



# WSJ

## THE WALL STREET JOURNAL WEEKEND



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### What's News

#### World-Wide

**Sen. Sinema**, a pivotal centrist, said she was leaving the Democratic Party and would register as an independent, a move that complicates Democrats' narrow control of the Senate. **A1**

◆ **The WTO** said its dispute-settlement panels found that the U.S. violated international trade rules with its tariffs on imported steel and aluminum. **A3**

◆ **Prosecutors** urged a judge to hold Trump's legal team in contempt for failing to fully turn over all classified documents in the ex-president's possession, a person familiar with the matter said. **A5**

◆ **The Biden administration** warned that military ties between Russia and Iran were expanding into "a full-fledged defense partnership." **A7**

◆ **China's Xi** ended the last day of a visit to Saudi Arabia by pledging more energy deals with big Gulf oil producers. **A9**

◆ **Over two years** before a Walmart supervisor killed six workers, Walmart executives investigated employee workplace complaints against him, according to former and current employees. **A3**

◆ **Thanksgiving** spurred on more respiratory infections in an already busy virus season, and the coming holidays could be worse, public-health officials say. **A3**

#### Business & Finance

◆ **In challenging** Microsoft's acquisition of Activision Blizzard, the FTC is building its marquee antitrust case of Khan's tenure on expansive legal theories that haven't prevailed in other recent cases. **A1, A6**

◆ **FTX's founder** said he would testify next week before Congress, setting up a high-profile discussion with lawmakers he sought to court before his crypto exchange collapsed into bankruptcy. **A1**

◆ **U.S. supplier price** increases eased in November from rapid gains in the first half of the year, in a sign that inflationary pressures could be moderating. **A2**

◆ **U.S. stocks fell**, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq both losing 0.7% and the Dow industrials shedding 0.9%. **B11**

◆ **Jeep maker Stellantis** said it would stop operations at a 1,350-employee assembly plant in Illinois, citing the need to control costs. **B1**

◆ **Juul Labs** has agreed to pay \$1.7 billion in a broad legal settlement covering more than 5,000 lawsuits, according to people familiar with the matter. **B3**

◆ **Workers at an Ohio** battery plant co-owned by General Motors voted overwhelmingly to be represented by the UAW. **B3**

#### NOONAN

Only the Voters Can Crush Donald Trump **A15**

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## Britain Faces a Wave of Strikes as Holidays Approach



**DISCONTENT:** Postal employees rally outside Parliament on Friday after about 115,000 workers walked off the job. The U.K. is bracing for widespread strikes as workers push for bigger pay raises amid high inflation and a gloomy economic outlook. **A10**

## Microsoft's Assurances Failed To Persuade FTC on Activision

By SARAH E. NEEDLEMAN

Microsoft Corp. had been working for close to a year to calm regulators' concerns about its acquisition of video-game developer Activision Blizzard Inc., but the Federal Trade Commission's suit to block the deal raised doubts about the company's pledge not to shut out rivals.

The FTC this week took one of its biggest swings ever

against a big technology company and sued to stop the planned \$75 billion acquisition, setting the stage for a court challenge over a deal the law-enforcement agency said would harm competition.

The commission's complaint said the deal is illegal because it would give Microsoft the ability to control how consumers beyond users of its own Xbox consoles and subscription services access Activi-

sion's games. Microsoft has repeatedly said it wouldn't engage in such actions. The FTC's complaint accused Microsoft of reneging on a similar pledge to a European regulator in the past, a criticism the company disputes.

"While we believed in giving peace a chance, we have complete confidence in our case and welcome the opportunity to present our case in court," said Brad Smith, Microsoft vice

chair and president after the lawsuit was filed.

This week, as the possibility of a lawsuit increased, Microsoft argued about the deal's benefits to gamers through an op-ed article in The Wall Street Journal and announced an agreement to give a competitor access to one of Activision's

Please turn to page A6

◆ **FTC faces test on 'vertical' mergers**..... A6

## Prisons Aim to Prove If Drugs Can Treat Addiction

Medications show early success in putting inmates on path to sobriety

By JULIE WERNAU

Sheriff Peter Koutoujian worked for years to get drugs into Middlesex County jail.

Operating the facility northwest of Boston had come to feel like living in a bad rerun, he said. Inmates arrived addicted to opioids, went through detox, lived without drugs and were released. Then they started using again, overdosed and died, or landed back in jail.

Mr. Koutoujian aimed to break the cycle with medication that addiction experts say is the most effective known way to curb opioid use. The results so far are promising.

Out of 230 inmates at Middlesex jail who participated between 2015 and 2019, nearly all of them, 226, were alive six months after re-

lease. Recidivism among the group is one-third that for other inmates, Mr. Koutoujian said. He is continuing to track their success. "We have a window while they're with us that we can help turn their lives around," he said.

Two-thirds of people entering prisons and jails have what the Department of Health and Human Services diagnoses as substance-use disorder. For years, the only treatment in most detention centers was to detox.

Some 630 of the roughly 5,000 jails and prisons nationwide now provide medication treatment for opioid use, according to the non-profit Jail and Prison Opioid Project, up from about 20 in 2015. The drugs include buprenorphine, which tamps cravings for opioids, naloxone, which blocks overdoses, and methadone, which helps with withdrawal.

Please turn to page A11

### I Entered a Pun Competition. My Jokes Were Written by a Robot.

New artificial intelligence chatbot generates writing, but is it punny?

By BEN EISEN

BROOKLYN—I heard the MC call my name and felt my legs carry me toward the stage. It was time to enter the Pun-derdome.

I'd never competed in a pun contest, my legs less in front of hundreds of people at an event considered the Roman Colosseum of punditry. My stage presence could be described as lacking. I had done basically no

preparation. I did, however, have one thing going for me: I was actually a robot.

Or, rather, its assistant. ChatGPT, the trendy new artificial intelligence robot, had generated all of my puns. It's a crazy good chatbot. So good, in fact, that it has some folks calling this the end of the human race as we know it.

The chatbot can write an essay on Probst in seconds. Want



Applause, please

### EXCHANGE



**SEA CHANGE**  
Companies steer cargo to new ports, toppling the West Coast's reign. **B1**

## Founder of FTX Set To Testify in House

By PAUL KIERNAN  
AND CATHLIN OSTROFF

FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried said he would testify next week before Congress, setting up a high-profile discussion with lawmakers he sought to court before his crypto exchange collapsed into bankruptcy.

Mr. Bankman-Fried said on Twitter he would appear before the House Committee on Financial Services. The committee has a hearing scheduled for Tuesday at 10 a.m. ET to investigate the collapse of FTX. Mr. Bankman-Fried will most likely testify remotely, according to a person familiar

with the matter.

Mr. Bankman-Fried's appearance caps a stunning downfall of an executive who just months ago was showering Congress, including members of the committee, with political donations. He and FTX executives spent about \$70 million ahead of the 2022 midterm elections in an effort to sway the regulation of the nascent crypto industry. Now, Mr. Bankman-Fried is in the hot seat as the committee tries to get to the bottom of what caused the company's implosion last month.

John J. Ray III, the new chief executive leading FTX in

Please turn to page A5

## U.S. Adapts to Era Of Hostage Diplomacy

By ARUNA VISWANATHA  
AND JAMES T. AREDDY

This week's prisoner exchange that freed American basketball star Brittney Griner brings to at least 12 the number of U.S. citizens and residents who have been freed during the Biden administration in confirmed or apparent prisoner trades.

That number reflects a striking shift: More Americans in recent years have been detained by foreign governments than have been taken captive by terrorist groups or criminal gangs, according to U.S. authorities and private assessments.

In response, the U.S. has

become more willing to temper its traditional aversion to negotiating prisoner deals. Unlike with rogue groups, Washington has established diplomatic channels with foreign governments to facilitate deal making over detainees.

