"All the News That's Fit to Print"

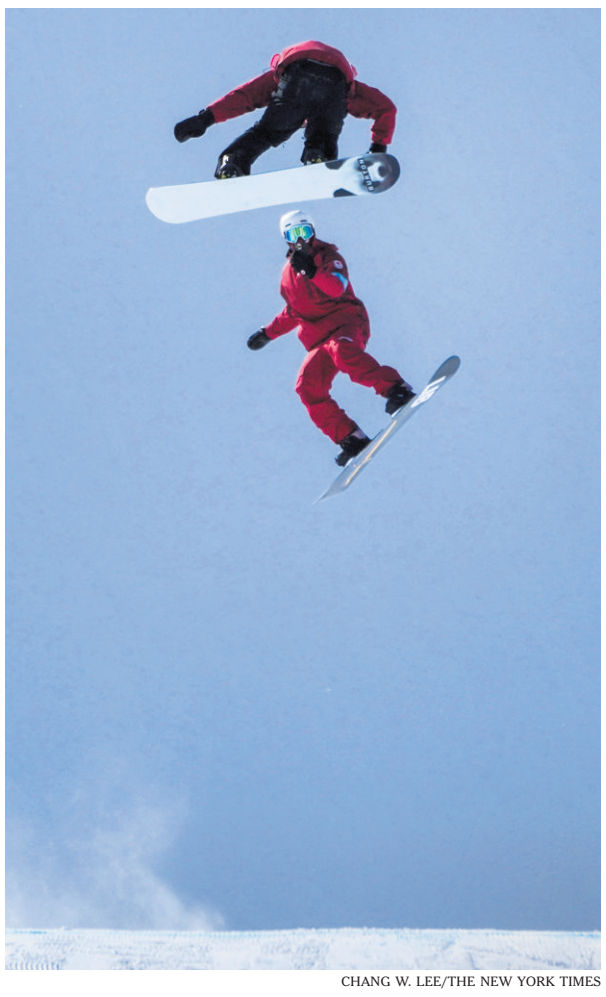
The New York Times

Late Edition
Today, mostly sunny, still fairly cold, less brisk, high 31. **Tonight,** clear, low 28. **Tomorrow,** mostly cloudy, milder, more seasonable, high 41. Weather map appears on Page 20.

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HIROKO MASUIKE/THE NEW YORK TIMES



CHANG W. LEE/THE NEW YORK TIMES



DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Always Flirting With Disaster

The New York Times asked Winter Olympians what role fear plays in their sport. Their answers covered a broad spectrum — the fear of missing the Olympics, of regret, of disappointing family and friends, of losing control of where their story goes or how their career ends. But the No. 1 answer was a feeling that is visceral, tangible and common in these sports: the fear of getting hurt. Sports, Page 1.

JAN. 6 COMMITTEE BORROWS TACTICS OF A PROSECUTION

NEARLY 500 WITNESSES

An Aggressive Approach Tries to Push Garland to Pursue Trump

By MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT and LUKE BROADWATER

The House select committee scrutinizing the Jan. 6 assault on the Capitol is borrowing techniques from federal prosecutions, employing aggressive tactics typically used against mobsters and terrorists as it seeks to break through stonewalling from former President Donald J. Trump and his allies and develop evidence that could prompt a criminal case.

In what its members see as the best opportunity to hold Mr. Trump and his team accountable, the committee — which has no authority to pursue criminal charges — is using what powers it has in expansive ways in hopes of pressuring Attorney General Merrick B. Garland to use the Justice Department to investigate and prosecute them.

The panel's investigation is being run by a former U.S. attorney, and the top investigator brought in to focus on Mr. Trump's inner circle is also a former U.S. attorney. The panel has hired more than a dozen other former federal prosecutors.

The committee has interviewed more than 475 witnesses and issued more than 100 subpoenas, including broad ones to banks as well as telecommunications and social media companies. Some of the subpoenas have swept up the personal data of Trump family members and allies, local politicians and at least one member of Congress, Representative Jim Jordan, Republican of Ohio. Though no subpoena has been issued for Mr. Jordan, his text messages and calls have shown up in communications with Mark

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Huge Casualties Feared if Russia Seizes Ukraine

By HELENE COOPER and DAVID E. SANGER

WASHINGTON — Senior Biden administration officials told lawmakers this past week that they believed the Russian military had assembled 70 percent of the forces it would need to mount a full invasion of Ukraine, painting the most ominous picture yet of the options that Russia's president, Vladimir V. Putin, has created for himself in recent weeks.

During six hours of closed meetings with House and Senate lawmakers on Thursday, the officials warned that if Mr. Putin chose the most aggressive of his options, he could quickly surround or capture Kyiv, the capital, and remove the country's democratically elected president, Volodymyr Zelensky. They also warned that the invasion could prompt an enormous refugee crisis on the European continent, sending millions fleeing.

The officials stressed that U.S. intelligence analysts still did not assess that Mr. Putin had made a final decision to invade. But satellite imagery, communications among Russian forces and images of Russian equipment on the move show that he has assembled everything he would need to undertake what the officials said would constitute the largest military operation on land in Europe since 1945.

They also warned of enormous possible human costs if Mr. Putin went ahead with a full invasion, including the potential deaths of 25,000 to 50,000 civilians, 5,000 to 25,000 members of the Ukrainian military and 3,000 to 10,000 members of the Russian military. The invasion, they said, could also result in one million to five million refugees, with many of them pouring into Poland.

