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USA OUTLOOK

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Foto: BBC.com

Huawei Executive Meng Wanzhou to Face Extradition

Meng Wanzhou was held in late 2018 in Canada on suspicion of fraud and breaching US sanctions on Iran. The US wants Ms. Meng to stand trial on charges including fraud linked to the alleged violation of sanctions on Iran. The case is being watched for its possible repercussions for ties between China, the US and Canada.

This week's hearings will run from 20-24 January in the British Columbia Supreme Court in Vancouver and will focus on the next step in the extradition process, known as a motion of double criminality. This means the court hears arguments related to whether the crime Ms. Meng is accused of by the US would also be considered a crime in Canada.

The judge must be satisfied that it meets the key test of double criminality before agreeing to an extradition.

The 47-year-old executive's lawyers are expected to argue that she cannot be turned over to the US because the charges against her fail to meet that standard. Lawyers for the Canadian department of justice will argue her offence is a crime in both countries, meaning she can be extradited.



Foto: The New York Times

Trump Opens Door to Cuts to Medicare and Other Entitlement Programs

The president signaled a willingness to scale back Medicare, a shift from his 2016 platform of protecting entitlement programs.

President Trump suggested on Wednesday that he would be willing to consider cuts to social safety-net programs like Medicare to reduce the federal deficit if he wins a second term, an apparent shift from his 2016 campaign promise to protect funding for such entitlements.

The president made the comments on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Despite promises to reduce the federal budget deficit, it has ballooned under Mr. Trump's watch as a result to sweeping tax cuts and additional government spending.

The president has already proposed cuts for some safety-net programs. His last budget proposal called for a total of \$1.9 trillion in cost savings from mandatory safety-net programs, like Medicaid and Medicare. It also called for spending \$26 billion less on Social Security programs, the federal retirement program, including a \$10 billion cut on the Social Security Disability Insurance program, which provides benefits to disabled workers.



Foto: theguardian.com

US Drinking Water Contamination with 'Forever Chemicals' Far Worse than Scientists Thought

The contamination of US drinking water with manmade "forever chemicals" is far worse than previously estimated, with some of the highest levels found in Miami, Philadelphia and New Orleans, said a report on Wednesday by an environmental watchdog group.

The chemicals, resistant to breaking down in the environment, are known as perfluoroalkyl substances, of PFAS. Some have been linked to cancers, liver damage, low birth weight and other health problems. The findings by the Environmental Working Group (EWG) show the group's previous estimate in 2018, based on unpublished US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) data, that 110 million Americans may be contaminated with PFAS, could be far too low.

The EPA has known since at least 2001 about the problem of PFAS in drinking water but has so far failed to set an enforceable, nationwide legal limit. The EPA said early last year it would begin the process to set limits on two of the chemicals, PFOA and PFOS.

Fuente

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jan/22/us-drinking-water-contamination-for-ever-chemicals-pfas>



Foto: Reuters

Dollar Steady as Coronavirus Contagion Fears Abate

The U.S. dollar was unchanged against a basket of currencies on Wednesday as safe-haven demand ebbed along with worries about whether the spread of a flu-like coronavirus would hurt the global economy.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback against six other major currencies, was flat at 97.534. Deaths from China's new flu-like virus rose to 17, with more than 540 cases confirmed, leading the city at the centre of the outbreak to close transport networks and urge citizens to stay home to limit the spread of the contagion.

The Canadian dollar was down about 0.5% against the greenback after the Bank of Canada maintained its key overnight interest rate at 1.75% as expected, but opened the door to a possible cut should slow growth continue.

Fuente

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2020/01/22/tulsi-gabbard-sues-hillary-clinton-defamation-over-russia-comment/4542174002/>



Foto: Yahoo News

Tulsi Gabbard Sues Hillary Clinton over Russia Comment

Democratic presidential candidate and Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard is suing 2016 Democratic nominee and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for defamation, escalating a feud between the two lawmakers after Clinton appeared to call Gabbard "a favorite of the Russians" last year.

In the lawsuit filed Wednesday in the U.S. District Court in Manhattan, Gabbard claims that Clinton in 2016.

"Clinton has not gotten over her loss in that election and still dwells on what happened," the lawsuits says, adding that "Clinton blames many persons for her loss," including Sanders.

"But Clinton reserves a special hatred and animosity for Tulsi – who never endorses Clinton, did not campaign for her, and top of it off, gave the nomination speech for Senator Sanders at the 2016 Democratic National Convention."

Gabbard over the past several months has struggled to make the Democratic primary debate stage, missing both the December and January debates. . She has said she will not run for president as a third-party candidate.