Publicly, such swaps look uncomfortably like concessions to hostage-takers. The U.S. in September released an Afghan drug lord serving a life sentence in a New York prison to secure the release of Navy veteran Mark Frerichs by Afghanistan's Taliban government. In other swaps this year,

Please turn to page A8

◆ **Tense negotiations** led to Griner's release..... A8

## Secret lives of MI6's top spies



**UK secret service officers reveal why women often make the best agents**

LIFE & ARTS

### How to give it

**The ultimate philanthropists**  
HTSI



### Deck the halls . . .

**Christmas decorating special**  
HOUSE & HOME



### Liz Truss's disastrous 44 days

**Inside story of PM's downfall**  
LIFE & ARTS



### A very German coup

**Uncovering the far-right plot**  
THE BIG READ



## Putin threatens to cut oil output in retaliation for west's price cap

◆ First Russian response to curbs ◆ G7 fears rising energy costs ◆ Opec pact aids Kremlin

MAX SEDDON — RIGA  
TOM WILSON — LONDON

Vladimir Putin has threatened to cut oil production in response to the G7's price cap on Moscow's crude exports, a measure western countries hope will keep oil flowing while denting revenues for the Kremlin's war in Ukraine.

Russia's president said yesterday it "would simply not sell to the countries" that imposed the price ceiling or joined an EU embargo on buying Russia's oil. "We will possibly, if we have to, even think — I'm not saying that it's a decision — about a possible cut in production."

Putin's comments were his first indi-

cation of the Kremlin's response to the EU sanctions and associated oil price cap, which have stopped European imports of seaborne Russian crude and sought to impose a limit on the price other countries can pay.

Putin called the move a "non-market, harmful decision" and said it would be "stupid for everyone" to enforce it.

The cap has been designed to ensure that the EU's worldwide ban on the provision of shipping and insurance services to Russian crude shipments does not result in a sudden collapse in its exports that would drive up global oil prices.

Under the measures, shipments of

Russian crude to countries outside the EU can still use European services if the oil is sold for \$60 a barrel or less.

Oil, which tracks global crude shipments, said Russian oil exports remained as high as at any point this year, adding that any drop due to the sanctions would be visible only later in the first quarter of 2023.

Russia is the world's largest energy exporter. It increased its revenue from oil and gas sales by 70 per cent in the first half of 2022 amid rising prices.

The hard currency income has cushioned the blow from western sanctions to Russia's economy while helping fund its war on Ukraine as it spatters into a



Vladimir Putin says it would be "stupid for everyone" to enforce the price cap on crude exports

10th month. Oil prices have also been supported by Opec, led by Saudi Arabia, and its allies including Russia, which agreed in October to cut the group's output target by 2mn barrels a day to prevent prices from falling.

Putin acknowledged the deal with the so-called Opec+ group, adding that Russia would have to "think additionally" about any country-specific cuts.

He said Russia was relatively insulated from the price cap because "the ceiling they have suggested is in line with the prices we are selling at today".

Kremlin critic jailed page 2  
War grinds on page 3  
Cap helps drive down oil price page 13

## Pitt's production group snapped up by Europeans in rare raid on Hollywood

ALEX BARKER — LONDON  
LEILA ABOUD — PARIS

Brad Pitt's Plan B Entertainment, the acclaimed Hollywood producer behind *Moonlight* and *The Big Short*, has been bought by France's Mediawan in a rare transatlantic deal that values the US group at more than \$300mn.

Pitt told the Financial Times that the Oscar-winning company he co-founded in the early 2000s was "already bulging out of the seams of our little garage" and was ready to expand with the support of Mediawan, a content group backed by three of France's most prominent media investors.

"We weren't going to do this unless we found like-minded partners. We certainly feel that way with Mediawan," Pitt said. "We have always just concentrated on the craft, the art, the artisans

and the opportunity to be able to do that in a grander and more global way is exciting for us."

Mediawan's acquisition of one of the most prized assets in Hollywood's independent production sector represents the most significant French foray into Hollywood since Vivendi's acquisition of Universal Studios in 2001.

The privately held Mediawan, whose titles include *Call My Agent* and *The Three Musketeers*, was founded in 2015 by telecoms billionaire Xavier Niel, investment banker Matthieu Pigasse and television executive Pierre-Antoine Capton. It has grown rapidly in Europe in recent years by snapping up small to mid-sized production houses from Spain to Germany and is making its first foray into the US.

Capton, the chief executive, cast the deal as a major strategic shift as Media-

wan seeks to go global. "Plan B is the best independent producer in the US, so I wouldn't have wanted anything else to help us grow," he told the FT.

During a production boom in which Hollywood has been awash with frothy takeover offers, Plan B has stood out as a much-envied asset with a consistent record of making high-quality, award-winning films, as well as series for Amazon and Netflix. Three of its movies — *The Departed*, *12 Years a Slave* and *Moonlight* — won Oscars for Best Picture.

Neither Plan B nor Mediawan would disclose details of the transaction. But people familiar with the matter told the FT that the deal valued Plan B in excess of \$300mn, with Mediawan buying a majority stake in the group now, and the rest at a later stage.

The sellers will be paid half in shares of Mediawan and half in cash.



### Microsoft challenge tests watchdogs' call of duty

Microsoft's attempt to distance itself from past antitrust battles hit a wall this week when regulators lodged a legal challenge to its \$75bn purchase of Activision Blizzard. An ex-watchdog says the move sets up a "landmark battle" that will test the White House's commitment to scrutinising Big Tech. Plodgers on flagship game *Call of Duty* were dismissed, with regulators saying such promises had been broken before.

Landmark battle ► PAGE 11  
Lex ► PAGE 18

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### World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				GOVERNMENT BONDS			
	Dec 9	Prev	%Chg	Pair	Dec 9	Prev	%Chg	Yield (%)	Dec 9	Prev	Chg
S&P 500	3924.81	3963.51	-0.99	\$/£	1.054	1.055	-0.10	US 2 yr	4.32	4.27	0.04
Nasdaq Composite	11130.73	11082.00	0.44	\$/€	1.229	1.222	0.58	US 10 yr	3.54	3.47	0.07
Dow Jones Ind	33626.94	33781.48	-0.13	\$/¥	0.057	0.063	-0.10	US 30 yr	3.52	3.44	0.08
FTSEurofirst 200	1735.38	1721.34	0.82	\$/₹	136.595	136.495	0.07	UK 2 yr	3.45	3.35	0.11
Euro Stoxx 50	3639.22	3621.27	0.46	\$/₹	167.917	166.777	0.68	UK 10 yr	3.18	3.09	0.09
FTSE 100	7476.63	7472.17	0.06	\$/₹	0.983	0.987	-0.41	UK 30 yr	3.57	3.51	0.06
FTSE All-Share	4087.39	4082.24	0.13	€/¥	1.147	1.144	0.27	JPN 2 yr	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01
CAC 40	6677.84	6647.31	0.46	€/¥	1.147	1.144	0.27	JPN 10 yr	0.25	0.25	0.00
Xetra Dax	14255.17	14254.56	0.50	Bitcoin (\$)	17180.84	17227.83	-0.27	JPN 30 yr	1.49	1.44	-0.04
Nikkei	27801.01	27524.43	1.18	Ethereum	1277.58	1280.07	-0.19	GER 2 yr	2.14	2.04	0.11
Hang Seng	19600.87	19450.23	0.76	COMMODITIES				GER 10 yr	1.93	1.91	0.12
MSCI World \$	2670.27	2654.34	0.60	Oil WTI \$	72.12	71.46	0.92	GER 30 yr	1.74	1.63	0.11
MSCI EM \$	969.21	958.77	1.09	Oil Brent \$	76.05	75.15	0.92				
MSCI ACWI	631.25	616.22	0.89	Gold \$	1790.15	1782.20	0.45				
FT Wilshire 2500	5140.49	5131.53	0.76								
FT Wilshire 5000	40136.10	39833.97	0.76								

Prices are latest for edition  
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## After Isolation, Xi Is Mending Global Fences

Renewing an Effort to  
Compete With U.S.

