

What's News

Business & Finance

The Fed approved another quarter-percentage-point interest-rate increase but signaled that banking-system turmoil might end its rate-rise campaign sooner than seemed likely two weeks ago. **A1, A6**

◆ **Powell said the U.S. banking system is "sound and resilient" but that the central bank needs to strengthen supervision and regulation of the financial sector. **A1****

◆ **Stocks and government-bond yields ended lower in the wake of the Fed's policy meeting. The S&P 500, Dow and Nasdaq all fell 1.6%. **B1****

◆ **The SEC has told Coinbase that it plans to take enforcement action against the company, the crypto exchange said, escalating a crackdown on digital-currency firms. **A1****

◆ **TikTok's chief is slated to appear before a House panel Thursday to argue against a ban on the app and seek to reassure Americans that their data is safe. **B1, B4****

◆ **Chinese internet conglomerate Tencent's quarterly revenue edged up 0.5% from a year earlier, backed by rising demand for digital advertisements. **B2****

◆ **Carvana's debt swap proposal doesn't have support from the group of investors who own a majority of the company's nearly \$6 billion in unsecured bonds, people familiar with the matter said. **B3****

◆ **J&J will seek the Supreme Court's review after an appeals court declined to revive the company's bid to use chapter 11 bankruptcy to freeze lawsuits linking its talc products to cancer. **B2****

World-Wide

◆ **Russia launched a new wave of missiles and armed drones into Ukraine, shelling residential buildings in the south and killing seven people in a school dormitory in the Kyiv region, hours after China's Xi concluded a visit to Moscow to reinforce a partnership with Putin. **A9****

◆ **A federal judge found that special counsel Smith's team presented convincing evidence that Trump misled his own lawyers about his retention of classified documents after leaving the White House, according to people familiar with the decision. **A4****

◆ **The Manhattan grand jury investigating Trump's role in a hush-money payment to a porn star was instructed not to meet Wednesday, according to people familiar with the matter, delaying any potential indictment of the former president. **A4****

◆ **Macron stood by his overhaul of France's pension system but proposed several measures for workers, including bonus payments for employees of companies that buy back shares, in a bid to calm an escalating protest movement. **A8****

◆ **Moderna will price its Covid-19 vaccine at about \$130 per dose when it shifts to commercial distribution of the shots later this year, much higher than what the federal government has paid. **A2****

◆ **The Biden administration announced initiatives aimed at transforming the U.S. organ-procurement system, adding more competition to improve transparency and accountability. **A4****

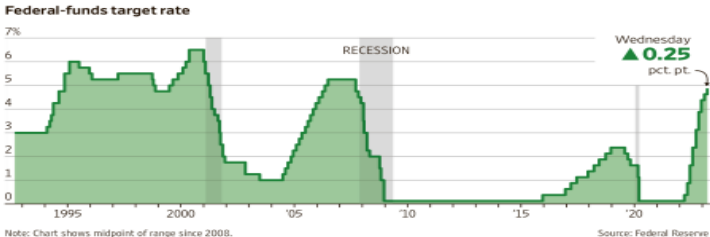
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Fed Boosts Rates Amid Bank Turmoil



Note: Chart shows midpoint of range since 2008. Source: Federal Reserve

Powell Calls Financial Sector Sound but Stresses Oversight

By GINA HEEB

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said the U.S. banking system is "sound and resilient" but the central bank needs to strengthen supervision and regulation of the financial sector after the collapse of several banks this month.

Financial stocks fell Wednesday, continuing the month's downward spiral.

The KBW Nasdaq index of commercial banks and the SPDR S&P Regional Banking

ETF declined nearly 5% and 6%, respectively. Shares of major regional banks, including PNC Financial Services Group Inc. and U.S. Bancorp, were down more than 5%. Giants like JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Bank of America Corp. slipped more than 2%.

First Republic Bank's battered stock fell further Wednesday after Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said administration officials weren't immediately considering action to insure all bank deposits. Shares

in the troubled lender, which got a rescue from its megabank peers last week in the form of a \$30 billion deposit, closed down more than 15%.

The Fed raised interest rates by an expected quarter point. Investors have worried that the failure of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank could spread throughout the sector if nervous customers pull deposits, bringing down other small and midsize banks as well. The fire sale of Credit

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Quarter-point increase comes with signal that hikes could end sooner than recently expected

By NICK TIMIRAOIS

WASHINGTON—The Federal Reserve approved another quarter-percentage-point interest-rate increase but signaled that banking-system turmoil might end its rate-rise campaign sooner than seemed likely two weeks ago.

The decision on Wednesday marked the Fed's ninth consecutive rate increase aimed at battling inflation over the past year. It will bring its benchmark federal-funds rate to a range between 4.75% and 5%, the highest level since September 2007.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell said officials had considered skipping a rate increase after banking stress intensified last week. And he hinted that Wednesday's increase could be their last one for now depending on the extent of any lending pullback that follows a bank run earlier this month. Regulators shut Silicon Valley Bank and a second institution, Signature Bank, two weeks ago, and bailed out uninsured depositors to stave off a panic.

Estimates of just how much any credit contraction could

reduce hiring, economic activity and inflation were "rule-of-thumb guesswork, almost, at this point. But we think it's potentially quite real, and that argues for being alert as we go forward," Mr. Powell said at a news conference after the conclusion of the Fed's policy meeting. Later, he said, "it could easily have a significant macroeconomic effect."

Stocks initially rose after the Fed announcement, but then slumped Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Powell spoke at the same time Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told lawmakers she wasn't immediately considering ways to provide broad guarantees to uninsured bank deposits. The S&P 500 lost 65.90 points, or 1.65%, to end at 3936.97. The Dow Jones Industrial Average declined 520.49, or 1.63%, to 32030.11. The Nasdaq Composite dropped 190.15, or 1.60%, to 11669.96. Yields on the 10-year Treasury note fell 0.106 percentage point, closing at 3.497%.

All 11 voters on the rate-setting Federal Open Market

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Banks and the Fed

- ◆ Fed walks a tightrope, balancing two roles..... **A6**
- ◆ Stocks fall after rate hike..... **B1**
- ◆ Heard on the Street: Rise in shadow of SVB..... **B12**

Holy Month Begins for Muslims Around the World



TO BREAK THE FAST: Ramadan began at sundown Wednesday, as Muslims prepared for a month of dawn-to-dusk fasting. Above, vermicelli, used to make dishes popular during the holy month, is dried at a factory in Allahabad, India.

China Auditions for Lead Global Role

By JONATHAN CHENG

BEIJING—China now sees itself as a global power—and it is starting to act like one.

Beijing is showing a new assertiveness as Xi Jinping begins his third term as the country's head of state, emerging from three years of "zero-Covid" isolation to a far more unfriendly West—and signaling it feels it has the military and economic heft to

start shaping the world more to its interests.

This month, Beijing surprised the world by brokering a detente between Saudi Arabia and Iran, a bold foray into the Middle East's turbulent rivalries.

Now, Mr. Xi said he wants to insert himself into efforts to end the Russia-Ukraine war, as he returns home from several days of warm meetings in Moscow with President Vladimir

Putin of Russia and plans his first conversation since the beginning of the war with President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine.

The moves might not result in lasting diplomatic breakthroughs, and China's perceived inclination toward Russia on the Ukraine war has undercut Mr. Xi's credibility as a neutral arbiter among Kyiv's backers. Early Wednesday, as Mr. Xi was preparing to leave

Moscow, Russia launched a new wave of missiles and armed drones into Ukraine, killing seven people in a school dormitory in the Kyiv region.

