boxes included documents, mementos, gifts and letters. The archives did not describe the classified material it found other than to say that it was 'classified national security information.'"

Because the National Archives

Continued on Page A17

CIVIL SUITS Three Jan. 6-linked cases against Donald J. Trump can proceed, a judge ruled. PAGE A17

G.O.P. Takes Scalpel to Nashville House District

By MICHAEL WINES

NASHVILLE — Not since Patsy Cline made it a country standard in 1961, perhaps, has "I Fall to Pieces" resonated so poignantly in Music City.

Nashville has been represented by a single seat in the House of Representatives for as long as Tennessee has been a state. The seat has been held by a Democrat for 147 years.

All that was blown up this month when Gov. Bill Lee signed into law new political maps ap-

A Gerrymander Splits a Democratic City Three Ways

proved by fellow Republicans in the state legislature. The maps dismembered Nashville's solidly Democratic House district and scattered its remains among three new districts that stretch deep into Republican rural areas.

Almost certainly, each of the

next House members representing parts of Nashville will be a conservative Republican. To Democrats, the Nashville gerrymander is an especially egregious twist of the political knife by a rural-dominated Republican legislature that regards the big city with a mixture of disdain and envy.

"Dividing the capital city up three ways like Berlin is how you treat an enemy you're trying to defeat, not a political rival," said Jeff Yarbro, the State Senate's Democratic leader.

Continued on Page A14



GABRIELA BHASKAR/THE NEW YORK TIMES

No Need for Gravity

The U.S.-born Eileen Gu, who competes for China, won gold in halfpipe, her third medal. Page D7.

CNN Executive Let Ex-Governor Steer Interviews, Inquiry Finds

This article is by Michael M. Grynbau, John Koblin and Emily Steel.

On a Saturday in March 2020, as Covid-19 was invading the United States, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo went on CNN for a live interview. Among other topics, he was asked about a possible government-enforced quarantine of New York that had been floated by President Donald J. Trump.

It was a newsworthy topic, but its path onto viewers' screens would turn out to be controversial — and highly consequential for the future of one of the world's most powerful news networks.

Before the interview, Governor Cuomo had told a senior CNN executive, Allison Gollust, about subjects that he'd like to be asked about on air, according to several people familiar with the matter. Ms. Gollust, CNN's longtime chief

of communications and marketing and a former top aide of the governor, passed along the topics to CNN producers and then reported back to the governor.

"Done," she wrote. On Tuesday, Ms. Gollust was forced to resign from CNN after an internal investigation found a trove of written communications between her and Governor Cuomo, including messages about the March 2020 appearance, the

people said. Jeff Zucker, who at the time was CNN's president, was aware of many of the communications between Ms. Gollust and the governor, the people said.

The episode is the latest example of how closely entwined CNN's leadership was with one of the country's most prominent Democratic politicians.

Producers and bookers for television news shows routinely talk

Continued on Page A11

This article is by Andy Newman, Dana Rubinstein and Michael Gold.

Mayor Eric Adams and Gov. Kathy Hochul announced on Friday an aggressive plan to deploy police officers and mental-health workers into New York City's subway, pledging to remove more than 1,000 homeless people who shelter there regularly, some of whom have contributed to escalating violence and harassment in the system.

Starting Monday, the officials said, there will be a zero-tolerance policy — enforced by the hundreds of officers who already patrol the system — for people sleeping sprawled across train seats or in stations, or for other violations

Continued on Page A18

A Move to Keep the Homeless From Living on the Subways

of the subway's often flouted rules of conduct, including littering, unruly behavior and lingering in a station for over an hour.

Dozens of mental-health professionals with the power to order the involuntary hospitalization of people who they deem a danger to themselves or others will be added to outreach teams systemwide.

"No more just doing whatever you want," Mr. Adams said at a news conference at a Lower Manhattan subway station. "Those days are over. Swipe your MetroCard, ride the system, get off at your destination. That's what this administration is saying."

