

"All the News That's Fit to Print"



EMMA BASQUAS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

After two years on puberty blockers, Emma Basquas, 14, was prescribed estrogen to start her transition.

Pressing Pause on Puberty

Drugs Can Buy Time for Trans Youth. Is There a Cost?

By MEGAN TWHOEY and CHRISTINA JEWETT

The medical question is direct. Eleven-year-old Emma Basquas had identified as a girl since toddlerhood. Now, as she worried about male puberty starting, a Phoenix pediatrician advised: Take a drug to stop it.

At 13, Jacy Chavira felt increasingly uncomfortable with her maturing body and was beginning to believe she was a boy. Use the drug, her endocrinologist in Southern California recommended, and puberty would be suspended.

An 11-year-old in New York with deepening depression expressed a desire to no longer be a girl. A therapist told the family the drug was the preteen's best option, and a local doctor agreed.

"Puberty blockers really help kids like this," the child's mother recalled the therapist saying. "It was presented as a tourniquet that would stop the hemorrhaging."

As the number of adolescents who identify as transgender grows, drugs known as puberty blockers have become the first line of intervention for the youngest ones seeking medical treatment. Their use is typically framed as a safe—and reversible—way to buy time to weigh a medical transition and avoid the anguish of growing into a body that feels wrong. Transgender adolescents suffer from disproportionately high rates of depression and other mental health issues. Studies show that the drugs have eased some patients' gender dysphoria—a distress over the mismatch of their birth sex and gender identity.

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Private Eyes Steered to Spy On Dissidents

By BENJAMIN WEISER and WILLIAM K. RASHBAUM

The job that came in through Michael McKeever's website was unremarkable, the kind of request he often received in his decades working as a private investigator in New York.



A Ukrainian soldier signed a flag on Sunday in the main square in Kherson, newly freed from Russia.

Assimilation Is Futile: How a City Defied Russia

By ANDREW E. KRAMER

KHERSON, Ukraine—Iryna Dyagileva's daughter attended a school where the curriculum included memorizing the Russian national anthem. But teachers ignored it, instead quickly greeting students in the morning with a salute: "Glory to Ukraine!"

The occupation authorities asked Olena Malyarchuk, a clerk at a taxi company, to settle bills in rubles. But she kept paying in Ukrainian currency, the hryvnia.

"I just didn't work," Ms. Malyarchuk said of the Russian proposal that she signed in bold text. "We are to-

Biden Facing A Big Decision On His Future

Entering His 80s, and Pondering '24 Race

By PETER BAKER

WASHINGTON — These are heady days for President Biden. The midterm elections offered long-sought validation. Democrats held onto the Senate, and even if they lose the House it will be by a narrow margin. The Republicans are in retreat, and, by the way, so are the Russians and, just a bit at least, so is inflation.

The president's fellow Democrats are flocking to cameras to give him credit. "The victory belongs to Joe Biden," Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, his onetime rival, said on NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday. His advisers sound almost giddy, using words like "miracle" and "hallelujah" to describe the election.

But even as the history-defying midterms went a long way toward solving some of the president's immediate political problems, they did not miraculously make him any younger. A week from Sunday, Mr. Biden, the eldest president in American history, will turn 80, a milestone the White House has no plans to celebrate with fireworks or splashy parties.

And so Mr. Biden, confronted with a choice that still leaves many in his party quizzically unconvinced: Should he run for a second term?

"Top advisers such as Dan Klain, Amit Dunn, Mike Donilon, Steven J. Ricchetti and Jennifer O'Malley Dillon are already making a map out of what a 2024 campaign would look like. The president said last week that he "intends" to run but would talk with his family over the holidays and announce a decision early next year. He will only be more motivated assuming former President Donald J. Trump jumps into the race on Tuesday night as expected.

Mr. Biden likes to remind anyone who will listen that he is the only one who has beaten Mr. Trump, and he remains confident that he is the Democratic Party's best equipped to do it again. Polls show that as unpopular as Mr. Biden remains, he still has more support than his Republican rival and the Republican setbacks last week have undercut the former president in his own party.

Given how the midterms, Biden was running ahead of Donald Trump," said Senator Chris Van Hollen, Democrat of Maryland. "Now you've got Biden, he has the lead."