But China's willingness to wade into these conflicts in such a strident way marks a new phase in the country's vision for itself and its role in the world. It sends a message that China and its allies are no

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MIT Scientists Twist Apart Oreos In Search for Perfect Method

Team aimed to solve frustrating problem of getting creme to stick to both wafers

By AYLIN WOODWARD

It's safe to say many people eat Oreos the same way. They twist them apart, then consume the cookie as two separate creme-covered wafers.

Yet more than a century after the Oreo's inception, many connoisseurs haven't solved a frustrating problem: how to twist it so both wafers end up with filling on them.

Michelle Deignan, vice president of Oreo in the U.S., said

there is no secret method. That, it seems, made it a worthy challenge for some scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"I've always been annoyed that I have to twist them apart and then push creme from one side onto the other," said Crystal Owens, a Ph.D. candidate in MIT's mechanical engineering department.

She led a group of researchers on a quest to figure out if

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Workers Embrace ChatGPT Despite Their Bosses' Fears

By LINDSAY ELLIS

Office drama is brewing around when employees—and their bosses—are allowed to use ChatGPT at work.

The generative artificial intelligence technology from OpenAI—a startup backed by billions of dollars from Microsoft Corp.—was released at the end of November and instantly embraced by many workers to create professional-sounding emails and PowerPoint presentations, as well as strings of code that automate tasks.

Just as quickly, their co-

workers and managers began pushing back on bot-written work. When it is appropriate (and when it isn't) to use AI to communicate, evaluate human performance and create productivity hacks to get a job done faster is now debated inside organizations, big and small, across sectors. Surveys indicate that ChatGPT is already widely used among employees, with some highlighting that it makes them more productive. Many leaders are nervous about what corporate intelligence workers might be sharing.

Several big companies, in-

cluding JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Verizon Communications Inc., have blocked access to ChatGPT. Others are encouraging alternatives. Amazon.com Inc., for instance, has urged some of its engineers who want coding advice or shortcuts to use its internal AI tool named CodeWhisperer, an Amazon spokeswoman said.

Software engineer Richie Flores, 31 years old, said he used ChatGPT in his job at Nike.

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◆ Publishers seek compensation for help with AI..... **B1**

From Cleaning Trump's Messes To Defying Him

Cohen's Long Journey to Witness Stand

This article is by Maggie Haberman, Ben Protess and Jonah E. Bromwich.

When Michael D. Cohen stood before a federal judge to ask for leniency, he attributed much of his behavior to the influence of one man: Donald J. Trump.

"Time and time again," Mr. Cohen told the judge as his sentencing in late 2018, "I felt it was my duty to cover up his dirty deeds."

Ever since, Mr. Cohen has made it his work to expose those deeds. He testified for roughly seven hours at a congressional hearing in 2019, describing Mr. Trump as a liar and a cheater who made racist remarks. Mr. Cohen also met with the special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's investigators and federal prosecutors in New York. And he was the impetus for the New York attorney general's investigation into Mr. Trump's business practices, laying the groundwork for a lawsuit that accused the former president of inflating his net worth by billions of dollars.

Mr. Cohen's transformation from trusted fixer to chief antagonist — a 180-degree turn against a man he once vowed to take a bullet for — upended his life. He went to prison for 13 months and then faced home confinement for more than a year. He endured years of attacks from Mr. Trump's allies, ultimately emerging with a book deal, cable news appearances and a podcast, "Mea Culpa."

Now, Mr. Cohen is poised to seize his biggest moment yet: a day in court against Mr. Trump.

Mr. Cohen is the key witness in the Manhattan district attorney's investigation into a hush-money payment to a porn star named Stormy Daniels. The payment, which Mr. Cohen said he made at Mr. Trump's direction during the final days of the 2016 presidential campaign, blocked Ms. Daniels from telling her story of an affair with Mr. Trump years earlier.

Mr. Cohen has met with the prosecutors some 20 times and recently testified before a grand jury that could indict Mr. Trump

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DOCUMENTS INQUIRY A court ordered Trump's lawyer to give records to prosecutors. PAGE A17



A hot spring in Tenei, Japan. The nation, which sits atop an enormous geothermal resource, has more than 13,000 hot spring spas.

Japan's Spa Culture Is Clinging To a Powerful Source of Energy

By HIROKO TABUCHI

A treasured getaway for travelers in Japan is a retreat to one of thousands of hot spring resorts nestled in the mountains or perched on scenic coasts, some of which have been frequented for centuries.

All are powered by Japan's abundant geothermal energy. In fact, Japan sits on so much geothermal energy potential, if harnessed to generate electricity, it could play a major role in replacing the nation's coal, gas or nuclear plants.

For decades, however, Japan's geothermal energy ambitions have been blocked by its surprisingly powerful hot spring owners.

"Rampant geothermal development is a threat to our culture," said Yoshiyasu Sato, proprietor of Daimaru Asunaro, a secluded inn set next to a hot spring in the mountains of Fukushima Prefecture that is said to date back some

1,300 years. "If something were to happen to our onsens," he said, using the Japanese word for hot springs, "who will pay?"

Japan, an archipelago thought to sit atop the third-largest geothermal resources of any country on earth, harnesses puzzlingly little of its geothermal wealth. It generates about 0.3 percent of its electricity from geothermal energy, a squandered opportunity, analysts say, for a resource-poor country that is in desperate need of new and cleaner ways of generating power.

One answer to that puzzle lies in Japan's venerable hot springs like the one at the inn run by Mr. Sato. For decades, inns like his have resisted geothermal projects out of fears that they will damage their mineral-rich hot springs.

In a pre-emptive move, Mr. Sato has fit Asunaro with monitoring

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Xi's Brotherly Hug With Putin: It's Us Against the Americans

By CHRIS BUCKLEY

China's leader, Xi Jinping, flew into Moscow this week cast by Beijing as its emissary for peace in Ukraine. His summit with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia, however, demonstrated that his priority remains shoring up ties with Moscow to gird against what he sees as a long campaign by the United States to hobble China's ascent.

Talk of Ukraine was overshadowed by Mr. Xi's vow of ironclad solidarity with Russia as a political, diplomatic, economic and military partner: two superpowers aligned in countering American dominance and a Western-led world order. The summit showed Mr. Xi's intention to entrench Beijing's tilt toward Moscow against what he recently called an effort by the United States at the full-fledged "con-

tainment" of China.

Mr. Xi and Mr. Putin used the pomp of the three-day state visit, which ended on Wednesday, to signal to their publics and to Western capitals that the bond between their two countries remained robust and, in their eyes, indispensable. 13 months after Mr. Putin launched his invasion of Ukraine. They laid out their vision for the world in a nine-point joint statement that covered everything from Taiwan to climate change and relations with Mongolia, often depicting the United States as the obstacle to a better, fairer world.

"It looks like a strategic plan for a decade or even more. It's not a knee-jerk reaction to the war in Ukraine," said Alexander

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FED RAISES RATES AND KEEPS AN EYE ON BANK TURMOIL

JUGGLING TWO THREATS

Quarter-Point Increase in Effort to Ease Inflation and Cool Economy

By JEANNA SMIALEK

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve officials raised interest rates by a quarter-point on Wednesday as they tried to balance two conflicting problems: the risk that inflation could remain rapid and the threat that turmoil in the banking system could slow the economy drastically.

The Fed on Wednesday pushed interest rates to a range of 4.75 percent to 5 percent, and officials forecast one more rate increase in 2023 though they hinted that even that is uncertain. In doing so, policymakers tried to signal that they remained focused on wrestling down price increases but were also paying attention to financial threats.

"In assessing the need for further hikes, we'll be focused on incoming data and the evolving outlook, and in particular on our assessment of the actual and expected effects of credit tightening," Jerome H. Powell, the Fed chair, suggested at his post-meeting news conference.

