

## What's News

### Business & Finance

**The Fed approved an interest-rate increase of 0.5 percentage point and signaled plans to lift rates through the spring, though likely in smaller increments, to combat high inflation. A1**

◆ **U.S. stocks fell after the central bank's meeting, with the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow losing 0.6%, 0.8% and 0.4%, respectively. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note edged higher. B10**

◆ **The SEC voted to advance the biggest changes to U.S. stock-market rules since the mid-2000s, aiming to give small investors better prices on their trades and reduce some advantages enjoyed by high-speed trading firms. B1**

◆ **Musk sold more than \$3.5 billion worth of Tesla stock this week in his second round of sales since buying Twitter, according to a regulatory disclosure. B1**

◆ **A top executive of FTX's Bahamas subsidiary warned that country's securities authority days before the company filed for bankruptcy of customer fund transfers to Alameda, documents show. B5**

◆ **Delta Air Lines raised its profit outlook for the fourth quarter, saying it expects strong demand for air travel to maintain momentum. B1**

◆ **Warner Bros. Discovery said it expects to face as much as \$1 billion more in restructuring charges than it had previously forecast. B2**

◆ **Growth in U.S. healthcare spending slowed to 2.7% last year after a 2020 surge in federal outlays on the pandemic, according to a government report. A6**

### World-Wide

◆ **Republican primary voters have high interest in Florida Gov. DeSantis as a potential 2024 presidential nominee and view him more favorably than they do former President Trump, according to a new Wall Street Journal poll. A1**

◆ **Ukrainian air defenses repelled a wave of Russian strikes in Kyiv, knocking at least 13 drones out of the sky, with explosions reported in the center of the city. A7**

◆ **The U.S. is moving to impose sanctions on Vladimir Putin, one of Russia's wealthiest men, as well as on some of his financial companies, U.S. officials said. A7**

◆ **The House passed a one-week government funding bill to give congressional negotiators time to complete an omnibus spending bill, overcoming opposition from Republicans who urged postponing any deal until next year. A4**

◆ **The Senate passed a bill that would ban federal employees from downloading or using TikTok on government devices, in the face of mounting national-security concerns. A6**

◆ **Peru's president ordered soldiers into the streets of the nation's second-largest city to protect infrastructure and quell violent protests that erupted following last week's ouster of her predecessor. A8**

◆ **A Turkish court convicted Istanbul's mayor of "insulting public officials" and sentenced him to more than two years in prison, striking a blow against a popular opponent of Erdogan. A9**

**CONTENTS** Opinion..... A15-17  
Arts in Review..... A13  
Personal Journal..... A13-12  
Business News..... B3-6  
Sports..... A24  
Crossword..... A14  
Technology..... B4  
Equities..... B8  
U.S. News..... A2-4  
Health on Street..... B11  
Weather..... A14  
Markets..... B10  
World News..... A7-10



© 2022 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

## World Cup Final Is Set as France Advances to Face Argentina



**BIG BLEU:** France's team celebrates after defeating Morocco 2-0 in the semifinals Wednesday. The defending champions will head into Sunday's final against Argentina looking to become the first team to retain the title since Brazil in 1962. A14

## Repayment of Pandemic Loans Ill-Timed for Many Businesses

By RUTH SIMON

Many small businesses that received federal pandemic aid are now seeing the bill come due, and some say the timing couldn't be worse. WrightIMC, based in Allen, Texas, borrowed \$150,000 from the Small Business Administration's Covid disaster loan program two years ago. The 20-person digital-marketing agency made its first \$1,600 loan payment this month, just

as ad sales are softening. The disaster loan "has certainly helped us to survive and avoid layoffs," said owner Tony Wright, who has frozen hiring and is cutting expenses as customers tighten their belts. "Ironically, the paycheck is coming at a time when we are seeing a steeper decline in business than during the pandemic," he said. "Maybe this isn't the best time to have everyone start paying back."

The SBA issued roughly

\$390 billion in Covid disaster loans to nearly four million small businesses and nonprofits. Unlike forgivable loans issued through the federal Paycheck Protection Program, the disaster loans were designed to be repaid. Now, after several deferrals, the bills are coming due. For 1.2 million Covid disaster loans, the first payments are due this month. An additional one million loans enter repayment in January. Borrowers began re-

paying 427,000 loans in October or November. The loans, which carry a 30-year term and a fixed interest rate of 3.75% for small businesses and 2.75% for nonprofits, were welcomed by entrepreneurs who often struggle to obtain low-cost financing even when the economy is booming. "It's cheap money," said Courtney Cowan, owner of Milk Jar Cookies in Los Angeles. "It's such a difference from every-

Please turn to page A8

## Fed Lifts Rates by 0.5 Point, Signals It Isn't Done

Increases are expected into spring, with cuts unlikely until 2024, even as inflation eases

By NICK TIMIRAS

**WASHINGTON**—The Federal Reserve approved an interest-rate increase of 0.5 percentage point and signaled plans to lift rates through the spring, though likely in smaller increments, to combat inflation.

The decision on Wednesday marked a step down after four consecutive larger increases of 0.75 point and raised the benchmark federal-funds rate to a range between 4.25% and 4.5%, a 15-year high.

Markets retreated slightly after the news. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 142.29 points, or 0.4%, to 33966.35. The yield on the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury note edged up to 3.503% from its Tuesday level of 3.501%. Yields rise as prices fall.

The latest increase capped a year in which the Fed raised rates from near zero at the fastest pace since the early 1980s to fight inflation, which is running near a 40-year high.

Fed policy makers are entering a new phase of policy tightening in which they are

Please turn to page A2

◆ **Greg Ip: Powell's outlook is at odds with markets..... A2**  
◆ **Stocks fall as Fed signals further increases..... B10**  
◆ **Heard on the Street: Fed's walk vs. its talk..... B11**

## Citizen Spies Helped Kyiv Retake Kherson

By MATTHEW LUXMOORE

**KHERSON, Ukraine**—Russian troops turned a large electronics store into a field hospital, barracks and food storehouse during their occupation of this southern Ukrainian city, streaming in and out unscathed, but not unseen.

One morning last summer, Ukrainian forces leveled the building, one of numerous attacks that day inside the Kherson region executed with the help of Ukrainian partisans in the Russian-controlled territory.

Before the strike on the store, a small group of Kherson-based Ukrainian activists had been sending photographs of the location and coordinates of the Russians over an encrypted Telegram channel to the Ukrainian military, a military official who worked with

the group said. The spying efforts played a key role in guiding the Ukrainian precision strikes that forced Moscow to abandon Kherson in November, Ukrainian military officials said. The partisans monitored roads into the city, watched feeds from street cameras trained on key intersections and cycled into fields pretending to tend to livestock while clocking Russian troops.

They soon became targets themselves. Russia's Federal Security Service raided the homes of some of the activists

Please turn to page A7

◆ **Ukraine fends off drone attacks on Kyiv..... A7**  
◆ **Russian oligarch Potanin is facing U.S. sanctions..... A7**  
◆ **Kremlin would target Patriot defense system..... A7**



**WORLD**  
Robert B. Zoellick on the hard decisions the U.S. and allies face on Ukraine. R12

**SPORTS**  
Martina Navratilova on the retirement of Roger Federer and Serena Williams. R9

## DeSantis Holds Early Lead Over Trump, Poll Finds

By JOHN MCCORMICK

Republican primary voters have high interest in Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis as a potential 2024 presidential nominee and view him more favorably than they do former President Donald Trump, a new Wall Street Journal poll shows.

In a hypothetical contest between the two, Mr. DeSantis beats Mr. Trump, 52% to 38%, among likely GOP primary voters contemplating a race in which the first nomination votes will be cast in just over a year.

The poll found that Mr. DeSantis is both well-known and well-liked among Republicans who say they are likely to vote

in a party primary or nominating contest, with 86% viewing the Florida governor favorably, compared with 74% who hold a favorable view of Mr. Trump. Only one in 10 likely GOP primary voters said they didn't know enough about Mr. DeSantis to venture an opinion of him.

Among all registered voters, Mr. DeSantis is viewed favorably by 43%, compared with 36% for the former president. Favorable views of Mr. Trump were the lowest recorded in Journal polling dating to November 2021 and have been pulled down by a decline in

Please turn to page A4

◆ **Shift by Arizona's Sinema is a wild card for Democrats..... A6**

## Counting to Dec. 25 With Beef Jerky

Advent calendars also offer wine, cosmetics, rocks

By KATHRYN DILL

Around 10 a.m. each day in December, Emma Lord goes into her New York City kitchen and, brimming with anticipation, plucks a one-ounce jam jar with a gingham-print lid from a tiny cardboard window. Will today's flavor be strawberry-rhubarb? Or dragonfruit? Could it be honey?