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SENATE WIN GIVES BIDEN A BULWARK AGAINST THE G.O.P.

HOUSE IS UNDECIDED Power to Confirm Judges and Impede the Plans of Republicans

By CATIE EDMONDSON and CARL HULSE

WASHINGTON — A day after clinching a narrow lead in the Senate, Democrats began laying plans on Sunday to use their majority as a bulwark for President Biden in Congress should Republicans wrest control of the House, including by confirming his nominees, killing G.O. legislation on arrival and promoting their own policies to voters.

Defying political gravity and historical midterm trends that have been proved the rule in power, Democrats secured a bare-minimum majority in the Senate on Saturday night with the re-election of Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada.

While their margin of control in the chamber will remain razor thin—and far short of the supermajority needed to pass major legislation—it constitutes a lifeline for Mr. Biden, limiting Republicans' opportunity to shove through his agenda or to impeach and remove him or other members of his administration.

If Democrats manage to retain the House—a possibility, albeit a remote one given where uncalled races are currently leaning—Mr. Biden, potentially along with Mr. Trump, would have a chance to push through more of his agenda in the second half of his term. But even without that, the Senate gives him a critical tool.

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What's News

- Business & Finance
 - Cryptocurrency traders flooded increased anxiety over the weekend as a midsize exchange said it mishandled a \$400 million transaction and collapsed. FTX said it was the victim of an alleged hack, adding to worries following FTX's bankruptcy filing last week. **A1**
 - The Fed's Waller said the central bank needs to keep raising interest rates to get inflation under control, even after last week's report revealed that it slowed in October. **A3**
 - JP Morgan needed most of 2022's so-called hard deals that have cost companies billions of dollars in paper losses on loans backing takeovers of companies that later fell in value. **B1**
 - The cost of advertising from Elon Musk's Twitter accelerating, and it could be hard for the billboard industry to get their share back soon. **B2**
 - Musk heads to court this week to defend his multi-billion-dollar pay package at Tesla in a suit brought by a shareholder of the electric-vehicle company. **B2**
 - U.S. voters said yes to tens of billions of dollars for rent relief, school buildings and other local projects last Tuesday, promising a new wave of bonds for major investments. **B3**
 - "Hack Nation: WikiLeaks Forever" from Disney's Marvel Studios grossed \$180 million in North America and \$150 million overseas in its opening weekend. **B3**
- World-Wide
 - Republicans face a week that will be critical in deciding the future direction and leadership of the party after disappointing midterm elections left them in the Senate minority and likely only the barest of majorities in the House. **AL, A6**
 - China's Xi is set to meet Biden and other leaders in South Korea this week, and questions about how he might try to calm tensions that his foreign methods have become a source of global instability. **A1**
 - Israel's president handed a mandate to Benjamin Netanyahu to form a new government as negotiations over a governing coalition broke down. **A1**
 - Ukrainian authorities set about restoring essential services in Kherson after Russia retreated from the city, leaving it without electricity, hot water or cellphone service. **A20**
 - U.S. Catholic bishops used a national conference this week in decisions that will help shape their public-policy agenda and their relations with Washington and the Vatican over the next three years. **A3**
 - The U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner, Chris Magnus, resigned after days of internal pressure, the White House press secretary said. **A3**
 - International students returned to U.S. college and university campuses in droves last fall, driving overseas enrollment 3.8% higher. **A3**
- JOURNAL REPORT
 - Alternative Energy: The state of the supply chain for EVs. **B10**

Explosion in Istanbul Kills at Least Six, Injures Dozens



ON SITE: A forensic team investigates after a bomb blast hit the busy shopping street of Istifal in Istanbul, killing at least six and wounding 81. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, which officials said was terrorism. **A1**

Xi Faces Biden, Other Critics In Return to the World Stage

By JAMES T. AARON

For the first time in three years, Chinese leader Xi Jinping is about to once face to face with some of his most powerful international critics. When Mr. Xi embarked his strenuous tour last month, he warned his counterparts to brace for international turbulence. This week, as he meets President Biden and other presidents in South Korea, the question is how much he might attempt to calm international fears that his assertive methods have become a source of global instability.