The Fed's statement said that some additional rate moves "may be" warranted, and Mr. Powell emphasized that "many" was crucial: Officials do not know that yet.

His comments underlined that the outlook for whether rates would rise further — and, if so, by how much — had been made uncertain by turmoil in the banking industry that could make loans harder to come by, slowing the economy.

Officials forecast that next year they would lower rates more slowly than they had anticipated, so that rates linger at 4.3 percent by the end of 2024, up from 4.1 percent.

That suggested that the fight for stable inflation could be a longer and more gradual one than

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RESISTANCE Members of Congress and industry are arguing against more scrutiny. PAGE B1

Baring Beethoven's Secrets With Snips of DNA

By GINA KOLATA

It was March 1827 and Ludwig van Beethoven was dying. As he lay in bed, racked with abdominal pain and jaundiced, grieving friends and acquaintances came to visit. And some asked a favor: Could they clip a lock of his hair for remembrance?

The parade of mourners continued after Beethoven's death at age 56, even after doctors performed a gruesome craniotomy, looking at the folds in Beethoven's brain and removing his ear bones in a vain attempt to understand why the revered composer lost his hearing.

Within three days of Beethoven's death, not a single strand of hair was left on his head. Ever since, a cottage industry has aimed to understand Beethoven's illnesses and the cause of his death.

Now, an analysis of strands of his hair has upended long-held beliefs about his health. The report provides an explanation for his



KEVIN BROWN

A tuft of hair believed to be from Beethoven, one of several locks that researchers have used to determine his DNA sequence.

debilitating ailments and even his death, while also raising new questions about his genealogical origins and hinting at a dark family secret.

The paper, by an international group of researchers, was pub-

lished Wednesday in the journal *Current Biology*.

It offers additional surprises: A famous lock of hair — the subject of a book and a documentary — was not Beethoven's. It was from

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L.A. Schools Strike, and Parents Say They Get It

By KURTIS LEE and JILL COWAN

LOS ANGELES — Since Tuesday, Diana Cruz has juggled her stay-at-home job as an executive assistant with the care of her children after the Los Angeles school strike forced their classes to be canceled for three days.

Ms. Cruz earns \$36,000 a year and is raising her two daughters and teenage son in a two-bedroom apartment in Los Angeles, where she splits the \$1,700 rent with her mother.

A few miles away, Yolanda Mims Reed makes about \$24 an hour as a part-time special education assistant at Hamilton High School. She supplements her income by caring for an older woman and by doing hair.

Parents like Ms. Cruz may be flustered by the strike, but few are angry with the strikers like Ms. Reed.

The parents see their lives mirrored in the struggles of the bus drivers, cafeteria workers and



RICHARD VOGEL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Service union members and teachers picketed at Panorama High School in Los Angeles on Day 2 of a planned three-day strike.

classroom aides walking the picket lines — working-class residents who take on multiple jobs to survive in Southern California.

"If you're not making massive six-figure salaries, then, yeah, it's hard," Ms. Cruz, 33, said. "How

can you not support their cause?"

The strike has sharply illustrated the economic divide in modern Los Angeles, where low-wage workers can barely scrape together rent while affluent profession-

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INTERNATIONAL A4-12

Targeting Russians' Posts

The government is increasingly punishing people with fines and jail time for social media posts that criticize the fighting in Ukraine. PAGE A8

NATIONAL A14-23

A Secession Plan in Oregon

Conservatives in the state's eastern half are pursuing an unlikely proposal to split off and join Idaho, a place more in line with their values. PAGE A22

SPORTS B8-11

'That's Why He's the Best'

Shohei Ohtani delivered a championship for Japan while establishing the World Baseball Classic as a must-watch tournament. On Baseball. PAGE B10

ARTS C1-6

Diving in the Deep End

The experimental festival called Borealis has achieved renown as a launchpad for eclectic projects by musicians from Norway and beyond. PAGE C1

OPINION A26-27

Gail Collins

PAGE A27



J.CREW FORTY
HERITAGE FOR RIGHT NOW



STRIKING L.A. UNIFIED workers picket on Wednesday. A growing wealth gap has sparked outrage from low-earning workers aiming to hold their wealthier employers accountable, a UCLA labor expert says.

‘People are fed up’: Workers across industries seek more



LAYLAH R. and her family view the elephant exhibit at the Los Angeles Zoo on Wednesday while off from school because of LAUSD’s three-day strike.

Camps offered child care — if parents found them

Many hadn’t heard of hastily arranged programs

By Sonja Sharp

Second-grader Kimberly Pedroza shivered outside the Los Angeles Zoo early Wednesday, her squeaky new rubber boots and thin plastic poncho barely shielding her from the sheets of chilly rain. It was the second day of the three-day strike that has shuttered L.A. public schools, and Kimberly was one of scores of Los Angeles Unified students who’d pounced at the offer of free admission, creating a sort of improvised, districtwide field trip.

ponchos swarmed the gift shop, outfitting their children in umbrella hats printed to look like sharks and tigers, or ponying up for the full-sized number. Her mother couldn’t take time off to go to the zoo with her, Kimberly said. She “cleans houses for rich people,” the 7-year-old explained. “Luckily she has me,” her sister, Esmeralda Rubio, 18, chimed in. “But in the case she didn’t, where would she leave her?” It was a question thousands of LAUSD families found themselves asking late last week, as word of the impending strike reached parents. [See Child care, A8]

Low-earning laborers, backed by California legislation, demand better pay, benefits.

By Mackenzie Mays

Fast-food cooks and cashiers. Caretakers. Housekeepers. Hospital staff. School bus drivers. Custodians. State employees.

Workers from all kinds of industries are demanding more in wages and benefits in order to keep up with the rising cost of living in California. They are backed by a wave of Democrat-led legislation making its way through the state Capitol — converging with ballot measures and funding requests from Gov. Gavin Newsom — to create a workers’ rights moment that seems unique even for one of the most union-friendly states in the nation.

The calls come as support staff at Los Angeles Unified — the country’s second-largest school district — walked out of classrooms on strike and state workers rallied outside the Capitol in Sacramento this week.

“We used to be able to afford to go out to eat, but even fast food is expensive ... we would donate to the food banks and now we’re finding [See Workers, A8]

L.A. mayor enters the LAUSD fray

Karen Bass steps in to help end the walkout, but a swift resolution may prove elusive. **NATON, A9**

Death toll hits 5 as storm adds to flooding worries

The ‘bomb cyclone’ could mean more rising water in the Central Valley.

By Hayley Smith and Luke Money

Heavy rain and damaging winds gradually subsided Wednesday as one of the wildest storms of the season made its exit from the Golden State, leaving at least five people dead and others critically injured as it felled trees, knocked out power, and threatened additional flooding in the Central Valley.

The San Francisco Bay Area and Central Valley suffered the most damage and loss. San Jose resident Jesus Cruz Diaz, 29, was killed after a tree fell on his vehicle in

Portola Valley, according to the San Mateo County coroner’s office. Walnut resident Thomas Huster, 79, was killed when a large tree fell on his car in Walnut Creek, the Contra Costa County coroner’s office said.

In Oakland, a man who has not yet been identified was pronounced dead Tuesday night after a tree fell on the tent he was in near Lake Merritt. An exact cause of death has not yet been determined, but officials presume he died of either blunt force or suffocation.

Two people also died after being brought to Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital on Tuesday for treatment of injuries suffered in separate storm-related incidents, according to city officials. The office of the chief medical examiner identified them as Qisoying [See Storm, A7]



TORNADO IN MONTEBELLO

Workers begin to clear debris after a tornado hit Montebello on Wednesday. A twister also touched down in Carpinteria on Tuesday. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

A silver lining in the bank crisis?