"The honey day is always an extremely controversial day for me," said Ms. Lord, who along with tens of thousands of other Yuletide preserves enthusiasts counts down the days to Christmas each year with food maker Bonne Maitre

Please turn to page A12

## Xi Jinping Bolsters Ties With Moscow

Chinese leader doubles down on relationship with Vladimir Putin

By LINGLING WEI AND MARCUS WALKER

China's leader Xi Jinping has in recent months tried to put public distance between Beijing and Moscow as Russia has suffered defeats in its war on Ukraine.

Behind the diplomatic appearances, however, Mr. Xi is deepening his long-term bet on Russia.

In recent weeks, he has instructed his government to forge stronger economic ties with Russia, according to policy advisers to Beijing, building on a trade relationship that has strengthened this year and become a lifeline to Moscow in the face of Western pressure.

The plan includes increas-

ing Chinese imports of Russian oil, gas and farm goods, more joint energy partnerships in the Arctic and increased Chinese investment in Russian infrastructure, such as railways and ports, the advisers say.

Russia and China are also conducting more financial transactions in the ruble and yuan, rather than the euro or dollar, a move that helps insulate the two against future sanctions and put the Chinese currency into wider circulation.

The tightening ties are the latest twist in the bilateral relationship, which intensified just before the Russian invasion, when a joint declaration asserted there were "no lim-

Please turn to page A10

### The industry leader in artificial intelligence software.

| RANK  | COMPANY   | 2021 AI REVENUE |
|-------|-----------|-----------------|
| No. 1 | Palantir  | \$1,392M        |
| No. 2 | Microsoft | \$1,252M        |
| No. 3 | IBM       | \$776M          |
| No. 4 | AWS       | \$688M          |
| No. 5 | Google    | \$536M          |

Source: IDC Worldwide Artificial Intelligence Platforms Software Market Shares, 2021. AI Is Being Used In More Unique Ways Than Ever (2022)

PALANTIR TECHNOLOGIES INC. PALANTIR.COM

The information presented in this table has been compiled and analyzed by IDC using its methodology described in the Worldwide Artificial Intelligence Platforms Software Market Shares, 2021. IDC is being used as a source of information. The information is not intended to be used for any other purpose. We have not independently verified, and make no representation as to the accuracy or completeness of the data contained in this report.



## Russia's do-it-yourself wartime economy

BIG READ, PAGE 15

## Elon Musk's trolling on Twitter is backfiring

JEMIMA KELLY, PAGE 16

Peru strife  
Interim leader  
wins backing

Supporters of deposed hard-left Peruvian president Pedro Castillo rally to demand his release yesterday outside the police station east of Lima where he is being held.

Castillo was arrested last week after attempting to shut down Congress and rule by decree to halt a move to impeach him on corruption charges.

The council of state, which groups key institutions including Congress and the presidency, has thrown its weight behind interim president Dina Boluarte's government. It called for an end to violent protests that have erupted since Castillo's arrest. Although Lima has not been seriously affected, Peruvian media said 13 of the 24 regions had been hit by demonstrations and road blocks.

Boluarte suggested yesterday that fresh presidential and parliamentary elections might be held in a year's time. Security stepped up page 4



Martin Bennett/ANP via Getty Images

## Briefing

► **EU aims to relax state aid rules after US subsidies**  
The European Commission is pressing to loosen EU state aid rules early next year to allow the bloc to compete with the US green stimulus package. — PAGE 2

► **Jail term for Erdogan foe**  
Istanbul's mayor has been found guilty of insulting election officials, endangering his hopes of fighting Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the polls. — PAGE 4

► **Arm in China chips ban**  
Chip designer Arm has denied Alibaba access to some of its most advanced semiconductors, fearing exports to China would be barred by the US and UK. — PAGE 6

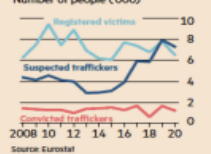
► **Carlyle fund extension**  
Buyout group Carlyle is seeking an extension until August as it struggles to reach a \$22bn target for what it hoped would be its biggest fund. — PAGE 8, LEX, PAGE 18

► **Spain raids fuel groups**  
Spanish regulators have raided offices of energy groups Repsol, Cepsa and BP after allegations that they abused their power in the petrol market. — PAGE 6

► **Binance seeks to reassure**  
Crypto exchange Binance's chief has sought to ease clients' fears, blaming a wave of withdrawals on the collapse of Sam Bankman-Fried's FTX. — PAGE 10, LEX, PAGE 18

## Datawatch

## Human trafficking in Europe



The number of convicted and suspected human traffickers and of their registered victims in the EU fell in 2020, largely because of pandemic disruption. The number of convicted traffickers remains much lower than the numbers suspected.

## Fed's half-point rate rise sets tone for slowing increases across the Atlantic

◆ Shift down from 0.75% hikes ◆ Eurozone and UK set to follow ◆ Economists call inflation peak

COLBY SMITH — WASHINGTON

The Federal Reserve raised its benchmark policy rate by half a percentage point yesterday and signalled its intention to keep squeezing the US economy next year, as central banks on both sides of the Atlantic enter a new phase in the battle against inflation.

At its final gathering of the year, the Federal Open Market Committee voted unanimously to increase the federal funds rate to a new target range of 4.25 per cent to 4.5 per cent, ending a months-long string of 0.75 percentage point rate increases.

The pivot to smaller rate rises is likely to be followed internationally, with the European Central Bank and the Bank of England also poised to increase borrow-

ing costs by half a percentage point today.

Economists say that inflation has peaked in all three regions, with reductions in the headline rate in the US and UK this week, but central banks remain worried that it will take too long to fall towards their 2 per cent targets.

In a statement accompanying its decision, the US central bank said that "ongoing increases" in the policy rate would be "appropriate" in order to

'Ongoing increases' in the policy rate would be 'appropriate' to bringing inflation under control

ensure the Fed is restraining the economy enough to bring price growth under control.

Alongside the rate decision, the US central bank published a revised "dot plot" of officials' individual interest rate projections, which indicated support for further tightening next year.

The median estimate for the fed funds rate by the end of 2023 rose to 5.1 per cent, up from the 4.6 per cent peak forecasted last time projections were published in September.

Most officials now see the policy rate declining to 4.1 per cent in 2024 and 3.1 per cent in 2025. That compares with estimates of 3.9 per cent and 2.9 per cent, respectively, three months ago.

The December meeting marked an important juncture for the Fed, which

this year embarked on the most aggressive attempt to tighten monetary policy since the early 1980s.

As the central bank's actions have begun to have a noticeable impact on the US economy, a debate has emerged over how much more restraint is needed to tame inflationary pressures that remain elevated in many sectors.

Jay Powell, the Federal Reserve chair, has previously said it would take "substantially more evidence" than a single month's data for the Fed to be confident inflation is actually declining, noting past periods when better than expected data were followed by fresh increases.

US home prices have fallen from their recent peak as mortgage rates have surged, the manufacturing sector is

flagging and consumer sentiment remains low.

However, the labour market continues to show surprising resilience. The unemployment rate still hovers at a historic low of 3.7 per cent and wages have risen rapidly amid an acute shortage of workers, accelerating to a pace officials warn risks igniting yet more price pressures.

Powell recently said it was "very plausible" that the Fed could bring down inflation without causing a recession.

New polling conducted by the Financial Times suggests doubts over that outcome, however. Of the economists surveyed, 85 per cent expect a recession next year.

More scope for ECB page 2  
Lex page 18



## Tri-nation alliance targets Asia for jet fighter sales

A partnership between the UK, Italy and Japan to build a new jet fighter could open up formerly hard-to-penetrate export markets in Asia, the companies involved have said. Military experts believe India could be one important customer for the Global Combat Air Programme. South Korea, Taiwan and Indonesia are being suggested as possible buyers of subsystems such as engines and radar developed by the programme. Door to Far East — PAGE 8

## Goldman's top bankers face 40% bonus cut as Solomon tightens hold on costs

JOSHUA FRANKLIN AND ORTEGA ALIAJ — NEW YORK  
JAMES FONTANELLA-KHAN — PAVIA

Goldman Sachs is considering shrinking the bonus pool for its more than 5,000 investment bankers by at least 40 per cent this year, as chief executive David Solomon tries to control costs with deeper cuts than many of the firm's Wall Street rivals.

Final bonus pools at Goldman are still being decided but the prospect of a cut at that level has fed fears that the bank could face high staff turnover in the new year, according to people familiar with the matter. "I think we're going to be worse than the Street," one senior Goldman banker said.

The cuts, the deepest since the 2008 financial crisis, highlight the feast-to-famine nature of Wall Street banking,

an industry that last year paid out career-high bonuses to many employees on the back of record fees from stock market listings and corporate mergers.

Globally, investment banking fees are down 35 per cent year to date, according to Refinitiv data. M&A has dried up amid rising interest rates, worries over the global economy and Russia's war with Ukraine. The number of IPOs this year has more than halved.

Cuts at Goldman are set to be deeper than at peers, despite the bank navigating rising interest rates and a slowing economy better than many rivals.

JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup and Bank of America are all contemplating cutting their investment banking bonus pools by 30 per cent, the Financial Times has previously reported.