By DAVID PIERSON

He met with Saudi Arabia's king and the leaders of Egypt, Tunisia, Kuwait and Sudan. He pledged to expand ports along the Red Sea, invest in petrochemicals and usher in a wave of Chinese tourism.

After years of alienating other countries with his foreign ministry's abrasive style of diplomacy and then retreating into semi-isolation for most of the pandemic, China's leader, Xi Jinping, is returning to the global stage to repair China's position and catch up to the United States, which Beijing sees as having emerged stronger from the coronavirus crisis than expected.

Saudi Arabia is the latest leg in Mr. Xi's diplomatic drive, after a soft reset with President Biden last month in Indonesia that pulled the countries' ties out of a nosedive. The Chinese leader has met with at least 29 heads of state since he emerged from the pandemic in September.

In that time, he's ended a years-long freeze on high-level talks with Australia by meeting with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, and rolled out a red carpet for Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany in Beijing to shore up one of China's most important economic partnerships.

On Friday, in the Saudi capital of Riyadh, Mr. Xi said China plans to cooperate with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries in the fields of nuclear energy, nuclear security and space exploration.

The engagement is a welcome change for foreign leaders who have long wondered when they would get to hold face-to-face talks again with Mr. Xi, either to court him as the head of the world's second-largest economy, or to counter him as a powerful autocrat seeking to reshape the global order. Many come away disappointed to learn that Mr. Xi has not wavered on key issues like Taiwan or support for Russia.

"Xi is deliberately courting America's allies — meeting or hosting the leaders of Western democracies from Germany to Japan," said Danny Russel, a vice president of the Asia Society Policy Institute and former assistant secretary of state. Now, with his visit to Saudi Arabia, "Xi is dem-

Continued on Page A13



Cascade, Idaho, a former mill town, is home to fewer than a thousand people, but the medical center serves a 2,800-square-mile area.

## Leaving Party, Sinema Rattles A Race in 2024

This article is by Reid J. Epstein,  
Jennifer Medina and Katie Glueck.

The one constant in Senator Kyrsten Sinema's political career, from her start as a left-wing rabble rouser and Ralph Nader aide to her announcement on Friday that she was leaving the Democratic Party to become an independent, is her boundless ability to draw attention to herself.

Less than 72 hours after Democrats celebrated winning Georgia's Senate race and the presumed 51st vote in the chamber, Ms. Sinema yanked the focus of the political world in Washington and Arizona back to her.

This time, it was not another agenda-stymieing disagreement with the party that spent millions electing her to office, but instead a declaration that she was breaking with Democrats entirely, at least in name.

"I'm going to be the same person I've always been. That's who I am," Ms. Sinema said in a two-minute video on Twitter on Friday morning, adding, "Nothing is going to change for me."

Continued on Page A16

## Hospital Funding Has Catch: Cut Inpatient Care

By EMILY BAUMGAERTNER

CASCADE, Idaho — It was 3 a.m. at the 10-bed hospital near the River of No Return, and by every measure, Ella Wenrich should have been dead.

Gastrointestinal bleeding had sent her hemoglobin level — typically above 12 — down to 3.3, and she needed an enormous blood transfusion at a larger medical center. But amid a surge in Covid cases, every major facility within 400 miles refused to take her. The smallest hospital in Idaho was, once again, on its own.

The doctor woke the sheriff and

## An Agonizing Dilemma for Rural Facilities at Risk of Closing

sent him barreling north in his pickup truck with a cardboard box lined with ice packs and a mission to bring back blood. Ms. Wenrich, 83, known as Ms. Ella, needed seven units. The rush paid off and she survived. She worries the hospital that saved her may not.

For 46 million Americans, rural hospitals are a lifeline, yet an in-

creasing number of them are closing. The federal government is trying to resuscitate them with a new program that offers a huge infusion of cash to ease their financial strain. But it comes with a bewildering condition: They must end all inpatient care.

The program, which invites more than 1,700 small institutions to become federally designated as rural emergency hospitals, would inject monthly payments amounting to more than \$3 million a year into each of their budgets, a game-changing total for many that would not only keep them open

Continued on Page A18



PETER DAVID JOSEK/ASSOCIATED PRESS

## End of Their Dance

Brazil, one of the World Cup favorites, lost to Croatia on penalty kicks, stunning a nation. Page B8.

## From SEAL Training to a Career of Scrubbing Scum in the Bilge

By DAVE PHILLIPS

NAVAL BASE KITSAP, Wash. — A sailor fresh out of the elite Navy SEAL selection course slung his gear over his broad shoulder and clomped down a steel ladder into the guts of a Navy ship to execute a difficult, days-long mission specifically assigned to him: scrubbing the stinking

scum out of the ship's cavernous bilge tank. Hardly the stuff of action movies, but it's how many would-be SEALs end up.

The Navy attracts recruits for the SEALs using flashy images of warriors jumping from planes or rising menacingly from the dark surf. But very few make it through the harrowing selection course,

## Recruits Who Drop Out Still Can't Quit Navy

and those who don't still owe the Navy the rest of their four-year enlistments. So they end up doing whatever Navy jobs are available — often, menial work that few others want.

The recruits are almost all hyper-motivated overachievers, often with college degrees, who have passed a battery of strength and intelligence tests. But many find themselves washing dishes in cramped galleys, cleaning toilets on submarines or scraping paint on aircraft carriers.

Continued on Page A17

## N.Y.P.D. Officers Lured Away By Better Pay in Small Towns

By CHELSIA ROSE MARCIUS

Earlier this year, the chief of police in Aurora, Colo., needed to find a few dozen officers to join his force.

The chief, Dan Oates, was 50 officers short to patrol Aurora, a city of roughly 400,000 people just east of Denver. But he knew limiting his search to Colorado would not be enough: Like many other leaders in law enforcement, he has found that fewer people these days want to be cops.

So Chief Oates and his team began to seek recruits at agencies where they believed pay and morale were low. They settled on New York City, and in August, he flew

about 1,800 miles to meet with New York Police Department officers. He convinced 14 of them to move out west.

"I feel bad raiding my home agency," said Chief Oates, who once served as a deputy chief in New York City. "But frankly it's a drought environment right now among police chiefs to recruit talent, and we all desperately need it."

The departure of those officers was no anomaly. The New York Police Department, with about 34,000 officers, has seen more resignations this year than at any

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INTERNATIONAL A4-14

## Slow Reaction Haunts Uganda

Officials hesitated to impose restrictions in the heart of an Ebola outbreak because of a backlash from the Covid lockdown. The deadly virus quickly spread to the capital. PAGE A4

## A Holdup for Netanyahu

Several problems, including Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet choices, have complicated the forming of a new government in Israel. PAGE A12

NATIONAL A15-21

## Harassment Case Questions

Letitia James, the New York attorney general, is facing accusations that she shielded one of her top aides from an ex-employee's allegations of inappropriate touching and kissing. PAGE A21

SPORTS B8-12

## No Belt-Tightening in Baseball

Baseball was in a spending mood at the winter meetings, where the Mets added Justin Verlander, the Yankees kept Aaron Judge and San Diego splurged on Xander Bogaerts. PAGE B12

BUSINESS B1-7

## Testing an F.T.C. Mission

Lina Khan, the chair, wants to check the power of corporate giants. But she is likely to have a difficult time in court stopping Microsoft's \$69 billion purchase of Activision. PAGE B1

## After the 'Zero Covid' Era

Strict pandemic controls constrained economic growth in China. Now, Beijing must cope with increasing caseloads and weak consumer spending. PAGE B1



ARTS C1-6

## She Invites You to Be Weird

Jenna Ortega's dance for her Addams Family character on the Netflix series "Wednesday" is a viral sensation, but why? It is disarming and defiant: the dance of a nonconformist. PAGE C5

## A Venetian Feast Is Served

Vittore Carpaccio, an underappreciated Renaissance painter (and a dish's namesake), re-emerges with his first survey in the United States. It's anything but uncooked. PAGE C1

OPINION A22-23

## 2022 Giving Guide

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## DE LEÓN SHOWS UP

MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

L.A. Councilman Kevin de León leaves Friday's council meeting after a recess was called because of an outcry over his first appearance since October in the wake of a racist audio leak. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

## GOP centrists stake out demands

With narrow House majority, center-right members stress need to be bipartisan.