Michael Hiltzik

The Federal Reserve Board may owe the banking crisis a thank-you note.



That’s because the economic turmoil created by the collapse of three banks this month and the impairment of a fourth gave it a bit of breathing room in its increasingly unpopular campaign to subdue inflation with a series of sharp interest rate hikes.

The Fed on Wednesday announced a quarter-point increase in its benchmark federal funds rate. That’s its ninth rate increase in a row, totaling 4.75 percentage points in the space of a year — the fastest run of in-

creases since those instituted by then-Fed Chief Paul Volcker over 17 months in 1979-80.

The quarter-point increase was lower than most of the previous hikes in this cycle, which included four consecutive increases of three-quarters of a percentage point from June to November 2022.

Long before Wednesday’s meeting of the Fed’s rate-setting open market committee, however, some experts were urging that the central bank pause and take time to assess how the prior rate hikes were affecting inflation and economic growth.

That chorus only grew louder after the failure of Silicon Valley Bank on March 10 and the failures of two more banks over the following days. [See Hiltzik, A11]

Still on the fence about Echo Park barrier

Council member says chain-link will come down, pleasing some and worrying others.

By David Zahniser and Andrew J. Campa

Two years ago, construction crews worked deep into the night around the perimeter of Echo Park Lake, putting up segment after segment of chain-link fence as protesters faced off against police officers not far away.

At the time, that fence was described as a temporary barrier, one that would allow the city to clear out a massive homeless encampment, then start the work of cleaning, repairing and restoring the park.

Now, Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez is preparing to take that fence down, just as the city

reaches the second anniversary of the controversial encampment operation. But the neighborhood remains at least partly divided over the fence — and the future of the park, one of the city’s most scenic locales.

Soto-Martinez, who promised to remove the fence during last year’s election campaign, has described it as a symbol of the city’s “largest policy failure on homelessness.” But he’s facing criticism from some in the neighborhood, who say the fence was essential to restoring order within the park, allowing families and seniors to return.

Gil Mangaogang, a retired social worker, said he and his neighbors had a front-row view of the chaos that regularly erupted inside the park between 2019 and 2021, including shootings, fires and physical fights. Residents near the park, Mangaogang said, had their sleep repeat- [See Fence, A7]



SOME residents would like a wrought iron fence around Echo Park Lake to prevent another homeless camp. Others want the park to return to its open state.

Ramadan begins across the globe

As Muslims observe the holy month, many will struggle to buy treats amid soaring prices. **WORLD, A3**

Trump records must be yielded

Federal appeals court orders lawyer to hand over materials related to Mar-a-Lago documents case. **NATION, A6**

Newsmax back on DirecTV

Right-wing channel is returning to satellite TV provider after a bitter distribution dispute. **BUSINESS, A10**

Weather

Cool; isolated showers. L.A. Basin: 61/47. **B6**

Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper.



The Washington Post

Please see us at our central metropolitan Washington

Shows 75/55 • Tomorrow: Shower 60/46 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023 • B3

Organ network in line for overhaul

Government proposes competitive bidding on transplant system's tasks

BY LENNY BERNSTEIN

The government announced plans Wednesday to overhaul the troubled U.S. organ transplant system, including breaking up the monopoly power of the nonprofit organization that has run it for the past 37 years.

If successful, the proposal would leave little unaffected in the sprawling, multibillion-dollar network that sends kidneys, livers and other organs from deceased donors to severely ill recipients. That system has long been criticized as inadequate: Nearly 104,000 people are on waiting lists for organs, most of them kidneys; 22 people die each day awaiting transplants, with poor and minority patients generally faring worse than affluent and White people.

Carole Johnson, administrator of the federal Health Resources and Services Administration, the agency responsible for the network, is proposing to break up responsibility for some of the functions performed by its nonprofit manager, the United Network for Organ Sharing. UNOS is the only entity ever to operate the U.S. transplant system.

She said in an interview that she would invite other organizations to take over those areas. They would bid for separate contracts, creating the first competitive environment in the history of the transplant system.

"Our goal is to get best in class for all the functions we think are essential to running the transplant network," Johnson said.

Under UNOS, which holds a \$6.5 million annual contract with SEE TRANSPLANTS ON A7

'If I must shoulder unpopularity, then I will'



CHRISTOPHE ENA/AF

President Emmanuel Macron defends his plan to raise France's minimum retirement age from 62 to 64, as striking sanitation workers watch on television Wednesday in Issy-les-Moulineaux, outside Paris. The bill Macron is forcing through Parliament has stirred such anger that protests have turned into clashes with police. Strikes have hampered trash collection, paralyzed trains and ports, and shut down schools. **Story, A10**

Despite aid, Ukraine's military lacks decisive force

BY SIOBHAN O'GRADY, ALEX HORTON, ISABELLE KHURSHUDYAN AND ANASTACIA GALOUCHKA

KYIV, UKRAINE — The United States and its partners are ramping up support for Ukraine's military — including the Pentagon's new plan to speed delivery of Abrams battle tanks and a decision by Poland and Slovakia to provide fighter jets — reflecting alarm over recent incremental Russian advances and the Kremlin's tightening alliances with China and Iran.

Delays in arms delivery, other woes could imperil expected spring offensive

But while President Biden has pledged to stand with Kyiv "for as long as it takes," Ukrainian officials, Western diplomats and analysts warn that the help is simply taking too long. As both sides gird for a spring fighting season that could tilt the outcome of the war, Ukraine still lacks the force

strength and weapons to fully expel the Russian invaders from its territory.

The announcement of fighter jets was highly symbolic and loudly applauded in Kyiv, but the Soviet-era planes are of limited use given the nature of the war, largely a close-range artillery fight in which neither side controls the skies. The Abrams tanks will add major armored muscle but won't arrive until fall — some six months after an anticipated spring Ukrainian counteroffensive.

"What's clear is that time is on

Russia's side, meaning it has the soldiers and materiel to grind out a long war along a massive front," said Rachel Rizzo, an analyst in the Atlantic Council's Europe program. "Ukraine doesn't have that advantage. ... If weapons aren't delivered fast enough, it makes it extremely difficult for Ukraine to push back against Russian gains."

Delays aren't the only challenge. Despite the professions of SEE UKRAINE ON A12

ICC warrant: Europe should detain Putin if he visits, Blinken says. **A13**

Fed lifts interest rates again

MAINTAINS POLICY TO FIGHT INFLATION

Banking meltdown also expected to cool economy

BY RACHEL SIEGEL

The Federal Reserve is sticking with its fight against inflation, confident that a massive government intervention to stabilize the banking system has averted a crisis.

The central bank raised its benchmark interest rate by a quarter of a percentage point Wednesday, signaling that high inflation continues to pose a threat to the economy, as the job market and price increases aren't returning to normal as quickly as policymakers expected. Officials believe the bank turmoil should slow the economy down, too, in the same way that raising interest rates does, though it's too soon to say how much.

"You can think of it as being the equivalent of a rate hike or perhaps more than that," Fed Chair Jerome H. Powell said at the end of the central bank's two-day policy meeting. "Of course, it's not possible to make that assessment today with any precision whatsoever."

The Fed joined the Treasury Department and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. earlier this month in an extraordinary intervention in the banking system, offering loans on favorable terms to banks that needed cash and guaranteeing deposits up to any amount at Silicon Valley Bank

SEE INTEREST RATE ON A17

First Republic: Any rescue deal may hinge on federal backing. **A17**

Iowa's sharp right turn to the 'Florida of the North'

Legislators in the formerly purple state, now in the GOP's corner, tee up a raft of bills on LGBTQ rights

BY ANNIE GOWEN

DES MOINES — Republicans in the Iowa legislature, empowered by the state's recent "red wave," have embarked on an ambitious new agenda that includes a costly school choice bill and legislation targeting the LGBTQ community, a historic divergence from Iowa's history as a civil rights bastion.