Bonuses for Goldman's roughly 400 partners may be cut even more than at

the investment bank, perhaps by around half, the people said, as senior bankers bear the brunt of the revenue falls. The cuts for partner bonuses were reported previously by *Semafor*.

A person close to some of the most productive partners said that many top bankers had already started looking for opportunities in private equity and at alternative asset managers.

Goldman, which globally employs about 49,000, declined to comment. One of the central challenges for Solomon is to gain a higher stock market valuation for Goldman, which has lagged behind peers for several years. He must hit targets for return on tangible equity, a key measure of profitability.

In 2020, Solomon set a ROTC target of more than 14 per cent. The bank hit the goal last year but fell short in the first nine months of 2022.

## World Markets

| STOCK MARKETS    |          |          |       |      | CURRENCIES |         |        |         |         | GOVERNMENT BONDS |        |       |       |  |
|------------------|----------|----------|-------|------|------------|---------|--------|---------|---------|------------------|--------|-------|-------|--|
|                  | Dec 14   | Prev     | %Chg  |      | Pair       | Dec 14  | Prev   | %Chg    |         | Yield (%)        | Dec 14 | Prev  | %Chg  |  |
| S&P 500          | 4042.24  | 4019.85  | 0.56  | \$/€ | 1.065      | 1.064   | 0.001  | 0.939   | 0.940   | US 2 yr          | 4.19   | 4.20  | -0.01 |  |
| Nasdaq Composite | 11323.87 | 11256.81 | 0.60  | \$/£ | 1.241      | 1.240   | 0.001  | 0.806   | 0.807   | US 10 yr         | 3.50   | 3.48  | 0.02  |  |
| Dow Jones Ind    | 34310.71 | 34108.84 | 0.59  | €/£  | 0.858      | 0.858   | 0.000  | 1.185   | 1.185   | US 30 yr         | 3.56   | 3.50  | 0.06  |  |
| FTSE 100         | 1746.99  | 1746.44  | 0.03  | \$/¥ | 134.940    | 135.165 | -0.002 | 143.571 | 143.796 | UK 2 yr          | 3.47   | 3.56  | -0.09 |  |
| FTSE 250         | 3076.51  | 3066.83  | 0.32  | €/¥  | 167.283    | 167.357 | -0.000 | 80.124  | 79.827  | UK 10 yr         | 3.31   | 3.29  | 0.02  |  |
| Hang Seng        | 7495.93  | 7502.89  | -0.09 | \$/¥ | 0.983      | 0.986   | -0.003 | 1.148   | 1.148   | UK 30 yr         | 3.69   | 3.71  | -0.02 |  |
| FTSE All-Share   | 4100.28  | 4105.09  | -0.12 | €/¥  | 0.983      | 0.986   | -0.003 | 1.148   | 1.148   | JPY 2 yr         | -0.02  | -0.02 | 0.00  |  |
| CAC 40           | 6730.79  | 6744.98  | -0.21 | €/¥  | 0.983      | 0.986   | -0.003 | 1.148   | 1.148   | JPY 10 yr        | 0.25   | 0.25  | 0.00  |  |
| Nikkei           | 14460.33 | 14497.39 | -0.26 | €/¥  | 0.983      | 0.986   | -0.003 | 1.148   | 1.148   | JPY 30 yr        | 1.39   | 1.43  | -0.04 |  |
| Hang Seng        | 28156.21 | 27964.85 | 0.72  | €/¥  | 0.983      | 0.986   | -0.003 | 1.148   | 1.148   | GER 2 yr         | 2.13   | 2.14  | -0.01 |  |
| MSCI World       | 19673.45 | 19596.20 | 0.39  | €/¥  | 0.983      | 0.986   | -0.003 | 1.148   | 1.148   | GER 10 yr        | 1.94   | 1.92  | 0.02  |  |
| MSCI EM          | 2715.49  | 2683.56  | 1.19  | €/¥  | 0.983      | 0.986   | -0.003 | 1.148   | 1.148   | GER 30 yr        | 1.84   | 1.74  | 0.10  |  |
| MSCI ACWI        | 6209.31  | 6222.59  | -0.21 | €/¥  | 0.983      | 0.986   | -0.003 | 1.148   | 1.148   |                  |        |       |       |  |
| FT Wilshire 2500 | 5214.14  | 5175.94  | 0.74  | €/¥  | 0.983      | 0.986   | -0.003 | 1.148   | 1.148   |                  |        |       |       |  |
| FT Wilshire 5000 | 40705.68 | 40407.15 | 0.74  | €/¥  | 0.983      | 0.986   | -0.003 | 1.148   | 1.148   |                  |        |       |       |  |

Prices are listed for reference only. Data provided by Bloomberg.

A Nikkei Company

ALPINE EAGLE XL CHRONO

Chopard

THE ARTISAN OF EMOTIONS - SINCE 1860



**LATE EDITION**  
Today, afternoon rain, breezy, high 40. Tonight, rain, increasingly windy, watch for ponding on streets, low 39. Tomorrow, very windy, rain, high 45. Weather map, Page B12.



A Ukrainian Army surveillance team using infrared technology to try to locate Russian positions for artillery strikes this month.

## Spying Enemy By Body Heat On Frigid Night

By THOMAS GIBBONS-NEFF

BAKHUT, Ukraine — Wind howled through leafless trees and through the windows of the blown-out apartment building as the surveillance team marched up flights of stairs covered with broken glass. The cold numbed their fingers as they set up their equipment: a laptop-size thermal imaging sight, its tripod and a Starlink satellite dish and battery.

The job was straightforward: The small team of several men, led by an American known as Wolf, would be Ukraine's eyes on their battle for Bakhmut that night, huddling in the Soviet-style apartment and staring at the white-and-black glow of infrared images as it tried to identify Russian positions.

In front of them was a panoramic view of Bakhmut, a city in Ukraine's east, mostly without power and devastated by six months of concerted shelling. Russian artillery strikes in the distance sent white flashes into the sky under a blood red moon. Rockets arced on the horizon.

One of the team members powered on the thermal sight and it whirled to life. He turned to his colleague who was fiddling with the satellite dish, trying to connect to the internet. "Comms green?" he asked.

What unfolded over the next half-dozen hours was a routine but essential part of the daily rhythm of the war — part drudgery and part urgent calculation as the

Continued on Page A12

## Moscow's Propagandists Spin a Stumbling War

This article is by Paul Mozur, Adam Sattariano and Aaron Krolik.

As Russian tanks were stuck in the mud outside Kyiv earlier this year and the economic fallout of war with Ukraine took hold, one part of Russia's government hummed with precision: television propaganda.

Spinning together a counternarrative for tens of millions of viewers, Russian propagandists plucked clips from American cable news, right-wing social media and Chinese officials. They latched onto claims that Western embargoes of Russian oil would be

From YouTube, China  
and Fox News, Grist  
for State Media

self-defeating, that the United States was hiding secret bioweapon research labs in Ukraine and that China was a loyal ally against a fragmenting West.

Day by day, state media journalists sharpened those themes in emails. They sometimes broadcast battlefield videos and other information sent to them by the

successor agency to the K.G.B. And they excerpted and translated footage from favorite pundits, like the Fox News host Tucker Carlson, whose remarks about the war were shown to millions of Russians.

"Be sure to take Tucker," one Russian news producer wrote to a colleague. The email referred to a clip in which Mr. Carlson described the power of the Chinese

Continued on Page A11

'SHAM' CHARGES Supporters say that Paul Whelan is no spy and the Russians know it. PAGE A10



LARS BARON/GETTY IMAGES

## Embracing Destiny

Morocco will be remembered for its spirit. France will be playing to win the World Cup. Page B8.

## In a Fight Over Lawn and Order, a Nature-Friendly Yard Prevails

By CARA BUCKLEY

COLUMBIA, Md. — Janet and Jeff Crouch do not know which flower or plant may have pushed their longtime next-door neighbor over the edge, prompting him to pen complaint after complaint about the state of their yard.

Perhaps it was the scarlet bee balm that drew hummingbirds in

darting, whirring droves. Or the swamp milkweed that monarch butterflies feasted upon before laying their eggs. Or maybe it was the native sunflowers that fed bumblebees and goldfinches.

Whatever it was, their neighbor's mounting resentment burst to the fore in the fall of 2017, in the form of a letter from a lawyer for their homeowner association that

## 2 Homeowners Change Rules in Maryland

ordered the Crouches to rip out their native plant beds, and replace them with grass. The couple were stunned. They'd lived on their quiet cul-de-

sac harmoniously with their neighbors for years, and chose native plants to help insects, birds and wildlife thrive. Now the association was telling them that their plantings not only violated the by-laws, but were eyesores that hurt property values. "Your yard is not the place for such a habitat," the letter read.

Continued on Page A20

## Biden Pledges Deals to Bolster Africa's Future

\$55 Billion in Spending  
to Revitalize Ties

By PETER BAKER  
and DELAN WALSH

WASHINGTON — President Biden sought to revitalize America's listless relationship with Africa on Wednesday, promising a grab bag of economic initiatives to make up for a predecessor who had denigrated the continent and catch up with strategic competitors like China that have expanded their influence.

