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What's News

Business & Finance

◆ **A record jump in Nvidia** shares turbocharged excitement about artificial intelligence, jolting markets worldwide and powering major indexes on three continents to all-time highs. The S&P 500 and Dow rose 2.1% and 1.2%, respectively, to records and the Nasdaq advanced 3%. **A1, B3, B6**

◆ **Nestlé reported** weaker-than-expected results and warned of slower sales growth this year as higher prices lead shoppers to ease spending. **B1**

◆ **An AT&T network** failure left people around the country without cellphone service for hours, frustrating customers and renewing concerns about the reliability of vital network infrastructure. **B1**

◆ **Vice Media said** it would stop publishing content on its flagship website and plans to cut hundreds of jobs after a failed effort by owner Fortress to sell the company. **B4**

◆ **J.B. Hunt plans** to buy Walmart's intermodal container and chassis fleets as part of a new multiyear shipping deal with the giant retailer. **B3**

◆ **Sales of previously owned** homes rose in January from December, rebounding modestly after sales plummeted last year. **A3**

◆ **Mercedes-Benz raised** its dividend despite posting a decline for fourth-quarter sales and net profit, and forecast lower earnings this year. **B2**

World-Wide

◆ **The Alabama Supreme Court's** ruling that frozen embryos are children exacerbates the national dilemma of what to do with the more than one million embryos frozen in storage across the U.S. **A1**

◆ **An uncrewed spacecraft** developed by Houston-based Intuitive Machines landed on the lunar surface, the first time a U.S. vehicle has touched down there in more than 50 years. **A3**

◆ **Alexei Navalny's family** stepped up pressure on Putin on two continents, as they sought justice for the recent death of Russia's top opposition leader. **A8**

◆ **The U.S. privately warned** Russia not to deploy a new nuclear-armed antisatellite weapon, which it said would violate the Outer Space Treaty and jeopardize U.S. national security interests, U.S. officials said. **A8**

◆ **Biden is weighing** executive orders to stem illegal border crossings whose implementation would face high legal and political hurdles. **A4**

◆ **Venezuela followed** through on a threat to stop accepting flights of migrants deported from the U.S. and Mexico, people familiar with the measures said. **A4**

◆ **The White House** and Arab states are intensifying efforts to broker a deal that would pause the fighting in Gaza and free hostages that are held by Hamas. **A7**

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Fashion Week Struts Into Milan



LUCA BRUNO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

BUCKLED UP: Models present designer Tom Ford's Fall-Winter 2024-25 collection for Fashion Week in Milan on Thursday. Fashion Week's next stop will be Paris.

Embryo Ruling Challenges Practices Nationally

By Amy Dockser Marcus

The Alabama Supreme Court's ruling that frozen embryos are children exacerbates a national dilemma: what to do with the more than one million embryos frozen in storage across the U.S.

Some fertility clinics in Alabama have said they would pause in vitro fertilization because they feared they could be vulnerable to lawsuits following the court's ruling. Medical professionals elsewhere have said they worry similar restrictions could be imposed in their states.

The quandary over frozen embryos' fate is a byproduct of increasing demand for reproductive technology as more people delay childbearing to older ages, or have children on their own or with partners of the same gender. IVF, introduced in clinics more than 40 years ago, is now a mainstay of family-building that accounts for some 2% of U.S. births.

In IVF's early days, doctors might have transferred four or more embryos at once into a woman's uterus to achieve a pregnancy. There weren't usually embryos left to freeze. Today, better technology means clinics can transfer one embryo at a time with more expectation a pregnancy will result. When people are done having children, they often end up with embryos in the freezer—and difficult decisions.

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INSIDE



MANSION
Rebuilding in Jupiter Inlet Colony after storm almost washes away new home. **M1**

Brazilians Will Play Soccer Anywhere, Even Ankle-Deep in Mud

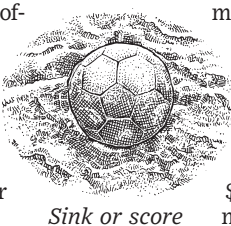
◆ 'Mudball' players have perfected the game on Amazon's banks; Mother Nature's turf

By Luciana Magalhaes and Samantha Pearson

MACAPÁ, Brazil—Give a Brazilian a ball and the likelihood is it will be kicked.

In soccer-mad Brazil, players will find just about anywhere for a quick game, from dusty clearings in violence-torn slums to the roofs of office buildings to bare patches in cemeteries. Even oil rigs off the coast of Rio de Janeiro have been spotted with their own makeshift soccer pitches.

Here in this city hemmed in by the rainforest, the popular sloppy choice is to play on the banks of the Amazon River—in sludge several inches deep. Locals have come up with their own version of the sport: futlamba, or mudball.



Sink or score

Ukraine Teen Transformed Into Russian Propaganda Star

Denys Kostev was immersed in pro-Moscow messaging

By Matthew Luxmoore

When Russian troops invaded his hometown in 2022, Ukrainian teenager Denys Kostev filmed TikTok videos cursing Vladimir Putin and praising Ukrainian courage.

A few months later, after he had been transferred against his will to Russian-held territory, he suddenly appeared in propaganda clips on Kremlin-controlled channels.

In one, the athletic, dark-haired boy stood in camouflage adorned with a Russian pro-

war symbol and proclaimed that Putin would vanquish Ukraine.

"Victory will be ours!" he said.

Denys's apparent transformation from Ukrainian patriot to Russian flag-waver looked like a triumph for Moscow. Here, it seemed, was living proof of Putin's contention that Ukrainians are Russians at heart, and their dissent is a correctable defect.

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◆ **Sanctions are failing** to halt war effort... **A8**



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