Even as teens draped in rainbow flags crowded into the Capitol rotunda chanting "We say gay" on March 8, Iowa legislators quickly passed three bills related to gay and transgender rights, culminating with a measure to ban gender-affirming care for transgender youth, which has since been signed into law by Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds.

The votes were not only emphatic but were also a sharp reversal for the state: Iowa has veered so far to the right in recent years that its political landscape is virtually unrecognizable from the centrist place that chose Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012 and was one of the earliest states in SEE IOWA ON A6



KATHRYN GAMBLE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Protesters assemble in early March at the Iowa Capitol in Des Moines for the LGBTQ+ Rally to Resist. Iowa bucked the national trend in the midterms and delivered a commanding victory for Republicans.

GOP field grapples with how to take on Trump

Rivals for the 2024 nod test strategies to defeat party's de facto leader

BY ASHLEY PARKER AND JOSH DAWSEY

For months, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis — an expected 2024 Republican presidential candidate — did his best to ignore former president Donald Trump, a declared 2024 Republican candidate.

Then, on Monday, DeSantis pitter-pattered up to a sly and winking condemnation, supporting Trump by attacking Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg — who is closing in on a possible indictment of the former president — while also using the moment to note that allegations about "paying hush money to a porn star" are at the center of the investigation.

And finally — faced with an onslaught of attacks and provocations from Trump and his allies — DeSantis got more direct in an interview with Piers Morgan set to air Thursday on Fox Nation. DeSantis implicitly criticized Trump's chaotic and ego-driven management style ("The way we run the government, I think, is no daily drama"), touted his own handling of the coronavirus pandemic compared with Trump's ("I would have fired somebody like Fauci," he said, referring to Trump's covid czar, Anthony S. Fauci) and dismissed Trump's chosen nickname of "DeSanctimonious" for him ("You can call me whatever you want, just as long as you also call me a winner").

DeSantis's halting three-step illustrates the Republican Party's broader and continuing struggle

SEE TRUMP ON A4

Court ruling: Trump lawyer must turn over document evidence. **A2**

Tech trend: Fake images of Trump arrest reveal AI's unruly power. **A4**

IN THE NEWS



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

Rail safety hearing Senators pressed Norfolk Southern CEO Alan Shaw, above, to support legislation after the Ohio toxic derailment. **A9**

THE NATION
The White House will shut down its covid response team in May, current and former officials said. **A2**

Pentagon officials faced urgent calls from senators to get aggressive in confronting what they called dangerous recruiting shortfalls. **A3**

THE CLIMATE
Lentils are full of nutrients and good for the land, Michael J. Coren writes, so making them

part of your life is a way to promote your health — and the planet's. **A8**

THE WORLD
Chinese leader Xi Jinping's embrace of Russian President Vladimir Putin sends a message of competition toward Washington as he also seeks to present himself as a champion of the Global South. **A11**

Boris Johnson, Britain's former prime minister, said he didn't lie to Parliament about

Partygate. **A14**

THE ECONOMY
Spring break travel is expected to be largely back to normal as most pandemic restrictions have been lifted. **A15**

More Americans support a proposed ban on TikTok than oppose one, a Post poll found. **A16**

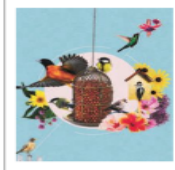
THE REGION
Arlington legislators voted to end single-family-only zoning after months of fiery debate, paving the way for more multiunit residences in the wealthy county. **B1**

showed that deputies had a confrontation with Irvo Otieno hours before his death. **B1**

As D.C.'s mayor unveiled a \$19.7 billion budget and warned of a challenging financial outlook, other city leaders said they will fund free Metrobus service without her support. **B1**

OBITUARIES
Willis Reed, 80, led the New York Knicks to two titles and was known for fighting through injury in 1970's decisive Game 7 against the Los Angeles Lakers. **B6**

INSIDE



LOCAL LIVING
Backyard birder
How to attract a variety of species and identify their behaviors.

STYLE
The 'dupes' troops
Influencers tout off-brand copies sold at bargain prices, but often, the quality is lacking. **C1**

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Spying worries set TikTok up for a 'tough fight' in US

CEO to testify before House committee amid efforts to rein in platform. **In Money**

Hong Chau is grateful for her turn in spotlight

With multiple high-profile roles after 2017 breakthrough, she's becoming a top star. **In Life**



RICK OSENTOSKI/USA TODAY SPORTS

Newbies set sights on their first Final Four

Seven of the men's Sweet 16 teams have never been to the semifinals. We rank them by their chances of making it for the first time. **In Sports**

USA TODAY

THE NATION'S NEWS | \$3 | THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023



Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said "It's too soon to tell" how much stricter bank lending will hobble the economy. KEVIN DIETSCH/GETTY IMAGES

Bank turmoil doesn't derail Fed

Reserve stays course with quarter-point increase

Paul Davidson and Elisabeth Buchwald
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve raised its key short-term interest rate by a quarter percentage point Wednesday, pushing ahead with its aggressive campaign to tame inflation despite financial turmoil following Silicon Valley Bank's collapse.

But acknowledging the crisis will constrain bank lending and weaken the economy and inflation, Fed officials forecast just one more rate hike this year and even that move is uncertain.

The Fed is anticipating another quarter-point increase to a peak range of 5% to 5.25%, in line with its December estimate and lower than the level markets anticipated before SVB's meltdown, according to the officials' median estimate.

"You can think of (the SVB crisis) as being the equivalent of a rate hike and perhaps more than that."

Fed Chair Jerome Powell

"You can think of (the SVB crisis) as being the equivalent of a rate hike and perhaps more than that," Fed Chair Jerome Powell said at a news conference.

He added that "it's too soon to tell" how much the stricter bank lending will hobble the economy and tame inflation but said it could be more significant than expected and the Fed "may have less work to do."

In a statement after a two-day meeting, the Fed acknowledged recent strains in the nation's banks and said they will soften the economy but added the financial system is stable.

"The U.S. banking system is sound and resilient," the Fed said. "Recent developments are likely to result in tighter credit conditions for households

See **RATE HIKE**, Page 6A

WAR IN UKRAINE

Russian attack on dorm at school draws outrage



A police officer guards the scene of a drone attack Wednesday in Rzhyschiv, Ukraine. The attack on a high school came hours after Chinese President Xi Jinping wrapped up what he called a mission of peace to Moscow. EFREM LUKATSKY/AP

Drone strike kills at least 7, injures 20 on campus near Kiev

John Bacon
USA TODAY

The death toll rose to seven and Ukraine's president angrily decried Russian military tactics Wednesday after a drone attack decimated a high school and two student dormitories near Kyiv.

At least 20 people were injured in Rzhyschiv, regional police Chief Andrii Nebytov said. It was not immediately clear whether children were among the victims. The search for survivors was continuing.

The attack was one of several in the region coming hours after Chinese President Xi Jinping wrapped up his self-described mission of peace to Moscow. The Ukrainian military said air defenses downed 16 of 21 drones.

"Over 20 Iranian murderous drones, plus missiles, numerous shelling occasions, and that's just in one last night of Russian terror against Ukraine," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on social media. "Every time someone tries to hear the word 'peace' in Moscow, another order is given there for such criminal strikes."

Zelenskyy also posted video on social media of what he said was a residential building aflame in Zaporizhzhia after Russia shelled it "with bestial savagery."

Developments:

- The Ukraine military said its forces repelled 114 Russian attacks Tuesday, most in the Donetsk province of the Donbas region that has been the primary focus of the war. The attacks included dozens of air strikes and attempted drone offensives, Ukraine officials said in a Facebook post.