Assembling most of Africa's leaders in Washington for the first time since 2014, Mr. Biden vowed to invest what aides calculated will be \$55 billion on the continent over the next three years while supporting its ambitions for greater global leadership and bolstering efforts to transform it into a more prosperous, healthier and technologically advanced region.

"The United States is all in on Africa's future," Mr. Biden declared in an address to the delegations of 49 nations attending the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit. Adapting a line he often uses to pitch domestic priorities, the president added, "Together, we want to build a future of opportunity where no one, no one, is left behind."

The three-day gathering may go a long way toward emphasizing American support for Africa, with concrete pledges on issues of great importance. At the same time, it did not include a sweeping, inspirational initiative like President George W. Bush's PEPFAR program to combat AIDS or President Barack Obama's Power Africa drive to electrify tens of millions of homes. Unclear was whether Mr. Biden's less splashy commitments would have an effect that would be noticed and positively shape perceptions of America.

The United States is widely seen as lagging behind China in cultivating Africa, a geopolitical contest that in recent years has expanded to include powers like Russia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has exacerbated food shortages in Africa while Covid-19 has disrupted supply chains, multiplying challenges in a region with no shortage of them to begin with.

American influence in Africa dwindled under Mr. Biden's predecessor, Donald J. Trump, who paid little attention to the continent except to deride some of its 54 nations with an expletive and to complain that after immigrants from Nigeria saw the United States, they would never "go back to their huts." Mr. Trump spoke of Africa as if the entire continent

Continued on Page A9

## FED RAISES RATE AT SLOWER PACE BUT IS NOT DONE

AN INCREASE OF 0.5%

Caution Is Tempered by  
Reminder: 'We Have  
More Work to Do'

By JEANNA SMIALEK  
and JOE RENNISON

Federal Reserve officials on Wednesday slowed their campaign to cool the economy but indicated that interest rates would rise higher in 2023 than previously expected as inflation proves more stubborn than policymakers had hoped.

Fed officials voted unanimously at the conclusion of their two-day meeting to raise borrowing costs by half a percentage point, a pull-back after four consecutive three-quarter point increases. Their policy rate is now set to a range of 4.25 to 4.5 percent, the highest it has been since 2007.

After months of moving rapidly to make money more expensive in an attempt to rein in an overheated



ing economy, central bankers are entering a phase in which they expect to adjust policy more cautiously. That will give them time to see how the labor market and inflation are reacting to the policy changes they have already put in place.

Yet the Fed's latest economic projections, released on Wednesday for the first time since September, sent a clear signal that slowing the pace of rate increases does not mean that officials are letting up in their battle against rapid inflation. Borrowing costs are expected to rise more drastically and inflict more economic pain than central bankers previously anticipated as policymakers attempt to wrangle stubborn price increases.

"We're continually expected to make faster progress on inflation than we have," Jerome H. Powell, the Fed chair, said during his news conference after the release. He described the Fed's new expecta-

Continued on Page A15

## Colleges Are Resetting Tuition After Applicants Balk at Costs

By ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS

NEW LONDON, N.H. — Over the last two years, applications at Colby-Sawyer College, a small, quaint assemblage of red brick buildings surrounded by three mountains, fell about 10 percent, hurt by the pandemic and by competition from less expensive public colleges across the Northeast. Against that backdrop, Colby-Sawyer made what looks like a radical decision. It slashed the official price of tuition for the 2023-24 school year to \$17,500, from about \$46,000, a drop of 62 percent. Its published tuition is now

only slightly higher than the cost of attending regional public universities.

Colby-Sawyer has joined a growing number of small, private colleges in what's called the tuition reset, which overhauls prices to reflect what most students actually pay after discounting through need-based and merit financial aid.

The reset is part marketing move and part reality check. It is frank recognition among some

Continued on Page A15

NATIONAL A14-21

## Surge in Migrants Tests El Paso

A jump in border crossings is arousing mixed emotions in a predominantly Latino city where immigrants are a quarter of the population. PAGE A14

BUSINESS B1-7

## China's Covid Fog

Despite Beijing's assurances that the situation is under control, data on infections has become more opaque amid loosened pandemic constraints. PAGE B1

ARTS C1-8

## After Hack, Sale-Price Opera

A cyberattack shut down the Met's ticket system, so a workaround system was devised that allowed people to buy tickets at a steep discount. PAGE C1

THURSDAY STYLES D1-12

## What Made You Look in 2022

While reviewing selections for the Year in Pictures, editors on the Styles Desk were struck by the exuberance that came through in the shots. PAGE D6

OPINION A24-25

## Gail Collins

PAGE A25

CREED  
1760  
HOUSE ESTABLISHED 1760 CREEDBOUTIQUE.COM @CREEDBOUTIQUE  
BEVERLY HILLS | HOUSTON | LAS VEGAS | MIAMI | NEW YORK | SANTA CLARA





DEBORAH SMITH of Duarte says her son's mental deterioration began after high school. Nicholas, now 29, had the first of seven psychiatric holds in 2014. "He's getting dark. He's getting really scary," she says. Photographs by JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

## FOR YOUR MIND

# Her plea: Lock up my son

Deborah Smith sought conservatorship as Nicholas became increasingly delusional, violent. Hospitals kept releasing him.

BY DOUG SMITH

Deborah Smith begins her days online, searching for her son's name on the Los Angeles County sheriff's inmate locator, a ritual she shares with many moms she's bonded with over the years.

"This is something that mental health mothers get used to when you don't know where your kid is," she said. "You can call hospitals, but they won't tell you. The only thing you have left is, 'Did he get arrested?'"

His name came up after his Oct. 7 arrest in Santa Monica. He was standing in traffic waving a knife and wearing a Ghostface mask from the movie "Scream."

It was a moment of hope, a chance to appear in court and plead with a judge to petition for conservatorship. That's not what happened. Just 10 [See Son, A6]



UNDER CURRENT LAW, Smith has no right to make medical decisions for her son or even get information about his treatment.

# Entire region under drought emergency

Southern California water agencies are asked to reduce use of imported supplies.

BY HAYLEY SMITH AND IAN JAMES

As California faces the prospect of a fourth consecutive dry year, officials with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California have declared a regional drought emergency and called on water agencies to immediately reduce their use of all imported supplies.

The decision from MWD's board came about eight months after officials declared a similar emergency for 7 million people who are dependent on supplies from the State Water Project, a vast network of reservoirs, canals and dams that convey water from Northern California. Residents reliant on California's other major supply — the Colorado River — had not been included in that emergency declaration.

"Conditions on the Colorado River are growing increasingly dire," MWD Chairwoman Gloria Gray said in a statement. "We simply cannot continue turning to that source to make up the difference in our limited state supplies. In addition, three years of California drought are drawing down our local storage."

Officials said the call for conservation in areas dependent on Colorado River water could become mandatory if drought conditions persist in the coming months, which some experts say is likely. By April, the MWD will consider allocating supplies to all of its 26 member agencies, requiring them to either cut their use of imported water or face steep additional fees. The

agencies together serve about 19 million people. "Since this drought began, we have been steadily increasing our call for conservation. If we don't have an extremely wet winter, we will need to elevate to our highest level — a water supply allocation for all of Southern California," said MWD General Manager Adel Hagekhalil. "Substantial and immediate conservation now and in the coming months will help lessen the potential severity of such an allocation."

MWD member agencies, [See Drought, A9]

# REGENTS APPROVE UCLA'S MOVE TO BIG TEN

Bruins will pay annual tax to support sister school Berkeley as part of UC's terms.

BY BEN BOLCH, THUC NHI NGUYEN AND STEVE HENSON

After months of haggling over UCLA's end-around move to join the Big Ten Conference, the University of California regents are stepping aside and allowing the departure to proceed as planned.

The regents voted during a meeting Wednesday at UCLA to allow the Bruins to leave the Pac-12 Conference and join the Big Ten provided they pay a hefty tax to sister school UC Berkeley and take measures to mitigate travel and improve nutrition and mental health services for student-athletes.

By joining crosstown rival USC as part of an expanded Big Ten that will include 16 teams, the Bruins will help form the nation's first coast-to-coast conference as well as a worthy foil to the supercharged Southeastern Conference.

The move slated for August 2024 is expected to secure the financial future of a UCLA athletic department facing nine figures of debt while also avoiding the possibility of cutting Olympic sports teams. In just its first year of Big Ten membership, the school is projected to pocket \$65 million to \$75 million in media rights revenue, roughly doubling what it would have made by remaining in the Pac-12. [See UCLA, A12]



A DISPLAY at the Elwood Haynes Museum, named after the inventor credited with being the first to produce cars commercially in 1894, in Kokomo, Ind.

## UNITED STATES OF CALIFORNIA

# Can EV push overcome resistance in red states?

Skepticism abounds despite industry foothold

BY NOAH BIEMAN

KOKOMO, Ind. — This industrial city an hour north of Indianapolis isn't as famous as Detroit, but it has become an unlikely battleground in the war over electric cars.