BY NOLAN D. McCASKILL

WASHINGTON — Even before Republicans take control of the House in January, their narrow majority is exposing the long-standing rift between the party's right-flank Freedom Caucus and its dwindling center-right.

It's a struggle that not only threatens to derail House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy's bid to become the next speaker but also will shape how the GOP exerts its new authority over the next two years.

On one side are some vocal members of the influential Freedom Caucus who say McCarthy is not conservative enough to lead them. Many advocate using their House majority primarily to investigate Democrats and advance legislation that will appeal to conservative voters, even if it stands no chance of becoming law under a Democratic-led Senate.

At the other end is a dying breed: more centrist-leaning Republicans who say the party must show it can work with Democrats on a bipartisan basis to make progress over the next two years on issues such as inflation, raising the debt ceiling and standing up to China.

"We've got a lot of things that Americans are looking to Republicans in the House to address," said Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.), who serves as whip in the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus.

If we don't make progress on inflation, on China, [See GOP, A5]

## Arizona senator leaves Democrats

Sinema changes registration to independent, but says she won't caucus with GOP. **NATION, A4**

## Items taken prior to home search

Co-workers of officer in "catfishing" case visited his Virginia residence a day before official check. **NATION, A5**

## Local air board says it needs federal help

Plan will fall short of national smog standards

BY TONY BRISCOE

Southern California air regulators have approved a sweeping plan to reduce pollution in the nation's smoggiest region within the next two decades, but say they cannot meet national air quality standards without federal action.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District governing board voted 9 to 2 last week to adopt a

nearly 5,000-page plan that is expected to serve as a road map on how the air district expects to comply with the 2015 federal standard for ozone (the lung-aggravating haze commonly known as smog).

Within the voluminous report, the air district outlines dozens of potential measures that could reduce smog-forming nitrogen oxides and bring the region closer to meeting the 2015 ozone standard, which it is

required to meet by 2037. But air district officials said these proposals alone would not help the region meet that target, and implored the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to curtail pollution in ports, rail yards and airports — all of which fall under federal authority.

To meet the 2015 standard, nitrogen oxides — produced by the combustion of fossil fuels — must be limited to 60 tons a day across the air

[See Air, A8]



GENARDO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

**SMOG** obscures downtown L.A. in this 2019 photo from Griffith Park. An impasse continues between local air regulators and the Environmental Protection Agency.

## Home-price dip stirs worry

As equity drops in Southern California, homeowners may curtail spending.

BY ANDREW KHOURI

Surging mortgage interest rates threatened to squish Michael and Christine Hawkins' dream of home ownership. But this fall when the couple saw a Canoga Park condo languish on the market, they devised a plan.

They'd submit a lowball offer they could stomach if they cut back on vacations,

shopping and eating out. In a year, when they hoped interest rates would have dropped, they could refinance and free up their budget.

Last month, amid a decline in overall home values, the Hawkinses, both in their 30s, closed on the two-bedroom condo for 7% less than asking. But they may be stuck with a high payment for the foreseeable future, because if home prices keep falling, they might not have enough equity to refinance.

"There is not a lot of wiggle room right now [in our budget]," said Michael Hawkins, 37. "I'm happy we did it, but I'm super nervous

what is going to happen."

For the first time in a decade, Southern California homeowners, and those across the country, are seeing their equity fall en masse, the result of higher mortgage interest rates that have sapped purchasing power and sent home values down. Real estate analysts said the loss in equity — which is expected to deepen — could curtail economic growth as people have less to spend on home renovations, pay for emergencies or invest in a business.

The shift in the market is unnerving some recent buyers who told The Times they

[See Equity, A10]

**Weather**  
Rain late tonight.  
L.A. Basin: 62/55. **B8**



## UC, union agree to mediation

An independent mediator will step in to try to resolve stalled negotiations with academic workers. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

## Caleb Williams' focus on passion

USC's quarterback and Heisman hopeful carefully balances swagger and vulnerability. **SPORTS, B12**

## Would you ride Metro bus, rail if it were free?

Fare elimination, tolls on some motorists are possibilities amid a bid to raise ridership.

BY RACHEL URANGA

Should it be free to use the public rail and bus systems in Los Angeles County? That's a question incoming Mayor Karen Bass may soon have to answer.

As one of Mayor Eric Garcetti's last acts on the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority board, he revived a conversation about free bus and rail service. On his last day, Garcetti asked the agency to study what such a change would entail.

It's an issue that Bass — who will replace Garcetti on the board, which has 13 voting members, and will appoint three others — will be forced to deal with this summer, when the study is due to be delivered.

Ending fares will be an early test to see whether she can follow through on a campaign promise and balance some of the sticky issues involved.

Critics and even supporters say the switch could add to an influx of homeless people that has kept some commuters off buses and trains. And it could be cheap: Early estimates by Metro place the cost of eliminating fares countywide at \$1 billion a year. On top of that, Metro analysts say, such a move could endanger state and federal funds tied to fare collection.

Proponents believe legislative solutions that could be found, and the costs could be met with new sources of revenue and savings from the elimination of fare collection and enforcement.

"I don't think we should have barriers to the use of

public transportation," Garcetti said. "We don't do that on our roads. We don't do that on freeways. We tax the poor to use transit but not better-off folks to use the road."

Garcetti, who didn't always think fareless transit was possible, said he changed his mind after Los Angeles found a way to keep buses free during the COVID-19 pandemic. One way to offset the cost, he suggested: congestion pricing, forcing some drivers to pay tolls when traffic is heaviest.

"The promise of free transit, with a small fee for those who can afford it in cars, seems to be well worth it," he said.

Metro is looking to see if the congestion pricing program, now used on freeways, can be expanded to downtown or other areas, but there has been no plan on how it could be implemented or where the proceeds would go.

Transportation experts say congestion pricing is a great way to encourage commuters to make public transit, but drivers are likely to grouse. In New York, a plan to charge \$23 for a rush-hour trip to Manhattan is meeting a wave of opposition.

A spokesperson for Bass, Zach Seidl, declined to elaborate on how the new mayor would approach the question, only to say that she "has been an advocate for fareless transit and looks forward to working to improve our public transportation system."

There are many questions about what "free" means for the transit system. Will it lure more commuters? That could drive up the cost but may reduce cars on the road — a larger climate goal. Or is it largely a subsidy for the region's working poor? Will it bring in more homeless people, possibly?

[See Free transit, A8]

## Showrunner of 'SVU' is accused of mistreating women and support staff

Many who worked with David Graziano on 'Law & Order' and other shows portray him as a bullying boss, which he denies

BY STACY PERMAN

In June, David Graziano was given the keys to one of the most valuable fiefdoms in television when he was named showrunner of "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" ("SVU" among fans) ahead of the NBC drama's record-setting 24th season.