- Russia is treating Ukrainian children like "spoils of war" and allowing Russian parents to adopt them, International Criminal Court Prosecutor Karim Khan told CNN. The court last week announced arrest warrants accusing Russian President Vladimir Putin and Russian children's rights commissioner

Maria Lvova-Belova of illegally deporting Ukrainian children to Russia.

- Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida pledged Wednesday to aid Poland's effort to host refugees from neighboring Ukraine. A day after visiting Kyiv, Kishida met with Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki in Warsaw, lauding Poland's role as "the frontline of military and humanitarian assistance" to Ukraine. More than 1.5 million Ukrainians have registered for protection in Poland, more than three times the number in any other country.

- The International Monetary Fund unveiled a \$15.6 billion plan to help Ukraine's battered economy in the short term while supporting post-war reconstruction and easing the country's path into the EU. The four-year financing plan, subject to formal approval of the fund's board in coming weeks, also is designed to encourage international donors and partners to invest in Ukraine.

Contributing: The Associated Press



Monica Muñoz Martinez, a University of Texas historian, is a former winner of the MacArthur "genius grant."

MIKALA COMPTON/USA TODAY NETWORK

USA TODAY

WOMEN OF THE YEAR

Monica Muñoz Martinez works to make Texas history accessible

Megan Menchaca Austin American-Statesman | USA TODAY NETWORK

Monica Muñoz Martinez believes everyone should have access to truthful accounts of their own history — including the dark, difficult or troubling parts.

Martinez, an associate professor at the University of Texas, has devoted herself to making the history of anti-Mexican violence on the U.S.-Mexico border publicly accessible, earning a prestigious MacArthur Foundation "genius grant" in 2021 for her work.

The award-winning historian and educator helped start Refusing to Forget, a nonprofit that calls for public commemorations of the murder and oppression of Mexicans in Texas, and Mapping Violence, a digital research project that recounts histories of racial violence

See **MARTINEZ**, Page 6A

About this project

Monica Muñoz Martinez is one of USA TODAY's Women of the Year, a recognition of women who have made a significant impact in their communities and across the country. Meet all this year's honorees at [womenoftheyear.usatoday.com](https://www.usatoday.com/womenoftheyear).

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Intimididades de una histórica pelea entre dos Nobel

El escritor Jaime Bayly acaba de presentar una novela que recrea, entre realidad y ficción, la célebre trompada de Vargas Llosa a García Márquez. **Página 25**



ESCÁNDALO DETRÁS DE UN NOCAUT DE MARAVILLA MARTÍNEZ

—deportes

La pelea en el Luna Park contra el colombiano Jhon Teherán duró apenas 90 segundos; el rival dijo que cobró para perder, pero después se desdijo. **Página 7**

DEFINEN UN NUEVO AUMENTO EN LOS COLEGIOS PRIVADOS

—sociedad

Las escuelas bonaerenses que reciben subsidios piden que les autoricen un ajuste en las cuotas de marzo por encima del que estaba previsto. **Página 23**

LA NACION

JUEVES 23 DE MARZO DE 2023 | LANACION.COM.AR

Caída en los mercados y fuertes críticas por la jugada con los bonos de la Anses

REACCIÓN. Bajaron los títulos del último canje (hasta 6,7%) y las acciones; subió el riesgo país

La decisión del Gobierno de obligar a la Anses y otros organismos públicos a pesificar sus bonos en dólares para frenar las cotizaciones de los dólares financieros y obtener más financiamiento provocó ayer una dura reacción en los mercados y críticas de economistas y analistas. Aún antes de conocer el decreto,

que recién se publicó anoche, los títulos globales surgidos del último canje de deuda se derrumbaron entre 5,3% y 6,7%. En consecuencia, el riesgo país subió a 2458 puntos, el valor más alto desde noviembre. Las acciones argentinas que cotizan en Wall Street bajaron entre 3 y 5,2%, mientras que el índice de la Bolsa porteña sufrió una

caída de 1,7%. Los dólares paralelos tuvieron bajas en todas sus versiones (CCL, MEP y blue).

Por su parte, los economistas advirtieron que la medida perjudicará a los organismos públicos por la pesificación de sus inversiones, al tiempo que reclamaron la aplicación de reformas de fondo. **Página 6**

Otro golpe a los jubilados para llegar a diciembre

Diego Cabot
Página 8

Toda la oposición se unió para cuestionar la medida

Página 11

EL ESCENARIO

Una maniobra que dinamita la retórica kirchnerista

Carlos Pagni

—LA NACION—

La venta de títulos en dólares por parte de la Anses y otras dependencias del Estado, anunciada anteayer a media lengua por el Ministerio de Economía, amenaza con constituirse en un antes y un después en la peripetia del Frente de Todos. Continúa en la **página 10**

Un abrazo en medio de malestares y tensiones



política—El presidente Alberto Fernández y el ministro de Economía, Sergio Massa, se mostraron ayer juntos en Mendoza y dieron una señal para bajar la tensión entre ambos, luego de que trascendiera el malestar del jefe del Palacio de Hacienda ante supuestas "operaciones políticas" en su contra surgidas "desde adentro de la Casa Rosada", según sostuvo Malena Galmarini, titular de AySA y esposa del jefe del Frente Renovador. **Página 9**

D'Alessandro confirmó su renuncia a Seguridad de la Ciudad

ESPIONAJE. Deja el puesto tras la filtración de chats por el hackeo de su celular

Marcelo D'Alessandro renunció al Ministerio de Justicia y Seguridad de la Ciudad. Se había tomado una licencia forzada en diciembre pasado, a raíz del revuelo que generó la revelación de supuestos chats de origen ilegal con jueces y empresarios tras un viaje a Lago Escondido. Será reemplazado por Eugenio Burzaco, exnúmero dos de Patricia Bullrich. **Página 14**

Preocupan amenazas a políticos en Santa Fe

NARCOS. Un banco fue baleado en Granadero Baigorria y los tiradores dejaron un mensaje contra un postulante a gobernador

Página 26

La noche soñada: los campeones, en un emotivo reencuentro con la gente

SELECCIÓN. Messi, eje de la celebración en el amistoso con Panamá, desde las 20.30

Será la noche soñada, la noche del reencuentro entre la pasión popular y los campeones del mundo. Las emociones de los hinchas y de los futbolistas de la selección por la conquista en Qatar están intactas des-

pués de algo más de tres meses, por eso el Monumental, desde las 20.30, promete explotar de sentimientos.

El amistoso con Panamá apenas será una excusa en medio de una gran celebración, con muchos

shows musicales y fuertes medidas de seguridad para un estadio que estará colmado por 83.000 personas.

En principio, el DT Scaloni dispondría el mismo equipo que jugó la final contra Francia. **Deportes**



BC mantém juro, contraria Lula e não descarta nova elevação

Comitê aponta alta em projeção de inflação e dúvidas sobre regra fiscal; Haddad critica decisão

Alvo de críticas do presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (PT), o Comitê de Política Monetária do Banco Central decidiu manter a taxa básica de juros em 13,75% ao ano citando elevação da expectativa de inflação e dúvidas sobre a nova regra fiscal.

A decisão foi questionada pelo ministro Fernando Haddad (Fazenda), que chamou de "preocupante" o comunicado do BC. O texto ressalta a "deterioração adicional" das expectativas de inflação e não descarta outro aumento dos juros se necessário.

"O Comitê enfatiza que os passos futuros da política monetária poderão ser ajustados e não hesitará em retomar o ciclo de ajuste caso o processo de desinflação não transcorra como esperado", diz o documento. A próxima reunião ocorrerá em maio.