Almost everyone you meet here either works in a factory, is retired from one or has a relative in a plant that makes parts for gasoline-powered cars — which have ruled Kokomo for nearly 130 years, since a brass inventor named Elwood Haynes chugged down Pumpkinvine Pike at 7 mph in one of America's first horseless carriages.

"We haven't developed a workforce

towards anything else yet," said Warren Sims, a 41-year-old worker in the same casting plant that employs his father, working on gas transmission engines. "We don't make a fuel-efficient vehicle. Everything's big and everything costs [a lot to] fuel and people buy it."

Yet change is coming. Bulldozers are clearing Kokomo's cornfields to build a \$2.5-billion government-subsidized electric vehicle battery factory, with the aim of retaining jobs tied to auto production at a time California is leading the nation in phasing out gas-powered engines.

Environmentalists, along with industry and government leaders, see a transformation afoot after [See EVs, A12]

# Suit is settled in rental bias case

Prosecutors allege Hesperia, sheriff used 'crime-free housing' law to evict tenants.

BY LIAM DILLON AND BEN POSTON

A Mojave Desert community and sheriff's department will be forced to spend nearly \$1 million to settle a civil rights lawsuit alleging they discriminated against Black and Latino renters, the U.S. Department of Justice announced Wednesday.

Federal prosecutors hailed the case against the city of Hesperia and San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department as a landmark

effort to combat policies popular in California and across the country that encourage landlords to evict or exclude tenants with criminal histories or brushes with law enforcement.

Investigations by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and The Times have shown so-called "crime-free housing" laws have disproportionately affected Black and Latino residents, making it harder for them to rent apartments and leaving them at greater risk of eviction.

"These crime-free programs often amplify the stark documented racial disparities across our criminal legal system," said As- [See Evict, A7]

## Tornadoes, snow from huge storm

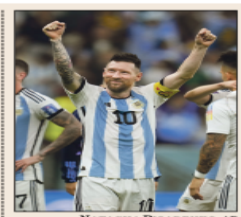
Twisters kill at least 3 in Louisiana as blizzards hit the Plains and the Northeast braces for icy conditions. NATION, A4

## Trial for DePape in Pelosi attack

San Francisco judge rules prosecutors have enough evidence, including a "hit list," to proceed. CALIFORNIA, B1

## Weather

Mostly cloudy. L.A. Basin: 62/47. B6



NATACHA PISARENKO AP



ENRAHIM NOROOZI AP

## WORLD CUP FINAL SET

Defending champion France brings Morocco's unlikely run to an end with a 2-0 victory in the semifinals and will face Argentina, led by Lionel Messi, left, Sunday in Qatar. SPORTS, B10

**BUSINESS INSIDE:** An inquiry into a novice's big poker win finds no proof of cheating. A8



# The Washington Post

Please recycle this newspaper. Recycle symbol.

Rain, sleet 45/40 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 49/33 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022 • B3

## Abortion foes aim to cut pill access

Advocates want jail for 'trafficking' that flouts strict post-Roe laws

BY CAROLINE KITCHENER

The largest antiabortion organization in Texas has created a team of advocates assigned to investigate citizens who might be distributing abortion pills illegally.

Students for Life of America, a leading national antiabortion group, is making plans to systematically test the water in large U.S. cities, searching for contaminants they say result from medication abortion.

And Republican lawmakers in Texas are preparing to introduce legislation that would require internet providers to block abortion pill websites in the same way they can censor child pornography.

Nearly six months since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, triggering abortion bans in more than a dozen states, many antiabortion advocates fear that the growing availability of illegal abortion pills has undercut their landmark victory. Now they are grasping for new ways to crack down on those breaking the law.

Antiabortion advocates had hoped the June decision would significantly decrease the number of abortions in the United States. But abortion rights activists have ramped up efforts to funnel abortion pills — a two-step regimen of mifepristone and misoprostol that is widely regarded as safe — into states with strict

SEE ABORTION ON A4

## Investors say stars who hyped FTX should pay up

BY STEVEN ZEITCHIK AND JULIAN MARK

When Michael Livieratos saw quarterback Tom Brady in a commercial for the cryptocurrency trading platform FTX, he knew exactly where he wanted to put his \$30,000 crypto investment.

"As a New England Patriots fan my entire life, you can imagine the influence that Tom Brady would have," said Livieratos, a 56-year-old legal clerk who lives in Connecticut. He soon moved nearly all his money from another crypto exchange to FTX.

Then FTX filed for bankruptcy in a spectacular collapse that vaporized at least \$10 billion in assets, according to bankruptcy filings, including all the money Livieratos had on the platform. Now he is a plaintiff in a proposed

SEE CRYPTO ON A18

At Capitol: Lawmakers dissect FTX case, evaluate crypto's future. A3



CARTEL FENTANYL'S DEADLY SURGE

ANNE ROE/ASSOCIATED PRESS



EDUARDO VERDUGO/ASSOCIATED PRESS



CHRIS ARIAS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

## How the U.S. lost a trusted ally

BY MARY BETH SHERIDAN AND NICK MIROFF

MEXICO CITY — The small American surveillance plane took off from a Mexican navy base in Baja California and flew high across the Sea of Cortez. Charting a course for the Sierra Madre mountains — cartel territory — the aircraft did not appear on any flight trackers or public logs. An orb-shaped device about the size of a beach ball was mounted on the fuselage, bristling with sensors and antennas.

U.S. agents called it "the sniffer."

Mexican admiral close to the DEA was sidelined by his country just as synthetic opioids took off

Adm. Marco Antonio Ortega Siliu, top center, worked for years with the U.S. to capture cartel leaders such as Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, above left. Above right, Mexican marines patrol Tepic in 2017 after a key shootout there.

The device was an experimental version of a mass spectrometer, used to identify chemicals. As the U.S. aircraft banked over the forested hills of Sinaloa state, it dipped lower, sampling the air for wafting fumes.

The sniffer, whose secret use in the skies over Mexico has never been reported, had been deployed by the Pentagon and the CIA to target heroin production sites in Afghanistan. By 2018, faced with deadly synthetic narcotics pouring across the U.S. border, the Drug Enforcement Administration, Customs and Border Protection and other

SEE CARTEL ON A10

## Slavery-enriched family eyes a uranium fortune

BY JULIE ZAUZMER WEIL

CHATHAM, VA. — The land came first, 5,557 acres of forest purchased two years after the Revolutionary War by a Virginia slaveholder and future congressman. The mansion came next — a symbol of fortune and power built by enslaved workers, who spent seven years assembling the state-ly home brick by brick until it was finally finished in 1825.

"It's been occupied by a Walter Coles and his wife ever since then," says the latest Walter Coles — the fifth of that name — as he

sits in the same parlor his father, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather all sat in before him, recounting the history of Coles Hill as his predecessors look down from portraits on all four walls.

Coles, 84, is one of countless Americans who still benefit from the wealth accumulated by America's 18th- and 19th-century slaveholders. And his great-great-grandfather, Walter Coles I, and great-great-great-grandfather, Isaac Coles, helped shape the country's brutal and lucrative system of

SEE ENSLAVERS ON A6



JOSHUA LOTY/THE WASHINGTON POST

Carole Coles Henry holds a photo of her grandparents. Her ancestors were enslaved at Coles Hill plantation in Chatham, Va.

## IN THE NEWS



JAMIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

**World Cup final set** Reigning champ France ousted Morocco, 2-0, and will face Argentina on Sunday. D1 | Reaction in Morocco. A13

**Democrat rift** The White House moved to derail a Senate bill that would end military support for Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen. A15

### THE NATION

**In a first**, NASA's Mars rover Perseverance captured the sounds of a dust devil taller than the Statue of Liberty, a scientific journal found. A3

### THE WORLD

**In Kyiv**, some residents have begun grim preparations to survive a Russian nuclear attack. A8

**A U.S. Air Force** veteran captured by Russian forces in Ukraine was released in a prisoner swap between Moscow and Kyiv. A9

**China** stopped counting asymptomatic coronavirus cases and

apparently tightened criteria for classifying covid-19 deaths. A13

**New Zealand** banned the sale of tobacco products to anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 2009. A14

**The European Union** reached a pact to impose a border tax on highly polluting products, pushing China and others to be greener. A15

### THE ECONOMY

**The Federal Reserve** raised interest rates by half a percentage point and signaled plans to keep raising them in 2023. A16

**Elon Musk** threatened

to sue the college student behind a Twitter account that tracked his private jet, after the platform suspended and restored the page. A16

### THE REGION

**A criminal trial** against two D.C. police officers involved in a fatal moped chase came to a close and was sent to the jury. B1

**The parents** of slain U-Va. athlete D'Sean Perry aired questions about why the violence was not prevented and said they will push for changes in gun laws and health policies. B1

**Prince William** supervisors adopted a "Pathway to 2040" plan that

encourages multifamily housing and more density in rural areas. B1

**The Lifetime movie** "Single and Ready to Jingle" was written by Maryland screenwriter Brian Rubery, who faced over four decades of rejection before finding success in his 60s. B1

### OBITUARIES

**Milton Viorst**, 92, a journalist and author, mixed traditional reportage and historical analysis on the Middle East and more. B4

### SPORTS

**800 goals:** A full-page poster of the great Alexander Ovechkin and his milestone mark. D10

## INSIDE



### LOCAL LIVING

**4 takes on a plate** We asked four design professionals to create a holiday table setting using the same plain white dinner plate.