Should Mr. Putin decide to invade, American officials believe he is not likely to move until the second half of February. By that point, more ground will have frozen, making it easier to move heavy vehicles and equipment, and the Winter Olympics in Bei-

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A Fatal Shove on the Subway and a Broken Mental Health System

Revolving Door From Treatment to Streets

*This article is by **Andy Newman**, **Nate Schweber** and **Chelsia Rose Marcius**.*

To the homeless men lined up outside Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen in Manhattan, Martial Simon was a familiar figure: often incoherent, usually angry about something.

But over the course of Mr. Simon's endless circuit of hospitals and jails, outpatient psychiatric programs and the streets, Larry Williamson grew friendly with him.

The frequent targets of Mr. Simon's ire, Mr. Williamson said, were doctors and the medical establishment. He was upset that hospitals were discharging him before he believed he was well enough to live on his own.

Mr. Simon's ragged journey continued until 9:37 a.m. on Jan. 15, when, according to what the police said was his confession, he shoved Michelle Alyssa Go, a 40-year-old stranger, in front of a train at the Times Square subway station. She died instantly.

Mr. Simon, 61, a former cabby and parking-lot manager who immigrated from Haiti at 13 and started showing symptoms of schizophrenia in his 30s, will probably spend the rest of his life locked away.

But his decades adrift in New York, where his lawyer estimates he was hospitalized at least 20 times, illustrate a broken system of care for some of society's most severely ill members, a failing writ large every few years when another person with a history of psychiatric hospitalization commits an awful act of violence, mental health experts and homeless advocates say.

The revolving door for those with chronic mental illness has accelerated lately as long-term trends like the reduction of inpatient psychiatric beds have shifted the burden of treating such patients to hospital emergency rooms stretched thin by the pandemic.

The system is not intended to work this way.

When someone experiencing psychosis is brought to a hospital, the patient is supposed to be evaluated, admitted to an inpatient ward if necessary, treated until considered stable and then released in coordination with outside care providers.

But those basic steps are often not followed, according to several social-service providers who said that some hospitals in the city were refusing to even admit patients they find too disruptive, or

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MOSA'AB ELSHAMY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Death of a Child Unites Morocco in Grief

A four-day rescue operation failed to save a boy who plunged down a 100-foot well. Page 14.

Exotic Butterflies and a Wild Conspiracy Theory

By J. DAVID GOODMAN

MISSION, Texas — For nearly two decades, the National Butterfly Center has provided a place of wonder along the banks of the Rio Grande, attracting curious visitors and nature enthusiasts from around the country to watch delicate creatures like the xami hairstreak float over flowers and alight on logs.

Among those who trade in outlandish right-wing conspiracies online, though, the center is said to be something else: a cover for human smuggling, sex trafficking and the exploitation of children. The lies have spread so widely in recent years that the center is now receiving visitors with no interest in butterflies at all.

Last month, a Republican congressional candidate from Virginia came to the center looking for a site of human smugglers and had a physical altercation with its director. Days later, a man from an upstart media organization associated with Steve Bannon recorded a video outside the center's gates, claiming "credible threats of the cartels trafficking children through the butterfly center." To make his point, he held

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New York's Hospitals Emerge, Resilient, From Omicron Wave

By SHARON OTTERMAN and JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN

More than 60,000 New York City residents tested positive for the coronavirus in a single day. Testing lines stretched for hours, and a quarantine hotel program doubled in size. Packed emergency rooms had too few nurses. Hospital morgues became so full that about 200 bodies had to be relocated by the city.

Like a tsunami, the Omicron variant of the virus swept through New York City from December to January, swamping defenses that had been built over the past two years. Some epidemiologists estimate that 40 percent or more of residents were infected. More than one in 10 public school students and about one in four school staff members had confirmed infections in the wave, according to state statistics.

The extraordinary surge exposed understaffing problems at the city's hospitals, particularly among nurses, to a degree unseen earlier in the pandemic. For several weeks, tens of thousands of patients were treated by health care teams severely depleted by illness and burnout.

Yet now, with Omicron receding rapidly and virus cases plummet-



VICTOR J. BLUE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

St. Barnabas, an independent hospital in the Bronx, treats predominantly poor patients.

ing more than 90 percent from their recent peak, health officials are also reaching an encouraging assessment: The city's hospital system, although critically stretched, did not break. Experienced health care workers treated patients more effectively, and deaths were limited to a small fraction of the number recorded during the virus's first wave in 2020.

This was partly because Omicron proved to be less deadly than previous variants, with far fewer patients ending up in intensive

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METROPOLITAN

Mystery Deepens With Time
Almost four years after an Episcopal priest's murder, more questions than answers remain, including whether he was a pedophile. PAGE 1

SUNDAY STYLES

Skiing's Popularity Problem
As mountains become more crowded, skiers and resort owners are asking the question: If not everyone can fit, who should be here? PAGE 1

ARTS & LEISURE

Shouldn't Doomsday Be Scary?
Pop culture has a lot to say about the climate crisis. But it can seem as if the warnings are delivered with little real urgency. PAGE 13

SUNDAY BUSINESS

A Big Idea Is on Trial
Modern Monetary Theory got a tryout during the pandemic, and now inflation is testing the limits of this popular economic thesis. PAGE 1

SUNDAY REVIEW

David Brooks PAGE 4