Embora analistas esperassem a manutenção da Selic, a recente falência de dois bancos nos Estados Unidos levantou questionamentos sobre a política de juros altos naquele país e trouxe o debate ao Brasil, abrindo espaço para se cogitar corte.

O Copom ignorou a pressão e citou piora dos cenários externo e interno. Economistas projetam inflação maior ante incertezas no front fiscal, onde pesam a demora da nova regra e ataques de Lula ao BC e a seu presidente, Roberto Campos Neto. Mercado A15

Escalada de juros no Brasil e nos EUA



Fontes: Banco Central e Bloomberg

Vinicius Torres Freire Um arrocho exagerado

É possível que a economia vá ter falta de ar em breve. Vamos para um arrocho provavelmente exagerado de juros devido a quebras tolas. Se vier mais reação estabaneada do governo (mais gasto obrigatório, decretar juros e preços baixos etc.), piora. Mercado A18

Governo escolhe nomes de diretores do Banco Central

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (PT) escolheu Rodolfo Fróes para diretor de Política Monetária do BC e Rodrigo Monteiro para a área de Fiscalização. Servidor de carreira, Monteiro pode se tornar o primeiro preto a dirigir um setor da instituição. Mercado A18

Nos EUA, Fed aumenta taxa e indica que ciclo pode acabar A16

PF revela plano do PCC contra autoridades e faz prisões

A PF cumpriu ao menos 9 prisões para desmantelar plano do PCC de ataques contra autoridades. Entre os alvos da facção estavam Sergio Moro (União Brasil-PR), que transferiu chefes a presídios federais quando era ministro, e o promotor Lincoln Gakiya, coordenador de ações contra o crime organizado. Política A4 e A6

ciência B5

Traição na família

Análise do genoma de Beethoven indica que ele não descendia de outro Beethoven

equilíbrio B5

Pessoas intersexo têm desenvolvimento sexual diferente por alterações genéticas

esporte B7

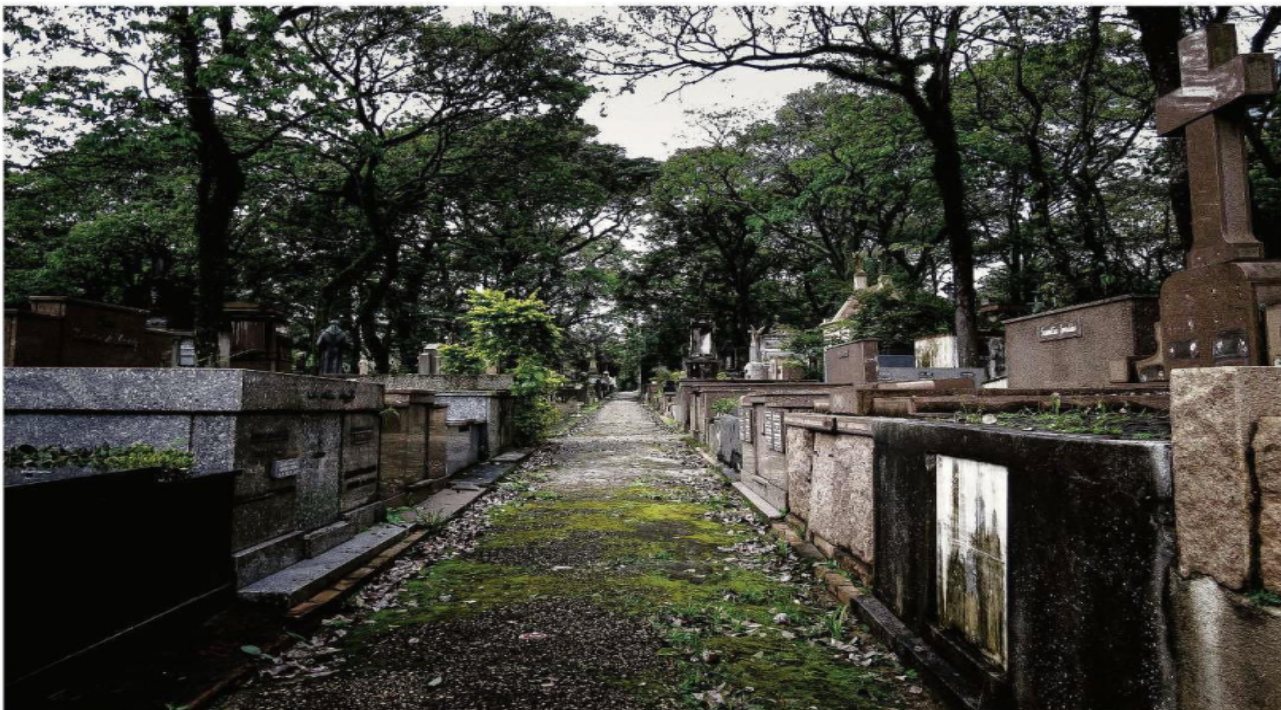
Narrador Cléber Machado é demitido da Globo depois de 35 anos na emissora

ilustrada C1

Longa 'Skinamarink' estreia nos cinemas após aterrorizar fãs jovens no TikTok

turismo C8

Arábia Saudita se abre para o turismo, mas não para os direitos humanos



Alameda no cemitério da Consolação, na região central de São Paulo, um dos que foram concedidos à iniciativa privada Rubens Cavallari/Folhapress

EDITORIAIS A2

Saúde nos rincões
Acerca de retomada do programa Mais Médicos.

Felicidade nota 6

A respeito de posição do Brasil em ranking da ONU.

Privatizado, serviço funerário fica até 400% mais caro em SP

A concessão dos cemitérios municipais de São Paulo representará uma alta de quase 400% nos serviços funerários básicos. O velório mais simples disponível para quem não tem direito a benefícios, que poderia ser realizado por R\$ 299,85 até a privatização, agora sai por R\$ 1.443,74.

A Folha procurou as quatro empresas concessionárias e foi informada de que só a Prefeitura se pronunciaria. A gestão Ricardo Nunes (MDB) diz que gratuidades previstas na lei estão garantidas e que houve redução de 25% no funeral social, para mais pobres (R\$ 755 para R\$ 566). Cotidiano B1

Internet ajuda UTIs a reduzir morte de grávidas em 11 estados

Rede de assistência liderada pelo InCor (SP) baixou quase à metade mortalidade materna em hospitais parceiros: de 267 mil óbitos por 100 mil nascidos vivos para 140. B4

Plano Diretor revisado prevê mais vagas de garagem em SP, diz estudo

Cotidiano B2

Drauzio Varella Fentanil, tragédia anunciada

O que faz do fentanil uma droga de uso compulsivo é o prazer quase imediato que ela traz, seguido de sua excreção rápida. Estou convencido de que as mortes por fentanil estão às portas das casas brasileiras, infelizmente. Vamos agir como os avestruzes? Ilustrada C6



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Medida se debe a la complejidad y connotación pública de las causas

Los fiscales anticorrupción se harán cargo de casos sensibles

Emiliano Rolón reasignó 6 investigaciones a un equipo especial. Entre ellas están la de Messer, avión iraní, declaración falsa, Panamá Papers, adulteración de informe de Seprelad, entre otras.

PÁGINA 42

Ex presidente vive horas decisivas a causa de las sanciones financieras de EEUU

Cartes pide a los colorados que no le larguen la mano

PÁGINA 3

Expertos sugieren no relacionarse con las firmas de ex mandatario

PÁGINA 12

Tras publicación hecha en Última Hora MOPC modifica pago de anticipo por seguro vip, pero sigue flexibilización

PÁGINA 13

Los otros son Santander y Ocampos María Teresa González completa la terna para suceder a Antonio Fretes

PÁGINA 2

SFP bastardea acceso a jefaturas Un simple bachiller puede ganar más de G. 13 millones trabajando para el Estado

PÁGINA 10

DANIEL DUARTE

Exigen remoción de Kriskovich

Marcha. Docentes y alumnos de la UC se manifestaron anoche en contra de Cristian Kriskovich por el caso de acoso. Luego se supo que pidió permiso y que fue aceptado.