### STYLE

**Mystery of the vanishing archives** A defunct Charlottesville newspaper's web stories suddenly went dark, fueling speculation. C1

BUSINESS NEWS.....A16  
COMICS.....C6  
OPINION PAGES.....A19  
LOTTERIES.....B3  
OBITUARIES.....B4  
TELEVISION.....C4  
WORLD NEWS.....A8

CONTENT © 2022  
The Washington Post / Year 140, No. 53338  
0170628121100 3



## Don't let scam artists ruin your holiday season

Experts flag scenarios and warning signs that you may be dealing with scammers. **In Money**

## 10 teams to watch in chase for QBs in transfer portal

Notre Dame and Ohio State among colleges that will be hunting for top passers. **In Sports**



SARAH GRIESEMER/  
USA TODAY NETWORK

## Serving up nostalgia, with dash of inspiration

Holiday baking shows satisfy cravings for calmness, encourage viewers to create their own delicious confections. **In Life**

# USA TODAY

THE NATION'S NEWS | \$3 | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022



Tesla, Twitter CEO Elon Musk. AP

## Americans back limits on social media

Poll: More needs to be done to cut hate speech

Susan Page  
USA TODAY

Americans by overwhelming numbers express concern about the rise of antisemitism and white nationalism in the United States, a USA TODAY/Suffolk University Poll finds, and most say social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook have an obligation to curtail hate speech on their sites.

Those findings of public opinion conflict with the actions of billionaire Elon Musk, a self-described "free speech absolutist" who bought Twitter in October. Since he dismantled some policies designed to limit disinformation and expressions of hatred, the Center for Countering Digital Hate and other analysts have reported that on-line slurs against Black people, Jews, gays and others have soared.

On Monday, Musk disbanded the Trust and Safety Council, an advisory group of civil rights and child safety advocates formed to guide the company through content moderation issues.

In the poll, a 52% majority of those surveyed say social media companies have a responsibility to restrict hateful or inaccurate posts. In contrast, 39% say the sites should be an open forum, even if speech is hateful or inaccurate.

On this, there are sharp differences by gender and political philosophy.

Men by 11 percentage points endorse an open forum online; women by 38 points say hate speech should be limited. Liberals and moderates overwhelmingly support restricting hate speech online; conservatives by more than 2-1 oppose it.

The poll of 1,000 registered voters, taken by landline and cellphone Dec. 7-11, has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

In the survey, 3 in 4 Americans, 74%, say they are concerned about rising hate speech; nearly half, 49%, are "very concerned." While Democrats express more alarm than Republicans, a majority across lines of race, region, age and partisanship see a worrisome rise in hatred against Black and Jewish Americans.

As for Musk, views are divided. Overall, he scores a rating of 34% favorable, 42% unfavorable; 19% are undecided or never heard of him. While 60% of Republicans view him favorably, just 7% of Democrats do.

David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center, sees in the poll's data "a potentially dangerous picture of Elon Musk being aligned with white nationalism."

## Fed slows down, hikes interest rate half point

**"Despite some promising developments, we have a long way to go in restoring price stability."**

Jeerome Powell, Federal Reserve chairman

Paul Davidson, Medora Lee  
and Elisabeth Buchwald  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve is going slower but aiming higher.

The Fed agreed to raise its key short-term interest rate by half a percentage point Wednesday, dialing back from recent outside hikes as it draws up an end game in its aggressive campaign to tame soaring inflation.

But the central bank forecast another three-quarter point in rate increases

next year, more than it previously estimated. Fed officials are thus signaling they believe inflation is still too high and aren't backing off their hard-nosed battle to subdue it despite growing recession risks.

In a statement after a two-day meeting, the Fed reiterated that "ongoing (rate) increases ... will be appropriate" to bring down yearly inflation to the Fed's 2% goal. Some economists reckoned the Fed instead would say "additional in-

See **RATE HIKE**, Page 8A

## Storms marching across USA

Tornadoes rake South; blizzard sweeps across North; ice coming to Northeast



A boy walks past a Christmas tree in debris a tornado left behind Tuesday in Wayne, Okla. SARAH PHIPPS/USA TODAY NETWORK

John Bacon  
USA TODAY

More than 30 million Americans across the nation's northern tier were under winter weather advisories or warnings Wednesday while tornadoes swept the South as a deadly winter storm continued its damaging march through the country.

A line of tornadoes and severe

storms rolling through Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida was blamed for at least two deaths and dozens of injuries. Blizzard conditions forced closures of scores of interstates and other roads in Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, South Dakota and North Dakota.

"A powerful system continues to produce heavy snow, blizzard conditions, and areas with a wintry mix across the

north and central Plains," the National Weather Service said in an ominous alert Tuesday night. "Severe storms with all hazards, including intense tornadoes, and heavy to excessive rain that could cause flash flooding can be expected across the Deep and Middle South."

The storm won't end there, instead heading to the Northeast, where Accu-

See **STORMS**, Page 5A

## Ohio aunt takes down online identity thief

Fearing for her safety, Zina Wilson agreed to tell her tale under one of the pseudonyms she used in her online research.

ILLUSTRATION BY  
KYLE SLAGLE/  
USA TODAY  
NETWORK



Vigilante's investigation led to gangs, criminals

Nick Penzenstadler  
USA TODAY

As Zina Wilson sat in front of her computer in her suburban Ohio home last year, she decided: You have ripped off the wrong family.

Wilson, 51, was fed up with her niece receiving eviction notices for apartments in Las Vegas she had never rented, about receiving notices from collection agencies for Wi-Fi in cities where she had never lived.

She would fight back in the online world, where she soon learned nothing can be trusted as real. Her search led her

See **VIGILANTE**, Page 4A



50  
©COPYRIGHT 2022  
USA TODAY,  
A division of  
Gannett Co., Inc.

HOME DELIVERY  
1-800-872-0001, USATODAYSERVICE.COM



**espectáculos****La secuela de Avatar promete nuevos récords de taquilla**

Se estrena la nueva película de James Cameron, con gran expectativa global.

**1936-2022 Haydée Padilla. Una comediente entrañable**

Fue una actriz muy versátil que forjó una destacada trayectoria: su personaje de La Chona forma parte del folclore popular y dejó una huella en la TV. **Página 6**

**SE DESINFLA EL BOOM DE ALQUILERES DE QUINTAS EN VERANO**

—sociedad

En los últimos años había sido una de las opciones fuertes para pasar las vacaciones; explican que ahora la gente prefiere viajar por el país. **Página 20**

# LA NACION

JUEVES 15 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

QATAR 2022

## El reto: quitarle la corona a Francia, el campeón



La celebración de los franceses, otra vez en la final, para definir el título el próximo domingo ante la Argentina

ROBERT MICHAEL/DPA

DOHA (De nuestros enviados especiales).—La Argentina y Francia definirán la Copa del Mundo de Qatar el próximo domingo, desde las 12. El equipo de Lionel Messi conoció su rival al definirse la segunda semifinal: triunfo del vigente campeón por 2 a 0 ante la sorprendente y orgullosa Marruecos. La selección que dirige Didier Deschamps no se espanta con nada, ni con los

silbidos de miles de hinchas marroquíes durante todo el partido ni con la sucesión de bajas que empezó con N'Golo Kanté y Paul Pogba, y continuó con Karim Benzema, Kimpembe y Lucas Hernández. Para el ganador se tratará de su tercera corona, después de los títulos argentinos en 1978 y 1986, y las consagraciones de los galos en 1998 y 2018. **Deportes Mundial**

### Familia y asado para apurar las horas

Federico Águla | Enviado especial  
**Página 4**

## Fuerte aumento del gasto público y bono por decreto para los trabajadores privados

**PRESUPUESTO.** Con un DNU, el Gobierno se autorizó a gastar \$1,53 billones más antes de fin de año y a subir el nivel de endeudamiento

El Gobierno avanzó ayer con un fuerte aumento del gasto y la deuda pública. El Poder Ejecutivo apeló a un decreto de necesidad y urgencia (DNU) para incrementar 1,53 billones de pesos el presupuesto y disponer una suba de la deuda pública por poco más

de un billón de pesos. La medida fue cuestionada por la oposición.