The plan, which is aimed at ending the decades-old practice of



INTERNATIONAL A4-9

London's City of the Dead

During the pandemic, the leafy pathways of Highgate Cemetery have taken on fresh resonance for some. PAGE A4

Police Crack Down in Canada

Hundreds of officers in Ottawa moved in to arrest protesters, hoping to end weeks of gridlock. PAGE A9

NATIONAL A10-18

2 Years in Prison for Ex-Officer

Kimberly Potter fatally shot Daunte Wright after drawing her gun instead of her Taser during a traffic stop near Minneapolis last April. PAGE A12

Still Getting Tough on Crime

With violent crime rates rising and elections looming, progressive prosecutors are facing resistance to their plans to roll back strict policies. PAGE A16

Dark Side of TikTok Stardom

A Florida teenager's successful online venture plunged her family into a dangerous nightmare, but her parents decided not to shut it down. PAGE A10



ARTS C1-6

A Rothko Chapel Tribute

Tyshawn Sorey's latest work, written for the chapel's anniversary, honors the first music performed there. PAGE C1

A Crank and a Charmer

P.J. O'Rourke, 74, was a sharp-toothed satirist who skewered sanctimony with his laugh lines. An Appraisal. PAGE C1

BUSINESS B1-6

Best Games Ever (Says China)

With bots, fake accounts, influencers and other online tools, Beijing propagandists have promoted a contrived-free vision of the Olympics aimed at "telling China's story well." PAGE B1

Waging War on Connecting

Kazakhstan's shutdown of the internet amid unrest last month may be a portent for Ukraine, as the battle for online control has increasingly become part of modern conflicts. PAGE B1

OPINION A20-21

Andrew McCarthy

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THIS WEEKEND



The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.



Sunny, windy 49/22 • Tomorrow: Sunny 45/34 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2022 • \$2

BEIJING OLYMPICS

China plan kept covid, and joy, out of Games

'Closed loop' achieves its main goal, but at great mental, financial costs

BY ADAM KILGORE

BEIJING — For more than two weeks, barricades separated the Winter Olympics from the place in which they were held. Athletes, officials and media members shuttled from hotels to venues, forbidden to see the host city except out of windows. Their mornings began with a throat swab, such a shared experience that the participants learned how gentle each nurse would be. Temperature checks accompanied entry to any building in which they were permitted.

Chinese officials and Beijing 2022 organizers called the system used at the Games the "closed loop." In compliance with China's "zero-covid-19" policies, no one outside the loop could enter, and no one inside could exit. Those who had traveled to China interacted only with others wearing laminated credentials or hazmat suits. Those who lived here saw visitors passing by in buses.

The extreme measures achieved their aim. In the final week of the Olympics, organizers recorded zero coronavirus cases inside the closed loop two consecutive days, then added one case Friday. The trickle of new cases, most of which had been filtered at the Beijing airport, ceased. As of Friday, the Games had an infection rate of 0.01 percent. International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach called the Games a success.

'Pick a side': A tug of war over Olympic darling Eileen Gu. **A10**

Monica Hesse: We ask too much of the youngest athletes. **C1**

Jerry Brewer: It's time for Games to use their power for good. **D1**

National Guard steps up to coronavirus front lines

Members fill in at hospitals and schools as the omicron variant depletes the workforce

BY HANNAH KNOWLES AND KAROUN DEMIRJIAN

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — This was not the service many of them envisioned when they joined the National Guard. But here they were, in scrubs and fatigues, doing the unglamorous but essential work of a hospital swamped with covid-19.

Some were in a noisy laundry plant, sorting through a relentless conveyor belt of linen soaked with urine and blood.

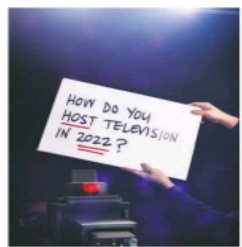
Other Guard members, once deployed to Kuwait and Afghanistan, were wiping down stairs, wheeling patients between rooms and rushing test swabs to the lab.

Twenty-four-year-old Yi Ting Lin — who graduated into the pandemic with a degree in national security and intelligence — was fielding a patient's questions.