PÁGINAS 17 y 43



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LE FIGARO

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



REPORTAGE
SAN JOAQUIN : LA CALIFORNIE RURALE EN PROIE AUX GANGS ET AUX CARTELS **PAGE 14**

SCIENCES
LE SECRET INAVOUABLE DE BEETHOVEN RÉVÉLÉ PAR SON ADN **PAGE 10**

EXÉCUTIF
Bousculé, le gouvernement repousse et découpe sa loi immigration **PAGE 2**

ROYAUME-UNI
Boris Johnson joue sa survie politique **PAGE 5**

UKRAINE
À Avdiivka, les « Anges blancs » portent assistance aux civils vulnérables **PAGES 6 ET 7**

LANGUE FRANÇAISE
Chasse aux anglicismes dans l'espace public **PAGE 9**

AUTOMOBILE
Christian Lindner, le ministre allemand qui bloque les projets européens **PAGE 22**



Duel à distance entre Macron et les syndicats

À la veille d'une neuvième journée de mobilisation, le chef de l'État a réaffirmé sa détermination et cherché à tracer un nouveau cap politique.

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LUDOVIC MARIN/AP

CHAMPS LIBRES

- Les chroniques d'Eugénie Bastié et de Luc Ferry
- Le tête à tête de Charles Jaigu
- La tribune de Christophe de Voogd
- La tribune d'Arnaud Benedetti et Stéphane Rozès
- L'analyse d'Albert Zennou

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FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question de mercredi : Emmanuel Macron doit-il changer de premier ministre ?

OUI 44% NON 56%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 243 176

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GENARO MOLINA/LOS ANGELES TIMES
VIA GETTY IMAGES, ALAMY STOCK
PHOTO VIA REUTERS, TATEVOSIAN
YANA/YANADIAN - STOCK.ADOBE.COM

La France forme l'armée de l'air ukrainienne sur des Mirage

Une trentaine de « personnels militaires aériens » ukrainiens suivent un entraînement accéléré depuis plus d'un mois et demi sur des Mirage français, dispensé sur les bases aériennes de Mont-de-Marsan et de Nancy. À l'avant-garde des alliés sur ce volet, la France pourrait, en temps voulu, livrer une dizaine d'appareils à Kiev. **PAGES 6 ET 7**



Pourquoi l'agriculture française est en danger

En vingt ans, les importations de produits agricoles ont doublé et la France est devenue déficitaire vis-à-vis de ses voisins européens. Le déclin de l'agriculture, qui fut longtemps l'une des forces de l'économie française, doit beaucoup au lobby des écologistes et des ONG, qui ont conduit la France à sur-transposer les normes européennes. Cet affaiblissement inquiète au moment où la reconquête de notre souveraineté alimentaire est devenue une priorité. **PAGES 20 ET 21**

ÉDITORIAL par Yves Thérard ythearad@lefigaro.fr

Chou blanc

Comme il était exclu qu'Emmanuel Macron retire sa réforme des retraites, il ne fallait pas attendre grand-chose de son intervention télévisée. Le texte adopté par 49,3, qu'il veut voir entrer en application avant la fin de l'année, sera certes assorti de quelques mesures « sociales » d'accompagnement. C'est donc l'état d'esprit du président qu'il était intéressant de scruter ce mercredi, lors de son entretien avec deux journalistes. Sans surprise, le chef de l'État a été égal à lui-même. Pas dos au mur, mais droit dans ses bottes. Il reconnaît n'avoir pas réussi à convaincre, mais il n'a pas de regrets puisqu'il n'avait pas d'autre choix que d'allonger l'âge légal de départ à la retraite, compte tenu de l'évolution démographique. Dans ces conditions, certains penseront qu'il n'a rien dit - ce qui est presque vrai -, mais qu'il aurait peut-être pu le dire autrement - ce qui n'est pas complètement faux non plus. Avec plus d'empathie, moins d'arrogance.

Comment envisage-t-il l'avenir immédiat ? Le propos ne manque pas d'aplomb. Le temps où Emmanuel Macron promettrait de se réinventer paraît bien loin. C'est à

Élisabeth Borne, confirmée sans surprise dans sa fonction, qu'il demande de « changer de méthode ». À elle de jouer pour élargir la majorité avec des femmes et des hommes « de bonne volonté » et de « co-construire » un agenda parlementaire avec les forces des deux chambres. Comme il est permis de douter de la longévité de la première ministre à Matignon, on voit mal comment l'exécutif va pouvoir rapidement rebondir. Bien que le président s'en défende, le risque d'immobilisme est grand.

Déjà, le projet de loi asile et immigration de Gérard Darmanin va être détricoté pour être remplacé par on ne sait trop quoi. Et les ambitions sur l'école, la santé et l'écologie, une nouvelle fois répétées, ressemblent de plus en plus à des mots vides de toute réalité.

Comme prévu, le président a fait chou blanc. Comme prévu, entre les opposants à la réforme et l'exécutif, le face-à-face continue. Et, comme prévu, la porte de sortie, forcément étroite, reste à trouver. ■

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'Flimsy' Partygate answers leave Johnson on the brink

Ex-PM facing reprimand that could end career despite 'hand on heart' pledge over gatherings

Pippa Crerar
Political editor

Boris Johnson faces being formally reprimanded for recklessly misleading parliament after MPs investigating the Partygate scandal denounced his "flimsy" explanations and suggested he had wrongly interpreted Covid guidance.

The former PM was left fighting for his political career after a tetchy three-and-a-half hour evidence session in which he repeatedly claimed that No 10 parties, with alcohol and little social distancing, had been "necessary" for work purposes.

Harriet Harman, who chairs the privileges committee investigating whether Johnson deliberately misled MPs over lockdown gatherings, expressed dismay at the "flimsy nature" of assurances he had received that events were within the rules.

Sir Bernard Jenkin, a senior Tory MP on the committee, told him the cross-party group of MPs did not agree with his interpretation of the guidance. "The guidance does not say you can have a thank-you party and as many people in the room as you like."

Their comments appear to indicate they are considering concluding that Johnson deliberately misled the Commons when they report after Easter, though sources suggested it was possible they could recommend a sanction just short of that required to prompt a by-election.

Johnson's dramatic return to the political limelight came as Rishi



▲ Boris Johnson was grilled for three and a half hours by members of the Commons privileges committee

PHOTOGRAPH: UK PARLIAMENT/PA WIRE

Sunak struggled to keep the Conservative party on track, avoiding an overly damaging Commons rebellion on Brexit and finally publishing his long-awaited tax details.

Sunak won a vote on his revised plan for post-Brexit Northern Ireland

trade, with 22 of his own MPs voting against the deal, including Johnson and Liz Truss. He did not have to rely on Labour votes to get it through.

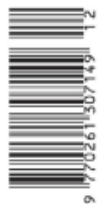
Johnson attempted to draw Sunak deeper into the Partygate scandal by suggesting that if Covid rules had been broken in No 10, then it should also have been "obvious" to the current prime minister.

In its interim report this month, the committee said

Former PM was grilled at last. So how did his answers to MPs stack up? [Page 6](#) →

'The gofers could only watch as Johnson crashed and burned' [John Crace, page 7](#) →

'He set the tone'. Covid bereaved express anger at evidence to committee [Page 9](#) →



Sunak accused of 'sneaking out' tax returns that reveal earnings of £5m

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