En paralelo, el Gobierno dispuso ayer dos bonos de fin de año. Uno de \$24.000 que deberá pagar el sector privado a todos los trabajadores que ganen menos de \$180.000

y otro de \$13.000 para los beneficiarios del plan Potenciar Trabajo. Hace pocos días, el Presidente había dicho que no dispondría un bono para empresas privadas porque muchas pymes no podrían pagarlo. **Página 8**

### Perú se militariza para aplacar las protestas

**CRISIS.** Boloarte dictó el estado de emergencia por 30 días; 8 muertos

LIMA (AP).— En un intento de aplacar las protestas que ya provocaron ocho muertos tras el fallido autogolpe de Pedro Castillo, la presidenta de Perú, Dina Boloarte, decretó ayer el estado de emergencia nacional durante 30 días —que les da mayor poder de acción a las Fuerzas Armadas— y propuso adelantar las elecciones a diciembre de 2023. En tanto, hoy se definirá si se extiende por 18 meses la prisión preventiva del expresidente, que ayer agradeció el apoyo a Alberto Fernández y a otros mandatarios de la región. **Página 2**

### EL ESCENARIO

### La pelea por llenar el vacío que dejó Cristina

**Carlos Pagni**  
—LA NACION—

El maravilloso partido frente a Croacia y el ingreso de la selección en la final del Mundial promovieron emociones novedosas. La alegría y el entusiasmo, que estaban desde hacía mucho tiempo ausentes. La satisfacción de integrar un torrente multitudinario. Un momento feliz y extraño, para una sociedad fracturada por la penuria económica y la polarización. Nada del otro mundo: la identificación con la nación, que repone la sensación de pertenencia a un todo. **Continúa en la página 12**



## Ciência B4

### Isaias Raw morre aos 95 anos

Com extensa vida acadêmica, pesquisador se destacou no desenvolvimento de vacinas no país ao dirigir o Butantan. A causa da morte não foi divulgada.

## turismo C8

Maldivas, xodó de influencers, também recebe famílias e fãs de natureza extrema

## ilustrada C1 e C4

### Batalha naval

Diretor de 'Titanic' volta para o mar e até afunda navio no novo 'Avatar'



Cena do longa 'Avatar: O Caminho da Água' Divulgação

EUA desaceleram alta de juros pela primeira vez em 2022 A18

Pedágios em São Paulo ficam 12% mais caros a partir de amanhã A20

Rosa Weber vota no STF contra emendas de relator

A presidente do STF, Rosa Weber, votou por vedar o uso das emendas de relator para atender a parlamentares ou a pessoas externas ao Congresso. A corte retoma o julgamento hoje, com o voto de André Mendonça. Política A4

Militares já fazem plano de dispersar atos em quartéis

Comandantes militares esperam pedido do novo governo e se preparam para dispersar atos antidemocráticos em frente a quartéis após posse, em 1º de janeiro. Retirada de Bolsonaro terá risco de confronto, avaliam. Política A10

TSE vai investigar Bolsonaro por ataques a urnas

Política A5



Mbappé festeja com camisa do lateral marroquino Hakimi, seu melhor amigo no PSG; no domingo, francês também duelará com Messi pela artilharia da Copa

## copa 2022 ■

### França sofre, passa e fará final com Argentina para ser bi e tri

Franceses aguentaram pressão de Marrocos e decidiram por 2 a 0. Final terá duelo de Mbappé e Messi, maiores estrelas da Copa, e vai consagrar um tricampeão mundial. Se der França, também será primeiro bi em 60 anos. p.1

## Tayguara Ribeiro

Marrocos fica entre os quatro melhores em Mundial histórico para a África p.5

| Semifinal   | Final         | Semifinal  |
|-------------|---------------|------------|
| TERÇA, 13   | DOM 18 • 12h* | ONTEM      |
| ARGENTINA 3 | ARGENTINA     | 2 FRANÇA   |
| CROÁCIA 0   | FRANÇA        | 0 MARROCOS |

\*Horário de Brasília

## Sérgio Rodrigues

### Penélope Charmosa foi à Copa

Relembro Nick Hornby, que comparou a seleção tri de 1970 ao "Rolls-Royce cor-de-rosa da Penélope Charmosa e o Aston Martin do James Bond". Hoje nos falta um carro com design e motor para chegar ao fim da viagem. B2

## Brasil falha na prevenção contra desastres climáticos

Autoridades brasileiras têm convívio cada vez mais com os estragos das chuvas, cuja intensidade pode indicar reflexo das mudanças climáticas, mas falham em medidas de longo prazo, como política de habitação e combate à pobreza.

Para especialistas, intervenções de infraestrutura e protocolos de emergência não bastam sem melhorias de condições da população e deslizamentos, que deve dobrar ou até triplicar nas próximas décadas. Ambiente B1

## Desmate no cerrado cresce 25% e ultrapassa 10 mil km² B1

## Lula viajará à China e, no 1º dia, retomará laços com Venezuela

Futuro chanceler, Mauro Vieira anunciou que presidente eleito visitará Argentina, China e EUA nos três primeiros meses de governo. Relação com Venezuela, hoje uma ditadura, será retomada no primeiro dia da gestão, disse. A12

# Mudança na Lei das Estatais abre portas para centrão

Projeto da Câmara tem potencial de beneficiar aliados em meio a negociações do governo eleito; Senado deve aprovar

A mudança na Lei das Estatais, aprovada em votação relâmpago ontem na Câmara, abre as portas para que o centrão e outros representantes da classe política ocupem cargos estratégicos nas empresas públicas e em agências reguladoras. A sessão repentina ocorreu no mesmo dia em que Aloizio Mercadante foi anunciado para chefiar o BNDES.

A manobra vem no momento em que partidos têm demandado cargos do governo eleito, que costurou uma frente ampla durante a campanha e tem procurado conquistar apoio para votações no Congresso — inclusive a PEC (proposta de emenda à Constituição) da Gastança, que prevê uma expansão de despesas para bancar programas sociais.

A medida ainda precisa passar pelo crivo do Senado, onde deve ser aprovada. As ações de estatais registraram queda ao longo do dia. Os papéis preferenciais da Petrobras caíram 7,93%, e os do Banco do Brasil recuaram 2,47%. Mercado A15 e A16

Fernando Haddad teve participação crescente em articulação da PEC A17



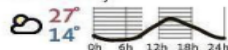
Danilo Verpa/Folhapress

## PM ABORDA SUSPEITOS DE ASSALTO NA CRACOLÂNDIA

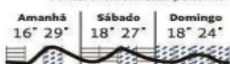
Ação aconteceu na avenida Rio Branco, esquina com rua dos Gusmões, após relato de assalto; registros de roubos na área dispararam e atingiram recorde, superando números pré-pandemia

## ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje



Fonte: www.climatempo.com.br



## EDITORIAIS A2

### O pior do PT

Sobre escolhas de Lula e alteração na Lei das Estatais.

### Adeus, Cuba

Acerca de salto recente na migração para os EUA.







**Feprinco critica que los 3 poderes del Estado no cumplen con sus responsabilidades**

## EEUU ve que la ciudadanía está harta de la impunidad reinante

PÁGINAS 4 y 11

*Para incrementar los logros en el país se tiene que luchar enérgicamente contra las prácticas corruptas que ahuyentan las inversiones extranjeras.*

*Veo un futuro brillante para este país, siempre que elija el estado de derecho y desafiar a la corrupción. La decisión está en manos de los paraguayos.*

*Paraguay es considerado un aliado, amigo y socio por EEUU, que apoyará a quienes trabajen para que el porvenir esperanzador sea realidad.*

Marc Ostfield, embajador de los Estados Unidos.

**Se prevé fuerte rebote del sector primario  
BCP estima que el PIB  
crecerá 4,5% en el 2023  
motorizado por el agro**

PÁGINA 8

**La Cámara Alta puede expedirse hoy  
Abdo pide acuerdo del  
Senado para que Emiliano  
Rolón sea el nuevo FGE**

PÁGINA 2

**Solicitan a la Fiscalía que impute  
Pedido de esposa de RGD de  
levantar el 50% del embargo  
es lavado, según querrela**

PÁGINA 41

ESPACIO PUBLICITARIO



## Argentina y Francia van por el tri



**Qatar 2022.** Los galos ganaron a Marruecos 2-0 en un duro partido y jugarán el domingo al mediodía ante la Albiceleste la final de la Copa del Mundo. PÁGINA 46 a la 48

**Se rechazó la protesta de la empresa  
DNCP abre investigación por  
documentos presentados  
por Poti en licitación de IPS**