Graziano, known as "Graz" to friends and colleagues, is a prominent television writer and producer with a lengthy string of credits to his name including stints on the recent adaptation of Neil Gaiman's "American Gods" on Starz and the Amazon Original "Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan."

None of his previous shows, however, can claim "SVU's" enduring popularity — it is the longest-running prime-time live-action series in history, shown in 250 territories worldwide.

In September, the series kicked off its new season with a bang: a three-hour crossover "event" with the trio of currently airing "Law & Order" dramas. The special was the most watched on network television, demonstrating how strongly "SVU" still connects with loyal viewers who remain invested in this "elite squad" of NYPD detectives.

But trouble was brewing behind the scenes. Not long after Graziano took the helm of "SVU," the show's script coordinator — who works closely with the show's writers — quit.

After the position was posted on a listserv that circulates widely among script coordinators, it triggered warnings from other individuals who had previously worked with Graziano.

"The new showrunner, David Graziano, is a very unprofessional, ego-centric, and immature man. I have been in this industry a long time, and I have never experienced such pure, white-male misogyny," wrote Haley Cameron, the script coordinator who had exited the show.

Under Graziano, the production was "an absolute unorganized nightmare," she continued, cautioning, "I urge you — especially women — to think twice before putting yourself in a position that could end as badly as mine did." Cameron did not detail the conduct that she found to be unprofessional in her listserv remarks. She declined to comment to The Times.

In a statement provided by his [See Graziano, A6]

**BUSINESS INSIDE:** Tesla says self-driving technology may be a failure — but not fraud. **A9**

# The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington

RE 11 12 13 14



Partly sunny 47/39 • Tomorrow: Cloudy 48/40 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2022 • B3

## Griner lands, heads to recovery

WNBA star sent to top military medical center after 10-month detention

BY ARELIS R. HERNÁNDEZ AND NIHA MASIH

SAN ANTONIO — Brittney Griner landed in the United States early Friday after being released in a prisoner swap, ending a nearly 10-month saga that landed the WNBA star in the middle of Moscow's feud with Washington. Photos showed Griner stepping off a small jet that landed before dawn in San Antonio, bundled up in a red jacket and black beanie. She was then taken to nearby Brooke Army Medical Center, where a White House official said she is being offered a range of support options after her time detained in Russia.

"We are thrilled she is home," said Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Tex.), who has been advocating for her release. "This has been a long ordeal, one not of her making but of the making of a despot. It has been punishing and miserable, but she is resilient and so happy to be home and be with her wife."

The high-profile case galvanized Griner's supporters in the sports world and beyond, including in Texas, her home state.

SEE GRINER ON A4

Media: Why CBS News decided to delay publication of its scoop. C1

## Biden faced resistance from all sides in Griner deal

BY JOHN HUDSON, DEVLIN BARKETT, KAREN DE'YOUNG AND MISSY RYAN

President Biden's 10-month effort to free Brittney Griner faced stubborn resistance from a Russian government bent on extracting maximum concessions for the WNBA star's release.

But the president also faced opposition from his own Justice Department, which viewed Thursday's one-for-one prisoner swap involving Griner and the notorious arms dealer Viktor Bout as a mistake given the discrepancy of offenses by the two prisoners, officials familiar with the matter said.

Griner, a two-time Olympic gold medalist, was arrested outside Moscow in February for possessing a small amount of cannabis oil. Bout, whose arms fueled conflicts from Sudan to Rwanda to Afghanistan to Angola, is nicknamed the "Merchant of Death," and his illicit transactions with violent regimes and militant groups earned him a 25-year sentence in federal prison.

After the two passed within a few feet of each other on an airport

SEE EXCHANGE ON A4



A power plant near Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, lies in ruins last month after being targeted by Russian missile strikes. The attacks deepened the financial strain of Rinat Akhmetov, Ukraine's wealthiest man, who has lost billions since Russia's invasion.

## War has weakened the grip of Ukraine's oligarchs

Diminished political and economic power creates space for democratic change

BY KEVIN SULLIVAN, DAVID L. STERN AND KOSTYANTYN KHUDOV

BURSHITYN, UKRAINE — Over two days in October, eight Russian cruise missiles screamed out of the sky and obliterated tens of millions of dollars' worth of critical machinery at this city's hulking coal-fired power plant.

The attacks were designed to leave Ukraine cold and dark this winter. But they also deepened a financial crisis for the plant's owner, Rinat Akhmetov, the coun-

try's richest man.

Akhmetov's wealth has dived from \$7.6 billion to \$4.3 billion since Russia invaded Ukraine in February, according to Forbes. In 2012, before Russia annexed Crimea and backed separatists in Ukraine's east, locations where Akhmetov also had numerous assets, the magazine estimated his wealth at \$16 billion.

The losses are largely from Russia's destruction and confiscation of his vast networks of power and steel plants, coal mines and agricultural operations. Most notable were his two huge steel plants in

the port city of Mariupol, including Azovstal, where Ukrainian fighters staged a defiant last stand against Russian forces earlier this year. Akhmetov is suing Russia for up to \$20 billion in the European Court of Human Rights.

One billionaire becoming less of a billionaire isn't breaking hearts in a country fighting a war for its very existence. But it provides some insight into how the Russian invasion is affecting Ukraine's oligarchs, a group of fewer than 20 fantastically wealthy people who have wielded

SEE UKRAINE ON A10

Outages: Ukrainians persist without critical services after missile strikes, but some worry they will have to leave as cold sets in. A9

### THE ABORTION DIARIES

## Pregnant and desperate in post-Roe America

BY CAROLINE KITCHENER

It's a moment of panic that has played out again and again for people in more than a dozen states since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in June.

Once they find out they're pregnant, there isn't much time to act. The closest open abortion clinics that once offered next-day appointments are now often fully booked three, four, even five weeks in advance. Pills purchased online can take up to a month to arrive.

Every day, the fetus gets a little bigger — and the anxiety builds.

In polarized, post-Roe America, the experiences that draw widespread attention are often the most harrowing: a 10-year-old rape victim forced to leave her state to end her pregnancy, or a woman denied an abortion for a fetus without a skull.

Often lost in the discussion are the more routine stories. The mother of two who can't afford a third child. The teenager who



The pregnancy test is positive. Abortion is restricted, maybe even illegal. What now?



ILLUSTRATIONS BY CARSON MCNAMARA FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

can't tell her parents she's pregnant. The 25-year-old who isn't ready to be a mom.

Over the next decade, if recent trends hold, more than a million people with unwanted pregnancies are likely to run up against an abortion ban. Some will find a way, traveling hundreds of miles or securing illegal pills through the mail. Others will resign themselves to parenthood.

The Washington Post made contact with three pregnant women who were seeking abortions while living in states with strict abortion bans. These women, reached early in their pregnancies, communicated regularly with The Post, sharing their experiences through calls, text messages and other documentation that supported their accounts. They participated on the condition that only their first names be used to protect their privacy.

Here are their stories, from the minute the two pink lines appeared.

SEE DIARIES ON A6

## Sinema shakes up the Senate

### SWAPS AFFILIATION TO INDEPENDENT

Democrats rattled over 2024 ambitions in Ariz.

BY LIZ GOODWIN, JOHN WAGNER, EUGENE SCOTT AND LEIGH ANN CALDWELL

Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (Ariz.) announced she was leaving the Democratic Party on Friday, dampening Senate Democrats' post-midterms celebrations and potentially endangering Democrats' chances of holding onto the seat in 2024.

"Registering as an independent and showing up to work with the title of independent is a reflection of who I've always been, and it's a reflection of who Arizona is," Sinema said in a video detailing her decision. "We don't line up to do what we're told. We do what's right for our state and for our country."