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Masks in Va. schools: Mandates falling in light of new state law. **B1**

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ART STREIBER

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Television hosts were just supposed to guide us from commercial break to commercial break. Now we want them to help us make sense of the world. **Magazine**

Inn-to-inn skiing Three days along North America's longest backcountry trail across the Green Mountains of Vermont. **Travel**



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Sydney Sweeney and HBO can take some credit for that. But she swears she's nothing like her characters on "Euphoria" and "The White Lotus." **Arts & Style**

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2020 falsehoods fuel GOP push for 'fraud-proof' ballots

A Texas firm could be the only supplier of the special inks, markings

BY ROSALIND S. HELDERMAN

Holographic foil. Special ink designed to be sensitive to temperature changes. Nearly invisible "stealth numbers" that can be located only using special ultraviolet or infrared lights.

Those are among the high-tech security features that would be required to be embedded on ballots under measures proposed in at least four states by Republican lawmakers — all promoters of false claims that the 2020 election was marred by mass fraud — in an attempt to make the ballots as hard to counterfeit as passports or currency.

But the specialized inks and watermarks also would limit the number of companies capable of

selling ballot paper — potentially to just one Texas firm with no previous experience in elections that consulted with the lawmakers proposing the measures.

Mark Finchem, an Arizona state representative spearheading the initiative, said in an interview that he developed ideas for the proposals after discussions with executives of Authentix, a company in Addison, Tex. The firm has since hosted other GOP lawmakers at its office and given presentations about the idea to legislators in two states, according to participants and social media posts.

The proposals face stiff battles before they can become law, but they demonstrate the potentially lucrative business opportunities created by suspicions that Donald Trump and his allies have spread about the security of elections. They also vividly illustrate how a loose network of die-hard Trump supporters is coordinating to push concerns about mass elec-

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Lack of credit can make owning a home elusive for Black families. Lenders are paying attention.

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D.C. renters left in cold
Apartment dwellers lack sufficient heat for winter. Spotty enforcement leaves them on their own. **B1**

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Build Back Better's ghost
President Biden is traveling the country pitching his plan, but there is no bill, and talks have fizzled. **A3**

THE NATION
2 years for Wright's killer
Former Minnesota officer Kim Potter said she mistook her gun for a Taser in the fatal traffic stop. **A6**

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Biden says Putin is bent on invasion



Cars crowd a gas station in eastern Ukraine after the leader of a separatist region called for evacuations. "As of this moment I'm convinced he's made the decision," President Biden said on Friday of Vladimir Putin, who he believes is preparing to invade Ukraine.

PHOTO FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

U.S. BELIEVES KYIV IS RUSSIA'S TARGET

Separatists make claims of sabotage, evacuations

BY MISSY RYAN, MARY ILYUSHINA, ROBYN DIXON AND DAVID L. STERN

Russian President Vladimir Putin has decided to invade Ukraine, President Biden said for the first time on Friday, as Ukrainian separatist authorities ordered a mass evacuation and the West's standoff with Russia entered a new, more dangerous stage.

Biden said the U.S. government, after weeks of speculation about Putin's intentions, now had reason to believe the Russian leader had made the determination to attack the former Soviet state, and would probably target the capital, Kyiv.

"As of this moment I'm convinced he's made the decision," Biden said at the White House, speaking after the latest crisis consultation with NATO and European leaders, cited the United States' "significant intelligence capability."

"We're calling out Russia's plans loudly, repeatedly, not because we want a conflict, but because we're doing everything in our power to remove any reason that Russia may give to justify invading Ukraine, and prevent them from moving," Biden said.

The remarks, in Biden's second televised address on Ukraine in less than a week, came as events on the ground rapidly accelerated. In Donetsk, the Russian-backed breakaway state in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region, separatist leaders urged women, children and the elderly to depart immediately, a move the Biden administration said could be part of a false-flag operation engineered to justify an assault.

As sirens blared in Donetsk and buses rolled out for Russia's southwestern Rostov region, a car exploded outside the seat of the

SEE UKRAINE ON A12

A western capital: Ukraine's Lviv hosts diplomats leaving Kyiv. **A12**