PÁGINA 17

**Funcionario leal a la familia  
Sigue presión de la Corte  
contra Fretes y cambian  
al síndico de Quiebras**

PÁGINA 40

**HILUX**

MANTENIMIENTO INCLUIDO  
HASTA 100.000 KM  
CONSULTE PLANES DE FINANCIACIÓN

SRV D/C MEC.  
DESDE  
**\$ 44.010**  
ENTREGA  
INMEDIATA



DX D/C MEC.  
DESDE  
**\$ 34.830**  
ENTREGA  
INMEDIATA



**TOYOTOSHI**  
SALES AND SERVICE

+595 21 619 0000

CONSEJERÍA DE  
PETROBRAS LUBRAX



# LE FIGARO

« Sans la liberté de blâmer, il n'est point d'éloge flatteur » La Fontaine



**FAMILLE**  
QUAND LES ENFANTS  
VEULENT ÉDUCER  
LEURS PARENTS **PAGE 13**

**LE FIGARO LITTÉRAIRE**  
NOTRE SÉLECTION DE LIVRES  
POUR LES FÊTES DE NOËL  
NOTRE SUPPLÉMENT



## LFI

Bras de fer entre  
Quatennens  
et Beauvau **PAGE 4**

## ÉTATS-UNIS

Washington va  
livrer des batteries  
antimissiles  
Patriot à l'Ukraine  
**PAGE 6**

## EUROPE

Les services de  
renseignement  
ont enquêté sur  
le « Qatargate »  
**PAGE 7**

## UKRAINE

Avec la « brigade  
électrique »  
sur le front **PAGE 16**

## MÉDIAS

Nicolas  
de Tavernost :  
« M6 a besoin de  
la TNT et la TNT  
a besoin de M6 »  
**PAGE 28**

## CHAMPS LIBRES

- Les chroniques d'Eugénie Bastié et de Luc Ferry
- Le tête à tête de Charles Jaigu
- L'analyse de Jean-Pierre Robin
- La chronique de Chantal Delsol



PAGES 17 À 19

## FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON

**Réponses à la question de mercredi :**  
Approuvez-vous  
l'action de la France  
en faveur de l'Ukraine ?

**OUI**  
58 %

**NON**  
42 %

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 149 541

**Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr**

Après sa condamnation, le député Insoumis Adrien Quatennens a-t-il raison de se maintenir à l'Assemblée nationale ?

SEVENTYFOUR/  
STOCK.ADOBE.COM -  
XINHUA/XINHUA/ABACA

# Cap sur la finale

Face à une bonne  
équipe du Maroc,  
les Bleus sont restés  
solides. Vainqueurs  
par 2 à 0,  
ils affronteront  
l'Argentine de  
Messi dimanche.

PAGES 2, 3 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

Les Français entourent  
l'auteur du premier but,  
l'arrière Théo Hernandez.



LEE SMITH/REUTERS

## La France attend dimanche avec impatience

Présent dans le stade à al-Khor, mercredi soir, pour soutenir les Bleus, Emmanuel Macron s'est dit « *immensément fier* ». Le pays retient son souffle avant la

finale face à l'Argentine. Une victoire contre l'équipe de Léo Messi signifierait le troisième triomphe des Bleus dans un Mondial, dont deux d'affilée.



## Antoine Griezmann, le chef d'orchestre

Rayonnant depuis le début de la compétition, Antoine Griezmann a réalisé un match époustoufflant, mercredi soir, contre le Maroc. Chef d'orchestre de l'équi-

pe au milieu du jeu, il a su défendre dans les moments chauds tout en distribuant de beaux ballons à ses attaquants. Il a été élu meilleur joueur de cette demi-finale.

## ÉDITORIAL par Yves Thérard ythreard@lefigaro.fr

## À une marche du bonheur

Les Lions de l'Atlas n'ont pas mangé les coqs gaulois ! Loin du rapport de force animalier des emblèmes nationaux, le Maroc n'a pas réussi à déjouer les pronostics qui donnaient la France vainqueur. Au terme d'une rencontre intense et serrée, l'expérience des Bleus, emmenés par un Griezmann impérial, a eu raison d'une magnifique équipe. L'élan populaire qui, de Rabat au Caire et de Tunis à Doha, poussait la formation maghrébienne n'a pas suffi à transformer l'espoir en victoire. Un match ne se gagne toutefois pas dans les tribunes ou dans les bars. Le résultat se dispute sur le terrain, à onze contre onze. Il n'empêche, cette édition du Mondial a permis à une nation africaine de jouer sa première demi-finale planétaire. Son parcours a fait la fierté d'un peuple et, par procuration, de tout un continent. Ni l'un ni l'autre ne compte, bien sûr, en rester là. Le jour du triomphe viendra, tellement les talents sont légion outre-Méditerranée.

En attendant, le football reste une fête. Il est une manière de faire passer des messages positifs, dit l'exentraîneur marocain. Walid Regragui parle d'or. On voudrait qu'il soit entendu, au lieu de voir ce sport, à la vocation universelle, trop souvent pris en otage par des causes qui lui sont étrangères. Au lieu de voir aussi ces hordes de supporters venir saccager la troisième mi-temps, confondant le football et la guerre. Les Bleus sont désormais à une marche du bonheur. Et plus encore, proches d'un exploit que seuls l'Italie et le Brésil par le passé ont réalisé en gagnant deux fois de suite le trophée Jules-Rimet. Face à une Argentine solide mais au jeu pas toujours inspiré, la France partira favorite. Si Messi a du génie, les hommes de Deschamps ont le sens du but. Vivement dimanche ! ■



FRANCE 1883  
**MOËT & CHANDON**  
CHAMPAGNE

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

AND: 3,90 € - BEL: 3,30 € - CH: 4,20 F5 - CZ: 15 CZK - D: 3,80 € - ESP: 3,90 € - GR: 3,40 € - LUX: 3,30 € - MAR: 3,30 DH - MTQ/GLP: 3,90 € - PORT: 4,00 € - REL: 4,30 € - TUR: 10,00 TL D55N0R2352



**Felicity Cloake's**

**budget  
Christmas  
taste test**

→ G2



**World Cup 2022 France to  
face Argentina in final** → Sport



Thursday  
15 December 2022  
£2.50  
From £1.85 for subscribers

**The  
Guardian**  
News provider of the year

# Scathing report condemns police for 'victim blaming' in rape cases

Detailed analysis finds persistent failings in forces struggling to cope

Alexandra Topping

A damning official examination into how police forces tackle rape has exposed persistent failings in the criminal justice system, including a failure to track repeat suspects,

"explicit victim blaming" and botched investigations.

The long-awaited independent report into the first year of Operation Soteria Bluestone - launched by the government after a catastrophic fall in rape prosecutions - also paints a picture of an over-worked, traumatised and inexperienced police workforce in England and Wales that is struggling to cope with an increase in rape reports after years of austerity.

The report - whose findings have been accepted by the Home Office - analyses 80,000 rape reports across

five forces, includes deep dives into police data and reveals detailed discussions with officers. It is one of the few times academics have been given access to a wide range of police records and worked with forces to analyse how investigations proceed.

It comes as the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) said the most recent data showed "significant improvements" 18 months after the government's Rape Review into the rape prosecution crisis. The MoJ said police referrals to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) were up 95%, cases

charged up by two-thirds and the number of cases reaching court up 91% compared with quarterly averages of 2019, when there were 2,102 prosecutions - the lowest on record.

But the 191-page report, which contains anonymised evidence from police officers, will make for uncomfortable reading for police leaders and government ministers.

The report said that while some officers didn't rely on inaccurate perceptions of victim credibility "the overwhelming direction of travel [was] still reliant on inaccurate

understandings of victims and offenders". It stated: "At worst, officers demonstrated explicit victim blaming and lack of belief in the victim, which impacted on the subsequent investigation. For example, victim credibility was often focused on and used to either close or not investigate cases within some forces."

Academics also found serving officers who "don't think that [sexual offences] should be a priority for policing". The report said: "Some stated that they believed 6 → that most reports of rape

## Four killed and dozens rescued in Channel

Rajeev Syal  
Diane Taylor  
Dan Sabbagh

Four people died and more than 40 were rescued after a desperate telephone call to a charity yesterday morning warned that a boat carrying asylum seekers, including children, had capsized in the Channel.

An unidentified man on the sinking vessel, in a recording obtained by the Guardian, asked at 2.53am for the alarm to be raised to save his family, who were in the icy waters.

"Please help me bro, please, please, please. We are in the water and we have a family," he said.

Rishi Sunak, the prime minister, expressed his "sorrow" at the "capsizing of a small boat", telling MPs there had been a "tragic loss of human life". His home secretary, Suella Braverman, insisted that the government would push ahead with policies which aim to deter people from seeking asylum in the UK.

● The alarm was raised 4 → with the UK and French



▲ People being pulled out of the boat that got into trouble overnight off Dungeness. A phone call made from the boat in mid-Channel to a charity raised the alarm, but four of the people onboard died PHOTOGRAPH: DOVER RESCUE/SKY

## NHS nurses to strike today for first time

Denis Campbell  
Andrew Gregory

Tens of thousands of nurses will strike across England, Wales and Northern Ireland today, sparking major disruption to services in the first such action in NHS history.

Nurses will refuse to work at hospitals and other places of care across the three countries from 8am until 8pm, in the first of two days of scheduled walkouts over their pay claim.

Their action has led to many outpatient appointments and operations being cancelled. Urgent and life-saving services will be fully staffed, but many non-urgent services will operate with only the much smaller number of nurses usually on duty on Christmas Day or overnight.

Less unwell patients 13 →



9 770261 307149 50