Sinema's new independent label is unlikely to significantly change the workings of the Senate next year, which Democrats will still narrowly control after their runoff win in Georgia this week. Sinema — who has voted with President Biden over 90 percent of the time, according to a FiveThirtyEight analysis — will keep her

SEE SINEMA ON A2

## Should business go on after shootings?

Companies try to balance commerce, grief, respect after mass killings

BY STEVE HENDRIX

CHESAPEAKE, VA. — When shoppers have been massacred in the aisles or workers gunned down in the break room, how soon is too soon to reopen a store? How much carnage on a nightclub's dance floor is too much to ever restart the music? What can new draywall and carpeting do to exorcise the horror of mass murder from an office building or high school?

As shootings devastate one setting after another around the country, the people who run or own them face a grim calculation they don't (yet) teach in management school: When, whether and how to resume business in places of mass death.

"They have some big decisions to make," said Chesapeake Mayor

SEE REOPEN ON A5

### IN THE NEWS



MARTIN MEISSNER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

World Cup Neymar couldn't hide his tears after Brazil's loss to Croatia. Argentina edged the Netherlands in the other quarterfinal. D1

### THE NATION

A year-long House investigation found that oil companies are skeptical of the transition to a low-carbon economy, despite public commitments to go clean. A3  
Democrats called for more money for the Social Security Administration to improve staffing in the face of a backlog of disability claims. A14

THE WORLD  
Some companies in Japan are turning dis-

carded foodstuffs into new entirely new products in an effort to cut down on waste in the country. A8

The Taliban held its first public execution this week since taking power 15 months ago, drawing international condemnation. A12  
President Biden next week will announce U.S. support for the African Union to become a permanent member of the Group of 20 nations. A12

### THE ECONOMY

Second thoughts about that online purchase? Major retailers are starting to charge fees to mail it back. A13  
Workers at an Ohio plant voted to unionize the first factory originally built for electric vehicles and parts. A14

### THE REGION

Three teens in Virginia created a "period pantry" to help combat unequal access to menstrual products in their community. B1  
Two men were found guilty of murder in the fatal shooting of a D.C.

teen killed by stray gunfire five years ago. B1  
Police searching the apartment of a man suspected in the killing of a convenience store employee in Maryland found the body of a pregnant woman. B1

Las Vegas tech entrepreneur Ronald Sandlin and two associates of the Proud Boys were sentenced for their roles in the Jan. 6 riot. B1

The law school at the University of Virginia has suspended cooperation with the U.S. News and World Report college rankings. B1

### INSIDE



### STYLE

Letterman dishes  
He landed a surprise interview in Kyiv with the wartime president. C1

### SPORTS

A DMV Heisman?  
USC's Caleb Williams could be the first from oft-overlooked region. D1

BUSINESS NEWS	A13
CRIMES	C6
OPINION PAGES	A15
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OBITUARIES	B4
TELEVISION	C3
WORLD NEWS	A8

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FAMILY VACATIONS A TIME TO BOND, MAKE MEMORIES WEEKEND EXTRA

# USA TODAY WEEKEND

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E2

## Same-sex marriage bill passes in House

Biden expected to sign legislation into law

Rachel Looker  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The House passed historic legislation Thursday that would federally protect same-sex and interracial marriage rights in a major win for LGBTQ rights advocates.

The bill now moves to President Joe Biden, who is expected to sign the legislation into law.

The Respect for Marriage Act guarantees federal recognition of any marriage between two people if it is valid in the state where they were married. It also requires states to accept the legitimacy of a valid marriage performed elsewhere but does not require any state to issue a marriage license contrary to its own law.

The bipartisan legislation received Republican support in Congress, passing in the Senate 61-36 last month with support from a dozen Republicans. It cleared the House 258-169 with the support of 39 Republicans.

Some Republican lawmakers argued the bill would infringe on the rights of churches and other faith-based organizations. But senators added an amendment that left room for religious objections and would not legally require individuals or groups to provide services for a wedding ceremony or celebration if it's against their religious beliefs. It also would not recognize polygamous unions.

Lawmakers drafted the bill after the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade in June. Associate Justice Clarence Thomas expressed interest in reconsidering same-sex and interracial marriage rights in a separate concurring opinion that no other justice joined.

"It's finally in law that we will respect, defend and protect the right of every individual to marry the person they love," Vice President Kamala Harris said Thursday.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called the legislation a "glorious triumph of love and freedom. ... Not only are we on the right side of history, we're on the right side of the future — expanding freedom in America."

### Reaction to bill's passage

- Same-sex couples share tentative enthusiasm as bill advances. **News, 4A**
- Founder of Freedom to Marry group calls bill a triumph. **Opinion, 7A**

## 'We never forgot' her: Brittney Griner is free



Cherelle Griner, wife of Brittney Griner, joins President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the White House on Thursday. "Today, my family is whole," Cherelle Griner said. PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP



ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/AP

### IN SPORTS 1C

#### Details of Griner exchange elicit conflicting emotions

We can celebrate her freedom and have concerns, columnist writes.

### IN NEWS 3A



#### Freed Russian known as 'Merchant of Death'

A closer look at Viktor Bout, the arms dealer who was released in the swap.

#### Biden: US continues push to bring Whelan home

American Paul Whelan has been jailed in Russia for nearly four years.

## All that diplomatic dealmaking is nothing next to power of love



Mike Freeman  
Columnist  
USA TODAY

There's a singular beautiful moment, which followed so many ugly, terrifying moments in the wrongful detention of Olympian and WNBA star Brittney Griner in Russia. Griner's wife, Cherelle, who tirelessly and heroically worked to free Brittney, was in the Oval Office on Thursday, sitting to the left of President Joe Biden, smiling and speaking on the phone to Brittney, who had been freed from a penal colony in Russia.

To Cherelle's left was Vice President Kamala Harris, and a few feet away was Antony Blinken, the secretary of state. It was a fitting moment for Cherelle, seated at the center of power, after using everything in her power to free her wife.

This scene was better than other moments we've witnessed with Brittney, which usually involved her being photographed in cages. Now she's free in large part because of Cherelle.

See FREEMAN, Page 2A

## 'Painstaking' negotiations by US, Russia led to prisoner swap

Joey Garrison, Kim Hjelmgaard  
and Maureen Groppe  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Five months after Brittney Griner told President Joe Biden she was terrified she would spend the rest of her life behind bars in Russia, the WNBA star headed back to the United States.

"She's safe, she's on a plane, she's on her way home," Biden announced from the White House Thursday.

Griner's release followed months of what the White House called "pains-taking, extraordinary" negotiations

between the Biden administration and Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime for the safe return of the two-time Olympic gold medalist and seven-time WNBA All-Star.

Griner had been in custody since February when she was arrested at an airport near Moscow while returning to play for her Russian professional basketball team, UMMC Ekaterinburg. She was charged with possessing cannabis oil.