Mr. Xi's talks with Mr. Biden on Monday, their first in person meeting as state leaders, is being promoted on both sides as a chance to stabilize a U.S.-China relationship that has deteriorated to its lowest point since the 1970s.

The talks will take place in Bali, Indonesia, where the presidents are both attending a summit of the Group of 20 major economies. "I know him well. He knows me," President Biden said Sunday. "We just

China's Exit Bans Add to Tensions

By JAMES T. AARON and ALEX BRESNAN

BEIJING—It has been nearly five years since police have told Henry Cai, a U.S. citizen from California, that he could leave his country.

Just before Christmas 2017, he was stopped at the airport en route to his home in California. Mr. Cai later learned somebody was trying to force him to pay an outstanding debt of several million dollars owed by a Beijing company where he was a director and shareholder.

He thought it was a misunderstanding and expected to be sorted out quickly. And yet here he remains, stuck in China, unable to leave his country of Chinese justice known as an exit ban.

His is believed to be the longest-running case of such legal purgatory for an American citizen in the world. Now 61 years old, Mr. Cai has wrangled with China's judicial bureaucracy, tested the limits of U.S. diplomacy and depleted his savings.

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal he said he is in the spotlight with his lawsuit against the U.S. government and depleted his savings.

Mr. Cai has more than \$1 million in assets, including his U.S. citizenship and his U.S. passport.

The U.S. has accused China of using exit bans on Americans and other foreigners "without fair and transparent processes under the law." Diplomatic sources said Mr. Cai has more than \$1 million in assets, including his U.S. citizenship and his U.S. passport.

FTX Says It Was Hacked as Other Crypto Firm Stumbles

Cryptocurrency traders flooded increased anxiety over the weekend as a midsize exchange said it mishandled a \$400 million transaction and collapsed. FTX said it was the victim of an alleged hack, adding to worries following the exchange's bankruptcy filing last week.

Cryptocurrency Chief Executive Officer Sam Bankman-Fried said the transfer was not the wrong type of account or another exchange. The transfer

of a large chunk of ether, a popular cryptocurrency, took place on Oct. 21, but it came to light after Twitter users flagged the transfer as unusual, based on publicly available blockchain transaction records.

Governors about Singapore sued FTX over its spread across the internet after the weekend, with prominent digital-currency figure taking aim at the company. Cryptocurrency traders are on edge following the quick collapse of FTX, which went from one of the most trusted exchanges to bankruptcy in the course of a week.

FTX further rattled the industry when it said it was probing a potential hack and asked customers to stay off the FTX website, the company said. More than 300,000 users of crypto funds appear to be missing, according to crypto analysts firm Elliptic Research Ltd.

The potential hack occurred after FTX filed for bankruptcy. Some FTX investors are poised to sue the company, and FTX's general counsel said in a Saturday tweet that FTX and FTX US had started moving all digital assets to cold storage—crypto wallets that aren't connected to the internet—after

Sleeping on the Job Pays Off When You're on TikTok

Live streams of snoring draw followers and profits: 'I find it super soothing'

By SUZANNE ROBERTS

Diana Olson, 55, of Hyde Park, N.Y., also does streaming, the same given these online performances, which, depending on the viewer, are as riveting as the video to the U.S. Capitol.

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GOP Put To Early Test After Difficult Midterms

Trump announcement, leadership votes loom as party looks to gain slim House majority

By CANDI DE ANO AND MCCORMACK

WASHINGTON—Republicans face a crucial week in determining the future direction and leadership of the party after disappointing midterm elections left them in the Senate minority and with likely only the barest of majorities in the House.

Control of the House remained untested Sunday night as votes continued to trickle in from competitive races in the West, though non-partisan analysts still favored the GOP to take the majority by a handful of seats. The Senate picture was clearer, as Democrats were declared the winners in Nevada's Senate contest Saturday night. The party is also looking to elect House Speaker Kamala Harris breaking the GOP's hold on the seat in the Dec. 6 runoff.

Most Republicans expected the election to deliver the party sizable gains, and many are casting blame on former President Donald Trump. Harris is poised to announce on Tuesday that he is making another White House bid.

House Republicans are