The deal — a one-for-one swap of Griner and notorious Russian arms

See NEGOTIATIONS, Page 2A



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## Emoción y festejos de punta a punta del país



El Monumento a la Bandera, en Rosario



El Obelisco vibró a pesar de la lluvia



Bariloche copó el Centro Cívico



Mar del Plata festejó en la playa

## LA NACION

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QATAR 2022 Q 2 2

# Clasificación heroica

## A semifinales, con el corazón en la boca



El sufrimiento terminó: Lionel Messi celebra con Dibu Martínez, el héroe de los penales, que paró dos disparos de los holandeses

JORGE SAENZ/AP

DOHA (De nuestros enviados).— De la fiesta a la agonía, del desconcierto al desahogo: uno de los partidos más dramáticos en la historia de la selección argentina depositó al equipo de Lionel Messi en las semifinales del Mundial. Lo que pudo ser un triunfo con solvencia en los 90 minutos terminó en un empate 2-2 contra Países Bajos en la última jugada. Argentina se repuso en el tiempo extra, pero necesitó de los penales para definir. Emiliano Martínez paró dos remates y se convirtió en el héroe de la clasificación, que

terminó con festejos desbordantes y peleas con los rivales. Nahuel Molina y Messi habían marcado los goles en el partido. Ahora espera Croacia, verdugo de Brasil. **Deportes Mundial**

## PARTIDOS DE HOY

12 HS.  
Marruecos Portugal  
16 HS.  
Inglaterra Francia

## ESCENARIOS

**Juan Manuel Trenado**  
Un equipo con la fortaleza de un roble  
Página 2

**Diego Latorre**  
Entre genialidades, aciertos y errores  
Página 7

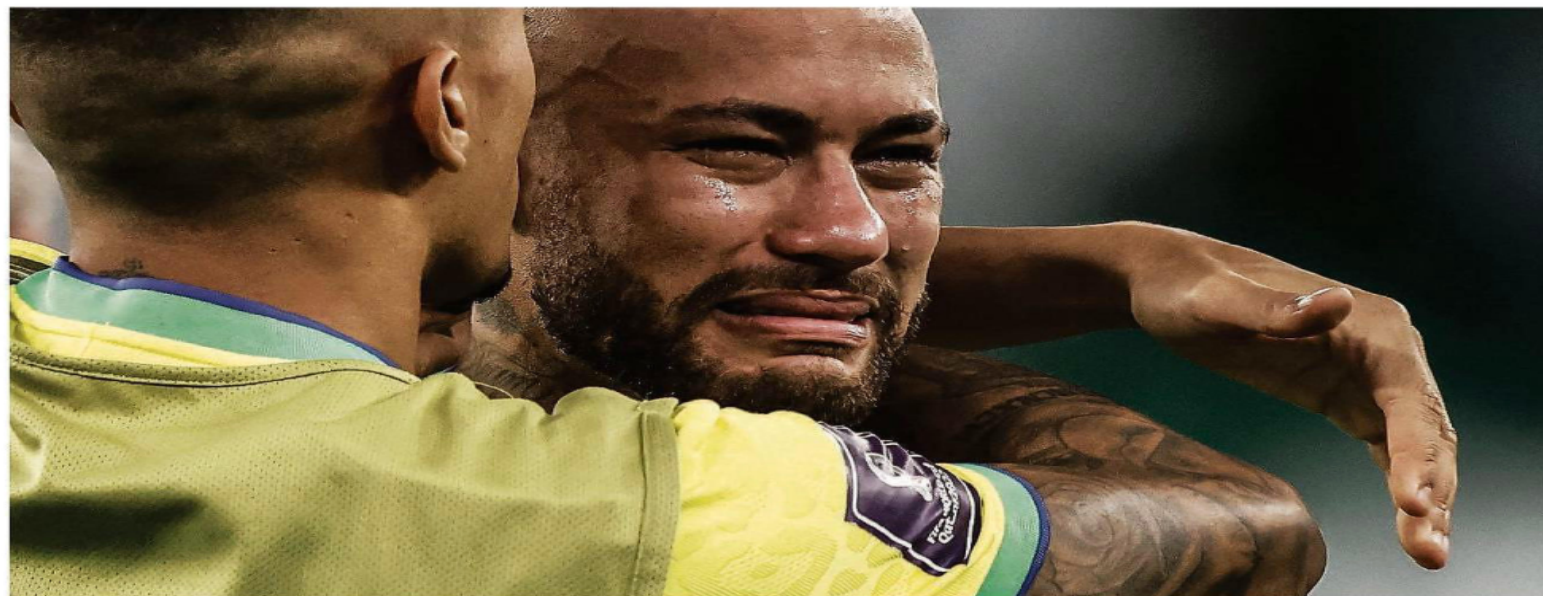
## ENFOQUES

**Lo extraordinario no pudo contener lo vulgar**  
Cristian Grosso  
Página 16

**La flexibilidad de una selección camaleónica**  
Christian Leblebicijan  
Página 6

### Brasil, el gigante que se desmoronó en los penales

Croacia le empató 1 a 1 en los últimos minutos del alargue y lo eliminó en un dramático final. **Página 10**



Neymar, que abriu placar em boa jogada, chora derrota; ele igualou Pelé em número de gols na seleção pela contagem da Fifa (77) —mas, em 3 Copas, nunca jogou semifinal *Gabriela Biló/Folhapress*

## copa 2022 ■ A era sem Copa

O Brasil caiu ante a Croácia nos pênaltis, por 4 a 2, após liderar o placar até os 11 minutos do 2º tempo da prorrogação. Chegou assim a 24 anos sem ser campeão e iguala o maior jejum da era pós-1970, quebrado em 1994. Tite é o primeiro técnico a perder duas vezes seguidas desde Telê Santana. Neymar igualou Pelé em gols (77) na contagem da Fifa. **p.1**

**Abalado, Neymar vê 'pesadelo' e não garante que voltará à seleção** **p.5**

**Paulo Vinicius Coelho Mundial não perdoa tanta chance perdida** **p.5**

**Walter Casagrande Jr. Dançamos de novo ante a 1ª europeia forte** **p.5**

## Argentina brilha, sofre, tira Holanda e está na semifinal

Com atuações destacadas de Lionel Messi e do goleiro Martínez, a Argentina tirou a Holanda da Copa e fará semifinal contra a Croácia. Time fez 2 a 0, levou empate dramático, jogou prorrogação e venceu nos pênaltis por 4 a 3; Martínez pegou dois. **p.4**

## QUARTAS DE FINAL Jogos de ontem

	x	
(4) 1		1 (2)
	x	
(3) 2		2 (4)

## Jogos de hoje

	x	
12h*, G.080		
	x	
16h*, G.080		

# Haddad vai para Fazenda e prioriza nova regra fiscal

Dólar fecha em leve alta após confirmação; Febraban vê em petista compromisso com gastos públicos

Anunciado por Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (PT) como futuro ministro da Fazenda, Fernando Haddad vê como principal tarefa a formulação do novo arcabouço fiscal, compromisso expresso na PEC da Transição.

Ele começa a definir possíveis nomes de sua equipe. Entre eles estão Marcos Cruz, que foi secretário de Finanças de Haddad na Prefeitura de São Paulo, e Bernard Appy, ex-secretário da Fazenda nas gestões de Lula.

O dólar teve leve alta após a oficialização de seu nome. Em resposta à desconfiança inicial do mercado, Haddad disse ter sido o primeiro prefeito a conseguir grau de investimento, quando administrou a capital paulista.

Em nota, a Febraban, entidade que reúne os principais bancos, afirmou que o petista é um político afeito ao diálogo e "já assumiu compromisso com o crescimento, agenda social e responsabilidade fiscal".

Lula antecipou o anúncio de Haddad para melhorar as negociações da PEC. "Esta PEC não é para o governo Lula, esta PEC é para fazer o reparo no Orçamento do presidente Bolsonaro", declarou. **Mercado A17**

**Análise** Vinicius T. Freire Petista apoia PEC e defende parcerias público-privadas **A19**

**Desmilitarizar a Defesa sem criar crise é desafio para o civil José Múcio** **A8**

**Rui Costa, na Casa Civil, tem estilo pragmático e arestas na política** **A10**

**Flávio Dino chega para 'consertar' Justiça, que por ora não será dividida** **A11**

**Sob Mauro Vieira, Itamaraty deve ter nº 2 mulher pela 1ª vez** **A14**



Entre Gleisi Hoffmann e Alckmin, Lula anuncia os ministros Fernando Haddad (a partir da esq.), Flávio Dino, Rui Costa e José Múcio *Petro Ladeira/Folhapress*

## Desmatamento no último ano de Bolsonaro já é o pior desde 2016

Com mais de 10 mil km² de mata derrubada, e ainda sem os números de dezembro, 2022 será o pior ano de desmatamento da Amazônia desde início da série histórica do Inpe. **B1**

**Capes volta a pagar bolsas de pós-graduação** Repasses estavam congelados por contingenciamento no orçamento do MEC. Estudantes começam a receber na segunda (12). **B7**

**Bolsonaro atifa fiéis com discurso dúbio** Presidente disse a apoiadores no Alvorada que eles decidirão seu futuro e que militares são último obstáculo ao socialismo. **A13**

**ciência B4**  
**Terra à vista** Termina amanhã voo não tripulado à Lua da missão Artemis 1

## EDITORIAIS A2

**Copa cruel** Sobre eliminação da seleção brasileira no torneio.

**Cristina condenada** Acerca de crise política e econômica na Argentina.

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**Crítica que la Fiscalía no avanza en investigaciones a significativamente corruptos**

## Informe de DDHH alerta del avance del crimen organizado

Codehupy señala que en el 2022 estructuras delictivas vinculadas al lavado, al narcotráfico y al contrabando se infiltraron en los partidos. Desde allí quieren controlar el Estado.

PÁGINA 5

**Marcha contra deterioro del Poder Judicial  
37 casos emblemáticos de corrupción corren riesgo de quedar prescriptos**

PÁGINA 3

**Disposición establecida en el PGN 2023  
Economistas critican que el BCP haga préstamos sin intereses a Hacienda**

PÁGINA 9

CON ESTA EDICIÓN



**FASCICULO MIS SECRETOS DE BELLEZA N° 6**  
Gratis con el diario

**Ante las altas temperaturas instan a evitar golpes de calor**

PÁGINA 16

ESPACIO PUBLICITARIO



**Argentina con el sueño intacto, Brasil sin consuelo**

**Qatar 2022.** La Albiceleste pasó a semis al ganar en penales 4-3 a Países Bajos. El equipo de Neymar fue eliminado por Croacia, también desde los doce pasos, 4-2. **PÁGINAS 47 y 48**

**Plantean refundación de la previsual  
Gremio de multitiendas está preocupado por el desfinanciamiento de IPS**

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**Reforma del sistema de contrataciones  
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ERIC SANDER - SKA OBSERVATORY ;  
DYLAN MARTINEZ / REUTERS

# En Ukraine, au cœur de la bataille de Bakhmout

Un déluge de feu s'abat sur cette petite ville du Donbass dont les Russes veulent faire un trophée. Notre envoyé spécial raconte l'enfer des civils dans les ruines et le combat des soldats sur le front. PAGES 2 À 5 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

ALBERT LORIS

## Ciotti-Retailleau, les adhérents LR à l'heure du choix

Qui, d'Éric Ciotti ou de Bruno Retailleau, l'emportera ? Le premier enjeu sera pour l'un comme pour l'autre de réussir à obtenir une participation aussi forte que celle du premier

tour (72 %) et de convaincre les abstentionnistes. Deuxième enjeu, parvenir à mobiliser les troupes d'Aurélien Pradié et ses 14765 électeurs. PAGES 6, 7 ET 16



Hugo Lloris

## Mondial de football : Angleterre-France, le choc des meilleurs ennemis

Champions du monde en titre, les Bleus disputent ce samedi soir leur tout premier match à élimination directe face à l'équipe d'Angleterre lors d'une Coupe du monde. Un

affrontement pour une place en demi-finale qui s'annonce brûlant et indécis contre une sélection anglaise invaincue et en plein renouveau. PAGES 12 ET 13

## ÉDITORIAL par Philippe Gélie [pgelie@lefigaro.fr](mailto:pgelie@lefigaro.fr)

### Une guerre sans but

On dirait ces temps-ci que la Russie cherche les raisons de sa présence en Ukraine. « Pourquoi les Ukrainiens se battent-ils ? », demandait récemment une ingénieur animatrice de la télévision russe à son panel d'invités, comme si la brutale invasion de leur pays ne pouvait l'expliquer. Vladimir Poutine lui-même s'est laissé aller ce jeudi à présenter « la conquête de nouveaux territoires » comme « un bon résultat » en soi. Le Kremlin a toutefois jugé nécessaire de rectifier, réitérant ses ambitions « de dénazification et démilitarisation » du méchant voisin. La Russie déverse ses conscrits et ses chars dernier cri dans l'enfer ukrainien, tout en multipliant les indices qu'elle pourrait se contenter de ce qu'elle a. Poutine se félicite que la mer d'Azov soit devenue « une mer intérieure » russe, rappelant que c'était une aspiration du tsar Pierre le Grand, auquel il aime se comparer. Mais il n'est « plus question d'annexer de nouveaux territoires » et l'horizon fixé est la négociation, car il faudra « au final trouver un accord », dit le président. À géométrie variable depuis les premiers revers, les buts de guerre du Kremlin sont de moins en moins clairs. Quel intérêt stratégique

commande le pilonnage dantesque de Bakhmout, dans le Donbass, décrit dans nos pages de manière saisissante par l'envoyé spécial du Figaro ? Il n'en restera de toute façon qu'un champ de ruines difficile à tenir par n'importe quelle armée.

Preuve du rapport de force actuel, au flou russe répond la clarté stratégique du camp ukrainien. Sa feuille de route est de récupérer tous les territoires occupés, « y compris la Crimée », précise le ministre de la Défense, Oleg Reznikov, notant que les limites fixées par Washington à l'utilisation des armes occidentales ne s'appliquent pas à la péninsule. Les frappes ukrainiennes au cœur de la Russie ne franchiraient pas non plus de ligne rouge, puisque Poutine, en annexant quatre oblasts, a fait en sorte que toute la guerre se déroule sur le sol russe... Un pays qui ne contrôle pas ses frontières, laisse l'initiative à des armées privées, voit sa jeunesse fuir à l'étranger et sa police menacer des mères de soldats, telle est la Russie qui court à sa perte, après la défaite. ■

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# Strictly Come Dancing

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## 'Bullyboy' Barclay is to blame for nurses' strike – union boss

Health secretary is 'unwilling to negotiate with a woman acting for largely female workforce'

**Denis Campbell**  
*Health policy editor*

The leader of Britain's nurses' union has accused the health secretary, Steve Barclay, of being a "bullyboy" who is unwilling to negotiate with her because she is a woman representing a largely female workforce.

Pat Cullen also claimed the government was displaying "particularly macho" behaviour towards the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) because she believes it sees nursing as "female work" that it does not value properly.

Tens of thousands of nurses across England, Wales and Northern Ireland are due to stop work on 15 and 20 December in the profession's first NHS-wide strike action, causing serious disruption to NHS services including A&E.

In an interview with the Guardian in advance of the strike, the RCN's general secretary criticised ministers for portraying nurses as "greedy".

She said nurses could keep staging stoppages at hospitals and other places of NHS care for the next six months in their pursuit of a "fair and decent" pay rise, as the RMT union has in its dispute with Britain's train companies. She also suggested the RCN would ditch its demand for a 5% above inflation increase if the health secretary abandoned his refusal to begin meaningful talks.

"The more I think about it ... I'm a woman negotiating for a 90% female profession that is trying to operate with a government that's particularly macho and tends to operate with a bullyboy tactic. Perhaps that's the

reason why we can't get moving forward. By refusing to negotiate, Steve Barclay is ignoring nurses and ignoring me.

"I think there's an issue here with us being female. I ask myself, would that be different if it was a 90% male profession and I was a male? I truly believe it would be. I think we'd be treated differently," said Cullen, whose union represents 500,000 nurses across Britain.

In a direct attack on Rishi Sunak and his government, she added: "And that links back to the value of caring and it being female work. Nurses showed the

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Feast



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